UTTAR PRADESH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION · COMBINED STATE / UPPER SUBORDINATE SERVICES

UPPCS Mains

General Studies

Model Answers to Previous Year Questions

GS 1–4: 2018 – 2024
GS 5–6: 2023 – 2024

6 papers · 622 questions, each with an exam-ready model answer

Introduction · structured body · Uttar Pradesh examples · conclusion, within the exam word limit

How to use this book

- Questions are grouped paper by paper and topic by topic, as in the question-analysis sheets. Within a topic they run year by year.
- Each question sits in a **blue box** with its year and marks. The model answer follows it.
- UPPCS word limits: **8 marks ≈ 125 words** and **12 marks ≈ 200 words**. The model answers are a little richer, about 150 and 240 words, so you can pick the points you need. In the exam, stay close to the limit.
- Every answer follows the same plan: a short **introduction**, a **body** of headed points (with Uttar Pradesh examples, data, schemes and Articles where relevant) and a **conclusion** with a way forward.
- A **purple box** lists key facts, names or keywords worth remembering for that question.
- A question asked again in a later year is answered once. Its box lists every year it was asked.
- A **yellow Note** marks a printing problem in the question sheet, or data that changes often and is worth re-checking before the exam.

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UPPCS Mains · General Studies Paper 1

Indian History & Culture · World History · Indian Society · Geography · 2018–2024 · 136 questions

Modern Indian History

2018, 2023 · Sardar Patel and the integration of princely states

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks · also asked in 2023 (8 marks)

Explain the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the integration of Princely States of India. ***(2023: Discuss the role of Sardar Patel in the unification of India after Independence.)***

When British paramountcy lapsed under the Indian Independence Act, 1947, about **565 princely states**, covering roughly two-fifths of India's area, became free to join India or Pakistan or to stay independent. As Home Minister and head of the new **States Department** (with **V.P. Menon** as Secretary), Sardar Patel brought them into the Union within about two years.

Patel's role

- **Persuasion:** he appealed to the rulers' patriotism and offered **privy purses**, titles and privileges.
- **Instrument of Accession and Standstill Agreement:** rulers first handed over only defence, external affairs and communications. Almost all signed before 15 August 1947.
- **Firmness with holdouts:**
  - **Junagadh** joined after a plebiscite (February 1948).
  - **Hyderabad** joined after *Operation Polo* (September 1948).
  - **Kashmir** acceded in October 1947, when tribal raiders invaded.
- **Merger and democratisation:** small states were merged into provinces or into unions such as Saurashtra, Rajasthan and PEPSU. Later they accepted the full Constitution. In UP, **Rampur, Banaras and Tehri-Garhwal** merged in 1949.

Conclusion: Patel's blend of tact and resolve earned him the title "**Iron Man of India**". The Statue of Unity and *Rashtriya Ekta Diwas* (31 October) honour his legacy.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

States Department (5 July 1947) · V.P. Menon · Instrument of Accession · Junagadh plebiscite (1948) · Operation Polo (1948) · Kashmir accession (26 October 1947).

2018 · Gandhi and the middle path in Indian politics

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Mahatma Gandhi represents the middle path approach in Indian politics. Give logical explanation.

Gandhi entered national politics after 1915, when the Moderates' petitions had lost appeal and the revolutionaries' violence had failed to win the masses. He charted a **middle path**: a militant mass struggle that stayed strictly non-violent.

Logical explanation

1. **Between petition and violence:** *satyagraha* was active resistance (boycott, non-cooperation, civil disobedience) without hatred or arms. When violence broke out at **Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur, 1922)**, he withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement.
2. **Struggle–truce–struggle:** mass movements alternated with talks, as in the Gandhi–Irwin Pact (1931).
3. **Between classes:** he preferred **trusteeship** and arbitration to class war. The Ahmedabad mill strike (1918) and Champaran (1917) ended in settlements, not seizure of property.
4. **Between tradition and modernity:** he reformed Hinduism from within (the campaign against untouchability) and used religious idiom. He also upheld *sarva dharma samabhava* and Hindu–Muslim unity (Khilafat).
5. **Between centralisation and anarchy:** his ideal was decentralised *Gram Swaraj*.

Limits: the Left and Ambedkar saw this as compromise with landlords and caste elites; revolutionaries found it too slow.

Conclusion: By uniting peasants, workers, women and the middle class, the middle path made the freedom struggle a true mass movement.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Satyagraha · Chauri Chaura (5 February 1922) · Gandhi–Irwin Pact (1931) · Trusteeship · Gram Swaraj · Struggle–Truce–Struggle (Bipan Chandra).

2018 · Colonial rule and the Indian economy

QUESTION 2018 · 12 marks

"The spine of Indian economy was badly injured during the 200 years of British rule." Explain.

On the eve of colonial rule India was a leading manufacturing and trading economy. By Angus Maddison's estimates, its share of world income fell from about a quarter around 1700 to about 4% by 1950. Nationalist economists such as **Dadabhai Naoroji** (*Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*) and **R.C. Dutt** (*The Economic History of India*) showed how colonial policy broke the economy's backbone.

How the spine was injured

1. **Drain of wealth:** Home Charges, salaries, pensions, interest and profits flowed to Britain without an equal return. India was starved of capital.
2. **Deindustrialisation:** the Charter Act of 1813 opened India to one-way free trade, while Indian goods faced heavy duties in Britain. With the loss of royal patronage, handicrafts were ruined. Weavers of Dhaka, Murshidabad and UP's Varanasi and Mau were pushed back onto the land.
3. **Ruin of agriculture:** the Permanent Settlement (1793), Ryotwari and Mahalwari (in present UP) systems fixed high revenue. They bred moneylenders and absentee landlords and left peasants indebted and landless.
4. **Forced commercialisation:** cultivators were pushed to grow indigo, cotton and opium for export, which weakened food security.
5. **Famines:** repeated famines, such as those of 1876–78 and 1899–1900 and the Bengal famine of 1943, killed millions.

6. **Distorted modernisation:** railways, ports and canals were built mainly to move raw materials out and British goods in. Modern industry stayed small, foreign-dominated and without a capital-goods base.

Result at Independence: life expectancy was about 32 years, literacy about 18% (Census 1951), and agriculture was stagnant.

Conclusion: Colonial rule left some infrastructure and a unified market, but it turned India into a raw-material colony. Rebuilding that spine became the task of planning after 1951.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Drain theory (Naoroji, R.C. Dutt) · Charter Act 1813 · Permanent Settlement 1793 · Mahalwari in UP · Bengal famine 1943 · Literacy about 18% in 1951.

2018 · Revolt of 1857 as a turning point

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
> **"The Revolt of 1857 was a turning point in Indian history." Analyse.**

The revolt broke out at **Meerut on 10 May 1857** and soon spread across North and Central India. Present-day Uttar Pradesh was its heart: Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Bareilly and Allahabad. It was suppressed by 1858–59, but it changed the course of Indian history.

Why it was a turning point

1. **End of Company rule:** the Government of India Act, 1858 transferred power to the Crown. The Governor-General became the **Viceroy**, and a Secretary of State with an India Council was created. Lord Canning read Queen Victoria's Proclamation at **Allahabad** on 1 November 1858.
2. **New policy towards the princes:** annexation (the Doctrine of Lapse) was abandoned. The princes became allies of the Empire, its "breakwaters".
3. **Army reorganisation:** the share of European troops rose, artillery stayed in British hands, recruitment shifted to so-called "martial races", and regiments were mixed to prevent unity.
4. **Divide and rule:** the British now leaned on landlords and taluqdars (in Awadh their estates were restored) and began to play communities against each other.
5. **Caution in social reform:** fear of another revolt made the Raj slow to interfere in religious and social customs.
6. **Seeds of nationalism:** 1857 became a symbol of shared Hindu–Muslim resistance. **V.D. Savarkar** called it the *First War of Indian Independence* (1909).

Limits of the change: the revolt had no common programme. Most of the South, Bengal and Punjab stayed quiet, and the modern educated class kept away.

Conclusion: 1857 closed the era of Company rule and annexation. It opened the era of direct, centralised Crown rule and, in reaction, of organised Indian nationalism, which took shape after 1885.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> UP centres: Meerut, Lucknow (Begum Hazrat Mahal), Kanpur (Nana Saheb, Tantya Tope), Jhansi (Rani Lakshmibai), Bareilly (Khan Bahadur Khan), Allahabad (Liaqat Ali).

2019 · British Industrial Revolution and India's economy

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
> **Critically examine the effects of British Industrial Revolution on India's economic life.**

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the late 18th century and needed raw materials and markets. It turned India from an exporter of fine textiles into a supplier of raw cotton and a buyer of Manchester cloth.

Harmful effects

- **Deindustrialisation:** the Charter Act of 1813 ended the Company's trade monopoly, and cheap machine-made goods flooded India. Spinners and weavers lost work, and towns like Dhaka and Murshidabad declined.
- **Ruralisation:** displaced artisans crowded into farming, raising pressure on land and disguised unemployment.
- **Commercialisation of agriculture:** cotton, indigo, jute and opium were grown for export, often at the cost of food crops.
- **Drain and foreign capital:** profits from plantations, mines, railways and banks went to Britain.

Some positive by-products

- Railways (from 1853), the telegraph and ports created a national market.
- Modern industry began: cotton mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad, jute mills near Calcutta, and Kanpur's textile and leather mills in UP.
- A modern working class and an Indian capitalist class emerged. Both later backed economic nationalism and Swadeshi.

Conclusion: These gains were incidental and served British interests. On balance, the Industrial Revolution impoverished India's economic life.

2019 · Quit India Movement in the freedom struggle

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
> **Examine the role of Quit India Movement in the freedom movement of India.**

After the failure of the **Cripps Mission (1942)**, and amid fear of a Japanese invasion, the AICC met at **Gowalia Tank, Bombay**. On **8 August 1942** it passed the Quit India Resolution, and Gandhi gave the call "**Do or Die**". The leaders were arrested the next morning, and the movement became a spontaneous people's revolt.

Role in the freedom movement

1. **Demand for immediate freedom:** the Congress demanded an immediate end to British rule, with no offer of compromise.
2. **Mass, leaderless upsurge:** students, peasants, workers and women attacked symbols of authority such as railways, telegraph lines and police stations. This showed the depth of anti-British feeling.
3. **Underground leadership:** Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and Aruna Asaf Ali led the movement underground, and Usha Mehta ran the secret Congress Radio.
4. **Parallel governments:** they were set up in **Ballia (UP) under Chittu Pandey** (August 1942), in Tamluk (Midnapore), and in Satara, where the *Prati Sarkar* lasted longest.
5. **Women and youth:** Aruna Asaf Ali, Matangini Hazra and Sucheta Kripalani (later UP's Chief Minister) became icons.
6. **Moral victory:** brutal repression and Gandhi's 21-day fast (1943) exposed the Raj. The British realised that they could no longer rule without Indian consent.

Limitations

- It was crushed within a few months.
- The Muslim League, the Communist Party and the Hindu Mahasabha stayed away.
- The League used the absence of Congress leaders to grow stronger.

Assessment: Quit India was the last great mass movement. With the INA trials and the RIN mutiny (1946) that followed, it convinced Britain that its rule was ending. The Cabinet Mission (1946) and Independence in 1947 followed.

Conclusion: The movement made freedom a question of "when", not "whether".

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 8 August 1942 · Gowalia Tank · "Do or Die" · Ballia (Chittu Pandey) · Tamluk · Satara (Prati Sarkar) · Congress Radio (Usha Mehta).

2020 · Western influence on Indian education

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Critically examine the impacts of the West on the field of Indian education.**

Western education came to India through the East India Company, missionaries and Indian reformers. The **Charter Act of 1813** set aside ₹1 lakh a year for education. **Macaulay's Minute (1835)** settled the Orientalist–Anglicist debate in favour of English. **Wood's Despatch (1854)**, the "Magna Carta of English education in India", led to the universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras (1857); Allahabad University followed in 1887.

Positive impacts

1. **Modern knowledge:** science, medicine, engineering and law entered the curriculum, along with rational inquiry.
2. **New ideas:** liberty, equality, democracy and nationalism shaped reformers and leaders such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Gokhale and Nehru.
3. **Link language and press:** English connected educated Indians across regions and fed the press and the national movement.
4. **Institutions and women's education:** universities, colleges and schools such as Bethune School (1849) were set up. Indian efforts like Aligarh, the DAV schools and BHU blended the modern with the Indian.
5. **Professional middle class:** lawyers, teachers, doctors and journalists led social reform and politics.

Negative impacts

1. **Colonial aim:** the system was meant to produce clerks loyal to the Raj, through "downward filtration".
2. **Neglect of mass education:** primary and technical education were starved; literacy was only about 18% in 1951.
3. **Decline of indigenous learning:** pathshalas, madrasas and the Indian languages lost patronage, and learning in the mother tongue suffered.
4. **Elite and urban bias:** benefits went mostly to upper castes and towns, widening the gap between the educated and the masses.
5. **Cultural alienation and rote learning:** students imitated the West, and education became exam-centred memorisation.

Conclusion: Western education produced both the colonial clerk and the nationalist critic. NEP 2020 seeks a better balance: modern science with Indian knowledge systems and teaching in the mother tongue.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Charter Act 1813 (₹1 lakh) · Macaulay's Minute 1835 · Wood's Despatch 1854 · Universities 1857 · Hunter Commission 1882 · Allahabad University 1887.

2020 · Expansion of British rule under Lord Wellesley

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the expansion of British rule in India during Lord Wellesley's tenure.**

Lord Wellesley (Governor-General, 1798–1805) came determined to make the Company the paramount power in India and to shut out French influence during the Napoleonic wars. He used war, annexation and the **Subsidiary Alliance** system.

1. Subsidiary Alliance: an allied ruler had to:

- keep a British force in his state and pay for it, in cash or territory;
- accept a British Resident at his court;
- employ no other Europeans;
- deal with other states only through the Company.

The **Nizam of Hyderabad (1798)** was the first to accept it. Mysore, Tanjore, Awadh, the Peshwa, the Bhonsle and Sindhia followed.

2. Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799): Tipu Sultan died defending Seringapatam. Large areas were annexed, and a subsidiary alliance was imposed on the restored Wodeyars.

3. Awadh (1801): Nawab Saadat Ali Khan was forced to cede about half his kingdom: **Rohilkhand, Gorakhpur and the lower Doab**. These "Ceded Provinces" became the core of British territory in present-day Uttar Pradesh.

4. Direct annexations: Tanjore (1799), Surat (1800) and the Carnatic (1801).

5. Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–05): after the Peshwa signed the **Treaty of Bassein (1802)**, the British defeated Sindhia and the Bhonsle at Assaye and Laswari. Lord Lake took **Delhi and Agra**, and the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II came under British protection. The upper Doab became the "Conquered Provinces".

Assessment

- The Company changed from one power among many into the paramount power.
- The subsidiary alliance disarmed Indian states and made their rulers irresponsible. Disbanded soldiers lost work, and many joined the Pindaris.
- His wars were costly and Holkar was not subdued, so the Directors recalled him in 1805.

Conclusion: Wellesley laid the territorial base of British India. The Ceded and Conquered Provinces later became the North-Western Provinces, the forerunner of today's Uttar Pradesh.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> "Bengal Tiger" · Subsidiary Alliance (Hyderabad first, 1798) · Seringapatam 1799 · Awadh treaty 1801 · Treaty of Bassein 1802 · Assaye and Laswari 1803.

2021 · Revolutionaries of Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Evaluate the contribution of revolutionaries of Uttar Pradesh in the Indian freedom struggle.**

Uttar Pradesh, the heartland of 1857, became a major centre of revolutionary nationalism in the 1920s, especially after the Non-Cooperation Movement was withdrawn in 1922.

Contribution

- **Organisation:** the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** was founded at **Kanpur in 1924** by Sachindranath Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil and others. It aimed at a federal republic through armed revolt.
- **Kakori Train Action (9 August 1925):** government money was seized near Lucknow. **Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri** were hanged in 1927. The Bismil–Ashfaqulla friendship became a symbol of Hindu–Muslim unity.
- **Earlier effort:** the Mainpuri Conspiracy (1918) of Genda Lal Dixit and Bismil.
- **Chandrashekhar Azad** helped reorganise the HRA as the HSRA (1928), with a socialist goal. He died fighting in Alfred Park, **Allahabad (1931)**.
- **Support base:** Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi's paper *Pratap* (Kanpur) sheltered revolutionaries, including Bhagat Singh.

Evaluation: their numbers were small, and repression crushed them. But their courage, sacrifice, secular outlook and socialist ideas inspired the youth and kept the spirit of resistance alive.

Conclusion: UP's revolutionaries complemented the Gandhian mass movement and remain a source of national pride.

2021 · The 19th-century Indian Renaissance

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **How did the 19th-century Indian Renaissance help in India's development?**

The 19th-century Renaissance was a movement of social and religious reform and intellectual awakening. It grew from contact with Western rationalism and a rediscovery of India's own heritage. It began with **Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Brahmo Sabha (1828)** and spread through the Prarthana Samaj, the Arya Samaj (1875), the Ramakrishna Mission (1897), the Aligarh Movement and the Satyashodhak Samaj (1873).

Contribution to India's development

1. **Social reform:**
   - abolition of sati (1829);
   - the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act (1856), after Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's campaign;
   - campaigns against child marriage (Age of Consent Act, 1891), purdah and untouchability.
2. **Women's education:** Vidyasagar, the Phules (girls' school in Pune, 1848) and Bethune School opened education to women.
3. **Modern education and rational thought:** Hindu College (1817), the DAV schools and the MAO College, Aligarh (1875) spread science and critical thinking. They challenged superstition and priestly authority.
4. **Religious reform:** reformers preached monotheism, rejected idolatry and empty ritual, and reinterpreted the scriptures through reason, for example Dayanand's "back to the Vedas" and Vivekananda's practical Vedanta.
5. **Literature and press:** prose and journalism in Bengali, Marathi, Hindi (Bharatendu Harishchandra of Varanasi) and Urdu reached ordinary people.
6. **National consciousness:** pride in India's past and the idea of one nation prepared the ground for the Indian National Congress (1885).
7. **Economic thought:** M.G. Ranade and Dadabhai Naoroji exposed colonial exploitation.

Limitations

- The movement was largely urban, upper-caste and elite.
- Some revivalist strands later fed communal identities.
- The masses were touched only slowly.

Conclusion: The Renaissance gave India the values of reason, equality and human dignity. They later found a place in the Constitution (Articles 14, 15 and 17), which makes it a foundation of modern India.

2022 · Nature of the 19th-century Renaissance in UP

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Throw light on the nature of Renaissance in Uttar Pradesh in the 19th century.**

The Renaissance reached Uttar Pradesh (then the North-Western Provinces and Awadh) after Bengal, mainly after 1857, in a distinct form.

Main strands

- **Hindi awakening: Bharatendu Harishchandra** of Varanasi, father of modern Hindi, attacked social evils and colonial exploitation through journals (*Kavi Vachan Sudha*) and plays (*Bharat Durdasha*, *Andher Nagari*). The **Nagari Pracharini Sabha** (Varanasi, 1893) promoted Hindi.
- **Muslim modernism: Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's Aligarh Movement**, with the Scientific Society (1864) and the MAO College (1875).
- **Muslim traditionalism: Darul Uloom, Deoband (1866)** and the Nadwatul Ulama (1894), later based in Lucknow.
- **Hindu reform and revival:** the **Arya Samaj** spread fast in western UP; the Radha Soami Satsang began at Agra (1861).
- **Press:** Munshi Newal Kishore's *Oudh Akhbar* (Lucknow, 1858) and his press spread books in Urdu and Hindi.

Nature

1. It was both **reformist-modern** and **revivalist-traditional**.
2. It was largely **community-based**, which also sharpened the Hindi–Urdu divide.
3. **Language and education** were at its centre, more than women's reform.
4. It was **elite-led** but rooted in the heartland.

Conclusion: UP's Renaissance shaped modern Hindi and Urdu culture. Its institutions, such as Aligarh, Deoband and later BHU (1916), remain influential.

2022 · Tilak and the freedom of the press

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

Illustrate the contributions of Bal Gangadhar Tilak in the struggle for freedom of press.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak, "Lokmanya", made the newspaper a tool of mass awakening and fought the colonial press laws in court and in jail.

Contributions

1. **Nationalist journalism:** in 1881 he co-founded **Kesari** (Marathi) and **Mahratta** (English). His fearless editorials on famine, plague, the partition of Bengal and Swadeshi reached ordinary readers.
2. **Sedition trial of 1897:** after writings on Shivaji and the harsh plague measures in Pune, he was jailed for 18 months under Section 124A. The court read "disaffection" very broadly, and Tilak became a national hero.
3. **Trial of 1908:** for articles defending the revolutionaries after the Muzaffarpur bomb, he got **six years' transportation to Mandalay**, where he wrote *Gita Rahasya*. Bombay mill workers struck in protest, an early political strike.
4. **Case of 1916:** in a third case, over his Home Rule speeches, he was defended by M.A. Jinnah and won.
5. **Refusal to apologise:** he treated press freedom as a right, not a favour.

Conclusion: Tilak turned every sedition trial into a lesson in civil liberty. Article 19(1)(a) now protects free expression, and in 2022 the Supreme Court put Section 124A on hold (*S.G. Vombatkere*).

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Kesari and Mahratta (1881) · Sedition trials 1897, 1908 · Mandalay (Gita Rahasya) · 1916 case (Jinnah) · Section 124A.

2022 · Bhagat Singh's revolutionary philosophy

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Throw light on the "Revolutionary Philosophy" formulated by Bhagat Singh.

Bhagat Singh (1907–1931) turned revolutionary nationalism from individual heroism into a thought-out ideology. He expressed it through the Naujawan Bharat Sabha (1926), the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (1928)**, his court statements and writings such as *Why I am an Atheist* (1930) and *To Young Political Workers* (1931).

Main elements of his philosophy

1. **Revolution means changing society:** he told the court that revolution was not the cult of the bomb and the pistol but a complete change of the social order. He wanted to end the exploitation of man by man, not merely to replace white rulers with brown ones.
2. **Socialism:** inspired by Marx, Lenin and the Russian Revolution, he saw workers and peasants as the real force of revolution. He aimed at a socialist republic, which is why "Socialist" was added to the HSRA's name.
3. **Rationalism and secularism:** an atheist, he asked for reason in place of blind faith. He wrote against communal riots and untouchability (*Achhut ka Sawal*, 1928) and wanted religion to be a private matter.
4. **Anti-imperialism and internationalism:** the slogans "Inquilab Zindabad" and "Down with Imperialism" linked India's struggle to the world's oppressed.
5. **Purposeful use of force:** the bombs thrown in the Central Legislative Assembly (8 April 1929, with B.K. Dutt) were meant "to make the deaf hear", not to kill. He used his trial and jail hunger strikes as platforms for his ideas.
6. **From terrorism to mass politics:** in his last writings he rejected individual terrorism. He urged the youth to organise workers and peasants through a disciplined party.

Conclusion: Bhagat Singh was hanged on 23 March 1931 with Rajguru and Sukhdev. He left a philosophy of reason, social justice and secular nationalism that still speaks to India's youth.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

HSRA (1928, Feroz Shah Kotla) · Assembly bomb (8 April 1929) · *Why I am an Atheist* · *To Young Political Workers* · Hanged 23 March 1931 (Shaheed Diwas).

2023 · Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and modern education

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Write a note on the contribution of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in modern education.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817–1898) believed that after 1857 Indian Muslims could progress only through modern, scientific and English education. His work, the **Aligarh Movement**, was centred in Uttar Pradesh.

Contributions

- **Schools:** he opened modern schools at **Moradabad (1859)** and **Ghazipur (1863)**.
- **Scientific Society (1864):** founded at Ghazipur and later moved to Aligarh, it translated Western works on science, history and economics into Urdu. The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* spread its ideas.
- **MAO College, Aligarh (1875):** after his visit to England (1869–70), he modelled it on Oxford and Cambridge. It combined Western sciences with Islamic studies in a residential setting and became **Aligarh Muslim University in 1920**.
- **Reform through reason:** through *Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq* he argued that the Quran and science do not conflict, and he attacked superstition and blind imitation.
- **Muhammadan Educational Conference (1886):** it carried the movement across India.

Limitations: the movement served mainly the elite and gave little attention to women's education. His later opposition to the Congress was used by separatist politics.

Conclusion: Sir Syed built a bridge between tradition and modernity. AMU's alumni have shaped public life across South Asia.

2023 · Ideological dimensions of the 1857 uprising

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Underline the ideological dimensions of the uprising of 1857.

The uprising of 1857 had no single manifesto, but the rebels' proclamations, slogans and conduct reveal several shared ideas. Historians read it differently. Colonial writers called it a "sepoy mutiny" and V.D. Savarkar the *First War of Independence*. S.N. Sen saw a war for religion that turned into a war of independence.

Ideological dimensions

1. **Defence of religion:** the greased cartridges, missionary activity and laws such as the Caste Disabilities Removal Act (1850) and the Widow Remarriage Act (1856) created a fear that the British meant to destroy both *dharma* and *deen*. Rebels fought in the name of faith.
2. **Restoration of legitimate authority:** the rebels proclaimed the aged **Bahadur Shah Zafar** emperor and restored old rulers: Nana Saheb as Peshwa at Kanpur, and Birjis Qadr, with Begum Hazrat Mahal, at Lucknow. Their ideal was the pre-British order.
3. **Hindu–Muslim unity:** leaders and soldiers of both faiths fought side by side, and rebel authorities respected each other's sentiments.
4. **Anti-colonial, proto-national feeling:** hatred of the *firangi* united sepoys, princes, taluqdars, peasants and artisans. The **Azamgarh Proclamation (1857)** listed the grievances of zamindars, merchants, officials, artisans and religious men against British rule.
5. **Agrarian protest:** in Awadh and western UP, peasants attacked moneylenders, revenue records and new landlords.
6. **Defence of honour and status:** the annexation of Awadh (1856), the Doctrine of Lapse and British racial arrogance hurt rulers and soldiers alike.

Limitations: the ideology looked backward and was feudal in nature. It had no modern idea of democracy and no common national programme.

Conclusion: 1857 united very different groups around anti-colonialism and faith. Its memory later inspired nationalists, and in UP the spirit of Meerut, Lucknow, Kanpur and Jhansi became part of the national imagination.

2024 · Challenges immediately after Independence

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Give an account of the challenges faced by India immediately after Independence.

India became free on 15 August 1947 amid partition, poverty and deep divisions; many doubted it would survive as a united democracy.

Main challenges

1. **Partition and refugees:** communal violence killed several lakh people and displaced more than a crore. Relief and resettlement strained the new state.
2. **Integration of princely states:** over 560 states had to be brought in. Junagadh, Hyderabad and Kashmir resisted, and a war with Pakistan followed in Kashmir (1947–48).
3. **Communal tension:** the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on 30 January 1948 shook the nation.
4. **Economic backwardness:** mass poverty, food shortages, stagnant farming, little industry and inflation. Literacy was about 18% (Census 1951).
5. **Building democracy:** the Constitution had to be framed (in force 26 January 1950), and the first general elections (1951–52) were held on universal adult franchise.
6. **Linguistic demands:** these led to the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
7. **Foreign policy:** India chose non-alignment to stay independent in the Cold War.

Conclusion: Led by Nehru and Patel, India met these challenges through democracy, land reform (UP's Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) and planning (First Five-Year Plan, 1951).

2024 · Revolutionary movement in Bengal

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Outline the development of revolutionary movement in Bengal.

Bengal was the cradle of revolutionary nationalism. Anger at the **Partition of Bengal (1905)** and impatience with the Moderates turned many young people to armed action.

Phase I: beginnings (1902–1911)

- The **Anushilan Samiti** (Calcutta, 1902, with a strong Dhaka branch under Pulin Behari Das from 1906) began as physical-culture clubs. The **Jugantar** group and paper (1906) of Barindra Kumar Ghosh and Bhupendranath Dutta preached revolution.
- **Muzaffarpur bomb (1908):** Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki attacked a carriage they thought carried the judge Kingsford; Khudiram was hanged. In the **Alipore Bomb Case** that followed, Aurobindo Ghosh was acquitted and Barindra was sentenced.
- Early groups used religious symbols (oaths on the Gita, the cult of Kali), which kept many Muslims away.

Phase II: wartime plans (1912–1918)

- **Rash Behari Bose** organised the bomb attack on Viceroy Hardinge in Delhi (1912).
- **Jatindranath Mukherjee (Bagha Jatin)** sought German arms during the First World War and died fighting near Balasore (1915).
- Repression under the Defence of India Act checked the movement.

Phase III: revival (1924–1934)

- After the Non-Cooperation Movement was withdrawn, **Surya Sen's Indian Republican Army** raided the **Chittagong armoury (April 1930)**.
- Benoy, Badal and Dinesh attacked the Writers' Building (1930).
- Women came forward: **Pritilata Waddedar**, Kalpana Dutta, Bina Das, Santi Ghosh and Suniti Chowdhury.

Decline: by the mid-1930s the movement had weakened. Hangings, the Cellular Jail in the Andamans, the lack of a mass base, and the pull of Gandhian mass movements and communism all played a part. Many revolutionaries joined the Congress or the communists.

Assessment: though small, the movement kept the spirit of sacrifice alive and inspired youth across India, including UP's HRA.

Conclusion: Bengal's revolutionaries made the freedom struggle more radical and showed that Indians were ready to die for freedom.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Anushilan Samiti (1902) · Jugantar (1906) · Khudiram Bose (1908) · Alipore Bomb Case · Bagha Jatin (1915) · Chittagong armoury raid (18 April 1930) · Pritilata Waddedar.

Art & Culture

2018 · Buddhist literature and world peace

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the role of Buddhist literature in the creation of world peace.**

Buddhist literature carries the Buddha's message of non-violence, compassion and the middle path. It includes the Pali **Tripitaka** (Vinaya, Sutta and Abhidhamma Pitaka), the **Jataka** tales, the **Dhammapada** and Sanskrit works such as Ashvaghosha's *Buddhacharita*.

Role in world peace

1. **Peace begins in the mind:** the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path trace conflict to craving and hatred. The Dhammapada teaches that hatred never ends through hatred, only through love.
2. **Ethics of non-violence:** the five precepts (*panchashila*) and the virtues of *maitri* (friendliness) and *karuna* (compassion) teach restraint and tolerance.
3. **Dialogue:** the *Milindapanha* (King Menander's questions to the monk Nagasena) shows differences settled by reasoned discussion.
4. **Moral stories:** the Jatakas spread values of kindness and sacrifice across Asia.
5. **Ashoka's Dhamma:** after Kalinga, Ashoka replaced conquest by war with *dhamma-vijaya* (Rock Edict XIII) and sent missions to Sri Lanka and beyond.
6. **Modern diplomacy:** India's Panchsheel (1954), the UN Day of Vesak and the message of "Buddha, not Yuddha".

UP link: Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti and Kaushambi form the Buddhist circuit.

Conclusion: In an age of wars, Buddhist literature offers a path to both inner and outer peace.

2019 · Cultural significance of Prayagraj

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the cultural significance of 'Prayagraj' in ancient India.**

Prayagraj (ancient Prayag) stands at the **Triveni Sangam** of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati. The Puranas call it **Tirtharaj**, the king of pilgrimage centres.

Cultural significance in ancient India

1. **Sacred geography:** the Mahabharata and the Puranas praise bathing at the Sangam, and the Akshayavat (undying banyan) is revered.
2. **Epic links:** in the Ramayana, Rama visits the ashram of sage **Bharadwaj**, a great centre of learning. Nearby **Shringverpur** recalls Nishadraj Guha.
3. **Kumbh and Magh Mela:** these gatherings made Prayag a meeting point for saints and pilgrims from all over India. UNESCO listed the Kumbh Mela as Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2017.
4. **Royal patronage:** Xuanzang described **Harshavardhana's** great assembly at Prayag in the 7th century, where the king gave away his wealth.
5. **Inscriptions:** the **Allahabad Pillar** bears Ashoka's edicts and **Samudragupta's Prayag Prashasti**, composed by Harishena, a key source for Gupta history.
6. **Ancient centres nearby: Kaushambi**, capital of the Vatsa mahajanapada, was visited by the Buddha, and **Jhusi (Pratishthanpur)** is linked with the early lunar dynasty.

Conclusion: Prayagraj remains a symbol of India's cultural unity, as the Maha Kumbh of 2025 showed.

2019 · Vedic education system and its relevance today

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **Describe the main features of the Vedic education system and review its significance in present.**

Vedic education aimed at the all-round growth of the student: knowledge, character and spiritual freedom. Its ideal is summed up as *sa vidya ya vimuktaye* — true knowledge is that which liberates.

Main features

1. **Gurukul system:** after the *upanayana* ceremony, the student (*brahmachari*) lived in the teacher's ashram, often in a forest, and left after the *samavartana* ceremony.
2. **Close teacher–student bond:** the guru was guide and parent; the pupil served him and learnt by example.
3. **Oral method:** knowledge passed by word of mouth through listening (*shravana*), reflection (*manana*) and deep meditation (*nididhyasana*), and was preserved by exact recitation.
4. **Curriculum:** the Vedas, the six **Vedangas** (phonetics, ritual, grammar, etymology, metre and astronomy), the Upanishads and logic, along with archery, medicine and crafts.
5. **Discipline and simple living:** celibacy, self-control and service built character.
6. **Free education:** there were no fees. The student gave *guru-dakshina* at the end, and society and kings supported the ashrams.
7. **Women scholars and debate:** Gargi, Maitreyi, Ghosha and Apala show that women studied in the early period, and debates (*shastrartha*) sharpened reasoning.

Limitations: later, learning was confined to the upper varnas and closed to women and Shudras. It also became ritual-heavy.

Relevance today

- **NEP 2020** echoes it through holistic, value-based and multidisciplinary learning, Indian Knowledge Systems and teaching in the mother tongue.
- **Mentoring and residential schools** such as the Navodaya Vidyalayas reflect the gurukul spirit.
- **Character and ethics:** moral education can counter rote learning, stress and materialism.
- **Yoga and nature-based learning** support health and environmental awareness.
- **Sanskrit studies:** Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, keeps the tradition alive in UP.

Conclusion: The best values of the Vedic system — discipline, respect for the teacher and holistic growth — should be blended with modern science and equal access for all.

2019 · Indian culture: unity in diversity

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks

'Indian Culture is the symbol of Unity in Diversity.' Analyse the statement logically by giving suitable illustrations.

India is a land of many races, languages, religions, castes, climates and customs. Census 2011 counted **121 languages**, 22 of them in the Eighth Schedule, and followers of all the major world religions. Yet a common cultural thread has held this diversity together for thousands of years.

Forms of diversity

- **Geography:** from the Himalayas to the coasts and the deserts.
- **Religion:** Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism and others.
- **Daily life:** language, food, dress, festivals and folk arts differ from region to region.

Bonds of unity

1. **The idea of Bharatvarsha:** the Puranas describe the land between the Himalayas and the sea as one country.
2. **Pilgrimage network:** Adi Shankaracharya's four *mathas* at the four corners of India, the twelve *jyotirlingas*, the Shakti Peethas and the **Kumbh at Prayagraj** draw people from every region.
3. **Shared epics and saints:** the Ramayana and the Mahabharata exist in every regional language (Kamban's Tamil Ramayana, Krittivasi's Bengali Ramayana, Tulsidas's *Ramcharitmanas*). Bhakti and Sufi saints such as **Kabir of Varanasi**, Nanak and the Chishtis preached a common humanism.
4. **Synthesis:** Indo-Islamic architecture, Hindustani music (Amir Khusrau), the Urdu language and Awadh's **Ganga–Jamuni tehzeeb** show the blending of cultures.
5. **Shared festivals and values:** Diwali, Eid, Holi and Christmas are celebrated across communities, and respect for elders, the family and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* are common values.
6. **Political and constitutional unity:** the freedom struggle, single citizenship, the national flag and anthem, and the duty to promote harmony (Article 51A).

Logical analysis: diversity also brings communalism, regionalism, casteism and language disputes. These tensions have not broken India, because its culture absorbs differences instead of erasing them.

Conclusion: Indian culture is a mosaic, not a melting pot. Initiatives such as *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* strengthen this unity on the path to *Viksit Bharat*.

2020, 2021 · Science and technology in the Gupta age

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks · also asked in 2021 (12 marks)

Throw light on the development of science and technology during the Gupta period.

The Gupta period (about the 4th to the 6th century CE) brought political stability, prosperity and royal patronage. These encouraged remarkable progress in science and technology.

1. Mathematics

- **Aryabhata** wrote the *Aryabhatiya* (499 CE). He used the place-value system, gave the value of π as about 3.1416, and worked on sine tables, algebra and areas.
- The decimal place-value system with zero spread in this age. Through the Arabs it later reached Europe as "Arabic numerals".

2. Astronomy

- Aryabhata said that the Earth is round and rotates on its axis. He explained eclipses by the shadows of the Earth and the Moon, not by Rahu.
- **Varahamihira** wrote the *Pancha Siddhantika*, a summary of five astronomical systems, and the *Brihat Samhita*, an encyclopaedia of astronomy, weather, plants, gems and architecture.

3. Metallurgy

- The **Iron Pillar at Mehrauli** (Delhi), about 7 m tall, has resisted rust for about 1,600 years. Its inscription names a king Chandra, generally identified with Chandragupta II.
- The copper Buddha from **Sultanganj** (now in Birmingham) and the pure gold *dinars* show skill in casting and minting.

4. Medicine: Ayurveda, based on the Charaka and Sushruta traditions, flourished. Vagbhata's work came at the close of this era.

5. Architecture and engineering

- Structural temples began. Two early examples are in UP: the **Dashavatara temple at Deogarh (Lalitpur)** and the brick temple at **Bhitargaon (Kanpur)**.
- Rock-cut caves and murals (Ajanta, Udayagiri) show advanced work with stone, plaster and pigments.

Limitations: science was mostly in Sanskrit and confined to a learned elite, and astrology was often mixed with astronomy.

Conclusion: Gupta science shows a rational, observational spirit. India honoured it by naming its first satellite **Aryabhata (1975)**.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Aryabhatiya (499 CE) · $\pi \approx 3.1416$ · Varahamihira: Pancha Siddhantika, Brihat Samhita · Mehrauli Iron Pillar · Deogarh and Bhitargaon temples (UP).

2021 · Scientific aspects of Indian cultural heritage

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Discuss the scientific aspects of Indian cultural heritage.

Indian cultural heritage is not only spiritual. It also carries a long tradition of observation, measurement and practical science.

Scientific aspects

1. **Town planning:** Harappan cities had grid streets, covered drains, standard bricks and weights, and Lothal had a dockyard.
2. **Mathematics:** the geometry of the *Sulba Sutras*, zero and the decimal place value, and the work of Aryabhata, Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.
3. **Astronomy:** Aryabhata's rotating Earth and Sawai Jai Singh's **Jantar Mantar** observatories, including one at **Varanasi**.
4. **Medicine and health:** the *Charaka Samhita* and the *Sushruta Samhita* (plastic and cataract surgery), and **Yoga**, now global through International Yoga Day (21 June).
5. **Metallurgy:** the rust-free Iron Pillar, *wootz* steel and the distillation of zinc at Zawar (Rajasthan).
6. **Ecological traditions:** stepwells and tanks for water harvesting, sacred groves, seasonal festivals and food habits such as the use of turmeric.

Conclusion: These traditions should be studied scientifically, separating evidence from myth, as the Indian Knowledge Systems initiative under NEP 2020 aims to do.

2022 · Mauryan art and architecture

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the salient features of Mauryan Art and Architecture.**

Mauryan art (4th–2nd century BCE) began large-scale stone art in India. It has two streams: **court art**, under royal patronage, and **popular art**.

Court art

1. **Monolithic pillars:** each was cut from one block of **Chunar sandstone** (near Mirzapur, UP) and given a mirror-like **Mauryan polish**. Capitals carry animals on an abacus above an inverted lotus.
2. **Lion Capital of Sarnath:** four lions stand back to back above an abacus carved with the Dharmachakra and animals. It became the **National Emblem** on 26 January 1950. Other capitals: the Rampurva bull and the Lauriya-Nandangarh lion.
3. **Palace:** Megasthenes praised the wooden palace at Pataliputra; its pillared hall was excavated at Kumrahar.
4. **Stupas:** Ashoka built brick stupas, such as the core of the Sanchi stupa and the Dharmarajika stupa at Sarnath.
5. **Rock-cut caves:** the Barabar caves were made for the Ajivikas; the Lomas Rishi cave's arched doorway copies wooden forms.

Popular art

- Large stone *yaksha* and *yakshi* figures, such as the polished **Didarganj Yakshi** (Patna) and the **Parkham Yaksha** (Mathura), and terracotta figurines.

Conclusion: Mauryan art blended Indian skill with some Persian influence and spread the message of Dhamma.

2022 · Gupta period as the 'Golden Age'

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Why is the Gupta period considered as the 'Golden Age' of Ancient Indian History?**

The Gupta Empire (about 319–550 CE), under rulers such as **Samudragupta** and **Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)**, brought political unity and prosperity to much of North India. Its cultural achievements led historians to call it the "**Golden Age**" or the classical age.

Reasons

1. **Political stability:** a large empire with an efficient administration. Samudragupta's conquests are recorded in the Prayag Prashasti on the Allahabad Pillar.
2. **Economic prosperity:** the Guptas issued the largest number of gold coins (*dinars*) in ancient India, and trade flourished. The Chinese pilgrim **Fa-Hien** described a peaceful and prosperous country under Chandragupta II.
3. **Sanskrit literature:**
   - **Kalidasa** (*Abhijnanashakuntalam*, *Meghaduta*, *Raghuvamsha*);
   - Vishakhadatta (*Mudrarakshasa*) and Shudraka (*Mrichchhakatika*);
   - Amarasimha's *Amarakosha*; the Puranas also took their final shape.
4. **Science:** Aryabhata, Varahamihira and the Mehrauli Iron Pillar.
5. **Art and architecture:**
   - the **Sarnath school** of sculpture, with the seated Buddha preaching the first sermon;
   - early structural temples, such as **Deogarh** (Lalitpur) and **Bhitargaon** (Kanpur);
   - the paintings of Ajanta and Bagh.
6. **Education: Nalanda** was founded under Kumaragupta I.
7. **Religious tolerance:** Vaishnavism and Shaivism grew, while Buddhism and Jainism also flourished.

Critical view: historians such as R.S. Sharma point out that the "golden" image fits the elite more than common people.

- Land grants to Brahmanas began feudal trends.
- Fa-Hien noted that untouchable *chandalas* lived outside towns.
- Women's status declined; the Eran inscription (510 CE) is the first inscriptional evidence of sati.
- Later Gupta coins were debased, and urban trade declined.

Conclusion: The Gupta age was golden in culture, art and learning, though not for all sections of society. Its classical standards shaped Indian civilisation for centuries.

2022 · Ancient Indian knowledge and 'Vishwaguru'

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain the points of Ancient Indian Knowledge on the basis of which India was designated as 'Vishwaguru'.**

Ancient India was called **Vishwaguru**, the teacher of the world, because students and scholars came here to learn and Indian ideas travelled across Asia and beyond.

Basis of the title

1. **Great centres of learning:** Takshashila, **Nalanda** (founded under Kumaragupta I; Xuanzang and Yijing studied there), Vikramashila, Valabhi and **Kashi** drew students from China, Korea, Tibet and South-East Asia.
2. **Mathematics:** the *Sulba Sutras*, zero and the decimal place-value system, Aryabhata, **Brahmagupta's rules for zero** and Bhaskaracharya's *Lilavati*. These reached Europe through the Arabs.
3. **Astronomy:** Aryabhata's rotating Earth and Varahamihira's works.
4. **Medicine:** Ayurveda — **Charaka** (medicine) and **Sushruta** (surgery, including rhinoplasty) — and **Patanjali's Yoga Sutra**.
5. **Language and logic: Panini's** *Ashtadhyayi*, one of the world's most precise grammars, Nyaya logic and Pingala's work on metre.
6. **Philosophy and ethics:** the Upanishads, the Gita, the six *darshanas*, and Buddhism and Jainism (*ahimsa*, *anekantavada*), which spread across Asia.
7. **Statecraft and economics:** Kautilya's *Arthashastra*.
8. **Arts and literature:** Bharata's *Natyashastra*, and the *Panchatantra*, translated into Pahlavi, Arabic (*Kalila wa Dimna*) and many European languages.
9. **Technology:** Harappan town planning, the Iron Pillar and *wootz* steel.
10. **Cultural spread:** Indian influence is visible in Angkor Wat and Borobudur.

Conclusion: India's status as Vishwaguru rested on open inquiry and exchange. NEP 2020's focus on Indian Knowledge Systems and the revived Nalanda University aim to restore that spirit through research and innovation.

2022 · Folk songs of Purvanchal

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Present the details of the popular folk songs in the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh and mention their salient features.**

Purvanchal is eastern Uttar Pradesh — Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Ballia, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and nearby districts. It is the land of Bhojpuri, and its folk songs follow the farming year, the festivals and the stages of life.

Popular folk songs

1. **Sohar:** sung by women at the birth of a child, full of joy and blessings.
2. **Kajri:** songs of the rainy months of Sawan and Bhadon about longing for an absent lover. **Mirzapur and Varanasi** are famous for Kajri, and Girija Devi of the Banaras gharana took it to the classical stage.
3. **Chaiti (Chaita):** sung in the month of Chaitra with the refrain "Ho Rama", on spring and separation.
4. **Phaguwa (Phag or Hori):** sung in Phalgun around Holi, about colour and Radha–Krishna.
5. **Birha:** a long, high-pitched form linked mainly with the Ahir community. Varanasi's **Hiralal Yadav** received the Padma Shri (2019) for it.
6. **Nirgun:** devotional songs about the soul and death, in the tradition of Kabir.
7. **Wedding songs:** teasing *gaari* songs, *sagun* songs and *kohbar* songs.
8. **Work songs:** *jantsar*, sung while grinding grain, and *ropni* and *sohni*, sung while planting and weeding paddy.
9. **Chhath geet:** devotional songs to Surya and Chhathi Maiya.
10. **Purbi and Bidesia themes:** the pain of migrants who went to Calcutta or overseas, and of the wives left behind.

Salient features

- They are closely linked to seasons, farming and life-cycle rituals.
- They are mostly sung by women in groups, as a living oral tradition.
- Their themes are love, separation, devotion (to Ram, Krishna and Shiva), migration and social satire.
- They use simple instruments: dholak, jhal, manjira, kartal and harmonium.

Conclusion: These songs preserve the region's memory and social history. Recording them and giving folk artists a stage will protect them in the age of commercial music.

2023 · Vedic literature

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Give an account of the Vedic literature.**

Vedic literature is the oldest body of Indian literature, composed in Vedic Sanskrit roughly between 1500 and 500 BCE. It is called *shruti* ("heard") and was handed down orally.

The four Vedas

1. **Rigveda:** the oldest, with 10 *mandalas* and 1,028 hymns to deities such as Agni, Indra and Varuna. It contains the Gayatri Mantra and the Purusha Sukta.
2. **Samaveda:** hymns set to melody for singing at sacrifices; the root of Indian music.
3. **Yajurveda:** formulas for rituals, in two branches, Shukla (White) and Krishna (Black).
4. **Atharvaveda:** charms, spells, medicine and everyday life.

Layers of each Veda

- the **Samhitas** (hymns);
- the **Brahmanas**, which explain rituals (for example, the *Shatapatha Brahmana*);
- the **Aranyakas**, or forest texts;
- the **Upanishads**, on the philosophy of Brahman and Atman. The Mundaka Upanishad gives us *Satyameva Jayate*.

Supporting texts: the six **Vedangas** — *shiksha*, *kalpa*, *vyakarana*, *nirukta*, *chhanda* and *jyotisha*.

Significance: these texts are the main source for early Indian society, polity (*sabha* and *samiti*), economy and religion. UNESCO lists Vedic chanting as Intangible Cultural Heritage and Rigveda manuscripts in its Memory of the World Register.

Conclusion: The Vedas are the foundation of Indian philosophy and culture.

2023 · Nagara style of temple architecture

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Describe the architectural features of the temples of Nagara style.**

The **Nagara** style is the North Indian style of temple architecture, found mainly between the Himalayas and the Vindhyas. It took shape in the late Gupta period — the **Dashavatara temple at Deogarh (Lalitpur, UP)** is an early example — and reached its peak between the 8th and the 13th centuries.

Main features

1. **Raised platform:** the temple usually stands on a high stone platform (*jagati*), reached by steps.
2. **Plan:**
   - A square *garbhagriha* (sanctum) is followed by the *antarala* (vestibule), the *mandapa* (hall) and the *ardhamandapa* (porch), in a line.
   - Projections (*rathas*) on each side give a stepped, cross-like plan (*triratha*, *pancharatha*).
3. **Shikhara:** the defining feature is a curving tower over the sanctum, crowned by a ribbed stone disc (**amalaka**) and a **kalasha**. Its main types are:
   - **Latina** or *rekha-prasada*: simple and curving;
   - **Phamsana**: broader and shorter, with sloping roofs, often over the mandapa;
   - **Valabhi**: rectangular, with a vaulted roof.

4. **Mini-shikharas:** in mature temples such as Khajuraho, smaller towers cluster around the main one like a mountain range.
5. **No large boundary walls or gateways,** unlike the towering *gopurams* of the Dravida style.
6. **Sculpture:** the river goddesses **Ganga and Yamuna** flank the sanctum door, and the walls carry deities, couples (*mithunas*) and floral designs.

Regional schools

- **Odisha:** the *deul* with a *jagamohana*, as at Lingaraja (Bhubaneswar), Jagannath (Puri) and the Konark Sun Temple.
- **Chandela: Khajuraho** (Kandariya Mahadeva), a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Solanki:** the Modhera Sun Temple with its stepped tank, and the marble Dilwara Jain temples at Mount Abu.

Conclusion: The Nagara style blends engineering and devotion. The **Ram Mandir at Ayodhya**, built in the Nagara style, shows that the tradition is alive in UP.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Shikhara + amalaka + kalasha · Latina, Phamsana, Valabhi · Panchayatana (Deogarh) · Odisha, Khajuraho and Solanki schools · Contrast: Dravida gopuram and vimana.

2023 · Indian culture and the world during COVID-19

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **How did Indian culture affect the world during the Corona pandemic period?**

During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–22), several Indian cultural practices and values drew global attention as people looked for ways to stay healthy, calm and connected.

Ways Indian culture influenced the world

1. **Namaste:** the no-touch Indian greeting was adopted by many world leaders in place of the handshake.
2. **Yoga and pranayama:** these were used worldwide for breathing, immunity and mental health. International Yoga Day 2020 was observed at home, with the theme "Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home".
3. **Ayurveda and kitchen remedies:** turmeric, ginger, tulsi and *kadha* became popular, and the AYUSH Ministry issued advisories. In 2022 the WHO set up its **Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** at Jamnagar.
4. **Hygiene traditions:** washing hands and feet, leaving footwear at the door and greeting from a distance fitted public-health advice.
5. **Seva and charity:**
   - Gurdwara *langars*, temples, mosques and NGOs fed millions.
   - In UP and elsewhere, community kitchens fed migrants walking home.
   - Sikh langars abroad fed people in the US and UK.
6. ***Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* in action:**
   - India supplied medicines to many countries.
   - It proposed a SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund (March 2020).
   - It shared vaccines under **Vaccine Maitri** (2021).
7. **Family and spiritual resilience:** joint families, meditation and faith helped people cope. Doordarshan's re-telecast of the *Ramayan* in 2020 drew record audiences.
8. **Food habits:** simple vegetarian and *sattvic* diets attracted new interest abroad.

Critical note: unscientific claims and fake cures also spread. Traditional practices need scientific testing and cannot replace vaccines and modern medicine.

Conclusion: The pandemic showed India's soft power: a culture of wellness, sharing and global solidarity.

2024 · Literary sources of ancient Indian history

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Introduce the literary sources for the study of Ancient Indian History.**

Literary sources, along with archaeology, are the main basis for rebuilding ancient Indian history. They fall into three groups.

1. Religious literature

- **Brahmanical:** the Vedas, Brahmanas and Upanishads; the epics; the **Puranas**, which give royal genealogies; and Smritis such as the *Manusmriti*.
- **Buddhist:** the *Tripitaka*, the *Jatakas*, and the Sri Lankan chronicles *Dipavamsa* and *Mahavamsa*, which tell of Ashoka.
- **Jain:** the *Agamas*, the *Kalpasutra* and Hemachandra's *Parishishtaparvan*, which links Chandragupta Maurya to Jainism.

2. Secular literature

- Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, Panini's *Ashtadhyayi* and Patanjali's *Mahabhashya*.
- Banabhatta's *Harshacharita* and Vishakhadatta's *Mudrarakshasa*.
- Kalhana's **Rajatarangini** (12th century) on Kashmir, the first true historical chronicle.
- The **Sangam literature** of the Tamil country.

3. Foreign accounts

- **Greek and Roman:** Megasthenes' *Indica*, the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*, Pliny and Ptolemy.
- **Chinese:** Fa-Hien (in the time of Chandragupta II), Xuanzang (in Harsha's time) and Yijing.
- **Arab:** Al-Biruni's *Kitab-ul-Hind* (11th century).

Limitations: religious bias, exaggeration, uncertain dates and later additions. They must be cross-checked with inscriptions, coins and excavations.

Conclusion: Read critically, literary sources reveal the society, polity, economy and culture of ancient India.

2024 · Main characteristics of Indian culture

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Describe the main characteristics of Indian culture.**

Indian culture is one of the world's oldest living cultures, with a continuous story from the Harappan civilisation to the present.

Main characteristics

1. **Antiquity and continuity:** yoga, Vedic chanting and the worship of rivers and trees have lasted for thousands of years. **Kashi** is among the world's oldest living cities.
2. **Unity in diversity:** many languages, religions and customs are held together by a shared cultural spirit.
3. **Tolerance and synthesis:** Greeks, Shakas, Kushanas, Turks and Mughals were absorbed. Indo-Islamic art and Awadh's **Ganga–Jamuni tehzeeb** are examples.
4. **Balance of spiritual and worldly life:** the four *purusharthas* — dharma, artha, kama and moksha.
5. **Universalism:** *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is one family) and *sarva dharma samabhava*.
6. **Non-violence and compassion:** *ahimsa* in Jainism, Buddhism and Gandhi.
7. **Respect for nature:** sacred rivers such as the Ganga, sacred groves, and reverence for animals and plants.
8. **Family and community:** joint families and shared festivals.
9. **Adaptability:** it accepts change without losing its core.

Limitation: caste hierarchy and gender inequality are negative features that reformers have long fought.

Conclusion: These values give India soft power and a moral voice.

2024 · Features of Sangam period culture

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the main features of Sangam Period Culture?**

The **Sangam period** (roughly the 3rd century BCE to the 3rd century CE) is named after the assemblies (*sangams*) of Tamil poets which, by tradition, met at Madurai under Pandya patronage. Its culture is known from Sangam literature — the **Tolkappiyam** (grammar), the *Ettuthogai* (eight anthologies) and the *Pattuppattu* (ten idylls) — and from archaeology.

1. Polity

- Three crowned dynasties (*muvendar*) ruled:
  - the **Cheras** (emblem: bow; port: Muziris);
  - the **Cholas** (tiger; Uraiyur and the port of Puhar);
  - the **Pandyas** (fish; Madurai and the port of Korkai).
- Chieftains (*velir*) ruled smaller areas.
- **Karikala Chola** is remembered for the *Kallanai* (Grand Anicut) on the Kaveri.

2. The five *tinai* (landscapes): *kurinji* (hills), *mullai* (pastoral forest), *marutam* (farmland), *neytal* (coast) and *palai* (dry land). Each had its own occupation, deity and poetic mood.

3. Literature: two great themes, *akam* (love and the inner life) and *puram* (war, heroism and the generosity of kings). Poets included women such as **Avvaiyar**. The *Tirukkural* and the epics *Silappadikaram* and *Manimekalai* belong to the period just after.

4. Society: groups were based on occupation rather than a rigid varna order, though Brahmanas were gaining influence. **Hero stones** (*nadukal*) honoured fallen warriors. Widows, however, led hard lives.

5. Religion: Murugan was the chief deity, along with Korravai (goddess of war) and Mayon (Vishnu). Kings performed Vedic sacrifices, and Buddhism and Jainism also spread.

6. Economy and trade:

- Rice farming, cattle herding, weaving and pearl fishing.
- Brisk **Indo-Roman trade** in pepper, pearls, ivory and fine cotton, shown by Roman coins and the trading station at Arikamedu.

7. Arts: bards (*panar*) and dancers (*viraliyar*) performed with instruments such as the *yazh* (harp).

Conclusion: Sangam culture shows a prosperous and literate society. Recent finds at **Keezhadi** near Madurai, with brick structures and Tamil-Brahmi inscribed pottery, confirm its urban life.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> Muvendar: Chera (bow), Chola (tiger), Pandya (fish) · Five tinai · Akam and puram · Murugan · Muziris, Puhar, Korkai, Arikamedu · Karikala's Kallanai.

World History

2018 · Hitler and the Second World War

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the role of Hitler in bringing about the Second World War.**

The Second World War (1939–45) had many causes: the harsh Treaty of Versailles (1919), the Great Depression, the failure of the League of Nations and appeasement. But **Adolf Hitler**, Chancellor of Germany from January 1933, turned these conditions into war through a deliberate policy of aggression.

Hitler's role

1. **Ideology:** in *Mein Kampf* he called for undoing Versailles, uniting all Germans and winning *Lebensraum* (living space) in the East through racial war.
2. **Breaking Versailles:**
   - he left the Disarmament Conference and the League of Nations (1933);
   - he brought back conscription and built an air force (1935);
   - he remilitarised the **Rhineland** (March 1936).
3. **Alliances for aggression:** the **Rome–Berlin Axis** (1936), the **Anti-Comintern Pact** with Japan (1936, joined by Italy in 1937) and the **Pact of Steel** (1939). He also helped Franco in the Spanish Civil War.
4. **Expansion step by step:**
   - the **Anschluss** with Austria (March 1938);
   - the **Sudetenland**, gained at Munich (September 1938) through British and French appeasement;

- the rest of Czechoslovakia (March 1939), which showed that his aims went beyond uniting Germans.

5. **Nazi–Soviet Pact (23 August 1939):** it removed the danger of a two-front war and secretly divided Poland.
6. **Invasion of Poland (1 September 1939):** Britain and France declared war on 3 September.

Other factors

- The "war-guilt" clause and reparations of Versailles bred German anger.
- The Depression brought the Nazis to power.
- The League failed over Manchuria (1931) and Abyssinia (1935), and appeasement encouraged Hitler.
- The historian A.J.P. Taylor even argued that Hitler was an opportunist rather than a planner.

Conclusion: These factors created the opportunity, but Hitler's ambitions and gambles made war certain. That is why the Second World War is often called "Hitler's war".

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Rhineland 1936 · Axis 1936 · Anschluss March 1938 · Munich September 1938 · Nazi–Soviet Pact 23 August 1939 · Poland 1 September 1939.

2019 · Efforts for world peace after the Second World War

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
> **Describe the efforts made for world peace after the Second World War on global level.**

The Second World War killed tens of millions and ended with atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Afterwards the world built new institutions and agreements to prevent another global war.

1. The United Nations (24 October 1945)

- The Security Council is responsible for international peace, and UN **peacekeeping** began in 1948.
- The International Court of Justice settles disputes between states.
- The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (10 December 1948) set common standards.

2. Arms control and disarmament

- Nuclear: the Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963), the **NPT** (1968), SALT I (1972), the INF Treaty (1987) and START I (1991).
- Other weapons: the Biological (1972) and Chemical (1993) Weapons Conventions.

3. Non-Aligned Movement: Nehru, Nasser, Tito, Sukarno and Nkrumah launched NAM at Belgrade (1961), building on Panchsheel (1954) and Bandung (1955). It kept newly free nations out of the Cold War blocs.

4. Decolonisation: the UN Declaration on independence for colonial peoples (1960) helped colonies win freedom.

5. Détente: the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and the peaceful end of the Cold War (1989–91).

6. Regional cooperation: European integration (ECSC 1951, EEC 1957, EU 1993) made war between France and Germany unthinkable. ASEAN (1967), the OAU and SAARC (1985) followed.

7. International law: the Nuremberg trials (1945–46), the Geneva Conventions (1949) and the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute, 1998).

8. Economic cooperation: the IMF, the World Bank and the Marshall Plan rebuilt war-torn economies.

India's role: India championed NAM and disarmament and chaired the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea (1953). It is among the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping.

Limitations: the arms race, proxy wars (Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan), veto deadlock and terrorism show that peace remains fragile.

Conclusion: No world war has broken out since 1945, but a reformed UN and real disarmament are still needed.

2020 · Foreign policy of Mussolini

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
> **Write a critical note on the foreign policy of Mussolini, the leader of Fascism in Italy.**

Benito Mussolini came to power after the **March on Rome (October 1922)**. His foreign policy aimed to revive the glory of Rome, make the Mediterranean "*Mare Nostrum*" (our sea) and avenge Italy's "mutilated victory" at Versailles.

Phase I: prestige with caution (1922–34)

- **Corfu incident (1923):** he bombarded and occupied Corfu and made Greece pay compensation.
- **Fiume** was annexed (1924), and Albania became a virtual protectorate (1926).
- Italy was a guarantor of the **Locarno Treaties** (1925) and joined the **Stresa Front** (1935) against German rearmament.

Phase II: aggression and the Hitler alliance (1935–43)

- **Abyssinia (1935–36):** the conquest exposed the weakness of League sanctions; Italy left the League in 1937.
- He aided Franco in Spain.
- He formed the **Rome–Berlin Axis** (1936) and signed the **Pact of Steel** (1939).
- He annexed Albania (1939) and entered the Second World War in June 1940.

Critical assessment: early gains came from bluster and diplomacy, but the policy rested on propaganda, not on economic or military strength. Defeats in Greece and North Africa made Italy dependent on Germany, and he was overthrown in 1943.

Conclusion: Mussolini's foreign policy brought Italy brief glory and lasting ruin.

2020 · The Jacobins in the French Revolution

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Who were Jacobins? What was their role in the French Revolution?**

Who were the Jacobins? They were members of the most influential political club of the French Revolution, named after the former convent of St Jacques in Paris where they met.

- Most were middle-class lawyers, journalists and professionals, led by **Maximilien Robespierre**.
- Their main support came from the **sans-culottes**: poorer Parisians such as shopkeepers, artisans and workers, who wore long striped trousers and red caps.
- They were radical republicans, opposed to the moderate **Girondins**.

Their role in the Revolution

1. **End of monarchy:** Jacobin-led crowds stormed the Tuileries Palace in August 1792. A new **National Convention**, elected by all adult men, declared France a **Republic** in September 1792.
2. **Execution of the King:** Louis XVI was tried for treason and guillotined in **January 1793**, and Marie Antoinette later that year.
3. **Defence of the Revolution:** facing foreign invasion and civil war, they formed the **Committee of Public Safety**. Mass conscription (*levée en masse*, 1793) saved the Republic.
4. **Reign of Terror (1793–94):** suspected enemies, including the Girondins and later Danton, were tried by revolutionary courts and guillotined in thousands.
5. **Social and economic measures:**
   - wages and prices were capped (the "Maximum"), and bread was rationed;
   - the remaining feudal dues were abolished without compensation;
   - **slavery in the French colonies was abolished (1794)**;
   - a new calendar was introduced, and the Church's role was cut back.
6. **Democratic ideas:** the Constitution of 1793 promised universal male suffrage, though it was never applied.

Fall: in July 1794 Robespierre himself was overthrown and executed (the Thermidorian Reaction), and the Directory followed.

Assessment: the Jacobins saved the Revolution and pushed equality further, but the Terror sacrificed liberty and the rule of law.

Conclusion: They left the ideal of an egalitarian republic, and a warning against revolutionary dictatorship.

2021 · Industrial Revolution as a socio-economic revolution

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **"The Industrial Revolution was not only a technological revolution but also a socio-economic revolution that changed the way people lived." Comment.**

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the mid-18th century. The spinning jenny, the water frame, the power loom, James Watt's improved steam engine and the railways changed how goods were made. Its deeper effects were social and economic.

Economic changes

- The **factory system** and industrial capitalism replaced cottage industry.
- Banks, joint-stock companies and world trade grew. Colonies became sources of raw materials and markets, which caused India's deindustrialisation.
- New ideas such as **laissez-faire** (Adam Smith) arose.

Social changes

- **Urbanisation:** people crowded into industrial towns like Manchester, with slums and disease.
- **New classes:** an industrial middle class and a wage-earning working class.
- **Family and work:** work left the home, and women and children toiled long hours in factories.
- **Reform:** trade unions, the Chartists, the Factory Acts and socialist thought (the *Communist Manifesto*, 1848).
- **Daily life:** clock-time discipline, mass-produced goods and faster travel.

Comment: the statement is correct. Technology was only the trigger; the revolution reshaped work, class, family, cities and ideas. It also began the fossil-fuel age behind today's climate crisis.

Conclusion: Today's "Fourth Industrial Revolution" (AI and automation) again needs policies that put people first.

2021 · The Balkan Crisis and the First World War

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **What do you understand by the Balkan Crisis? What was its role in the First World War?**

The Balkan Crisis was the chain of conflicts in south-east Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Serbs, Bulgarians, Greeks, Romanians and others lived there under the declining **Ottoman Empire**, the "sick man of Europe". Two forces made the region the "powder keg of Europe":

- the **nationalism** of the Balkan peoples, who sought freedom and territory;
- **great-power rivalry** to fill the space left by the Ottomans:
  - **Russia** backed fellow Slavs (Pan-Slavism) and wanted access to the Straits;
  - **Austria-Hungary** feared Slav nationalism inside its own empire;
  - **Germany** backed Austria and sought influence in Turkey (the Berlin–Baghdad railway);
  - **Britain** wanted to keep Russia out of the Mediterranean.

Main episodes

1. **Congress of Berlin (1878):** Serbia, Montenegro and Romania became independent, and Austria got the right to administer Bosnia-Herzegovina.
2. **Bosnian Crisis (1908):** Austria annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina. Serbia and Russia were humiliated but gave way because Germany backed Austria.
3. **Balkan Wars (1912–13):** the Balkan League defeated Turkey, then the allies fought Bulgaria over the spoils. A stronger Serbia emerged, and Austria created Albania to keep it from the sea.

Role in the First World War

- **Immediate cause:** on **28 June 1914**, Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb linked to the secret society **Black Hand**, assassinated Archduke **Franz Ferdinand** at Sarajevo.
- **July Crisis:**
  - Germany gave Austria a "blank cheque";
  - Austria sent Serbia an ultimatum and declared war on **28 July 1914**;

- Russia mobilised to protect Serbia;
- Germany declared war on Russia and France and invaded Belgium;
- Britain entered the war on 4 August.

- **Alliance link:** the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente turned a local Balkan quarrel into a European war.

Conclusion: The Balkan Crisis was the spark; militarism, the naval race, imperial rivalry and rigid alliances were the fuel of the First World War.

2023 · Bismarck and the unification of Germany

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Evaluate the role of Bismarck in the unification of Germany.**

After the liberal **Frankfurt Parliament (1848–49)** failed, Germany stayed divided under Austrian leadership. **Otto von Bismarck**, Minister-President of Prussia from 1862, declared that the great questions would be settled not by speeches but by "**blood and iron**". Through *Realpolitik* he unified Germany under Prussia within nine years.

Bismarck's role

1. **Military strength:** he pushed through army reforms with Roon and Moltke, collecting taxes even without parliament's approval.
2. **Danish War (1864):** with Austria he defeated Denmark over **Schleswig-Holstein**, then quarrelled with Austria over running the duchies.
3. **Isolating Austria:** he won Russia's goodwill by helping it against the Polish revolt (1863), secured Napoleon III's neutrality, and allied with Italy by promising it Venetia.
4. **Austro-Prussian War (1866):** Austria was defeated at **Königgrätz (Sadowa)**, given mild terms to keep it friendly, and shut out of German affairs. The **North German Confederation (1867)** followed.
5. **Franco-Prussian War (1870–71):** he edited the **Ems Telegram** to provoke France into war. The south German states joined Prussia, and France was crushed at **Sedan**.
6. **The Empire:** William I was proclaimed German Emperor in the Hall of Mirrors at **Versailles on 18 January 1871**, and Alsace-Lorraine was taken by the Treaty of Frankfurt.

Evaluation: other factors

- The **Zollverein** (customs union, 1834) had already united the economy.
- Prussian industry, railways and Moltke's generalship gave it strength.
- German nationalism had been rising since Napoleon's time.
- Austria's weakness and Napoleon III's mistakes helped.

Limits of his achievement: unification came "from above" and was authoritarian and militarist. It left out Austria's Germans, and the seizure of Alsace-Lorraine bred French bitterness that fed the First World War.

Conclusion: Bismarck did not create German nationalism, but his diplomacy, timing and short wars turned it into an empire, making him its chief architect.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> "Blood and iron" (1862) · Danish War 1864 · Königgrätz 1866 · North German Confederation 1867 · Ems Telegram and Sedan 1870 · Empire proclaimed at Versailles, 18 January 1871.

2024 · Napoleon as the son of the Revolution

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **"Napoleon was the son of the Revolution." Explain.**

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821) rose through the openings the French Revolution created and kept and spread many of its gains — hence its "son".

How he was the son of the Revolution

1. **Career open to talent:** a Corsican of minor noble birth, he rose fast in the revolutionary army, from Toulon (1793) to the Italian campaign (1796–97).
2. **Product of revolutionary instability:** the weak Directory let him seize power in the coup of **18 Brumaire (1799)**. He became First Consul and, in 1804, Emperor.
3. **Code Napoléon (1804):** it made permanent equality before the law, the end of feudal privileges, the right to property and a secular state.
4. **Consolidation:** the Concordat (1801) made peace with the Church without returning its sold lands; the Bank of France and state *lycées* followed.
5. **Spread of revolutionary ideas:** he abolished feudalism and serfdom in conquered lands, which stirred nationalism in Germany and Italy.

But he also betrayed it: dictatorship, censorship, a hereditary empire, slavery restored in the colonies (1802), and a code that kept women subordinate.

Conclusion: Napoleon was the Revolution's son in origin and reforms, yet he ended its democratic phase.

2024 · The Enlightenment and the French Revolution

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **"The French Revolution was a great result of the Enlightenment period." Comment.**

The **Enlightenment** of the 17th and 18th centuries placed reason above tradition, challenging absolute monarchy, privilege and blind faith. The French Revolution of 1789 put many of its ideas into practice.

Enlightenment ideas behind the Revolution

1. **John Locke** (*Two Treatises of Government*) rejected the divine right of kings and spoke of natural rights to life, liberty and property.
2. **Montesquieu** (*The Spirit of the Laws*, 1748) proposed separating the legislative, executive and judicial powers.
3. **Rousseau** (*The Social Contract*, 1762) argued that sovereignty lies with the people and their "general will".
4. **Voltaire** attacked the Church's intolerance and censorship, and **Diderot's Encyclopédie** spread scientific knowledge.
5. The **Physiocrats** criticised feudal dues and supported free trade.

These ideas spread through salons, pamphlets and newspapers. The American Revolution (1776) showed that they could work, and Abbé Sieyès's *What is the Third Estate?* (1789) voiced them for the commoners.

Reflection in the Revolution

- The **Tennis Court Oath** (June 1789) asserted popular sovereignty.
- The **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** (August 1789) proclaimed liberty, equality before law and free speech.
- The Constitution of 1791 separated powers, and feudal privileges were abolished.
- The slogan was **Liberty, Equality, Fraternity**.

But the Enlightenment was not the only cause

- **Fiscal crisis:** war debts, including aid to the American Revolution.
- **Unjust estates system:** the clergy and nobles paid no taxes, while the Third Estate paid the *taille* and tithes.
- **Food crisis:** bad harvests and costly bread (1788–89).
- **Weak rule** of Louis XVI and an ambitious middle class.

Comment: the Enlightenment supplied the ideas and language of the Revolution; the economic and social crisis provided the spark.

Conclusion: The Revolution's ideals inspired the world, from Tipu Sultan and Raja Ram Mohan Roy to the Preamble of India's Constitution, which promises liberty, equality and fraternity.

Indian Society

2018 · The chain behind communal violence

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

"Communal violence is instigated by religious fanatics, initiated by anti-social elements, supported by political activists, financed by vested interests." Comment.

Communal violence is organised violence between religious communities. The statement rightly shows that riots are rarely spontaneous; they pass through a chain of actors.

The chain

1. **Instigated by fanatics:** hate speech, rumours and calls to "defend the faith" breed fear and mistrust.
2. **Initiated by anti-social elements:** criminals throw the first stone, lead mobs and loot under cover of religion.
3. **Supported by political activists:** polarisation builds vote banks, especially before elections. Paul Brass's study of Aligarh described an "institutionalised riot system".
4. **Financed by vested interests:** land mafias, business rivals and sometimes hostile foreign agencies gain from riots.

What the statement leaves out

- Poverty, unemployment, ghettoisation and memories of Partition.
- Fake news on social media: rumours and a fake video fuelled the **Muzaffarnagar riots (2013)** in UP.
- Slow or biased policing.

Remedies: impartial policing and police reform (*Prakash Singh*, 2006); the Supreme Court's guidelines against mob lynching (*Tehseen Poonawalla*, 2018); peace committees, inter-faith dialogue and checks on fake news.

Conclusion: The statement captures the organised nature of riots. Lasting peace needs both firm law and fraternity (Preamble; Article 51A(e)).

2018 · Changing status of women in India

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Evaluate the changing status of women in India.

Women in India have moved from 19th-century social reform to constitutional equality (Articles 14, 15(3), 16 and 39). Their status today shows real progress alongside persistent gaps.

Positive changes

- **Education:** female literacy rose from 8.9% (1951) to 65.5% (Census 2011).
- **Health:** the maternal mortality ratio fell to 97 per lakh live births (SRS 2018–20).
- **Political voice:** one-third of seats in panchayats and municipalities (73rd and 74th Amendments). The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023) will extend this to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.
- **Legal protection:** the Domestic Violence Act (2005), the POSH Act (2013), 26 weeks of maternity leave (2017) and the end of instant triple talaq (2017).
- **Economic role:** SHGs, entrepreneurs, and women in the armed forces and science.

Continuing problems

- Low workforce participation and a heavy load of unpaid care work.
- Violence and dowry.
- Child marriage: 23.3% of women aged 20–24 married before 18 (NFHS-5).
- Son preference and a digital divide.

UP initiatives: the 1090 Women Power Line, Kanya Sumangala Yojana and Mission Shakti.

Conclusion: Women's status has improved more in law and literacy than in social attitudes. Real equality needs economic empowerment and a change of mindset.

2018 · Solutions to urban problems

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Discuss the solution to urban problems.

India's urban population was 31.1% in Census 2011 and is rising fast. Cities face slums, a housing shortage, congestion, pollution, water scarcity, poor waste management, flooding and crime.

Solutions

1. **Planned growth:** master plans, transit-oriented development, satellite towns and stronger small towns to ease pressure on big cities.
2. **Stronger local bodies:** implement the **74th Amendment** (Twelfth Schedule functions), with better municipal finances (property tax, municipal bonds) and trained staff.
3. **Affordable housing:** PMAY-Urban (2015), in-situ slum redevelopment and rental housing for migrants.
4. **Basic services:** AMRUT (2015) for water and sewerage, and Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban for waste segregation and processing.
5. **Mobility:** metro rail (Lucknow Metro, 2017), city buses, and safe walking and cycling.
6. **Environment:** the National Clean Air Programme (2019), green belts, rainwater harvesting and storm-water drains.
7. **Smart governance:** e-governance, safe-city projects and citizen participation. UP has 10 cities under the **Smart Cities Mission**, including Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra and Varanasi.
8. **Rural livelihoods:** jobs in villages reduce distress migration.

Conclusion: Inclusive and resilient cities (SDG 11) are vital for UP's goal of a USD 1 trillion economy and for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2018 · Secularism and India's liberal democracy

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **"Secularism as an orientation and a set of practices is indispensable to India's future as a liberal democracy." Discuss.**

Secularism means that the state identifies with no religion and treats all faiths and citizens equally. The **42nd Amendment (1976)** added the word to the Preamble, and in **S.R. Bommai (1994)** the Supreme Court held it part of the basic structure. Indian secularism is not a wall of separation: it joins *sarva dharma samabhava* with what Rajeev Bhargava calls "**principled distance**".

Secularism as an orientation

- Tolerance, reason and respect for others' faith among citizens and leaders, and the belief that citizenship, not religion, defines rights.

Secularism as a set of practices

- **Articles 14–16:** equality and non-discrimination.
- **Articles 25–28:** freedom of conscience and religion; no tax to promote a religion (Article 27); no religious instruction in fully state-funded institutions (Article 28).
- **Articles 29–30:** cultural and educational rights of minorities.
- **Elections:** joint electorates; seeking votes on grounds of religion is a corrupt practice (Representation of the People Act, 1951).
- **Reform:** the state can reform harmful practices, as with temple entry and the end of instant triple talaq.

Why it is indispensable

1. **Diversity:** Census 2011 counted 79.8% Hindus, 14.2% Muslims and sizeable Christian, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain minorities. Only a neutral state can hold them together.
2. **Liberal democracy:** majority rule must not become majoritarianism; minority rights and individual liberty are its core.
3. **Rule of law and peace:** an impartial state builds trust; Partition showed the cost of religious politics.
4. **Social justice:** a secular state can fight caste and gender injustice rooted in custom.

Challenges: communal polarisation, vote-bank politics, charges of appeasement, hate speech, and debates on conversion and a Uniform Civil Code (Article 44).

Conclusion: UP, the land of Kabir and Awadh's Ganga–Jamuni tehzeeb, shows that harmony is possible. Practised by citizens and the state alike, secularism will keep India a liberal democracy.

2018 · Globalisation and the status of Indian women

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the impact of globalization on the status of women in Indian society by citing suitable examples.**

Globalisation, the free flow of goods, capital, technology and ideas, gathered pace in India after the 1991 reforms. Its effect on women has been mixed: it opened new doors but also created new risks.

Positive impacts

1. **Jobs and income:** IT, BPO, banking, retail, aviation and export garments employ many women, for example in Bengaluru's IT firms and Tiruppur's garment units. Earning women gain a say at home.
2. **Education and aspiration:** global exposure raised the value of girls' education and careers. Leaders such as Indra Nooyi became role models.
3. **Rights awareness:** global norms (India ratified CEDAW in 1993) and movements such as #MeToo (2018) strengthened demands for safety and equality.
4. **Markets for artisans and SHGs:** e-commerce and exports widened markets. Lucknow's chikankari and Varanasi's silk weaving, supported by UP's **One District One Product** scheme (2018), employ many women.
5. **Collective strength:** SEWA and Kerala's Kudumbashree show how credit and organisation empower women.
6. **Changing family norms:** later marriage, smaller families and more say in life choices.

Negative impacts

1. **Insecure work:** many women work in the informal sector for low pay and without social security.
2. **Lost livelihoods:** cheap imports and machines hurt women artisans and home-based workers.
3. **Feminisation of agriculture:** as men migrate, women do the farm work without owning the land.
4. **Commodification:** women are objectified in advertising, and trafficking and cyber-crime have grown.
5. **Double burden:** paid work is added to unpaid domestic and care work.
6. **Unequal gains:** benefits go mostly to educated urban women, much less to rural, Dalit and Adivasi women.

Conclusion: Globalisation has empowered some women and pushed others to the margins. Skilling, social security (Code on Social Security, 2020), safe workplaces (POSH Act) and digital inclusion can spread its gains to all.

2018 · Globalisation and India's social structure

QUESTION 2018 · 12 marks

What is globalization? Discuss its impact on the social structure of India.

Globalisation is the growing interconnection of economies, societies and cultures through flows of goods, services, capital, people, technology and ideas. In India it gathered speed with the **liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG) reforms of 1991**.

Impact on social structure

1. **Family:**
   - joint families are giving way to nuclear and dual-income families;
   - care of the elderly has become a new concern;
   - individual choice in marriage and career is growing.
2. **Caste:**
   - new private-sector jobs weaken the link between caste and occupation;
   - urban anonymity reduces untouchability;
   - yet caste networks survive in marriage and politics, while Dalit entrepreneurship (DICCI) shows new mobility.
3. **Class:** a large new middle class with consumer lifestyles has grown, but the gap between rich and poor has widened.
4. **Gender:** women have more jobs and more voice, but many face informal work and objectification.
5. **Migration and urbanisation:**
   - migration from villages to cities and abroad has grown, and remittances support villages;
   - Noida in UP has become an electronics and IT hub, where Samsung opened a large mobile factory in 2018.
6. **Culture:**
   - Western food, dress, music and English have spread;
   - there is also *glocalisation* (local versions of global brands) and a world-wide following for Indian yoga, food and films.
7. **Values:** individualism and materialism are rising, while community bonds and traditional authority are weakening.
8. **Rural and tribal society:** commercial farming exposes small farmers to market risks, and mining and big projects displace tribal people.

Assessment: globalisation has modernised Indian society and increased mobility. It has also brought inequality, cultural anxiety and new identity movements.

Conclusion: India's social structure is changing, not collapsing. Inclusive growth and pride in cultural roots can make globalisation work for all.

2019 · Population growth in UP and the role of women

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Evaluate the population growth and role of women in population control in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, had about **19.98 crore** people in Census 2011 (16.5% of India). Its decadal growth in 2001–11 was **20.2%**, against 17.7% for India.

Pattern of growth

- Fertility is high but falling: the total fertility rate (TFR) fell from 2.7 in NFHS-4 (2015–16) to **2.4** in NFHS-5 (2019–21). The replacement level is 2.1.
- It is higher in rural areas and in several eastern and Terai districts.
- Causes: early marriage, low female literacy, son preference and poverty.

Role of women

1. **Education:** educated women marry later, use contraception more and have fewer, healthier children.
2. **Choice of methods:** new spacing methods such as the Antara injectable and the Chhaya pill, and Mission Parivar Vikas (2016) in high-fertility districts, give women more control.
3. **ASHA workers:** lakhs of women health workers counsel families and promote hospital deliveries.
4. **Economic empowerment:** SHGs and jobs raise women's voice in family decisions.

Limits: patriarchy restricts women's choices; few men accept sterilisation.

Way forward: the **UP Population Policy 2021–30** aims at a TFR of 2.1 by 2026 and 1.9 by 2030.

Conclusion: Empowering women, not coercion, is the surest path to a stable population.

2019 · Problems in empowering Scheduled Tribes

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Evaluate the main problems of empowerment of Scheduled Tribes in India.

Scheduled Tribes were **8.6% of India's population** in Census 2011. UP's tribes, such as the **Tharu** of the Terai, the Gond and the Saharia of Lalitpur, are few but among its most deprived.

Main problems

1. **Land loss and displacement:** mining, dams and industry have displaced lakhs. The Forest Rights Act (2006) is unevenly implemented, and many claims are rejected.
2. **Poverty and debt:** middlemen and moneylenders exploit tribal families.
3. **Low education:** ST literacy was about 59% in 2011, against 73% nationally. Children are often taught in a language they do not speak at home.
4. **Poor health:** malnutrition, anaemia, sickle-cell disease and weak health services.
5. **Weak self-rule:** PESA (1996) and Fifth Schedule safeguards are poorly enforced.
6. **Unequal benefits:** a few advanced tribes take most reservation gains, while the 75 PVTGs lag behind.
7. **Identity and security:** loss of culture and language, and Left-wing extremism in tribal belts.

Steps taken: Article 46, the National Commission for STs (Article 338A), Eklavya Model Residential Schools and Van Dhan Kendras.

Conclusion: Empowerment must follow Nehru's *Tribal Panchsheel*: development along the tribes' own lines, with secure rights over land and forests.

2019 · Religion, ethnic violence and secularism

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks

"The politics of religion and ethnic violence is basically the politics of secularism and secularisation." Critically analyse.

Secularism is a state policy of keeping religion apart from state power. India's model is one of equal respect and principled distance towards all faiths. The word entered the Preamble through the 42nd Amendment (1976), and *S.R. Bommai* (1994) made it part of the basic structure. **Secularisation** is the social process by which religion loses its hold over public life. The statement links religious and ethnic violence to how these two ideas are practised.

Arguments in support

1. **Competitive "secular" politics:** parties court communities as vote-banks and accuse each other of appeasement or majoritarianism. Religious identity becomes electoral currency (Shah Bano, 1985–86; the Ayodhya movement).
2. **Incomplete secularisation:** religion still shapes daily life. When the state is seen to intervene unevenly (personal laws, temple boards), it provokes backlash.
3. **Scholarly critique:** Ashis Nandy and T.N. Madan argue that secularism imposed from above, as an ideology of the modern state, alienates believers and leaves religion open to capture by fanatics.
4. **Riots are "produced":** Paul Brass, studying Aligarh, described "institutionalised riot systems" in which political actors organise violence for electoral gain.

Limits of the statement

- Much violence has economic and historical roots: competition for jobs and land, migration (Nellie, Assam, 1983) and memories of Partition.
- North-East ethnic conflicts are mainly about land and autonomy.
- Ashutosh Varshney showed that cities with strong inter-community civic links stay peaceful, so civil society matters more than ideology.
- Secularism is the remedy, not the cause: Articles 14, 15 and 25–30 protect every faith. The calm acceptance of the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict (November 2019) showed the strength of constitutional values.

Conclusion: The statement holds a partial truth. It is not secularism but its selective, opportunistic use, together with shallow secularisation, that feeds communal and ethnic politics. Consistent secularism, impartial policing and fraternity (Preamble) are the way forward.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

42nd Amendment (1976) · S.R. Bommai (1994) · Nandy and Madan (critics of state secularism) · Paul Brass: "institutionalised riot system" (Aligarh) · Varshney: civic engagement prevents riots.

2019 · Urbanisation and its problems

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks

Define urbanization. Discuss the problems caused by fast pace of urbanization.

Urbanisation is the process by which a growing share of a country's people come to live in towns and cities, with a shift from farm to non-farm work and to an urban way of life. The Census counts as urban every statutory town and every census town (population at least 5,000, density at least 400 per sq km, and at least 75% of male main workers in non-farm work). India was **31.16% urban** in Census 2011. Uttar Pradesh was only about 22% urban, yet its urban population (about 4.4 crore) was second only to Maharashtra's.

Problems of fast urbanisation

1. **Housing and slums:** about 6.5 crore people lived in slums in 2011, and migrants crowd into unauthorised colonies.
2. **Water, sanitation and waste:** supply lags behind demand. Untreated sewage pollutes rivers such as the Gomti at Lucknow and the Ganga at Kanpur.
3. **Air pollution and congestion:** vehicles, dust and industry choke cities. WHO's 2018 database placed Kanpur at the top of the world's cities for PM2.5.
4. **Urban floods and heat islands:** building over wetlands and drains causes floods (Mumbai 2005, Chennai 2015) and raises city temperatures.
5. **Informal jobs and poverty:** migrants end up in low-paid, insecure work without social security.
6. **Social problems:** crime, anonymity, loneliness of the elderly, stress, and crowded schools and hospitals.
7. **Weak urban governance:** municipal bodies lack funds, staff and powers despite the 74th Amendment (1992), while unplanned sprawl swallows farmland on city edges.

Conclusion: Fast urbanisation must be matched by planning and finance. The Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT (2015), PMAY-Urban, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and stronger municipal revenues can turn cities into engines of growth, in line with SDG 11 and Viksit Bharat @2047.

2020 · Gandhi's views on the varna system

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Evaluate the views of Gandhi on the Varna system.

Gandhi defended the ideal of **varna** but condemned **untouchability** and the hierarchy of caste. His views also changed over time.

His views

- **Division of labour:** varna meant following one's hereditary calling. It fixed duties, not privileges, and saved society from unhealthy competition.
- **Equality of varnas:** no varna was higher; a scavenger's work was as dignified as a teacher's. He linked this to "bread labour".
- **Varna is not caste:** thousands of jatis ranked as high and low were, for him, a corruption of the original idea.
- **Untouchability a sin:** he called Dalits *Harijans*, founded the Harijan Sevak Sangh (1932) and the weekly *Harijan* (1933), and backed temple-entry campaigns.
- **Later shift:** in his last years he supported inter-caste marriage and spoke of caste having to go.

Evaluation

- **Merits:** he made untouchability a national moral question and drew caste Hindus into reform.
- **Limits:** Ambedkar (*Annihilation of Caste*, 1936) argued that varna itself is the root of caste and that hereditary occupation denies freedom. Gandhi relied on a change of heart rather than legal rights.

Conclusion: Gandhi's varna was egalitarian in intent, but the Constitution chose Ambedkar's path of legal equality (Articles 14–17).

2020, 2023 · Women's organisations and women's empowerment

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks · also asked in 2020 (8 marks)
>
> **Evaluate the role of women's organisations in women empowerment.** ***(2020: Critically examine the contributions of major women's organisations in contemporary India.)***

Women's organisations are voluntary or community bodies that work for women's rights, welfare and equality. Early bodies such as the Women's Indian Association (1917) and the **All India Women's Conference (1927)** fought for education and the vote. After the 1970s, autonomous feminist groups, trade unions and self-help groups (SHGs) took the movement further.

Role and contributions

1. **Economic empowerment: SEWA** (Ahmedabad, 1972, Ela Bhatt) organised informal women workers and set up its own bank. SHGs under DAY-NRLM (2011), including those of the UP State Rural Livelihood Mission, give credit and livelihoods to crores of rural women.
2. **Legal reform:**
   - Protests after the *Mathura* custodial rape judgment (1979) led to the criminal law amendment of 1983.
   - A petition by women's groups produced the **Vishaka guidelines (1997)** and, later, the POSH Act (2013).
   - Groups also shaped the Domestic Violence Act (2005) and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, passed after the Nirbhaya case.
3. **Against violence and social evils:** Saheli and Jagori (Delhi) on dowry and violence; the anti-arrack movement of Andhra Pradesh (1992); in UP, the **Gulabi Gang** of Banda.
4. **Political voice:** AIDWA (1981) and NFIW (1954) pressed for reservation. It came in panchayats and municipalities (73rd and 74th Amendments) and in legislatures through the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023).
5. **Environment and education:** the women of Chipko (Gaura Devi, Reni, 1974), and Mahila Samakhya for literacy and collective action.

Limitations

- Many groups are urban and middle-class. Dalit women formed their own platforms, such as the National Federation of Dalit Women (1995).
- Dependence on donors or the state, fragmentation and political co-option.
- SHGs can add debt and work without changing patriarchal norms.

Conclusion: Women's organisations have turned women from beneficiaries into agents of change. Wider reach to marginalised women and partnership with state efforts such as UP's Mission Shakti can make empowerment truly inclusive.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> WIA 1917 · AIWC 1927 · NFIW 1954 · SEWA 1972 · AIDWA 1981 · Vishaka 1997 · Gulabi Gang (Banda, Sampat Pal).

2020 · Population growth and poverty

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Critically examine whether growing population is the main cause of poverty or poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.**

Population and poverty form a **vicious circle**: each feeds the other.

Population as a cause of poverty

- More people share limited land, water and capital, so income per head falls (Malthus).
- A high dependency ratio cuts savings, land holdings fragment, and jobs fall short of the labour force.

Poverty as a cause of population growth

- Poor families see children as earners and as old-age security. High infant mortality leads to "insurance" births.
- Poverty goes with low female literacy, early marriage and poor access to contraception.
- **Demographic transition:** fertility falls only when incomes, health and education rise. "Development is the best contraceptive" (Bucharest, 1974).

Evidence (NFHS-5, 2019–21)

- Richer, more literate Kerala and Tamil Nadu have a TFR of about 1.8.
- Poorer Bihar (3.0) and Uttar Pradesh (2.4) are among the highest.
- Within every state, fertility falls with household wealth and women's schooling.

Judgement: poverty is the deeper cause; rapid population growth then deepens poverty.

Conclusion: The circle is broken by girls' education, health care, jobs and voluntary family planning, as in Mission Parivar Vikas, not by coercion.

2020 · Nation, citizenship and communalism

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Critically examine the concept of nation and citizenship in the context of communalism.**

A **nation** is a community bound by a shared sense of belonging, history and destiny. Benedict Anderson called it an "imagined community", and Ernest Renan "a daily plebiscite". **Citizenship** is legal and political membership of a state with equal rights and duties (Part II, Articles 5–11; Citizenship Act, 1955). **Communalism**, as Bipan Chandra defined it, is the belief that followers of one religion share secular interests that differ from, and finally clash with, those of other religions.

Two ideas of the nation

- **Civic or composite nationalism:** the national movement (Gandhi, Nehru, Maulana Azad) saw India as the nation of all who live in it, whatever their faith. The Constitution adopted this through single, equal citizenship, a secular state and fraternity.
- **Religious nationalism:** the communal view equates the nation with one religious community. Its extreme form, the two-nation theory, led to Partition in 1947.

How communalism distorts nation and citizenship

1. It makes citizenship seem *graded*, with "first" and "second" class communities.
2. It turns fellow citizens into "the other", producing riots, ghettos and mistrust.
3. It uses religion to win votes and pushes aside issues of livelihood.

4. It undermines Articles 14, 15 and 25–30 and the duty of common brotherhood (Article 51A(e)).

Critical view

- Indian civic nationalism has proved resilient: diverse groups share the Constitution, elections and a common market.
- Yet debates over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the NRC in Assam show that the link between religion and citizenship is still contested.
- Riots such as Muzaffarnagar (2013) show how local politics can turn identity into conflict.

Conclusion: A nation built on constitutional patriotism and Ambedkar's ideal of fraternity, with equal citizenship for all, is the lasting answer to communalism.

2020 · Liberalisation and Indian social structure

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **What is Liberalization? How is it affecting the Indian social structure?**

Liberalisation means removing or relaxing state controls so that markets, private enterprise and foreign capital play a larger role in the economy. In India it began with the **New Economic Policy of July 1991**, launched by P.V. Narasimha Rao's government with Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister after a balance-of-payments crisis. Industrial licensing was largely abolished, tariffs were cut and foreign investment was welcomed.

Effects on social structure

1. **Class:** a large new middle class has grown around services, IT and finance, with a consumer culture. At the same time, income and wealth gaps have widened.
2. **Caste:** new jobs and markets have loosened the link between caste and occupation, and Dalit entrepreneurs have emerged (the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry). But private jobs carry no reservation, and caste persists in marriage and networks.
3. **Family:** migration for work and dual-income households have spread nuclear families. Care of the elderly has become a new concern.
4. **Women:** educated urban women gained jobs in banking, IT and services, and more autonomy. Many others remain in low-paid informal work and carry a "double burden".
5. **Rural society:** costly inputs and volatile prices raised debt and agrarian distress, pushing migration from regions such as eastern UP.
6. **Labour:** contract and informal work have grown, and trade unions have weakened.
7. **Culture:** global brands, media and lifestyles spread quickly, while identity-based revivals also grew in reaction.

Conclusion: Liberalisation has made Indian society more mobile, urban and aspirational, but also more unequal. Skills, social security and strong public education are needed to spread its gains widely.

2020 · Reverse migration in Uttar Pradesh during COVID-19

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **What is 'Reverse Migration'? What was its impact on the economy and social order of Uttar Pradesh during COVID-19 lockdown?**

Reverse migration is the return of migrants from their places of work, usually cities and other states, to their native villages. The national lockdown from **25 March 2020** shut factories, building sites and markets. Lakhs of migrant workers walked, cycled or took Shramik Special trains (from 1 May 2020) home. Uttar Pradesh, India's largest source of inter-state migrants, received **more than 30 lakh** returnees, mostly in eastern UP and Bundelkhand.

Impact on the economy

1. **Loss of remittances:** migrant-sending districts such as Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Deoria and Basti lost income, and village demand fell.
2. **Rural unemployment:** small farms could not absorb the extra hands, and demand for MGNREGA work rose to record levels.
3. **Pressure on welfare:** free rations (PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana), cash support and quarantine centres strained state finances.
4. **An opportunity:**
   - the state mapped returnees' skills and set up a commission for migrant workers' employment;
   - it linked them to MSME and ODOP units;
   - it launched the Atmanirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rozgar Abhiyan (June 2020);
   - the Centre's Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan also covered UP districts.

Impact on social order

- **Fear and stigma:** returnees were sometimes seen as carriers of infection, causing friction in villages.
- **Family strain:** loss of income raised domestic tension, and children's schooling was disrupted.
- **Solidarity:** gram panchayats, SHGs and community kitchens supported the returnees.
- **Exposed vulnerability:** the crisis showed that informal workers lacked social security. This pushed One Nation One Ration Card and the e-Shram portal (2021).

Conclusion: COVID-19 showed that UP must create jobs close to home through industrial corridors, MSMEs and rural non-farm work, so that migration becomes a choice, not a compulsion. This is vital for the goal of a USD 1 trillion economy.

2020 · Changing sources of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Underline the changes happening gradually in the sources of irrigation in U.P.**

Uttar Pradesh has the **largest net irrigated area** in India, and its wheat, rice and sugarcane depend on irrigation. Over the last century the main source has shifted from canals, tanks and wells to groundwater drawn by tube wells.

Gradual changes

1. **Traditional sources (before the 20th century):** dug wells worked by the Persian wheel (*rahat*) or leather bucket (*charas*), and tanks and ponds, such as the Chandela-era tanks of Bundelkhand.
2. **Age of canals (mid-19th to mid-20th century):** the Eastern Yamuna Canal, the **Upper Ganga Canal (1854)**, the Lower Ganga and Agra canals in the doab, and the **Sarda Canal (1928)** in central UP made canals the leading modern source.
3. **Tube-well revolution (from the 1960s):** rural electrification, diesel pumps, cheap credit, state tube wells and the Green Revolution made tube wells dominant. Today groundwater irrigates more than three-quarters of UP's net irrigated area; canals serve a much smaller share and tanks very little.
4. **Decline of tanks and ponds:** encroachment, silting and neglect.
5. **Recent shift to efficiency and revival:**

- drip and sprinkler irrigation under PMKSY's "Per Drop More Crop";
- solar pumps under PM-KUSUM (2019);
- farm ponds (*Khet Talab Yojana*) and check dams in Bundelkhand;
- completion of long-pending canals such as the Bansagar Canal (2018) and the Saryu Nahar project (2021).

Reasons for the shift: tube wells give farmers timely water under their own control. Canals suffer from silting, shortages at the tail end and poor upkeep.

Consequences: falling water tables and over-exploited blocks in western UP; arsenic in eastern districts such as Ballia; heavy power subsidies. UP passed the Ground Water (Management and Regulation) Act, 2019, and joined the Atal Bhujal Yojana.

Conclusion: UP is moving from canals to groundwater and now towards efficient, conjunctive use. Recharging aquifers and reviving ponds are essential for sustainable farming.

2021 · Are urbanisation and slums inseparable?

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Do you agree that urbanization and slums are inseparable? Explain.**

Slums are densely built areas with poor housing and little drinking water, sanitation or drainage, often without legal tenure. Census 2011 counted about **6.5 crore** slum dwellers, roughly one in six urban residents.

Why they look inseparable in India

- **Push-driven migration:** rural distress sends people to cities faster than formal jobs and housing grow.
- **Costly land:** formal housing is beyond the reach of informal workers.
- **Informal economy:** slums house the workers of construction, domestic service and street trade, close to their work.
- **Weak planning:** master plans ignore the poor, and municipal bodies lack funds.

Examples include Dharavi in Mumbai and the settlements along drains and railway lines in Kanpur, Lucknow and Agra.

Why they are not inevitable

- Singapore and Hong Kong largely ended slums through mass public housing.
- Inclusive zoning, rental housing and land titles reduce slums; Odisha's *Jaga Mission* gave land rights to slum dwellers.
- PMAY-Urban (2015) offers in-situ slum redevelopment, and Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (2020) serve migrants.

Conclusion: Slums are a symptom of unplanned and unequal urbanisation, not its necessary partner. With inclusive planning, cities can grow without them.

2021 · Regionalism and national integration

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Examine how regionalism affects national integration.**

Regionalism is loyalty to a region, its language, culture or economic interests, sometimes placed above loyalty to the nation. Its effect on national integration depends on its form.

Positive effects

- Linguistic states (States Reorganisation Act, 1956) and new states such as Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh (2000) met local aspirations and strengthened the Union.
- Regional parties widened democratic participation. Cooperative federalism (NITI Aayog, GST Council) gives regions a voice.
- Regional cultures enrich the national identity.

Negative effects

- **Secessionism:** the Khalistan movement and insurgencies in parts of the North-East challenged unity.
- **Sons-of-the-soil politics:** attacks on migrants from UP and Bihar in Maharashtra (2008) weaken the idea of common citizenship.
- **Inter-state disputes:** over river waters (Cauvery) and boundaries (Assam–Mizoram) breed hostility.
- **Language agitations:** for example, the anti-Hindi protests in Tamil Nadu (1965).
- **Separate-state demands:** in UP, for Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Harit Pradesh. The State Assembly passed a resolution in 2011 to split UP into four states.

Conclusion: Regionalism harms integration only when regional needs are ignored. Balanced development, cooperative federalism and cultural exchange (*Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*) can turn it into a strength.

2021 · Social empowerment of women and inclusive development

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Why is social empowerment of women necessary for inclusive development? Elaborate in detail.**

Social empowerment of women means the capacity to make choices about education, health, marriage, mobility and safety, and to have a voice in family and community. **Inclusive development** spreads the gains of growth to all. It is impossible while half the population is held back.

Why it is necessary

1. **Human capital:** educated, healthy mothers raise healthier children. Mother's schooling is closely linked with lower infant mortality and child stunting, which affects 35.5% of children under five (NFHS-5, 2019–21).
2. **Economic growth:** women's labour force participation is low. Care burdens, limits on mobility and fear for safety keep them out of paid work. Raising it would add greatly to national income.
3. **Demography:** empowered women marry later and have fewer, healthier children, which helps population stabilisation (UP's TFR is 2.4, NFHS-5).
4. **Ending poverty cycles:** women spend more of their income on food, schooling and health, so gains pass to the next generation.
5. **Better governance:** women heads of panchayats tend to invest more in public goods such as drinking water (Chattopadhyay and Duflo, 2004).
6. **Social justice:** child marriage (23.3% of women aged 20–24 married before 18, NFHS-5), dowry, violence and a skewed sex ratio (UP 912 in Census 2011) violate rights and waste talent.

Measures in place

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (2015), Ujjwala gas connections and Jan Dhan accounts in women's names.
- SHGs under DAY-NRLM, and reservation for women in panchayats.
- In UP, Mission Shakti (2020) for safety and dignity, and the Kanya Sumangala Yojana (2019) for girls' education.

Conclusion: Women's social empowerment is the base of inclusive and sustainable development (SDG 5). The shift from women's development to women-led development is essential for Viksit Bharat @2047.

2021 · Globalisation and rural social structure

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Define globalization. Assess its impact on rural social structure in India.**

Globalisation is the growing integration of the world's economies and societies through flows of goods, services, capital, technology, people and ideas. In India it gathered pace after the 1991 reforms and WTO membership (1995). It now reaches villages, where 68.8% of Indians lived in 2011 (Census).

Impact on rural social structure

1. **Agrarian structure:** commercial crops, costly seeds, fertilisers and machines tie farmers to world prices. Large farmers gained, but small and marginal farmers, who hold over 85% of holdings (Agriculture Census 2015–16), face volatility, debt and distress.
2. **Occupations:** non-farm work and migration have grown. Remittances and mobile phones link villages to cities and the Gulf, as in Azamgarh and Jaunpur.
3. **Caste and jajmani:** the old patron–client exchange of services has largely broken down. Occupation is less tied to caste, and Dalit labourers have gained some independence, though caste still governs marriage and local power.
4. **Family:** joint families give way to nuclear ones. Male out-migration leaves women heading households and doing more farm work ("feminisation of agriculture").
5. **Culture and consumption:** television, the internet and branded goods have changed food, dress and aspirations. Many folk arts have declined, but some crafts found world markets: Bhadohi carpets, Moradabad brassware and Banarasi silk, helped by UP's One District One Product scheme (2018).
6. **Power and awareness:** new rural elites have emerged, and awareness of rights and panchayat participation has grown.

Negative side: wider inequality, loss of crafts to cheap imports, weaker community bonds, and ecological stress from monocultures.

Conclusion: Globalisation has made rural India more connected but also more unequal and insecure. Farmer producer organisations, crop insurance, rural non-farm jobs and skilling can help villages share its gains.

2021 · National Population Policy 2000

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Highlight the salient features of India's Population Policy (2000) and suggest measures for population stabilization.**

The **National Population Policy (NPP), 2000** replaced target-driven family planning with a voluntary, rights-based approach. It linked population with health, education and women's empowerment.

Salient features

1. **Three objectives:**
   - *Immediate:* meet the unmet need for contraception and strengthen health infrastructure and staff.
   - *Medium-term:* bring the **total fertility rate (TFR) to replacement level (2.1) by 2010**.
   - *Long-term:* a **stable population by 2045**, consistent with growth, social development and environmental protection.
2. **Socio-demographic goals (for 2010):**
   - IMR below 30 per 1,000 live births and MMR below 100 per 1,00,000 live births;
   - universal immunisation; 80% institutional deliveries and all deliveries by trained persons;
   - free, compulsory schooling up to 14, with dropouts below 20%;
   - girls' marriage not before 18, preferably after 20;
   - full registration of births, deaths and marriages; control of AIDS and communicable diseases.
3. **Approach:** target-free and voluntary, with informed choice, decentralised planning through panchayats, and use of AYUSH and the private sector.
4. **Institutions:** a National Commission on Population chaired by the Prime Minister. The state-wise freeze on Lok Sabha seats (1971 Census) was extended to 2026 by the 84th Amendment (2001), so that states controlling population are not penalised.

Status: India's TFR fell to **2.0** in NFHS-5 (2019–21), but Bihar (3.0) and Uttar Pradesh (2.4) remain above replacement.

Measures for stabilisation

- Keep girls in school and delay marriage.
- Widen the choice of spacing methods (injectable *Antara*, weekly pill *Chhaya*) and involve men.
- Focus on high-fertility districts, as Mission Parivar Vikas (2016) does in seven states including UP.
- Implement the **UP Population Policy 2021–30**, which aims at a TFR of 2.1 by 2026 and 1.9 by 2030.
- Expand women's jobs and outreach through ASHAs.

Conclusion: Stabilisation must come through development and choice, not coercion, so that the demographic dividend supports Viksit Bharat @2047.

2021 · Nature of urbanisation and its social implications

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Examine the nature of urbanization in India and discuss its social implications.**

Urbanisation is the growth in the share of people living in towns and cities. India was **31.16% urban** in Census 2011, below the world average, but its urban population is already among the largest in the world.

Nature of Indian urbanisation

1. **Slow but speeding up:** the urban share rose from about 17% in 1951 to over 31% in 2011.
2. **Top-heavy:** most urban people live in Class I cities (1 lakh and above); the number of million-plus cities reached 53 in 2011.
3. **In-situ urbanisation:** census towns jumped from 1,362 (2001) to 3,894 (2011), as large villages took on urban features.

4. **Push-driven:** much migration comes from rural distress rather than industrial demand, so urban growth outruns jobs and services ("pseudo-urbanisation").
5. **Services-led and informal:** cities grow on trade, construction and services rather than factories.
6. **Uneven:** Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra are highly urban, while Bihar and Himachal Pradesh are least so. UP is about 22% urban, with growth concentrated in the NCR (Noida, Ghaziabad), Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra.
7. **Sprawl:** unplanned growth with slums on city edges.

Social implications

- **Family:** nuclear families, individualism and loneliness among the elderly.
- **Caste and community:** anonymity weakens caste in public life, but it persists in marriage and in segregated housing.
- **Women:** more education, jobs and freedom, but also concerns about safety and the double burden.
- **Inequality:** slums beside gated communities sharpen class divides.
- **Social problems:** crime, drug abuse and stress.
- **New identities:** a cosmopolitan culture, secular attitudes, civic associations and new social movements.
- **Demographic change:** urban fertility is far lower (urban TFR 1.6 against 2.1 in rural areas, NFHS-5).

Conclusion: Indian urbanisation is rapid, uneven and partly unplanned, bringing both modernisation and new strains. Inclusive planning under AMRUT, PMAY-Urban and the Smart Cities Mission can make it a force for social progress (SDG 11).

2022 · Information technology and social empowerment

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Evaluate the role of Information Technology and Internet in social empowerment.**

Information technology and the internet give people access to information, services and voice. India had more than 80 crore internet subscribers by 2022 (TRAI), most of them on cheap mobile data.

Role in empowerment

- **Financial inclusion:** the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile), UPI and Direct Benefit Transfer put money straight into the hands of the poor and cut leakages.
- **Education and skills:** DIKSHA, SWAYAM and online classes during COVID-19.
- **Services:** DigiLocker, UMANG and Common Service Centres; eSanjeevani for telemedicine.
- **Livelihoods:** e-NAM for farmers, GeM for small sellers, and online platforms for artisans, as with UP's ODOP products.
- **Voice and safety:** social media campaigns such as #MeToo; in UP, the 1090 Women Power Line and the UP-112 emergency service.
- **Persons with disabilities:** screen readers and assistive apps.

Limits

- **Digital divide:** only about one-third of women had ever used the internet (NFHS-5).
- Fake news, cybercrime, online harassment and data privacy risks.
- Weak connectivity in remote areas.

Conclusion: IT is a powerful equaliser only when access is universal. Digital literacy (PMGDISHA), BharatNet and safe cyberspace are needed to make empowerment real.

2022 · Culture of poverty

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **When poverty is transmitted over generations, it becomes a culture. Elucidate.**

The anthropologist **Oscar Lewis** coined the phrase "**culture of poverty**" (1959) from his studies of poor families in Mexico and Puerto Rico. He argued that long-lasting poverty produces a way of life of its own, which is handed down to children.

Features of the culture

- Fatalism, helplessness and a sense of inferiority.
- Living for the present, with little planning or saving.
- Weak participation in schools, banks, unions and politics.
- Early entry of children into work and early marriage.

How it is transmitted

- Children of poor parents grow up with low nutrition, low schooling and few networks, so they inherit both the poverty and the attitudes.
- **Indian examples:** families in bonded labour or debt traps; manual scavenging passed from parent to child; the Musahar community of eastern UP and Bihar; malnourished mothers giving birth to low-weight babies.

Criticism

- Structural thinkers argue that poverty persists because of unequal opportunity, caste discrimination and lack of assets, not culture. Lewis's idea, they say, "blames the victim".
- Given opportunities (reservation, SHG credit), the poor respond quickly.

Conclusion: Breaking inherited poverty needs both structural change and support: nutrition (POSHAN Abhiyaan), schooling, skills, assets and social security.

2022 · Continuity and change in Indian society

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Throw light on the factors of continuity and change in Indian society.**

Indian society is marked by a rare blend of **continuity and change**: old institutions survive by adapting to new forces. Yogendra Singh's *Modernization of Indian Tradition* (1973) describes this interplay.

Factors of continuity

1. **Religion and ritual:** festivals, pilgrimages and rites of passage remain central. The Kumbh Mela (Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik) is on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2017).
2. **Caste and kinship:** endogamy, caste networks and joint-family values persist even in cities.
3. **Village community:** a sense of belonging to one's village, caste panchayats and the jajmani legacy.
4. **Assimilative culture:** India's tradition of absorbing new influences without losing its core, such as the Bhakti–Sufi synthesis and the Ganga–Jamuni culture of Awadh.
5. **Language, folk arts and cuisine:** passed down through generations.
6. **Constitutional protection:** of cultural and religious rights (Articles 25–30).

Factors of change

1. **Westernisation and modernisation** (M.N. Srinivas): English education, science and rational values.
2. **Sanskritisation:** lower castes adopting the customs of higher castes to claim higher status.
3. **Legislation:** abolition of untouchability (Article 17), the Hindu Code laws (1955–56), the Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) and the Right to Education Act (2009).
4. **Democracy and reservation:** political mobilisation of Dalits and backward classes, as in UP.
5. **Industrialisation, urbanisation and globalisation:** new occupations, migration and nuclear families.
6. **Technology and media:** television, mobile phones and the internet.
7. **Social and reform movements:** from the Arya Samaj to women's, Dalit and environmental movements.

Interplay: tradition often adapts rather than disappears. Caste works through modern caste associations and parties; joint families remain "functionally joint" across cities; religious events use digital technology.

Conclusion: Indian society changes without breaking from its roots. The task is to keep its humane traditions while removing hierarchies, moving towards an equal and modern society.

2022 · Globalisation and privatisation: meaning and objectives

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Define globalization and privatization. Discuss their objectives.**

Globalisation is the growing integration of national economies with the world economy through trade, investment, technology and the movement of people and ideas. **Privatisation** is the transfer of ownership, management or control of public enterprises to the private sector, through disinvestment, strategic sale or opening sectors once reserved for the state. India adopted both under the **New Economic Policy of 1991**.

Objectives of globalisation

1. **Market access and exports:** join global markets and value chains (WTO membership, 1995).
2. **Capital and technology:** attract FDI and foreign institutional investment and modern technology.
3. **Efficiency through competition:** expose domestic firms to world standards.
4. **Consumer welfare:** wider choice, better quality and lower prices.
5. **Growth and jobs:** especially in IT, services and manufacturing for export.

Objectives of privatisation

1. **Efficiency and productivity:** private management responds better to markets.
2. **Reduce the fiscal burden:** stop funding loss-making public sector units and raise resources through disinvestment.
3. **Focus the state on core tasks:** health, education, security and welfare.
4. **Competition:** ending public monopolies in telecom, aviation and banking improved services.
5. **Wider share ownership:** deepen the capital market (for example, the LIC IPO of 2022).

Indian steps: the 1991 Industrial Policy cut the industries reserved for the public sector from 17 to 8; the list now covers only atomic energy and railway operations. The strategic sale of Air India to the Tata group was completed in January 2022, and the New Public Sector Enterprise Policy (2021) limits the state to a minimum presence in strategic sectors.

Concerns: job losses, regional and income inequality, and the risk of selling assets cheaply.

Conclusion: Globalisation and privatisation aim at efficiency and growth. With regulation and social safety nets, they can serve the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat @2047.

2022 · Caste alliances: secular or primordial?

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Caste alliances emanate from secular and political factors, not from primordial identities. Discuss.**

Primordialism sees caste as a fixed, inherited identity rooted in ritual purity and hierarchy. The **instrumental** view, associated with Rajni Kothari's *Caste in Indian Politics* (1970), argues that democracy has **politicised and secularised caste**: castes now act as interest groups competing for power and resources. Caste alliances show this clearly.

Evidence that alliances are secular and political

1. **Electoral arithmetic:** first-past-the-post voting rewards combinations, such as AJGAR (Ahir, Jat, Gujar, Rajput) under Charan Singh and KHAM (Kshatriya, Harijan, Adivasi, Muslim) in Gujarat.
2. **Shared material interests:** Mandal politics (1990) united backward castes over reservation; farmer castes united over prices and land.
3. **Alliances across hierarchy:** the BSP's "sarvajan" coalition of Dalits and Brahmins won a majority in UP in 2007, joining groups at opposite ends of the ritual order. This makes sense only in political terms.
4. **Shifting partners:** the SP–BSP alliance of 1993 broke in 1995 and was revived in 2019; caste blocs move between parties.
5. **New categories:** "OBC", "Dalit-Bahujan", "non-Yadav OBC" and "non-Jatav Dalit" are political constructs, not traditional jatis.

Role of primordial identity

- Alliances are still formed between castes as units, and endogamy keeps them distinct.
- Parties mobilise caste pride, myths and heroes, such as Suheldev for the Rajbhars or the Nishad identity in eastern UP.
- Social discrimination and caste violence show that hierarchy persists.

Assessment: caste supplies the building blocks, but the alliances are built by leaders, interests and electoral needs. Their logic is secular and political, even if their raw material is inherited identity.

Conclusion: Democracy has turned caste from a ritual hierarchy into a political resource. Issue-based politics, inclusive development and social justice can reduce the dependence on caste coalitions.

2022 · Factors of social change in India

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Throw light on the factors responsible for social change in India.**

Social change means significant alteration in social structure, institutions, relationships and values over time. In India it has been shaped by many interacting factors.

Major factors

1. **Economic and technological:** industrialisation, the Green Revolution, liberalisation (1991) and the digital revolution created new occupations and classes and weakened the link between caste and work.
2. **Education:** literacy rose to 74% in Census 2011. Women's education, in particular, has changed marriage, fertility and aspirations.
3. **Urbanisation and migration:** these spread nuclear families, anonymity and new lifestyles.
4. **Constitution and law:** equality (Articles 14–17), the Hindu Code laws, the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the Right to Education Act, 2009 and the 73rd/74th Amendments, which brought women and Dalits into local government.
5. **Democratic politics and reservation:** mobilisation of Dalits and backward classes. In UP, Kanshi Ram's BSP turned Dalit assertion into political power.
6. **Cultural processes:** Sanskritisation and Westernisation (M.N. Srinivas), modernisation and secularisation.
7. **Social and reform movements:** from the Brahmo and Arya Samaj to Ambedkar's Dalit movement, women's movements, peasant movements and Chipko.
8. **Media and communication:** television, mobile phones and social media spread new ideas quickly.
9. **Demographic factors:** falling fertility, rising life expectancy and ageing.
10. **Shocks:** Partition, disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic changed work, schooling and family life.

Resistance to change: caste, patriarchy and regional gaps mean change is uneven between town and village and between classes.

Conclusion: Social change in India is the product of economy, state, culture and movements working together. Guiding it towards equality and dignity, while keeping social harmony, is the aim of a Viksit Bharat.

2023 · Regionalism as a hindrance to development

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What kind of hindrances do regionalism create in the development of India?**

Regionalism is the placing of a region's interests, identity or language above national interests. In its narrow form it hinders development in several ways.

Hindrances

- **Inter-state disputes:** quarrels over river waters (Cauvery, Satluj–Yamuna Link canal) delay projects for decades. Even the Ken–Betwa link between UP and MP, first agreed in 2005, was finalised only in 2021.
- **Barriers to labour mobility:** sons-of-the-soil violence against migrants from UP and Bihar, and laws reserving private jobs for locals, such as Haryana's 75% quota (2020), which the Punjab and Haryana High Court struck down in 2023.
- **Policy paralysis:** regional parties in coalitions can block national decisions; the Teesta water deal with Bangladesh stalled in 2011.
- **Militancy and unrest:** insurgency and agitations disrupt investment, tourism and infrastructure.
- **Fiscal populism:** competitive freebies and tax concessions strain state finances.
- **Diversion of focus:** agitations for new states or language disputes take attention from governance.
- **Regional imbalance:** narrow politics can widen the gap between developed and backward regions.

Conclusion: Development needs cooperative federalism and balanced regional growth. Mechanisms such as the GST Council, inter-state councils and *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* help turn regional pride into national strength.

2023 · Is unemployment the only cause of poverty?

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **"Unemployment is the only cause for the prevalent poverty in India." Comment.**

Unemployment is a **major** cause of poverty because it cuts off income. But it is **not the only** cause; poverty in India is multidimensional.

Where unemployment matters

- Youth and educated unemployment, and disguised unemployment in farming, keep household incomes low.

Other causes

- **Working poor:** most Indians work, but in the informal sector at low wages without social security.
- **Low farm productivity:** nearly half the workforce depends on agriculture, much of it on tiny holdings.
- **Lack of assets and credit:** landlessness and debt traps.
- **Health shocks:** high out-of-pocket medical spending pushes families into poverty.
- **Social exclusion:** caste and gender discrimination limit opportunities.
- **Regional and natural factors:** floods in eastern UP and drought in Bundelkhand.
- **Population growth, inflation and weak delivery of welfare.**

Evidence: NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (2023) measures poverty through health, education and living standards. It found that about **13.5 crore** people left multidimensional poverty between 2015–16 and 2019–21, the largest number in UP (about 3.4 crore). The fall came through housing, sanitation, cooking gas and schooling, not jobs alone.

Conclusion: Employment is necessary but not sufficient. Poverty ends through decent jobs together with education, health, assets and social protection.

2023 · Crimes against women: are they rising?

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Do you agree that crime against women in India is increasing?

Recorded crimes against women have risen. NCRB's *Crime in India* reported about **4.28 lakh** cases in 2021, an increase of about 15% over 2020. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases, though not the highest rate per lakh women. Cruelty by husband or relatives, kidnapping, assault on modesty and rape are the main heads.

Why the numbers are rising

- **Real persistence of violence:** patriarchy, dowry, alcohol abuse and new forms such as cyber-stalking.
- **Better reporting:**
  - mandatory registration of FIRs (*Lalita Kumari*, 2013) and the zero FIR;
  - wider legal definitions after the 2013 Criminal Law Amendment (stalking, voyeurism, acid attacks) and the POCSO Act (2012);
  - One Stop Centres and helplines;
  - in UP, women help desks in police stations under Mission Shakti.
- **Greater awareness and confidence** among women to approach the police.

Under-reporting remains: NFHS-5 found that about 29% of ever-married women had faced spousal violence, but very few sought help.

Conclusion: Yes, recorded crime is increasing. The rise reflects both continuing violence and better reporting. Faster trials, gender-sensitive policing and social change are needed.

NOTE

Crime figures change each year; check the latest NCRB *Crime in India* report before the exam.

2023 · Urbanisation: development or devastation?

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

The process of urbanization leads to development or devastation in society. Write your views.

Urbanisation, the shift of people to towns and cities, is a double-edged process. India was 31.16% urban in Census 2011, and its cities are expected to hold a much larger share in the coming decades. Whether this brings development or devastation depends on how it is planned.

Urbanisation as development

1. **Engines of growth:** cities produce well over half of India's GDP and attract investment, industry and services.
2. **Jobs and mobility:** cities offer non-farm work and loosen caste-based occupations.
3. **Services:** better schools, universities, hospitals and digital connectivity.
4. **Women and fertility:** more education and jobs for women; urban TFR is 1.6 against 2.1 in rural areas (NFHS-5).
5. **Innovation and culture:** start-ups, civic movements and cosmopolitan values.

Urbanisation as devastation

1. **Slums and inequality:** about 6.5 crore slum dwellers in 2011, beside gated enclaves.
2. **Pollution:** severe air pollution in Delhi-NCR, Kanpur and Ghaziabad; rivers such as the Gomti and Yamuna carry untreated sewage.
3. **Floods, heat and water stress:** urban floods (Chennai 2015, Bengaluru 2022), heat islands and Chennai's water crisis of 2019.
4. **Loss of land and ecology:** farmland, wetlands and green belts are built over; unplanned building in hill towns led to the Joshimath land subsidence (2023).
5. **Social strains:** crime, loneliness, traffic deaths and stress.

My view: urbanisation itself is not destructive; **unplanned** urbanisation is. Cities with public transport, affordable housing and green spaces show that growth need not devastate. Fast-growing Noida and Lucknow need such planning.

Way forward: empower urban local bodies (74th Amendment), use transit-oriented development, protect wetlands, and expand AMRUT 2.0, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and PMAY-Urban.

Conclusion: Well-governed urbanisation is a path to development and to SDG 11 and Viksit Bharat @2047. Neglect turns the same process into devastation.

2023 · Internal migration: causes and consequences

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Discuss the causes and consequences of internal human migration in India.

Internal migration is the movement of people within a country, between villages, towns or states. Census 2011 counted about **45 crore** internal migrants by place of last residence, around 37% of the population. Most moves are within the same state. Marriage is the main reason for women and work for men. The Economic Survey 2016–17 estimated about 90 lakh inter-state movements a year, with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar the largest sources.

Causes

1. **Push factors:** poverty, unemployment, small holdings, low wages, and disasters such as floods in eastern UP and drought in Bundelkhand.
2. **Pull factors:** jobs and higher wages in cities and industrial states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Punjab), education, health care and urban amenities.
3. **Social factors:** marriage (the largest reason overall), joining family, and escape from caste discrimination.
4. **Displacement:** by dams, mines and conflict.
5. **Climate stress:** erratic rainfall and land degradation.

Consequences

- **For source areas:**
  - remittances, less pressure on land, and new skills and ideas;
  - but also the loss of young workers, more farm work for women left behind, and lonely elderly.
- **For destination areas:**

- labour for construction, industry and services drives growth;
- but also slums, pressure on services, and sons-of-the-soil tensions.

- **For migrants:** higher incomes, but insecure informal work, poor housing, exploitation by contractors, lack of portable entitlements, and difficulty voting. The COVID-19 lockdown (2020) exposed this vulnerability.

Policy response: One Nation One Ration Card, the e-Shram portal (2021), Affordable Rental Housing Complexes, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020), and the Election Commission's proposal for remote voting.

Conclusion: Migration is a natural part of development. India must make it safe and rewarding through portable rights and jobs nearer home, especially in UP.

2024 · Impact of globalisation on Indian society

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the impacts of globalization on Indian society.**

Globalisation is the growing integration of economies and cultures through trade, investment, technology, migration and media. Since the 1991 reforms it has reshaped Indian society.

Positive impacts

- **Economy and class:** IT and service jobs created a large middle class and raised incomes.
- **Social mobility:** new occupations weakened the caste–occupation link.
- **Women:** more education, jobs and autonomy, especially in cities.
- **Information and rights:** the internet and global media spread awareness of rights and democracy.
- **Global markets for crafts:** for example, Bhadohi carpets and Moradabad brassware (UP's ODOP).
- **Diaspora:** remittances and links that bring ideas and investment.

Negative impacts

- **Inequality:** gaps between urban and rural, skilled and unskilled.
- **Family and values:** joint families decline, the elderly face isolation, and consumerism grows.
- **Culture:** fear of homogenisation; folk arts and local languages lose ground.
- **Labour:** informal and contract work grows, and small producers struggle against imports.
- **Identity politics:** some groups react with cultural revivalism.

Glocalisation: Indian society also adapts global influences to local tastes, as with yoga's worldwide spread and the global reach of Indian cinema.

Conclusion: Globalisation is neither wholly good nor bad. Skilling, social security and protection of cultural heritage can make it inclusive.

2024 · Women's organisations and rural development

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain the contribution of women's organisations in the development of Indian rural society.**

Women's organisations, from self-help groups (SHGs) to unions and NGOs, have become a major force in rural development. Under DAY-NRLM alone, more than 9 crore rural women are members of SHGs.

Contributions

- **Livelihoods and credit:** SHG federations give thrift, bank credit and enterprise support; SEWA organises rural artisans and farm workers. The Lakhpati Didi target was raised to 3 crore women in the Interim Budget 2024–25.
- **Financial inclusion:** UP's **BC Sakhi** scheme (2020) placed women banking correspondents in gram panchayats.
- **Health and nutrition:** SHGs run take-home ration units, community kitchens and awareness drives on hygiene and anaemia.
- **Social reform:** campaigns against liquor (Andhra Pradesh, 1992), dowry, child marriage and domestic violence; the **Gulabi Gang** of Banda confronts violence and corruption.
- **Natural resources:** Chipko (Gaura Devi, 1974); the *Jal Sahelis* of Bundelkhand revive ponds and wells.
- **Political participation:** SHG members often go on to become panchayat members and pradhans.

Limits: patriarchal resistance, elite capture and debt burdens.

Conclusion: Women's collectives have turned rural women into producers, leaders and change-makers. Stronger market links and digital skills can make them the backbone of rural prosperity.

> **NOTE**
>
> SHG membership numbers grow every year; check the latest DAY-NRLM figure before the exam.

2024 · Unity and diversity in Indian society

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Indian society is known for its uniqueness and cultural diversity. Discuss.**

India is a land of extraordinary **diversity** held together by a deep sense of **unity**. Its uniqueness lies in a civilisation that has lasted for thousands of years by absorbing new peoples and ideas without losing its core.

Dimensions of diversity

1. **Religion:** Hindus 79.8%, Muslims 14.2%, Christians 2.3%, Sikhs 1.7%, Buddhists 0.7% and Jains 0.4% (Census 2011).
2. **Language:** 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule and 121 languages with 10,000 or more speakers (Census 2011).
3. **Caste and tribe:** thousands of jatis; Scheduled Castes form 16.6% and Scheduled Tribes 8.6% of the population.
4. **Race and ethnicity:** B.S. Guha classified Indians into six main racial groups.
5. **Geography and culture:** from the Himalaya to the coasts, with varied dress, food, festivals, music and dance.

Bonds of unity

- **Geographical and sacred unity:** pilgrimages such as the four *dhams*, the Shakti Peethas and the Kumbh link the whole country.
- **Shared epics and values:** the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* exist in many languages; *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* expresses an inclusive outlook.
- **Cultural synthesis:** the Bhakti and Sufi movements, Indo-Islamic architecture, and the Ganga–Jamuni culture of Awadh.
- **Political unity:** the Constitution, single citizenship, democracy, and the memory of the freedom struggle.
- **Economic interdependence and modern bonds:** a common market, railways, cinema and sport.

UP as a mirror of India: Kashi, Ayodhya and Mathura; Sarnath and Kushinagar for Buddhists; the dargah of Salim Chishti at Fatehpur Sikri and Deva Sharif in Barabanki; and Lucknow's courtly culture (*tehzeeb*).

What makes it unique: Indian unity is not uniformity. It is a mosaic in which each group keeps its identity while sharing a common civilisation and constitutional values.

Challenges: communalism, casteism, regionalism and linguistic chauvinism.

Conclusion: Diversity is India's strength when it is respected. Fraternity, equal citizenship and cultural exchange (*Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*) can keep this unique mosaic strong on the way to Viksit Bharat @2047.

2024 · Poverty: causes and consequences

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the causes and consequences of poverty.**

Poverty is the inability to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, health and education. It may be absolute, measured against a poverty line, or relative, measured against others. The Tendulkar method put India's poverty at **21.9% in 2011–12**. NITI Aayog's multidimensional index estimates that about **24.8 crore** people left multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23, the largest number (about 5.9 crore) in Uttar Pradesh.

Causes

1. **Economic:** low farm productivity, small holdings, unemployment and underemployment, and a large informal sector with low wages.
2. **Demographic:** rapid population growth and high dependency ratios in poorer states.
3. **Social:** caste and gender discrimination, illiteracy and exclusion of tribal communities.
4. **Historical:** colonial de-industrialisation and drain of wealth.
5. **Health and shocks:** high out-of-pocket medical spending, disasters (floods in eastern UP, drought in Bundelkhand) and price rises.
6. **Governance:** leakages in welfare delivery and regional imbalance.

Consequences

1. **Malnutrition and ill-health:** 35.5% of children under five are stunted (NFHS-5).
2. **Low human capital:** school dropouts, child labour and poor skills.
3. **Inter-generational cycle:** poor children become poor adults.
4. **Social problems:** crime, trafficking, child marriage, bonded labour and distress migration to urban slums.
5. **Political unrest:** poverty fuels extremism in backward regions.
6. **Economic loss:** low demand, low savings and slow growth.

Measures: PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (free grain for about 81 crore people), MGNREGA, PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala, Jan Dhan, Ayushman Bharat, and skilling under PMKVY.

Conclusion: Poverty is both a cause and a result of under-development. Jobs, human development and social protection together can make India poverty-free by 2047.

2024 · Regionalism, economy and polity

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **How is the growing regionalism in India affecting the economy and polity? Explain.**

Regionalism is a sense of identity and loyalty to a region based on language, culture, history or economic interest. In its healthy form it strengthens federal democracy; in its narrow form it divides.

Effects on the economy

1. **Positive — competitive federalism:** states compete for investment through investor summits and ease-of-doing-business reforms. UP's Global Investors Summit (2023) drew investment proposals worth over ₹33 lakh crore.
2. **Negative — barriers to mobility:** domicile quotas in private jobs (Haryana's 2020 law, struck down by the High Court in 2023) and sons-of-the-soil hostility restrict a national labour market.
3. **Inter-state disputes:** conflicts over river waters (Cauvery, Mahadayi, the Satluj–Yamuna Link) delay irrigation and power projects.
4. **Fiscal stress:** competitive freebies and tax concessions weaken state finances.
5. **Resource quarrels:** disputes over the share of central taxes and the criteria used by Finance Commissions.
6. **Regional imbalance:** leading states pull ahead, which fuels further regional grievance.

Effects on polity

1. **Rise of regional parties:** they have deepened democracy and federal bargaining; coalition governments (1989–2014) gave regions a voice at the Centre.
2. **New states:** Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh (2000) and Telangana (2014) answered aspirations for better governance.
3. **Coalition compulsions:** regional pressures can stall national policy (the Teesta agreement).
4. **Identity politics:** language rows over the three-language formula, and fears over the next delimitation of seats.
5. **Separatism in extreme cases:** insurgencies in parts of the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir.
6. **UP angle:** demands for Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Harit Pradesh reflect regional backwardness within the state.

Conclusion: Regionalism is harmful only when it turns exclusive. Cooperative federalism, fair fiscal transfers and balanced regional development can turn regional pride into national strength.

2024 · Population explosion and holistic development

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

'Population explosion is a serious challenge to India's holistic development.' Examine the statement.

Population explosion means very rapid growth when death rates fall but birth rates stay high. India became the world's most populous country in 2023, with about **142.9 crore** people (UNFPA). Uttar Pradesh alone had 19.98 crore people in Census 2011, about 16.5% of India.

Why it is a challenge

1. **Pressure on resources:** India supports about 18% of the world's people on 2.4% of its land and about 4% of its fresh water.
2. **Jobs:** millions join the labour force every year, but formal jobs grow slowly, so unemployment and underemployment rise.
3. **Food, water and housing:** shrinking holdings, falling water tables and urban slums.
4. **Health and education:** crowded hospitals and schools lower the quality of services.
5. **Environment:** deforestation, pollution and loss of biodiversity.
6. **Per-capita income and poverty:** growth is shared among more people.
7. **Regional imbalance:** high-fertility states such as Bihar and UP lag behind southern states in development.

The other side

- **Fertility has fallen:** the national TFR is **2.0** (NFHS-5, 2019–21), below replacement, so the "explosion" phase is over. Growth now comes mainly from population momentum, and the population is expected to peak around the 2060s (UN projections).
- **Demographic dividend:** with a median age under 30, India has a large working-age population, which can drive growth if it is healthy and skilled.
- People are a resource, not merely a burden.

Way forward

- Girls' education and delayed marriage.
- Voluntary family planning, focused on high-fertility districts (Mission Parivar Vikas) and on the UP Population Policy 2021–30.
- Skilling (Skill India), health and nutrition, and job-rich manufacturing.
- Preparing for an ageing population in the southern states.

Conclusion: Population becomes a challenge only when it is unskilled and unhealthy. Investing in human capital can turn it into the engine of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Geography

2018 · Minerals of Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Give an account of the minerals found in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh is **poor in metallic minerals**, because most of the state is covered by the deep alluvium of the Ganga plain. Minerals occur mainly in the southern fringe: the **Vindhyan region** (Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, southern Prayagraj) and the **Bundelkhand region** (Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur).

Main minerals

- **Coal:** part of the Singrauli coalfield lies in Sonbhadra. It feeds the Anpara, Obra and Rihand power stations.
- **Limestone and dolomite:** in Sonbhadra and Mirzapur; they support the cement plants of Churk and Dalla.
- **Silica (glass) sand:** at Shankargarh (Prayagraj) and in Banda and Chitrakoot. It supplies the glass industry of Firozabad and Naini.
- **Pyrophyllite and diaspore:** in Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba and Hamirpur, used in ceramics and refractories; UP is a leading producer.
- **Rock phosphate:** in Lalitpur.
- **Building stones:** Bundelkhand granite (Lalitpur, Mahoba, Jhansi) and the **Chunar sandstone** of Mirzapur, used since Mauryan times.

Issues: illegal sand mining in the Ken and Betwa, and pollution in Sonbhadra.

Conclusion: UP's modest mineral base supports energy, cement, glass and construction. Scientific mining can aid the backward south of the state.

2018 · Core infrastructure of a smart city

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Enumerate the core infrastructure elements for Smart City development.

The **Smart Cities Mission** (June 2015) aims to develop 100 cities that provide core infrastructure, a decent quality of life and a clean, sustainable environment through "smart solutions". Its guidelines list these **core infrastructure elements**:

1. **Adequate water supply.**
2. **Assured electricity supply.**
3. **Sanitation,** including solid waste management.
4. **Efficient urban mobility and public transport.**
5. **Affordable housing,** especially for the poor.
6. **Robust IT connectivity and digitalisation.**
7. **Good governance,** especially e-governance and citizen participation.
8. **Sustainable environment.**
9. **Safety and security of citizens,** particularly women, children and the elderly.
10. **Health and education.**

How they are delivered

- Area-based development (retrofitting, redevelopment, greenfield) and pan-city smart solutions.
- Integrated Command and Control Centres for traffic, policing and services.
- Implementation by a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for each city.

UP's smart cities: Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Aligarh, Jhansi, Moradabad, Bareilly and Saharanpur.

Conclusion: A smart city is not only about technology. It is about liveable, inclusive and sustainable cities, with strong municipal capacity to keep the infrastructure working.

2018 · Global warming

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
>
> **Write a note on Global Warming.**

Global warming is the long-term rise in the Earth's average surface temperature caused mainly by the build-up of **greenhouse gases** such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and CFCs. The IPCC Special Report (October 2018) found that human activities have already warmed the planet by about **1°C** above pre-industrial levels.

Causes

- Burning of fossil fuels, and deforestation.
- Methane from paddy and livestock; nitrous oxide from fertilisers.

Impacts

- Melting of glaciers, including the retreat of the Gangotri glacier, the source of the Ganga.
- Sea-level rise; more frequent heat waves, droughts, floods and intense cyclones.
- Terminal heat cuts wheat yields in the Indo-Gangetic plain, including UP.
- Spread of vector-borne diseases and loss of biodiversity.

Responses

- **Global:** UNFCCC (1992), the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the **Paris Agreement (2015)**, which aims to keep warming well below 2°C and to pursue 1.5°C.
- **India:**
  - the National Action Plan on Climate Change (2008) with eight missions;
  - the International Solar Alliance (2015);
  - NDC targets for lower emission intensity and more non-fossil power.

Conclusion: Global warming needs mitigation, adaptation and climate justice (SDG 13).

2018 · Bundelkhand as a cultural region

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
>
> **Give a geographical account of Bundelkhand as a cultural region.**

Bundelkhand is a historical and cultural region of central India, bounded by the Yamuna in the north and the Vindhyan scarps in the south. It is shared by Uttar Pradesh (seven districts: Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda and Chitrakoot) and Madhya Pradesh.

Physical base

- An ancient **Archaean** granite and gneiss upland with rocky hillocks, ravines and undulating plains.
- Drained by the Betwa, Ken, Dhasan and Pahuj, all part of the Yamuna system.
- Local soils (*mar*, *kabar*, *parua*, *rakar*) and a semi-arid, drought-prone climate.
- **Tank culture:** Chandela and Bundela rulers built great tanks, as at Mahoba.

Cultural identity

- **Language:** the Bundeli dialect.
- **History:**
  - the Chandelas (Kalinjar, Mahoba, Khajuraho);
  - the Bundela Rajputs (Orchha, Chhatrasal), who gave the region its name;
  - Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi in 1857.
- **Folk heritage:** the *Alha* ballad of the heroes Alha and Udal, the *Rai* dance, the *Diwari* dance and the Kajli fair of Mahoba.
- **Sacred sites:** Chitrakoot, linked with Rama's exile, and the Gupta-period Dashavatara temple at Deogarh (Lalitpur).

Conclusion: A rocky, drought-prone landscape, a shared dialect, martial history and water-harvesting traditions give Bundelkhand a distinct regional identity.

2018 · Air masses and their characteristics

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **What is an air mass? Describe its chief characteristics.**

An **air mass** is a very large body of air, extending over thousands of square kilometres, whose **temperature and humidity are nearly uniform horizontally** at any given level. It acquires these properties from its **source region**: an extensive, uniform surface such as a cold continent, a hot desert or a warm ocean, where air stays long enough under calm, high-pressure conditions.

Classification (Bergeron)

Symbol	Type	Source	Nature
cA	Continental Arctic	Arctic ice, Greenland	very cold, dry, stable
cP	Continental Polar	Siberia, northern Canada	cold, dry, stable
mP	Maritime Polar	North Pacific and Atlantic	cool, moist
cT	Continental Tropical	Sahara, Arabia, Thar	hot, dry
mT	Maritime Tropical	tropical oceans	warm, moist, unstable
mE	Maritime Equatorial	equatorial oceans	hot, very humid

A third letter, **k** (colder than the surface below) or **w** (warmer), shows stability.

Chief characteristics

1. **Horizontal uniformity:** temperature, humidity and lapse rate are similar across the mass at the same height.
2. **Large size:** often over 1,000 km across and several kilometres deep.
3. **Source-region imprint:** continental masses are dry; maritime masses are moist; polar masses are cold; tropical masses are warm.
4. **Movement and modification:** as an air mass moves, it is warmed or cooled from below and gains or loses moisture. A cold mass over a warm surface becomes unstable, bringing showers; a warm mass over a cold surface becomes stable, bringing fog and low cloud.
5. **Fronts:** where two contrasting air masses meet, a front forms, giving rise to temperate cyclones.
6. **Typical weather:** each mass brings its own weather.

Indian relevance: the south-west monsoon brings maritime tropical and equatorial air. In winter, cold dry continental air and western disturbances bring cold waves, fog and some rain to the plains of Uttar Pradesh.

Conclusion: Air masses and their fronts are the building blocks of weather forecasting and of mid-latitude climate.

2018 · Volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **How are volcano, earthquake, and tsunami related to each other? Highlight all the possible causes for volcanic eruptions.**

Volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis are all products of the Earth's **endogenic forces**. They are closely linked through plate tectonics.

How they are related

1. **Same belts:** most volcanoes and earthquakes lie along plate boundaries, above all the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the Alpine–Himalayan belt.
2. **Subduction:** where an oceanic plate sinks beneath another, friction and stress release cause earthquakes, while melting of the sinking plate feeds volcanoes (Japan, Indonesia, the Andes).
3. **Earthquake to tsunami:** a large undersea earthquake that lifts or drops the seabed displaces the water column and generates a tsunami. The magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra on **26 December 2004** produced the Indian Ocean tsunami; the 2011 Tohoku earthquake caused the tsunami that hit Fukushima.
4. **Volcano to earthquake and tsunami:** rising magma causes volcanic tremors. Explosive eruptions or flank collapses can trigger tsunamis, as at Krakatoa (1883) and Anak Krakatau (2018).

Causes of volcanic eruptions

1. **Plate movements:**
   - convergent boundaries (subduction) give explosive, andesitic volcanoes;
   - divergent boundaries (mid-ocean ridges, Iceland) give basaltic fissure eruptions.
2. **Hot spots:** plumes of hot mantle beneath plates (Hawaii, Réunion).
3. **Rising temperature with depth:** rocks melt where heat is high and pressure falls (decompression melting).
4. **Water and volatiles:** water carried down by sinking plates lowers the melting point. Gases (steam, CO_2, SO_2) build pressure and make eruptions explosive.
5. **Buoyancy:** magma is lighter than the surrounding rock and rises.
6. **Weak zones:** faults and fractures give magma a path to the surface.
7. **Seawater entry:** water percolating into magma chambers turns to steam and adds pressure.

India: Barren Island (Andaman Sea) is India's only active volcano. The Deccan Traps are ancient basalt lava flows.

Conclusion: Since these hazards are linked, integrated monitoring is vital. India's tsunami early warning centre at INCOIS, Hyderabad (2007), is one example.

2018, 2019 · Ocean currents: origin and the Atlantic currents

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks · also asked in 2019 (12 marks)
>
> **Mention the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents and name the currents of the Atlantic Ocean.** ***(2019: Write a systematic essay on ocean currents of northern Atlantic Ocean with causes of origin.)***

Ocean currents are regular movements of ocean water in a definite direction: **warm** ones flow from low to high latitudes, **cold** ones the other way.

Factors of origin

1. **Planetary winds:** the trade winds and westerlies drag surface water; this is the main driver of surface currents.
2. **Earth's rotation (Coriolis force):** deflects currents to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern, producing circular gyres.
3. **Temperature differences:** warm equatorial water expands and flows poleward; cold polar water sinks and spreads towards the equator.
4. **Salinity and density:** denser, saltier water sinks, driving the thermohaline circulation (for example, Mediterranean outflow at Gibraltar).
5. **Modifying factors:** the shape of coastlines, sea-floor relief, seasons (monsoon currents) and evaporation.

Currents of the North Atlantic (clockwise gyre)

- **North Equatorial Current** (warm) flows west.
- The **Florida Current** and the **Gulf Stream** (warm) carry it north-east along the US coast.
- The **North Atlantic Drift** (warm) takes it to north-west Europe, keeping Norwegian ports ice-free.
- The **Canary Current** (cold) flows south along north-west Africa.
- The **Labrador Current** and the **East Greenland Current** (cold) flow south.
- The Labrador Current meets the Gulf Stream off Newfoundland, causing dense fog and the rich **Grand Banks** fishery.
- Others: the Irminger and Norwegian currents (warm), the Equatorial Counter Current, and the Guinea Current.
- The calm **Sargasso Sea** lies at the centre of the gyre.

Currents of the South Atlantic (anticlockwise gyre)

- The **South Equatorial Current** (warm) turns south as the **Brazil Current** (warm).
- The **South Atlantic Drift** joins the cold West Wind Drift.
- The **Benguela Current** (cold) flows north along south-west Africa, adding to the aridity of the Namib desert.
- The **Falkland Current** (cold) flows north along Argentina.

Conclusion: Atlantic currents shape climate, fisheries and shipping; their weakening under climate change is a global concern.

2018 · Solution to urban problems

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Discuss the solution to urban problems.

NOTE

Same question as "Discuss the solution to urban problems" (2018, 8 marks), which the sheet also lists under Indian Society. See the answer there.

2019 · Iron and socio-economic change, 600–300 BC

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Describe the role of iron mineral in socio-economic development during 600–300 B.C.

The period 600–300 BC saw the rise of the sixteen **Mahajanapadas**, the "second urbanisation" of the Ganga plain and the growth of Magadha. The wider use of **iron**, seen in the Painted Grey Ware and **Northern Black Polished Ware** cultures, was a key factor.

Role of iron

- **Forest clearance and surplus:** iron axes cleared the forests of the middle Ganga plain; iron ploughshares and sickles, with paddy transplantation, raised a surplus that fed towns, artisans and rulers.
- **Second urbanisation:** Kaushambi, Shravasti, Varanasi and Ayodhya (in present UP), Rajagriha and Champa grew as craft and trade centres.
- **Trade and money:** punch-marked coins came into use, and guilds and merchants (*setthis*) prospered.
- **State formation:** a surplus could be taxed to maintain standing armies equipped with iron weapons. Magadha, close to the iron ores of south Bihar and Chhotanagpur, became the strongest state.
- **Social change:** landowning householders (*gahapatis*) arose; Buddhism and Jainism, opposing animal sacrifice, suited a cattle-based farming economy.

UP sites: Atranjikhera (Etah) and Hastinapur (Meerut) have yielded early iron objects.

Conclusion: R.S. Sharma stressed iron's role, though others note its spread was gradual. With fertile soil and trade, iron transformed the Ganga valley.

2019 · Urban planning for civic amenities in slums

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Write a note on the role of urban planning for development of basic civic amenities in slums.

Slums lack basic civic amenities: safe water, toilets, drainage, waste collection, electricity, paved lanes, schools and clinics. About 6.5 crore Indians lived in slums in 2011 (Census).

Role of urban planning

- **Inclusive master plans:** reserve land for housing for economically weaker sections and recognise existing slums instead of treating them as illegal.
- **In-situ upgrading over eviction:** extend water, sewer and power networks into slums; give tenure security, which encourages residents to invest.
- **Network integration:** connect slums to city systems under AMRUT (2015) and provide community and household toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- **Housing:** the four verticals of PMAY-Urban (in-situ slum redevelopment, credit-linked subsidy, affordable housing in partnership and beneficiary-led construction).
- **Social infrastructure:** anganwadis, urban health centres (National Urban Health Mission), schools and open spaces within walking distance.
- **Safe relocation:** for slums on flood plains or railway land, resettlement close to jobs.
- **Participation:** GIS slum mapping and community involvement in design.

Conclusion: Planning *with* slum dwellers rather than *for* them makes amenities lasting. Inclusive planning is central to SDG 11 and to slum-free cities in UP and beyond.

2019 · Population growth and women in Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Evaluate population growth and role of women in population control in Uttar Pradesh.

NOTE

Same question as the 2019 question under Indian Society ("Evaluate the population growth and role of women in population control in Uttar Pradesh"). See the answer there.

2019 · Heritage Arc and tourism in Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks · also asked in 2022

What is 'Heritage Arc'? Underline its importance in Uttar Pradesh in terms of tourism potential.

The **Heritage Arc** is a tourism concept of the Uttar Pradesh government that links the state's three great heritage cities, **Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi**, in an arc-shaped circuit. It is promoted as one integrated destination, helped by the Agra–Lucknow Expressway (2016).

What it covers

- **Agra:** the Mughal heritage of the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri (all UNESCO World Heritage Sites), with Mathura–Vrindavan nearby.
- **Lucknow:** Nawabi heritage: the Bara and Chhota Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, the Residency, cuisine and *chikankari*.
- **Varanasi:** one of the world's oldest living cities, with its ghats, the Kashi Vishwanath temple and nearby Sarnath. Prayagraj and Ayodhya lie close to the arc.

Importance for tourism

- **Variety in one route:** Mughal, Nawabi, Hindu and Buddhist heritage make tourists stay longer and spend more.

- **Employment:** hotels, guides, transport and crafts. It promotes ODOP products such as Agra leather, Lucknow chikan and Banarasi silk.
- **Global branding:** it extends the Delhi–Agra–Jaipur "Golden Triangle" eastward into UP.
- **Heritage conservation and soft power.**

Challenges: last-mile connectivity, cleanliness, touts and safety.

Conclusion: With Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD support, the Heritage Arc can make UP a leading tourism state.

2019 · Geographical factors in refugee settlement in Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain the geographical factors which have attracted refugees to settle in different parts of Uttar Pradesh.**

Uttar Pradesh received two large streams of refugees: **Hindus and Sikhs from West Punjab and Sindh** after Partition (1947), and **Bengali Hindus from East Pakistan** (now Bangladesh) in the 1950s–1970s. Many settled in the **Terai** belt (Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit, Bijnor, Rampur, and the present Udham Singh Nagar, now in Uttarakhand) and in the cities of western UP.

Geographical factors

- **Availability of land:** the Terai was thinly populated, forested and marshy. After forest clearance and malaria control in the 1950s, the government offered large tracts to refugee farmers through colonisation schemes.
- **Fertile soils and water:** fine alluvium, a high water table and rivers such as the Sharda and Ghaghara suited rice, wheat and sugarcane. Punjabi farmers turned the Terai into a granary.
- **Flat terrain and a familiar climate:** easy to plough and irrigate, and similar to the Punjab plains.
- **Nearness to Punjab and Delhi:** western UP was close to the refugee routes.
- **Urban jobs and transport:** railways, the Grand Trunk Road and cities such as Kanpur, Lucknow and Meerut offered trade and work to urban refugees.

Conclusion: Land, water, soil and access drew refugees to UP, and they in turn transformed the Terai's agriculture.

2019 · Why tropical cyclones form over oceans and weaken on land

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Tropical cyclones originate on oceanic parts and weaken on land. Explain with reasons.**

Tropical cyclones are intense tropical low-pressure systems with winds spiralling inward (anticlockwise in the northern hemisphere) around a calm **eye**, such as Fani (2019).

Why they form over oceans

- **Warm sea surface:** temperatures above about 26–27°C over a large area and depth supply heat and moisture.
- **Latent heat:** evaporation from the sea and condensation in rising air release huge energy, which drives the storm. Only oceans provide this continuously.
- **Coriolis force:** needed to start rotation, so cyclones form between about 5° and 20–30° latitude, not on the equator.
- **Pre-existing disturbance:** a low-pressure area or easterly wave.
- **Low vertical wind shear:** this allows a vertical warm core to build up.

Why they weaken on land

- **Loss of moisture supply:** after landfall, the source of latent heat is cut off.
- **Surface friction:** rough land reduces wind speed and disrupts the circulation.
- **Cooler land and dry air:** these weaken convection.
- **Relief:** hills and mountains break up the storm.

Weakened remnants still bring heavy rain far inland, including to eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Conclusion: The ocean is the cyclone's fuel tank; landfall cuts the fuel, so cyclones decay.

2019 · Minor irrigation in Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Give an account of minor irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh with examples.**

Minor irrigation schemes are those with a culturable command area of up to **2,000 hectares**. They use groundwater or small surface sources and are often owned by farmers. In UP, minor irrigation, chiefly tube wells, provides most of the irrigation, and the state has more minor irrigation works than any other.

Types and examples

- **Groundwater schemes:**
  - private shallow tube wells and pumping sets, the backbone of western and central UP (Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshahr);
  - medium-deep and deep tube wells, including state tube wells;
- **Surface schemes:**
  - ponds and tanks, especially in eastern UP and Bundelkhand;
  - check dams and small bunds (*bandhis*) on seasonal streams in Bundelkhand and the Vindhyan region;
- **State programmes:**
  - the **Free Boring Scheme** for small and marginal farmers;
  - the **Khet Talab Yojana** (farm ponds), launched for Bundelkhand and water-scarce blocks;
  - drip and sprinkler irrigation under PMKSY;
  - solar pumps under PM-KUSUM.
- **Community models:** the "*khet par med, med par ped*" (bund on the field, tree on the bund) approach of Jakhni village, Banda.

Benefits and problems: cheap, quick and farmer-controlled, but it over-exploits groundwater.

Conclusion: Minor irrigation is UP's lifeline; with recharge it can sustain farming.

2019 · Rural settlements in the Ganga Plain

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks

Discuss the spatial distribution of rural settlements in the Ganga Plain.

A **rural settlement** is a cluster of dwellings whose people depend mainly on primary activities. The **Ganga Plain** is one of the most densely settled rural regions of the world. Its fertile alluvium, flat land and abundant water support villages almost everywhere. Their types and spacing vary from west to east and from uplands to flood plains.

Types of rural settlement

1. **Compact (clustered):** houses close together around a core; fields outside.
2. **Semi-compact:** a core with some outlying houses.
3. **Hamleted (fragmented):** a main village with several separate hamlets (*purwa, tola, majra*), often caste-based.
4. **Dispersed:** isolated homesteads.

Spatial distribution

1. **Upper Ganga Plain (western UP, the Ganga–Yamuna doab):**
   - large, compact villages;
   - drivers: fertile *bhangar*, canal and tube-well irrigation, high density, and historically the need for defence;
   - examples: Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Aligarh.
2. **Middle Ganga Plain (eastern UP and Bihar):**
   - semi-compact and **hamleted** villages, closely spaced and smaller in size;
   - drivers: very high density, caste segregation, small holdings and scattered patches of dry land amid flood-prone fields.
3. **Terai and foothills (northern UP):**
   - dispersed and semi-compact settlements on raised ground, because of forests, swamps and floods;
   - newer **planned colonies** of post-1947 settlers, laid out in linear or grid form along roads.
4. **Khadar and flood plains:**
   - small, often temporary settlements on natural levees and raised mounds;
   - linear villages along embankments, riverbanks and roads.
5. **Lower Ganga Plain and delta (West Bengal):**
   - dispersed and linear homesteads with ponds and orchards along levees and canals.

Shapes: linear, rectangular, circular and star-shaped (at road junctions).

Recent changes: ribbon growth along highways, and large villages turning into census towns.

Conclusion: The pattern of rural settlement in the Ganga Plain reflects water, relief, floods, history and caste. Planned rural infrastructure and rurban clusters can make these settlements more liveable.

2019 · Landforms of wind erosion and deposition

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks

Describe the landforms formed by wind erosion and deposition.

Wind is the main agent shaping **arid and semi-arid lands**, where vegetation is sparse. It works by **deflation** (removing loose material), **abrasion** (sand-blasting rocks) and **attrition** (particles grinding one another), moving sand by saltation and creep and dust in suspension.

Erosional landforms

1. **Deflation hollows (blowouts):** basins formed by removal of loose material, such as the Qattara Depression (Egypt).
2. **Mushroom or pedestal rocks:** abrasion is strongest about a metre above the ground, undercutting rocks into mushroom shapes.
3. **Zeugen:** tabular ridges formed where horizontal layers of hard rock lie over soft rock.
4. **Yardangs:** long, steep-sided ridges of rock aligned parallel to the wind, where hard and soft bands are vertical.
5. **Ventifacts and dreikanters:** pebbles and stones faceted and polished by wind.
6. **Desert pavement (reg) and rocky desert (hamada):** surfaces of stones left behind after fine particles are blown away.

Depositional landforms

1. **Barchans:** crescent-shaped dunes with horns pointing downwind; they form where the wind is steady and sand limited (Thar, Sahara).
2. **Seif or longitudinal dunes:** long ridges parallel to the wind.
3. **Transverse dunes:** ridges at right angles to the wind where sand is plentiful.
4. **Parabolic dunes:** U-shaped dunes with arms pointing upwind, anchored by vegetation, common on coasts.
5. **Star dunes:** formed by winds from several directions.
6. **Loess:** thick deposits of fine wind-blown silt, as on the Loess Plateau of China; very fertile.
7. **Ripple marks:** small waves on sand surfaces.

Indian and UP relevance: the Thar desert has barchans and longitudinal dunes. In western UP, *bhur*, sandy tracts along the Ganga, are partly wind-blown deposits.

Conclusion: Aeolian landforms record the interplay of wind, sand and vegetation. Shelter belts and dune stabilisation can check desertification.

2020 · Physical regions of Uttar Pradesh; Bhabar and Terai

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Divide Uttar Pradesh into major physical regions and describe features of Bhabar and Terai.

After Uttarakhand was carved out in 2000, Uttar Pradesh has three major physical regions:

1. **Bhabar and Terai belt:** a narrow strip along the northern border at the foot of the Shivaliks.

2. **Ganga Plain:** the largest region, of older (*bhangar*) and newer (*khadar*) alluvium.
3. **Southern plateau:** Bundelkhand and the Vindhyan–Kaimur region (Mirzapur, Sonbhadra).

Features of the Bhabar

- A belt roughly 8–16 km wide at the foot of the Shivaliks, now mostly in Uttarakhand; in UP, parts of Saharanpur and Bijnor.
- Made of porous **pebbles, boulders and gravel** dropped by Himalayan rivers.
- Streams sink underground; the land is unfit for farming and left under forest.

Features of the Terai

- Lies south of the Bhabar, about 15–30 km wide, from Saharanpur and Bijnor east through Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich to Maharajganj.
- The underground streams **re-emerge**, making it **marshy and swampy**, with fine silt and clay and a high water table.
- It once had dense forests and tall grasslands, rich in wildlife: **Dudhwa National Park**, **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**, **Katarniaghat** and **Suhelwa**.
- Much is now drained and farmed for sugarcane, rice and wheat.

Conclusion: The Bhabar–Terai is UP's ecological frontier, where farming must be balanced with conservation.

2020 · Smart Cities Mission and eastern UP cities

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks · also asked in 2022
>
> **What is Smart City Mission? Discuss main characteristics of cities of Eastern U.P. under this scheme.**

The **Smart Cities Mission** (launched **25 June 2015**) develops 100 cities, chosen through a "City Challenge", to provide core infrastructure, a decent quality of life and a sustainable environment through "smart solutions".

- **Approach:** area-based development (retrofitting, redevelopment, greenfield) and pan-city projects.
- **Implementation:** a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for each city, with central and state funding.

Eastern UP cities under the Mission: Varanasi and Prayagraj

Varanasi

- One of the world's oldest living cities, on the Ganga, with a dense, congested old core of lanes and ghats.
- A religious and tourism hub (Kashi Vishwanath, nearby Sarnath) and a centre of Banarasi silk weaving.
- **Smart focus:** heritage and ghat improvement, an Integrated Command and Control Centre, decongestion, parking and sewerage.

Prayagraj

- At the Sangam of the Ganga and Yamuna; host of the Kumbh and Magh melas.
- An administrative and educational centre (High Court, University).
- **Smart focus:** crowd and traffic management (its command centre was used during Kumbh 2019), roads, drainage and riverfronts.

Common features: river-based, ancient, pilgrimage-driven cities with old, crowded cores, flood risk and heavy seasonal footfall.

Conclusion: The Mission seeks to modernise these cities while keeping their heritage character.

2020 · Bundelkhand tourism circuit of Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the location of major tourist places of Bundelkhand tourism circuit of U.P.**

The **Bundelkhand circuit** lies in south-western UP, between the Yamuna and the Vindhyan hills, across seven districts. It combines forts, temples, lakes and the memory of 1857.

Major places and their location

- **Jhansi (west):** Rani Lakshmibai's fort; gateway to nearby Orchha (MP).
- **Lalitpur (south):** the Gupta-period **Dashavatara temple** and Jain temples at **Deogarh** on the Betwa.
- **Jalaun (north-west, on the Yamuna): Kalpi**, linked with Rani Lakshmibai and Tatya Tope in the Revolt of 1857, and **Panchnad**, the meeting point of five rivers.
- **Hamirpur (north):** the confluence of the Betwa and the Yamuna.
- **Mahoba (centre):** the Chandela capital, with the Madan Sagar and Kirat Sagar lakes and the Rahila Sun temple.
- **Banda (east): Kalinjar Fort**, a Chandela stronghold where Sher Shah Suri died in 1545.
- **Chitrakoot (south-east, on the Mandakini):** the Ramghat–Kamadgiri pilgrim area of Rama's exile, shared with MP, and Rajapur, regarded as Tulsidas's birthplace.

Connectivity: Jhansi is a major rail junction; the Bundelkhand Expressway (foundation stone February 2020, opened July 2022) links Chitrakoot to the Agra–Lucknow Expressway near Etawah.

Conclusion: Better roads, homestays and eco-tourism can make this circuit a source of jobs in a drought-prone region.

Geography (contd.)

2020 · Frontier and boundary, with reference to India

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain the difference between the frontier and the boundary with special reference to India.**

Both terms describe the outer limit of a state's territory. In political geography (Kristof, 1959), a **frontier** is an outward-looking **zone**, while a **boundary** is an inward-looking **line**.

Basis	Frontier	Boundary
Nature	A zone of some width	A line with no width
Orientation	Outward: a zone of contact	Inward: the limit of sovereignty
Legal status	Vague, not fixed by treaty	Delimited by treaty, demarcated on the ground
Origin	Natural, historical	Political, modern
Function	Buffer, integration	Separation, control of movement

The Indian experience

- The **Himalaya** long served as a frontier zone with Tibet. The **North-East Frontier Agency** (now Arunachal Pradesh) carried the word in its name.
- Frontiers became lines: the **McMahon Line** (1914), the **Radcliffe Line** (1947), the **Line of Control** (1972) and the India–Bangladesh **Land Boundary Agreement** (2015).
- Where the frontier never became an agreed boundary (Aksai Chin, Arunachal), disputes persist along the **Line of Actual Control**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has an open, pillar-marked boundary with Nepal along seven districts, from Pilibhit to Maharajganj.

Conclusion: most frontiers are now boundaries. India must settle its disputes and develop its border areas.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Frontier = zone, outward-oriented · Boundary = line, inward-oriented · McMahon 1914 · Radcliffe 1947 · LoC 1972 · LBA 2015.

2020 · Causes of volcanism and lava landforms

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Discuss causes of volcanic eruption and describe landforms formed by lava deposition.**

Volcanism is the process by which molten rock (magma), gases and rock fragments rise from the Earth's interior and escape through a vent or fissure. Most active volcanoes lie along plate margins, above all the Pacific "**Ring of Fire**".

Causes of eruption

1. **Plate movements:**
   - **Convergent margins:** a subducting oceanic plate releases water that lowers the melting point of the mantle above it. The magma is viscous and gas-rich, so eruptions are explosive (Andes, Japan, Indonesia).
   - **Divergent margins:** plates pull apart and the mantle melts as pressure falls, giving fluid basalt (Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Iceland, East African Rift).
   - **Hotspots:** mantle plumes inside plates (Hawaii). The Réunion hotspot is linked to the Deccan Traps.
2. **High interior temperature:** temperature rises with depth, and radioactive decay adds heat.
3. **Fall in pressure:** faulting or rifting lowers the load on hot rock, which then melts.
4. **Gases and steam:** dissolved gases expand as magma rises, which drives the eruption.
5. **Weak zones:** faults and fractures give magma a path to the surface.

Landforms formed by lava

Landform	How it forms	Example
Shield volcano	Quiet eruptions of fluid basalt; broad, gentle slopes	Mauna Loa (Hawaii)
Composite cone	Alternate layers of lava and ash; steep cone	Fuji, Vesuvius; Barren Island (India's only active volcano)
Lava plateau	Fissure eruptions spread sheets of basalt	Deccan Traps, Columbia Plateau
Lava dome	Thick, acidic lava piles up near the vent	Domes inside composite volcanoes
Crater and caldera	Summit collapses after a big eruption	Krakatoa, Crater Lake (USA)
Volcanic island	Submarine eruptions rise above the sea	Hawaii, Iceland, Narcondam

Conclusion: volcanoes destroy, but they also create. Basalt weathers into fertile **black (regur) soil**, and volcanoes yield minerals, geothermal energy and new land. Monitoring and hazard mapping reduce the risk.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Fluid basalt → shield, plateau · Viscous acidic lava → dome, explosive cone · Barren Island (active), Narcondam (dormant) · Deccan Traps = fissure eruption.

2020 · Ecological problems of exploiting Indian Ocean resources

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Highlight ecological problems associated with exploitation of Indian Ocean resources.**

The **Indian Ocean**, the third-largest ocean, holds rich fisheries, the hydrocarbons of the Persian Gulf and Mumbai High, placer sands and **polymetallic nodules**. India holds a 75,000 sq km exploration area in the **Central Indian Ocean Basin** under the International Seabed Authority. Rising use of these resources brings serious ecological problems.

Ecological problems

1. **Overfishing:** mechanised trawling and illegal fishing deplete stocks such as tuna. Bottom trawling scrapes the seabed, and bycatch kills turtles, including Olive Ridleys off Odisha.
2. **Oil and shipping pollution:** spills from tankers, rigs and grounded ships, such as the bulk carrier *MV Wakashio* off Mauritius (2020), smother coral, mangroves and birds. Ballast water brings invasive species.
3. **Deep-sea mining:** collecting nodules would destroy slow-growing seabed life and raise sediment plumes. The damage may be irreversible.
4. **Coral reef decline:** warming has caused mass bleaching in the Maldives, Lakshadweep and the Gulf of Mannar. Coral mining and siltation add to it.
5. **Loss of mangroves and coasts:** shrimp farms, ports and beach-sand mining for ilmenite and monazite (Kerala, Tamil Nadu) remove natural buffers and increase erosion.

6. **Land-based pollution:** sewage, plastics and fertiliser run-off create low-oxygen "dead zones", for example in the Bay of Bengal. The Ganga, which drains most of Uttar Pradesh, carries a large load of nutrients and plastics to that bay.
7. **Climate change:** warming, acidification and sea-level rise threaten fish, reefs and island nations.

Way forward: ecosystem-based fishing limits (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission), strict MARPOL enforcement, impact rules before deep-sea mining, marine protected areas, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (2019) and cleaner rivers through *Namami Gange*.

Conclusion: India's **SAGAR** vision and its blue economy depend on a healthy ocean, which is also the aim of **SDG 14**.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> CIOB nodules (Mn, Ni, Cu, Co) · Wakashio 2020 · coral bleaching · dead zones · SDG 14 · CRZ 2019 · SAGAR (2015).

2020 · Glacial landforms of high mountains

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Describe the role of glaciers in shaping landforms in high mountain areas.**

A **glacier** is a mass of ice that moves slowly downslope under its own weight. In high mountains such as the Himalaya (Gangotri, Pindari), the Karakoram (Siachen) and the Alps, valley glaciers are powerful agents of erosion and deposition.

Processes: glaciers erode by *plucking* (ice tears out blocks of rock), *abrasion* (debris in the ice scours the bed) and frost shattering. They deposit unsorted debris (till), and meltwater sorts some of it.

Erosional landforms

- **Cirque:** an armchair-shaped hollow at the head of a glacier. When the ice melts it holds a **tarn**, such as Roopkund in Uttarakhand.
- **Arête:** a knife-edged ridge between two cirques.
- **Horn:** a pyramidal peak cut by three or more cirques (the Matterhorn).
- **U-shaped valley (glacial trough):** a broad floor with steep sides.
- **Hanging valley:** a tributary valley left high above the main trough, often with a waterfall.
- **Roche moutonnée:** a rock knob with a smooth up-ice side and a rough, plucked down-ice side.
- **Fjord:** a drowned glacial trough on a coast (Norway).

Depositional landforms

- **Moraines:** lateral, medial, terminal and ground ridges of unsorted debris.
- **Drumlins:** egg-shaped hills of till, which give "basket of eggs" scenery.
- **Eskers:** winding ridges of sand and gravel left by streams under the ice.
- **Kames, kettle lakes and outwash plains:** formed at the ice front by meltwater.
- **Erratics:** boulders carried far from their source.

Significance: these landforms draw tourists and pilgrims, for example to Gaumukh and Kedarnath. Gangotri and Yamunotri feed the perennial Ganga and Yamuna, on which Uttar Pradesh's farming depends. As glaciers retreat, moraine-dammed lakes can burst, as Chorabari Tal did in the 2013 Kedarnath disaster.

Conclusion: glacier monitoring and early warning for glacial lake floods are needed under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Erosion: cirque, arête, horn, U-valley, hanging valley, roche moutonnée · Deposition: moraine, drumlin, esker, kame, kettle, outwash · GLOF: Kedarnath 2013.

2020 · Changing sources of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh (repeat)

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Underline gradual changes in irrigation sources in U.P.**

> **NOTE**
> Same question as "2020 · Changing sources of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh" in the earlier part of this Geography section. See the model answer there.

2021 · Geography of India in Vedic literature

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
> **Describe the geographical features of India mentioned in Vedic literature.**

Vedic texts (c. 1500–600 BC) are India's earliest literary record of its geography. They trace a move from the north-west into the Ganga plain.

Rigvedic period

- **Rivers:** the land was *Sapta Sindhava* (land of seven rivers). The **Nadistuti Sukta** (10th Mandala) lists rivers from the Ganga in the east to the Sindhu and its western tributaries, such as the Kubha (Kabul).
- The **Saraswati** is praised as *naditama* (best of rivers). The Ganga is named once and the Yamuna three times.
- **Mountains:** the *Himavant* (Himalaya), and *Mujavant*, the source of soma.

Later Vedic period

- **Eastward spread:** settlement moved into the **Ganga–Yamuna doab**. The *Shatapatha Brahmana* tells how Videgha Mathava carried the sacred fire east to the *Sadanira* (Gandak), a symbol of forests cleared by burning.
- **New regions:** Kuru, Panchala, Kosala, Kashi and Videha. Magadha and Anga appear as distant lands.
- **New features:** rice (*vrihi*) replaces barley (*yava*), and the tiger and iron (*shyama ayas*) appear, reflecting the forested, rain-fed plain.

UP angle: the Kuru–Panchala heartland lay in western UP, at **Hastinapur** (Meerut), **Ahichchhatra** (Bareilly) and **Kampilya** (Farrukhabad).

Conclusion: the texts record the shift of the cultural centre to the Ganga plain, today's Uttar Pradesh.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Vitasta = Jhelum · Asikni = Chenab · Parushni = Ravi · Vipas = Beas · Shutudri = Sutlej · Sadanira = Gandak · Saraswati = naditama · PGW: Hastinapur, Ahichchhatra, Atranjikhera.

2021 · Main industries and industrial centres of Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Describe the main industries and industrial centres of Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of MSMEs in India, about 14% of the national total (NSS 73rd round, 2015–16). It also has large agro-based, mineral-based and modern industries.

Industry	Main centres
Sugar and ethanol	Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Meerut, Saharanpur, Bijnor, Lakhimpur Kheri
Textiles and handloom	Varanasi (Banarasi silk), Mau (powerlooms), Kanpur (cotton), Lucknow (*chikankari*)
Carpets	Bhadohi–Mirzapur belt
Leather and footwear	Kanpur, Agra, Unnao
Electronics and IT	Noida, Greater Noida (mobile phones), Lucknow
Cement and aluminium	Dalla (cement), Renukoot (Hindalco aluminium), both in Sonbhadra
Fertilisers	Phulpur (IFFCO), Babrala, Gorakhpur
Refining	Mathura (IOCL)
Rail and defence	Banaras Locomotive Works, Rae Bareli coach factory, HAL Lucknow, Kanpur ordnance factories
Crafts	Firozabad (glass bangles), Moradabad (brass), Aligarh (locks), Khurja (pottery), Meerut (sports goods)

Industrial regions: the National Capital Region and the western sugar belt; Kanpur–Lucknow; the Sonbhadra–Mirzapur mineral and power belt (Anpara, Obra, Rihand); and the Varanasi–Bhadohi crafts zone.

Policy push: the **One District One Product** scheme (2018) and the **UP Defence Industrial Corridor**, with nodes at Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi and Chitrakoot.

Conclusion: spreading industry to eastern UP and Bundelkhand is key to the USD 1 trillion goal.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Largest MSME base · ODOP 2018 · Defence corridor: 6 nodes · Firozabad = glass, Moradabad = brass, Aligarh = locks.

2021 · Wildlife and eco-tourism circuit of Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Illustrate major features of Wildlife-Eco tourism circuits of Uttar Pradesh.

UP Tourism promotes theme circuits. The **Wildlife and Eco-tourism Circuit** links national parks, tiger reserves, sanctuaries and wetlands from the Terai to the Vindhyas.

Major features

1. **Terai forests and grasslands: Dudhwa National Park** (Lakhimpur Kheri) has tigers and swamp deer. The one-horned rhino was reintroduced there in 1984. **Katarniaghat** (Bahraich) has gharials and Gangetic dolphins in the Girwa river.
2. **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:** it won the first global **TX2 award** (2020) for doubling its tiger numbers in four years.
3. **Wetlands:** Nawabganj (Unnao), Samaspur (Rae Bareli), Sandi (Hardoi), Bakhira (Sant Kabir Nagar) and Sur Sarovar (Agra) are **Ramsar sites**. They host migratory birds of the Central Asian Flyway.
4. **Riverine wildlife:** the **National Chambal Sanctuary** (Agra–Etawah) protects gharials, turtles and dolphins.
5. **Vindhya landscapes:** Chandraprabha sanctuary (Chandauli), with the Rajdari and Devdari falls, and Ranipur (Chitrakoot).
6. **Facilities:** jungle safaris, eco-huts and Tharu village homestays near Dudhwa.

Challenges: poor connectivity, closures in the monsoon and human–animal conflict.

Conclusion: low-impact, community-based eco-tourism can earn rural income while it protects wildlife.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Dudhwa (rhino 1984) · Pilibhit TX2 (2020) · Katarniaghat (gharial, dolphin) · Chambal Sanctuary · Ramsar wetlands of UP.

2021 · Water crisis and water resource management

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

What is water crisis? Suggest measures for water resource management.

A **water crisis** exists when the demand for usable fresh water exceeds the supply, in quantity or quality. On the Falkenmark index, less than **1,700 m³ per person per year** means water stress. India has about 18% of the world's people but about 4% of its fresh water, and its per capita availability was an estimated 1,486 m³ in 2021.

Signs: falling groundwater in western UP, drought in Bundelkhand and arsenic in eastern UP (Ballia).

Measures

1. **Harvest and recharge:** rooftop harvesting, check dams, farm ponds (*Khet Talab*), *Amrit Sarovars* and *Catch the Rain*. The Jakhni village model (Banda) shows community recharge at work.
2. **Efficient farming:** drip and sprinklers (PMKSY), and less water-hungry crops in stressed blocks.

3. **Groundwater governance:** aquifer mapping, the **Atal Bhujal Yojana**, and the UP Ground Water (Management and Regulation) Act, 2019.
4. **Reuse and quality:** treated wastewater, *Namami Gange*, and safe tap water (*Jal Jeevan Mission*).
5. **Basin planning:** viable inter-basin links (Ken–Betwa) and restored wetlands.
6. **Participation:** water user associations and *pani panchayats*.

Conclusion: managing demand, not only adding supply, is the key to **SDG 6**.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Falkenmark: < 1,700 m³ stress, < 1,000 m³ scarcity · India 18% people, 4% water · 1,486 m³ (2021) · UP Ground Water Act 2019.

2021 · Patterns of rural settlements in the Gangetic Plain

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Discuss the patterns of rural settlements in the Gangetic Plain.

A **settlement pattern** is the shape formed by the houses and streets of a village. In the flat, fertile and crowded Ganga plain, compact villages dominate.

Main patterns

1. **Linear:** along a road, canal, levee or embankment, as on the Grand Trunk Road and the canals of western UP.
2. **Rectangular (grid):** streets at right angles on level land in the Ganga–Yamuna doab.
3. **Circular (nucleated):** around a pond, temple, well or the landlord's house.
4. **Star-shaped:** growing outward along roads that meet at one point.
5. **Triangular, T- and Y-shaped:** at confluences and road junctions.
6. **Hamleted:** a main village with satellite hamlets (*purwa*, *majra*, *nagla*, *tola*), common in eastern UP and Bihar, where caste divisions split villages.
7. **Raised or scattered:** on mounds and levees in the flood-prone *khadar*, and dispersed homesteads in the Bengal delta.

Regional variation: compact in western UP, hamleted in eastern UP and Bihar, and dispersed or linear in West Bengal.

Conclusion: rural roads (PMGSY) are now stretching villages into linear, ribbon-like forms.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Compact (west) → hamleted (east) → dispersed (delta) · purwa, majra, nagla, tola · linear along roads and levees.

2021 · Cyclones and the origin of temperate cyclones

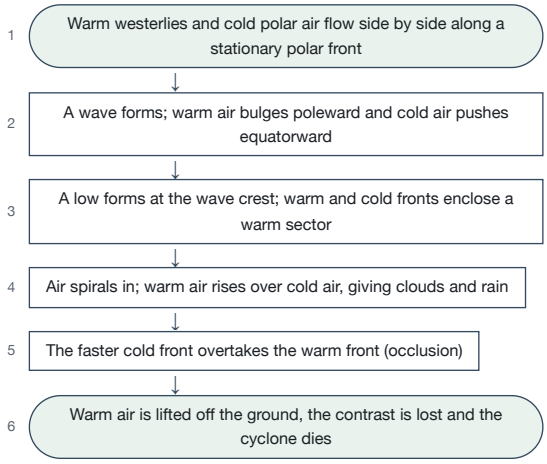
QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

What is cyclone? Explain causes of origin of temperate cyclones.

A **cyclone** is a low-pressure system with closed isobars. Its winds blow inward, anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern, because of the Coriolis force. Cyclones are either **tropical** or **temperate (extra-tropical)**.

Temperate cyclones (frontal cyclones, depressions) form between about **35° and 65° latitude**, along the **polar front**, where warm, moist tropical air meets cold, dry polar air. They are common over the North Atlantic, the North Pacific and, in winter, the Mediterranean.

Origin: the Polar Front Theory (V. and J. Bjerknes, Bergen school)



Causes and favourable conditions

1. **Contrast of air masses:** differences in temperature and humidity create the front (frontogenesis). The contrast is sharpest in winter.
2. **Coriolis force:** it sets the converging air spinning, so these cyclones do not form near the equator.
3. **Jet stream:** upper-air divergence ahead of Rossby-wave troughs removes air aloft and deepens the low.
4. **Uplift and latent heat:** warm air rising over the cold wedge releases heat that sustains the system.
5. **Land–sea contrast:** cold continents beside warm currents, such as the Gulf Stream, sharpen the front.

Features: they are larger but gentler than tropical cyclones, move west to east with the westerlies, and form over both land and sea.

Conclusion: over north-west India they arrive as **western disturbances**. Their winter rain and Himalayan snow sustain the rabi crops of Punjab and western UP.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

35°–65° latitude · polar front · Bjerknes (Bergen school) · warm sector · occlusion · India: western disturbances.

2021 · Soil erosion in Uttar Pradesh: areas and factors

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

Describe areas of U.P. affected by soil erosion and responsible factors.

Soil erosion is the removal of topsoil by water and wind faster than new soil can form. Uttar Pradesh has one of the largest **ravine** areas in India, and erosion affects large parts of its south and its river belts.

Affected areas

Region	Districts	Type of erosion
Yamuna–Chambal ravines	Agra, Etawah, Auraiya, Jalaun, Firozabad, Kanpur Dehat	Deep gully erosion forming badlands (*beehad*)
Bundelkhand	Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot	Sheet and gully erosion on red and black soils
Vindhya plateau	Sonbhadra, Mirzapur	Sheet erosion on slopes; mining scars
Shivalik foothills and Bhabar	Saharanpur, Bijnor	Erosion by hill torrents
River belts	Ghaghra, Rapti, Sharda and Ganga banks (Bahraich, Barabanki, Ballia)	Bank cutting and flood erosion
Sandy tracts of western UP	*Bhur* soils near rivers	Wind erosion in dry summers

Responsible factors

- **Natural:**
  1. Heavy, short monsoon downpours on loose alluvium.
  2. Undulating relief and steep slopes in Bundelkhand and the Vindhyas.
  3. Meandering, flood-prone rivers in the east.
  4. Hot, dry, windy summers.
- **Human:**
  1. Deforestation and overgrazing, especially in Bundelkhand.
  2. Faulty farming, such as ploughing up and down slopes and leaving fields bare.
  3. Illegal sand and stone mining in the Ken, Betwa and Yamuna, and quarrying in Mahoba.
  4. Brick kilns, road cutting and unplanned construction.

Consequences: loss of fertile land, siltation of reservoirs, lower yields and rural poverty in Bundelkhand.

Conclusion: remedies include watershed development under PMKSY, contour and field bunding, gully plugging, ravine afforestation and shelterbelts. Strict control of mining and community action such as *khet par med, med par ped* restore land and help **SDG 15** (land degradation neutrality).

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Ravines: Yamuna–Chambal (Agra, Etawah, Jalaun) · Bundelkhand sheet and gully erosion · bank erosion: Ghaghra, Rapti · SDG 15.

2021 · Means of irrigation in UP and their role in agriculture

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

What are the means of irrigation in U.P.? Discuss the role of irrigation in agriculture.

Uttar Pradesh is India's largest producer of foodgrains, wheat, sugarcane and potato. This rests on irrigation, which covers more than three-quarters of its net sown area.

Means of irrigation

1. **Tubewells:** the main source, private and state-owned. They irrigate the largest share of land, above all in western and central UP, where the alluvial aquifers are rich.
2. **Canals:** the Upper and Lower Ganga, Eastern Yamuna, Agra and Sharda canals; the Sharda Sahayak and Saryu Nahar systems in central and eastern UP; and the Betwa and Ken canals in Bundelkhand. Lift (pump) canals draw water from rivers in eastern UP.
3. **Wells:** open wells, once worked by the Persian wheel and now mostly by pumps. They survive in Bundelkhand and the east.
4. **Tanks and ponds:** important in Bundelkhand (old Chandela tanks) and the Vindhyas, and now revived as farm ponds and *Amrit Sarovars*.
5. **Micro-irrigation and solar pumps:** drip and sprinkler systems (PMKSY) and solar pumps (PM-KUSUM), spreading in Bundelkhand.

Role of irrigation in agriculture

- **Rabi crops:** winter rain is scanty, so wheat, mustard and potato depend on irrigation.
- **Multiple cropping:** assured water allows two or three crops a year, including summer (*zaid*) crops.
- **Green Revolution:** high-yielding seeds and fertilisers pay off only with assured water, as western UP showed.
- **Cash crops:** sugarcane and vegetables feed sugar mills and agro-industries.
- **Drought proofing:** it reduces dependence on the erratic monsoon and stabilises output, incomes and food security.

Problems: over-pumping is depleting groundwater in western UP. Over-irrigation in canal commands causes waterlogging and *usar* (sodic) soils. Bundelkhand remains under-irrigated.

Conclusion: efficient irrigation, combining micro-irrigation, canal modernisation and groundwater recharge, is essential for "more crop per drop" and for UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Tubewells > canals > wells > tanks · Sharda Sahayak, Saryu Nahar · PMKSY "Har Khet Ko Pani" · problems: waterlogging, *usar*, falling water table.

2022 · Heritage Arc of Uttar Pradesh (repeat)

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks · repeat of 2019

What is Heritage Arc? Underline its importance in U.P. tourism.

NOTE

Same question as 2019 (8 marks). The 2019 answer on the Heritage Arc, earlier in this Geography section, covers this year too.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

2022 update: the Purvanchal Expressway (opened November 2021) and the Kashi Vishwanath Dham (opened December 2021) strengthened the Arc's Lucknow–Varanasi side.

2022 · Smart City Mission and the cities of eastern UP (repeat)

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks · repeat of 2020

What is Smart City Mission? Discuss the main features of cities of Eastern U.P.

NOTE

Same question as 2020 (8 marks). The 2020 answer on the Smart City Mission, earlier in this Geography section, covers this year too. For the general features of a smart city, see also the 2024 answer below.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Mission cities in eastern UP: Varanasi and Prayagraj. Prayagraj's Integrated Command and Control Centre was used to manage the Kumbh crowds of 2019.

2022 · Irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

Give an account of irrigation projects of U.P. with examples.

Uttar Pradesh has one of the oldest and largest canal networks in India. Its projects range from colonial canals to modern multipurpose and inter-state schemes.

Project	River and source	Area served
Upper Ganga Canal (1854)	Ganga, at Haridwar	Western UP doab
Lower Ganga Canal (1878)	Ganga, at Narora	Central doab
Eastern Yamuna and Agra canals	Yamuna	Saharanpur to Meerut; Mathura, Agra
Sharda Canal (1928)	Sharda, at Banbasa	Rohilkhand and Awadh
Sharda Sahayak	Ghaghra and Sharda	Central and eastern UP
Saryu Nahar (completed 2021)	Links five rivers, including the Ghaghra, Saryu and Rapti	Nine districts of eastern UP
Madhya Ganga Canal	Ganga, Bijnor barrage	Western UP
Matatila and Rajghat dams	Betwa	Bundelkhand (with Madhya Pradesh)
Arjun Sahayak (2021)	Dhasan	Mahoba, Hamirpur, Banda
Bansagar canal (2018)	Sone (dam in Madhya Pradesh)	Mirzapur, Prayagraj

New directions: the **Ken–Betwa link**, India's first river-linking project, was approved in December 2021 for Bundelkhand. Micro-irrigation and solar pumps are spreading under **PMKSY** and **PM-KUSUM**.

Conclusion: completing pending projects and lining canals will bring assured water to Bundelkhand and the east.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Upper Ganga 1854 · Lower Ganga 1878 · Sharda 1928 · Saryu Nahar 2021 (9 districts) · Arjun Sahayak 2021 · Ken–Betwa approved December 2021.

2022 · Tropical cyclones: causes, structure and weather

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Describe causes, structure, and weather associated with tropical cyclones.

Tropical cyclones are intense low-pressure systems over warm oceans between about **5° and 30° latitude**. They are called hurricanes in the Atlantic, typhoons in the western Pacific and cyclones in the Indian Ocean. The **Bay of Bengal** gets far more of them than the Arabian Sea, mainly in April–May and October–December.

Causes (conditions of formation)

1. **Warm sea surface** of at least about **26.5–27 °C**, to some depth. Latent heat of condensation is their fuel.
2. **Coriolis force** to start rotation, so none form within about 5° of the equator.
3. **Low vertical wind shear**, so the storm can grow tall.
4. **A pre-existing disturbance**, such as an easterly wave or a low in the ITCZ.
5. **Upper-level divergence and moist mid-level air.**

Structure

- **Eye:** a calm, often clear centre of sinking air and the lowest pressure, a few tens of km across.
- **Eye wall:** a ring of towering cumulonimbus, with the strongest winds and heaviest rain.
- **Spiral rain bands:** curved bands of thunder clouds.
- **Outflow:** a cirrus shield at the top; the system spans several hundred km.

Associated weather

1. **Approach:** cirrus clouds, ocean swell and falling pressure, then squalls and heavy showers in the rain bands.
2. **Eye wall:** violent winds, which may exceed 200 km/h, and torrential rain.
3. **Eye:** a sudden lull with clear sky, which gives a false sense of safety. Then the winds return from the opposite direction.
4. **Storm surge:** the deadliest effect. The sea floods low coasts.

5. **Landfall:** the storm weakens as it loses moisture and meets friction. Its remnants still bring heavy rain inland, even to eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Conclusion: better IMD forecasts and evacuation, such as Odisha's "zero casualty" approach, have cut deaths sharply. Shelters, resilient housing and mangrove belts remain essential.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> SST > 26.5 °C · Coriolis (not within 5° of the equator) · low shear · eye, eye wall, rain bands · storm surge · Examples: Odisha 1999, Phailin 2013, Fani 2019, Amphan 2020, Tauktae 2021.

2022 · Factors affecting rural settlement patterns in India

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the factors affecting rural settlement pattern in India.**

A **rural settlement pattern** is the arrangement and shape of dwellings in a village. Indian villages may be **clustered, semi-clustered, hamleted or dispersed**, and linear, rectangular, circular or star-shaped. Several groups of factors decide the form.

1. Physical factors

- **Relief:** level plains give large compact villages (the Ganga plain). Hills give small, scattered hamlets (the Himalaya, the North-East). Valleys give linear villages.
- **Water:** in dry Rajasthan, houses cluster around wells and ponds. In wet Kerala, plentiful water allows dispersed homesteads.
- **Floods:** in Assam, Bihar and the *khadar* of UP, houses stand on raised mounds and levees, often in lines.
- **Soil and forest:** fertile soils support dense villages. Forests support small clearings.

2. Socio-cultural factors

- **Caste:** separate hamlets (*tola*, *purwa*, *pada*) for different castes, typical of the middle Ganga plain.
- **Tribal life:** clan-based, scattered huts in central and north-east India.
- **Religion:** temples, mosques and ponds form the nuclei of circular villages.

3. Economic factors

- **Type of farming:** rice farming on homestead plots in Kerala and the Konkan favours dispersal. Plantations have lines of labour quarters.
- **Land tenure:** consolidation of holdings and the canal colonies of Punjab produced planned grid villages.

4. Historical and security factors: fear of raids produced compact, often walled or hilltop villages in Rajasthan and Bundelkhand.

5. Modern factors

- **Roads and canals** draw houses into lines (ribbon growth). PMGSY has sped this up since 2000.
- **Planning:** resettlement colonies, PMAY-G clusters and rehabilitation after dams.

UP example: compact villages in the western doab, hamleted *purwas* in the east, scattered settlements in the Terai and the Sonbhadra hills, and hill-slope villages near tanks in Bundelkhand.

Conclusion: nature sets the base, and society and the economy shape it. The **Rurban Mission** can bring better services to villages without erasing their character.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Clustered (plains) · dispersed (hills, Kerala) · hamleted (caste) · linear (roads, levees) · defence → compact (Rajasthan) · PMGSY → ribbon growth.

2022 · Earthquake belts of India

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
> **Describe earthquake belts in India.**

About **59% of India's land area** is prone to moderate or severe earthquakes. The main cause is the **Indian plate**, which moves north-north-east at about 4–5 cm a year and pushes into the Eurasian plate. This builds up stress along the Himalaya and along old faults within the peninsula.

Major earthquake belts

Belt	Tectonic cause	Major earthquakes
Himalayan belt (Kashmir to Arunachal)	Collision of plates; thrust faults (MCT, MBT, Himalayan Frontal Thrust)	Kangra 1905 (M 7.8), Bihar–Nepal 1934, Uttarkashi 1991, Kashmir 2005 (M 7.6), Nepal 2015 (M 7.8)
North-East belt	Shillong plateau and the Indo-Myanmar arc	Shillong 1897, Assam–Tibet 1950 (M 8.6), Manipur 2016
Indo-Gangetic plain	Thick alluvium over buried ridges and faults, which amplifies shaking from Himalayan quakes	Damage to Bihar and UP towns in 1934 and 2015
Kutch–western belt	The old Kutch rift	Allah Bund 1819, Bhuj 2001 (M 7.7)
Peninsular belt	Stable shield, but intraplate faults (Narmada–Son, Godavari rift) and reservoir loading	Koyna 1967, Latur 1993, Jabalpur 1997
Andaman–Nicobar belt	Subduction along the Sunda arc	Sumatra–Andaman 2004 (M 9.1, with tsunami)

Seismic zoning: the Bureau of Indian Standards (IS 1893) places the North-East, Kutch, parts of the Himalaya and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in **Zone V**. Delhi and the Himalayan foothills are in **Zone IV**.

Uttar Pradesh: its Terai and western districts bordering Uttarakhand and Nepal lie in Zone IV, and most of central UP is in Zone III. Dense population and weak buildings raise the risk.

Conclusion: strict use of building codes (the National Building Code, 2016), retrofitting of schools and hospitals, microzonation of cities and NDMA preparedness can stop earthquakes from becoming disasters.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 59% of land prone · Himalaya, NE, Kutch, Andaman most active · Bhuj 2001 (M 7.7) · Assam 1950 (M 8.6) · Koyna 1967 (reservoir-induced) · Latur 1993.

2022 · Folk songs of Purvanchal (repeat)

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Present details of folk songs in Purvanchal region and mention their features.

NOTE

Same question as "2022 · Folk songs of Purvanchal" in the Art & Culture section of this paper. See the model answer there.

2023 · Oceans as a storehouse of resources

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

"Oceans are the storehouse of resources." Write a short note.

Oceans cover about **71%** of the Earth's surface and hold about 97% of its water. Their biotic, mineral and energy resources are vital to the world economy. India's Exclusive Economic Zone alone covers about **2.02 million sq km**.

Resources of the ocean

1. **Biotic:** fish, prawns, seaweed and krill, a major source of protein. Marine organisms also yield medicines.
2. **Minerals:**
   - **Polymetallic nodules** (manganese, nickel, copper, cobalt): India has a 75,000 sq km area in the Central Indian Ocean Basin.
   - **Sulphides and cobalt crusts.**
   - **Placer sands:** ilmenite and monazite on the Kerala and Odisha coasts.
   - **Salt, magnesium and bromine** from seawater.
3. **Energy:** offshore oil and gas (Mumbai High, Krishna–Godavari basin), gas hydrates, tidal energy (Gulf of Khambhat), wave and ocean thermal energy, and offshore wind.
4. **Fresh water:** desalination, as at the Chennai plants.
5. **Services:** sea routes, carbon storage, climate regulation and tourism.

Initiatives: India's **Deep Ocean Mission** (2021); UNCLOS, the International Seabed Authority and the **BBNJ Agreement** (2023) on the high seas.

Conclusion: this wealth must be used sustainably, as **SDG 14** and India's blue economy require.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

71% area · EEZ 2.02 million sq km · CIOB 75,000 sq km · Deep Ocean Mission 2021 · BBNJ 2023 · SDG 14.

2023 · Importance of the soil profile in agriculture

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Soil profile plays an important role in agriculture. Do you agree?

A **soil profile** is a vertical section of soil from the surface down to the parent rock. Its layers (**horizons**) are: O (litter and humus), A (topsoil), B (subsoil, where clay, iron and lime collect), C (weathered parent material) and R (bedrock).

Yes, I agree, because the profile decides:

1. **Root depth:** the deep alluvial profiles of the Ganga plain suit wheat and sugarcane. Shallow hill soils limit the crops.
2. **Fertility:** humus and nutrients sit in the O and A horizons, which erosion strips away (Bundelkhand).
3. **Water:** a clay-rich B horizon holds water, which suits paddy and dryland cotton on black soil. Sandy profiles drain fast.
4. **Hardpans:** *kankar* (lime nodules) in UP's old alluvium (*bangar*) blocks roots and drainage. The new *khadar* is free of it.
5. **Salts:** a build-up of salt creates the **usar** (sodic) soils of Unnao and Rae Bareli, which need gypsum.
6. **Management:** soil testing (Soil Health Card, 2015), tillage and fertiliser doses all depend on the profile.

However: climate, irrigation and farm practice matter just as much.

Conclusion: knowing the soil profile is the first step towards soil-specific, sustainable farming.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Horizons O-A-B-C-R · khadar (new alluvium) vs bangar (old, with kankar) · usar = sodic soils, treated with gypsum.

2023 · Rohingya refugees in South Asia

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Throw light on Rohingya refugees in South Asia.

The **Rohingya** are a mainly Muslim minority from **Rakhine State, Myanmar**. Myanmar's **1982 Citizenship Law** left them stateless. The largest exodus came in **August 2017**, when more than 7 lakh people fled a military crackdown.

In South Asia

- **Bangladesh** hosts about a million Rohingya in the **Cox's Bazar** camps. Some have been moved to **Bhasan Char** island since 2020.
- **India:** the government estimated about 40,000 Rohingya in 2017. India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and treats them as illegal migrants under the Foreigners Act, 1946. In *Mohammad Salimullah* (2021), the Supreme Court allowed deportation by due procedure. India also sent relief to Bangladesh under *Operation Insaniyat* (2017).

Issues

- **Humanitarian:** crowded camps, fires, trafficking and risky boat journeys.
- **Security:** fears of radicalisation.
- **Regional:** the burden on Bangladesh; repatriation stalled after Myanmar's **2021 coup**.

- **Legal:** the Gambia's genocide case against Myanmar at the **International Court of Justice** (2019).

Conclusion: the lasting solution is safe, voluntary and dignified return, with citizenship in Myanmar, backed by ASEAN, India and the UN.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 1982 Citizenship Law · August 2017 exodus · Cox's Bazar, Bhasan Char · Operation Insaniyat · Salimullah case (2021) · ICJ (Gambia v. Myanmar).

2023 · Nine Degree Channel and its strategic importance

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **Write a short note on Nine Number Channel and its strategic importance.**

> **NOTE**
> The sheet says "Nine Number Channel" in both English and Hindi (*nau number channel*). No channel has that name, so this answer assumes the **Nine Degree Channel**.

The **Nine Degree Channel** is a sea passage along about **9° N latitude** in the Arabian Sea. It separates **Minicoy island** from the main **Lakshadweep** group. The **Eight Degree Channel** further south separates Minicoy from the Maldives.

Strategic importance

1. **Busy sea lane:** ships between the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and Suez on one side and East Asia on the other pass through or near it.
2. **Energy security:** much of the Gulf oil for India, China, Japan and Korea moves along this route.
3. **Indian control:** it lies within India's Exclusive Economic Zone. Lakshadweep is a natural watch-post, with **INS Dweeprakshak** at Kavaratti (2012) and, since 2024, **INS Jatayu** at Minicoy.
4. **Maritime security:** Somali piracy reached Lakshadweep waters around 2010–11, and Indian naval patrols pushed it back. Smuggling remains a threat.
5. **Geopolitics:** watching Chinese naval and research ships near the Maldives supports India's role as a **net security provider** under **SAGAR**.

Conclusion: better island infrastructure, surveillance and cooperation with partners will keep this vital lane secure.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 9° N · Minicoy ↔ Lakshadweep · 8° Channel: Minicoy ↔ Maldives · 10° Channel: Andaman ↔ Nicobar · INS Dweeprakshak, INS Jatayu.

2023 · El Niño, the south-west monsoon and agriculture

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the relationship between El Nino and southwest monsoon and its impact on agriculture.**

El Niño is the abnormal warming of the sea surface in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. It is the warm phase of the **El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** and recurs every 2–7 years. Its cold opposite is **La Niña**.

How El Niño weakens the monsoon

1. **Shift of the Walker circulation:** normally, air rises over the warm western Pacific and Indonesia. In an El Niño year, the rising limb moves east, and sinking air over the Indian Ocean and India suppresses convection.
2. **Weaker pressure gradient:** the contrast between land and sea is reduced, so the monsoon winds weaken. Onset may be late, and break periods longer.
3. **The record:** many of India's worst droughts were El Niño years, such as 2009 (78% of the Long Period Average) and 2015 (86%). In 2023, rainfall was 94% of the Long Period Average.

Not a fixed rule: a **positive Indian Ocean Dipole** can offset El Niño. In 1997, a strong El Niño year, the monsoon was normal. Eurasian snow cover and the Madden–Julian Oscillation also matter. La Niña usually brings good rain.

Impact on agriculture

- **Kharif crops:** rice, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and soybean suffer from late sowing and dry spells. About half of India's net sown area is rainfed.
- **Rabi crops:** low reservoir and groundwater levels hurt wheat and gram.
- **Prices and trade:** food inflation in pulses and vegetables follows. In July 2023, India banned exports of non-basmati white rice.
- **Rural distress:** lower incomes, fodder shortages, debt and migration.
- **Uttar Pradesh:** rainfed Bundelkhand and the paddy belt of eastern UP are the most exposed.

Way forward: better IMD forecasts, district contingency crop plans (ICAR–CRIDA), drought-tolerant varieties and millets, micro-irrigation (PMKSY), crop insurance (PMFBY) and buffer stocks.

Conclusion: in a warming world, climate-resilient agriculture is the best insurance against El Niño.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> El Niño → Walker cell shifts east → sinking air over India → weak monsoon · 2009 (78%), 2015 (86%), 2023 (94% of the LPA) · positive IOD offsets (1997).

2023 · Temperate cyclones and their impact on India

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Write a short note on temperate cyclones. How do they impact India?**

Temperate (extra-tropical) cyclones are low-pressure systems of the middle latitudes, between about **35° and 65°**. They form along the **polar front**, where warm tropical air meets cold polar air, as explained by the **Polar Front Theory** of V. and J. Bjerknes.

Features

- **Size:** oval or V-shaped isobars. They are much larger than tropical cyclones, but their winds are gentler.
- **Fronts:** a warm front brings layered cloud and steady rain. A cold front brings cumulonimbus, thunderstorms and a sharp drop in temperature.
- **Movement:** west to east with the westerlies, over land and sea, mostly in winter.
- **Life cycle:** wave → warm sector → occlusion → decay.

Impact on India: western disturbances Western disturbances are temperate cyclones that start over the **Mediterranean** region. The **sub-tropical westerly jet** carries them over Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to north-west India, mainly from December to March.

1. **Winter rain (*mahawat*):** rain over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western UP helps wheat, mustard and gram.
2. **Himalayan snow:** it feeds the glaciers and the summer flow of the Ganga and Yamuna, which serve UP.
3. **Cold waves and fog:** dense fog follows over the Indo-Gangetic plain and disrupts rail, road and air travel in UP.
4. **Hail and untimely rain:** in February–March they damage ripening wheat, potato and mustard.
5. **Interaction with the monsoon:** extreme rain, as at **Kedarnath in June 2013** and in **Himachal Pradesh in July 2023**.
6. **Pre-monsoon storms:** thunderstorms and dust storms over north India.
7. **Air quality:** rain washes out winter smog for a while.

Conclusion: western disturbances are a blessing for rabi crops and Himalayan water, but also a hazard. Better forecasts, crop advisories and insurance (PMFBY) for hail losses are needed, along with study of how climate change is altering them.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 35°–65° · warm and cold fronts · western disturbances from the Mediterranean via the westerly jet · *mahawat* · Kedarnath 2013, Himachal 2023.

2023 · India's mineral development policy

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Discuss India's mineral development policy.**

Minerals are the base of industry, energy and defence. The Centre regulates mines and minerals (Union List, Entry 54), while the States own most minerals and grant leases under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.

Evolution of policy

1. **1948–1990:** the state led, and the public sector dominated key minerals.
2. **National Mineral Policy, 1993:** opened mining to private and foreign investment.
3. **National Mineral Policy, 2008** (after the Hoda Committee): faster clearances, scientific mining and a sustainable development framework.
4. **MMDR Amendment, 2015:**
   - **auctions** for major minerals;
   - **District Mineral Foundations** for people affected by mining (under PMKKKY);
   - the **National Mineral Exploration Trust**.
5. **National Mineral Policy, 2019:** private exploration, transparent auctions, inter-generational equity and mineral security. **KABIL** (2019) was set up to secure mineral assets abroad.
6. **MMDR Amendment, 2021:** ended the captive–merchant distinction.
7. **2023 reforms:**
   - **30 critical minerals** were identified.
   - **Lithium** and five other minerals were freed from the atomic list.
   - The Centre now auctions critical minerals and grants **exploration licences**.

Issues

- Low exploration and import dependence for critical minerals.
- Illegal mining, such as sand mining in UP's Yamuna, Ken and Betwa.
- Tribal displacement and environmental damage.

Judicial safeguards: *Samatha* (1997) barred leasing tribal land in Scheduled Areas to private miners. *Niyamgiri* (2013) upheld the say of gram sabhas.

Uttar Pradesh: coal and limestone in Sonbhadra, granite in Bundelkhand, and river sand; the state now auctions sand and other minor-mineral leases online.

Conclusion: India needs more exploration and recycling of critical minerals, with respect for tribal rights and the environment, for *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> MMDR 1957 · NMP 1993, 2008, 2019 · 2015: auctions, DMF, NMET · 2023: 30 critical minerals, lithium opened · KABIL · Samatha 1997.

2024 · Uses of the oceans for humans

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **What is the use of oceans for humans?**

Oceans cover about 71% of the Earth and sustain life, trade and climate. For India, with its long coastline and large Exclusive Economic Zone, they are central to the **blue economy**.

Uses of the oceans

1. **Food:** fish and seafood are a major protein source and support millions of coastal livelihoods.
2. **Trade:** about 80% of world trade by volume goes by sea. For India, the figure is about 95%.
3. **Energy and minerals:** offshore oil and gas (Mumbai High); tidal, wave and wind energy; nodules, placer sands and salt.
4. **Climate regulation:** oceans absorb more than 90% of the extra heat from global warming and about a quarter of human CO_2 emissions.
5. **Rain:** the monsoon draws its moisture from the seas. In **Uttar Pradesh**, the Bay of Bengal branch waters the kharif crops.
6. **Oxygen and biodiversity:** plankton produce about half the Earth's oxygen, and reefs and mangroves protect coasts.
7. **Medicine, tourism and communication:** marine drugs; beaches and cruises; undersea internet cables.
8. **Security:** naval power and the sea lanes.

Conclusion: sustainable use under **SDG 14** and India's **Deep Ocean Mission** is vital for *Viksit Bharat*.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

80% of world trade by sea · India 95% by volume · oceans absorb > 90% of excess heat · monsoon from the Bay of Bengal → UP's kharif crops.

2024 · Interrelationship of climate, soil and vegetation

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Explain the interrelationship between climate, soil, and vegetation.

Climate, soil and vegetation form one connected system. Climate is the master factor: the Russian soil scientist **Dokuchaev** showed that soil zones follow climate and vegetation zones.

Interrelationships

1. **Climate → soil:** temperature and rainfall control weathering, leaching and humus. Heavy rain and heat give leached **laterite** (Western Ghats, North-East). Aridity gives sandy **desert soils** (Rajasthan).
2. **Climate → vegetation:** heavy rain supports evergreen forest, moderate rain deciduous forest, and scanty rain thorn and scrub.
3. **Vegetation → soil:** leaf litter adds humus, and roots bind soil against erosion. Grasslands give dark, fertile soils; conifers give acidic podzols.
4. **Soil → vegetation:** depth, drainage and salinity decide what grows, for example mangroves on saline delta soils (Sundarbans).
5. **Vegetation → climate:** forests add moisture by transpiration, cool the air and store carbon.

Feedback: deforestation causes erosion and a drier microclimate, which can lead to desertification.

UP examples:

- **Terai:** humid, with sal forests and fertile moist soils.
- **Ganga plain:** deep alluvium.
- **Bundelkhand:** semi-arid, with red and black soils and dry scrub.

Conclusion: afforestation and soil conservation must go together to keep this balance.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Dokuchaev: soils follow climate · laterite = heavy rain + heat · desert soil = aridity · humus from vegetation · deforestation → desertification.

2024 · Smart City: concept and characteristics

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

What is Smart City? Describe its main characteristics.

A **smart city** uses technology, data and citizen participation to deliver efficient services, a good quality of life and a sustainable environment. India's **Smart Cities Mission** was launched on **25 June 2015**. It selected **100 cities** (2016–2018), **10 of them in Uttar Pradesh**, including Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi and Prayagraj. It was later extended to March 2025.

Main characteristics (core elements in the Mission's guidelines)

1. **Basic services:** assured water and power, sanitation and solid-waste management.
2. **Mobility:** public transport, walkable streets and cycle tracks.
3. **Affordable housing** and mixed land use.
4. **Digital backbone:** IT connectivity and **Integrated Command and Control Centres** for traffic, safety and emergencies, as in Lucknow and Prayagraj.
5. **Good governance:** e-governance and citizen participation.
6. **Sustainable environment:** green spaces, renewable energy and efficient buildings.
7. **Safety, health and education,** especially for women, children and the elderly.
8. **Local identity:** for example, heritage development in Varanasi and Agra.

Method: area-based development (retrofitting, redevelopment, greenfield) plus pan-city solutions, run by a Special Purpose Vehicle.

Conclusion: smart cities must be inclusive and climate-resilient to meet **SDG 11**.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Launched 25 June 2015 · 100 cities · UP 10 (Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Aligarh, Jhansi, Moradabad, Bareilly, Saharanpur) · ICCC · SPV.

2024 · Seismic zones of India

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Write a note on seismic zones of India.

NOTE

Zones follow the Bureau of Indian Standards map in IS 1893 (Part 1), used since 2002. BIS reviews this map from time to time, and a revised map with a higher hazard category for the Himalaya has been reported. Check the edition in force before the exam.

Seismic zoning divides a country by the expected intensity of earthquake shaking. It guides building design. The Bureau of Indian Standards divides India into **four zones (II to V)**; the old Zone I was merged into Zone II in 2002.

Zone	Risk	Zone factor	Areas	Share of land
V	Very high	0.36	The North-East (except Sikkim), parts of J&K, Himachal and Uttarakhand, Rann of Kutch, north Bihar, Andaman and Nicobar	about 11%
IV	High	0.24	Rest of the Himalaya, Delhi, Sikkim, the Terai of UP and Bihar, parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra	about 18%
III	Moderate	0.16	Kerala, Goa, Lakshadweep, much of the Ganga plain and parts of the peninsula	about 30%
II	Low	0.10	The stable interior of the peninsula and parts of Rajasthan	about 41%

So about **59%** of India's land lies in Zones III to V.

Uttar Pradesh: its northern districts along Uttarakhand and Nepal are in Zone IV, Lucknow and most of central UP in Zone III, and parts of the south in Zone II.

Conclusion: the zones should guide building codes (the National Building Code, 2016), land-use planning, retrofitting and NDMA preparedness.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Four zones II–V · factors 0.10, 0.16, 0.24, 0.36 · V ≈ 11%, IV ≈ 18%, III ≈ 30%, II ≈ 41% · 59% prone.

2024 · Smart Village: concept and features

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **Throw light on the concept of Smart Village and its features.**

A **smart village** uses digital technology, clean energy, modern services and community participation. It aims to raise incomes and quality of life while it keeps its rural character. The idea draws on **Gandhi's Gram Swaraj** and **Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's PURA** (Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas). It matters because about 69% of Indians, and nearly 78% of Uttar Pradesh's people, live in villages (Census 2011).

Related programmes

- **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana** (2014).
- **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission** (2016).
- **SVAMITVA** (2020), which uses drones to give villagers property cards.
- Model villages such as **Punsari** in Gujarat.

Features of a smart village

1. **Digital connectivity:** broadband through **BharatNet**, Wi-Fi and Common Service Centres for e-services, banking, telemedicine (eSanjeevani) and e-learning.
2. **Smart agriculture:** soil health cards, weather and price advisories, e-NAM markets, drones (*Namo Drone Didi*), Farmer Producer Organisations and cold storage.
3. **Clean energy:** solar pumps (PM-KUSUM), solar street lights and biogas (*GOBARdhan*).
4. **Water and sanitation:** tap water for every home (*Jal Jeevan Mission*), ODF Plus status, waste management and *Amrit Sarovars*.
5. **Health and education:** health and wellness centres, and smart classrooms, as in UP's *Operation Kayakalp* for basic schools.
6. **Livelihoods:** women's self-help groups (DAY-NRLM, *Lakhpati Didi*), village industries, **ODOP** crafts and rural tourism.
7. **Infrastructure:** all-weather roads (PMGSY), housing (PMAY-G), LED lighting and CCTV for safety.
8. **Good governance:** active gram sabhas, e-Gram Swaraj, social audits and transparent land records.

Challenges

- The digital divide and low digital literacy.
- Weak finances and skills in panchayats.
- Poor upkeep of assets.
- Exclusion of the poorest.

Conclusion: smart villages, built with panchayats and communities, can cut migration to cities and bridge the rural–urban divide. They are essential for *Viksit Bharat @2047* and for UP's USD 1 trillion economy.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> PURA (Kalam) · SAGY 2014 · Rurban Mission 2016 · SVAMITVA 2020 · BharatNet · PM-KUSUM · Census 2011: India 68.8% rural, UP 77.7% rural.

2024 · Biodiversity of forests and water bodies for ecological balance

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **Explain why biodiversity conservation of forests and water bodies is essential for ecological balance.**

Biodiversity is the variety of genes, species and ecosystems. **Ecological balance** is the stable equilibrium among living beings and their environment. India is one of **17 megadiverse countries**, with about 7–8% of recorded species on 2.4% of the world's land and four global hotspots. Most of this diversity lives in forests and water bodies.

Why conserve forest biodiversity

1. **Climate:** forests store carbon. India's NDC aims at an extra sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent by 2030.
2. **Water and soil:** forests recharge aquifers and check erosion and floods. The Himalayan and Terai forests protect the Ganga plain.
3. **Food webs:** top predators keep herbivores in check. Protecting the **tiger**, an umbrella species, protects whole watersheds. UP has four tiger reserves: Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Amangarh and Ranipur.
4. **Services:** pollination, medicinal plants, crop genes and forest livelihoods.

Why conserve water-body biodiversity

1. **"Kidneys of the landscape":** wetlands filter pollutants, recharge groundwater and absorb floods.
2. **Habitats:** for fish and migratory birds, as in UP's Ramsar wetlands such as Nawabganj, Sandi and Bakhira.
3. **Indicators:** the **Gangetic dolphin** (the National Aquatic Animal) and the Chambal's gharial show river health.
4. **Carbon and food:** mangroves store "blue carbon", and fisheries feed millions.

Linkage: forests feed rivers with clean water, and mangroves join land and sea. The loss of one degrades the other.

Threats: deforestation, encroachment, pollution, invasive species (water hyacinth, *Lantana*), sand mining and climate change.

Measures

- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, both recently amended.
- The Wetlands Rules, 2017.
- *Namami Gange*, the Green India Mission and *Amrit Dharohar*.
- UP's plantation drives.
- The **Kunming–Montreal "30 by 30"** target.

Conclusion: conserving forests and water bodies underpins food, water and climate security, and **SDGs 14 and 15**.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

17 megadiverse countries · 4 hotspots · UP tiger reserves: Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Amangarh, Ranipur · Gangetic dolphin = National Aquatic Animal · "30 by 30".

2024 · Tsunami: characteristics, causes and effects

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Discuss the characteristics, causes, and effects of Tsunami with examples.

A **tsunami** (Japanese for "harbour wave") is a series of very long sea waves caused by the sudden displacement of a large volume of water. Most occur in the Pacific, around the **Ring of Fire**.

Characteristics

1. **Very long wavelength** (hundreds of km) and long period, unlike wind waves.
2. **Fast and low in deep water:** they travel at 500–800 km/h, yet stand under a metre high, so ships do not notice them.
3. **Shoaling:** near the coast they slow down and pile up into walls of water many metres high.
4. **Wave train:** the first wave is often not the largest, and the sea often **draws back** first.
5. **Long reach:** they cross whole ocean basins with little loss of energy.

Causes

1. **Undersea earthquakes** at subduction zones that lift or drop the sea floor. This is the commonest cause (Sumatra 2004, Japan 2011).
2. **Submarine landslides**, as at Lituya Bay, Alaska (1958).
3. **Volcanic eruptions and collapse**, as at Krakatoa (1883), Anak Krakatau (2018) and Hunga Tonga (2022).
4. **Meteorite impacts** (rare).

Effects (with examples)

- **Loss of life:** the **26 December 2004** Indian Ocean tsunami (Mw 9.1) killed about 2.3 lakh people in 14 countries. In India, more than 10,000 died, mainly in Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Infrastructure:** the **2011 Tōhoku tsunami** left about 18,000 dead or missing and caused the Fukushima nuclear disaster.
- **Environment:** salt water poisons farmland and aquifers and damages reefs, mangroves and coastlines.
- **Economy:** fishing, ports and tourism collapse.
- **Lesson:** the Pichavaram mangroves (Tamil Nadu) reduced the damage in 2004.

India's preparedness: the **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre** (INCOIS, Hyderabad, 2007), NDMA guidelines, coastal bio-shields and Odisha's **UNESCO** "**Tsunami Ready**" villages.

Conclusion: early warning, coastal zoning, mangrove belts and community drills are the best defence.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Speed 500–800 km/h in deep water · drawback warning · 2004 (Mw 9.1, about 2.3 lakh dead) · 2011 Japan (Fukushima) · ITEWC, INCOIS 2007 · World Tsunami Awareness Day: 5 November.

UPPCS Mains · General Studies Paper 2

Polity & Governance · Social Justice · International Relations · 2018–2024 · 134 questions

Polity

2018 · Indian and US federalism compared

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

In what ways does the Indian federal system differ from the U.S. federal system? Explain.

The USA is a classic "**coming-together**" federation: thirteen former colonies united by agreement under the Constitution of 1787. India is a "**holding-together**" federation. Article 1 calls India a "Union of States" because, as Dr Ambedkar explained, it is not the result of an agreement among states, and no state can secede.

Basis	India	USA
Nature of union	Indestructible Union of destructible states; Parliament can redraw boundaries (Art. 3)	Indestructible Union of indestructible states (*Texas v. White*, 1869)
Constitution	One for the Union and the states	Federal constitution plus one for each state
Citizenship	Single	Dual (federal and state)
Residuary powers	Union (Art. 248)	States (10th Amendment)
Upper House	Rajya Sabha seats by population	Two Senators per state
Judiciary	Single, integrated	Dual: federal and state courts
Unitary devices	Emergency powers, Centre-appointed Governor, All India Services	None comparable; Governors are elected
Amendment	Mostly by Parliament; federal provisions need half the states	Ratification by three-fourths of the states

Conclusion: K.C. Wheare called India "quasi-federal", yet the Supreme Court has held federalism to be part of the basic structure (*S.R. Bommai*, 1994). India trades symmetry for unity and flexibility.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Holding-together vs coming-together · Art. 1 "Union of States" · Art. 3 · Art. 248 · *Texas v. White* (1869) · *S.R. Bommai* (1994).

2018 · Special powers of the Rajya Sabha

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks · listed twice in the 2018 sheet

Describe those special powers of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) which are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha. ***(2018, second listing: Describe the special powers of Rajya Sabha under the Constitution.)***

The Rajya Sabha is weaker than the Lok Sabha on money bills (Art. 109) and ministerial responsibility (Art. 75(3)), but as the **Council of States** it has powers the Lok Sabha lacks.

Exclusive powers

1. **Law on a State List subject (Art. 249):** by a resolution of **two-thirds of members present and voting**, it can let Parliament legislate on a State List matter in the national interest, for one year at a time.
2. **New All India Services (Art. 312):** by a similar resolution, it can authorise Parliament to create new All India Services.
3. **Removal of the Vice-President (Art. 67(b)):** the resolution can start only in the Rajya Sabha, where it needs a majority of all members, and then needs the Lok Sabha's agreement.
4. **Emergency when the Lok Sabha is dissolved:** a proclamation under Art. 352, 356 or 360 stays in force with the Rajya Sabha's approval until the new Lok Sabha approves it within 30 days of its first sitting.
5. **Permanence (Art. 83(1)):** never dissolved; one-third of members retire every two years.

Conclusion: these powers make it a guardian of the states' interests and a check on hasty action.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Art. 249 · Art. 312 · Art. 67(b) · Emergency approval while the Lok Sabha is dissolved · Art. 83(1).

2018 · Electoral bonds and transparency

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

What are Electoral Bonds? Are they capable of bringing transparency in political funding?

Electoral bonds were interest-free bearer instruments introduced through the Finance Act, 2017 and notified in **January 2018**. Citizens and Indian companies could buy them from authorised **SBI** branches (₹1,000 to ₹1 crore) and give them to a registered party that had won at least **1% of the votes** in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly election. Bonds were valid for 15 days, and donors stayed anonymous.

Arguments that they bring transparency

- Donations move through **banking channels** with KYC instead of cash (anonymous cash gifts were capped at ₹2,000).
- Donors are protected from victimisation.

Arguments against

- **Anonymity for voters:** citizens cannot know who funds whom, while the state-owned bank holds the data.
- The **7.5% cap on corporate donations** was removed, so even loss-making firms could give unlimited sums, raising fears of quid pro quo.
- The ECI and the RBI had objected.

Later development: in *ADR v. Union of India* (**15 February 2024**), a five-judge bench struck the scheme down for violating voters' **right to information** (Art. 19(1)(a)).

Conclusion: real transparency needs full disclosure, a cap on party spending and partial **state funding** (Indrajit Gupta Committee, 1998).

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Notified January 2018 · SBI only · 15-day validity · 1% vote rule · struck down 15 February 2024 (ADR case, Art. 19(1)(a)).

2018 · Constitutional position of the CAG

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
> **Examine the Constitutional position of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.**

The **Comptroller and Auditor General** (Arts. 148–151) heads the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. Dr Ambedkar called the CAG probably the most important officer under the Constitution.

Safeguards of independence

- **Tenure:** appointed by the President; holds office for 6 years or until 65 (DPC Act, 1971).
- **Removal:** only like a Supreme Court judge, by an address of both Houses passed by special majority (Art. 148(1)).
- **Service conditions:** salary is fixed by Parliament, cannot be cut after appointment and, with the office's expenses, is **charged on the Consolidated Fund of India**.
- **No further office** under the Union or a state after retirement (Art. 148(4)).

Functions

- Audits the accounts of the Union, the states and UTs with legislatures (Art. 149).
- Advises on the form of accounts (Art. 150).
- Reports to the President or Governor for laying before the legislature (Art. 151); the **Public Accounts Committee** examines the reports.

Limits: unlike the British Comptroller, the CAG has no control over the release of funds; audit comes after spending, and action depends on the PAC and the government.

Conclusion: the CAG is an independent constitutional authority and a pillar of financial accountability.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Arts. 148–151 · 6 years or 65 · removal like an SC judge · charged expenditure · DPC Act 1971 · reports examined by the PAC.

2018 · Right to Equality (Articles 14–18)

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
> **Examine Right to Equality as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution of India.**

Articles 14 to 18 of Part III guarantee the **Right to Equality**. They give effect to the Preamble's promise of "equality of status and of opportunity".

Provisions

1. **Art. 14:** "equality before law" (a British, negative idea) and "equal protection of the laws" (an American, positive idea), for all persons. The State may classify, but only on an intelligible differentia with a rational link to the law's object (*State of West Bengal v. Anwar Ali Sarkar*, 1952). Since *E.P. Royappa* (1974), arbitrariness itself violates equality.
2. **Art. 15:** no discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Special provisions are allowed for:
   - women and children (15(3));
   - SC, ST and backward classes (15(4), First Amendment, 1951);
   - admissions, including in private institutions (15(5), 93rd Amendment, 2005);
   - economically weaker sections (15(6), 103rd Amendment, 2019).
3. **Art. 16:** equality of opportunity in public employment, with reservation for backward classes (16(4)), for SC/ST in promotion (16(4A)), carry-forward of vacancies (16(4B)) and EWS (16(6)).
4. **Art. 17:** abolishes untouchability, enforced through the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
5. **Art. 18:** abolishes titles; national awards such as the Bharat Ratna are not titles (*Balaji Raghavan*, 1996).

Judicial expansion

- *Indra Sawhney* (1992) set the 50% ceiling and the creamy-layer rule.
- *Janhit Abhiyan* (2022) upheld the EWS quota.
- *Shayara Bano* (2017) struck down instant triple talaq as manifestly arbitrary, and *Navtej Singh Johar* (2018) decriminalised consensual same-sex relations.

Exceptions: immunity of the President and Governors (Art. 361), legislative privileges and diplomatic immunity.

Gaps: caste atrocities, manual scavenging and gender gaps persist. Uttar Pradesh, with the largest SC population of any state (Census 2011), shows that legal equality must be backed by education and jobs.

Conclusion: India has moved from formal to **substantive equality**. Making it real is central to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Reasonable classification (Anwar Ali Sarkar, 1952) · arbitrariness (E.P. Royappa, 1974) · Indra Sawhney (1992) · EWS upheld (Janhit Abhiyan, 2022) · Art. 17 + PCR Act 1955.

2018 · Abrogation of Article 370

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
> **Discuss how the abrogation of Article 370 has changed the status quo and its impact on the region's development.**

Article 370 gave Jammu and Kashmir a special status: its own constitution and flag, and central laws applied only with the state's concurrence. On **5 August 2019** a Presidential Order applied the whole Constitution to J&K, and on 6 August a declaration under Art. 370(3) made the article inoperative. The **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** split the state into two Union Territories from 31 October 2019: J&K with a legislature and Ladakh without one.

How the status quo changed

1. **Constitutional:** the separate constitution, flag and **Article 35A** ended. Central laws such as RTI, the Right to Education Act, SC/ST and EWS reservation and the Forest Rights Act now apply.
2. **Political:** the state became a Union Territory under a Lieutenant Governor. Delimitation (2022) fixed 90 Assembly seats, and Assembly elections were held in 2024, the first in ten years.
3. **Rights of residents:** non-permanent residents can now buy land and get jobs under the new domicile rules. Women who marry outsiders, West Pakistan refugees and Valmikis gained equal rights.
4. **Legal finality:** in *In Re: Article 370* (11 December 2023), a five-judge bench upheld the abrogation, called Art. 370 a temporary provision and asked for statehood to be restored at the earliest.

Impact on development

- **Grassroots democracy:** the first District Development Council elections (2020), with the 73rd Amendment fully applied.
- **Investment:** a New Central Sector Scheme for industrial development (2021) and a new industrial land policy.
- **Infrastructure and tourism:** the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla rail link with the **Chenab bridge**, record tourist arrivals and the G20 tourism meeting in Srinagar (2023).
- **Security:** stone-pelting and shutdowns have fallen sharply.

Concerns: long internet curbs (*Anuradha Bhasin*, 2020, protected internet use under Art. 19), detention of leaders, loss of statehood, targeted killings and Ladakh's demand for Sixth Schedule safeguards.

Conclusion: the abrogation completed constitutional integration; lasting peace needs restored statehood, jobs for the young and the people's trust.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 5–6 August 2019 · J&K Reorganisation Act (UTs from 31 October 2019) · Art. 35A ended · In Re: Article 370 (11 December 2023) · Assembly polls 2024.

2018 · Evaluating VVPAT

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
> **Evaluate the use of VVPAT in the General Election of India.**

The **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** is a printer attached to the EVM. It prints a slip with the serial number, name and symbol of the chosen candidate, visible for **seven seconds** before it drops into a sealed box.

Evolution

- First used at **Noksen** (Nagaland) in September 2013. A month later the Supreme Court held a paper trail indispensable for free and fair polls (*Subramanian Swamy v. ECI*, 2013).
- Used at **every polling station in the 2019 Lok Sabha election**.
- Slip counts were raised to **five random polling stations per Assembly segment** (*N. Chandrababu Naidu*, 2019).

Merits: the voter can confirm the vote; it gives an independent audit, builds trust in EVMs and helps settle tampering disputes.

Limits: malfunctions in heat, extra cost, slower counting, a sample critics find small, and low voter awareness.

Later development: in *ADR v. ECI* (April 2024) the Court refused a return to paper ballots or a full slip count, but let candidates placed second or third seek a check of 5% of EVMs per Assembly segment.

Conclusion: VVPAT has made EVM voting verifiable. Statistically sound audits and voter education can make it fully trusted.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Noksen 2013 · Subramanian Swamy (2013) · 100% VVPAT in 2019 · 5 booths per segment (2019) · ADR v. ECI (2024).

2019, 2023 · Preamble as the philosophy of the Constitution

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks · also asked in 2023 (8 marks)
> **The philosophy of Indian democracy is embodied in the Preamble. Explain.** ***(2023: Why is the Preamble called the philosophy of the Indian Constitution?)***

The Preamble is based on the **Objectives Resolution** moved by Jawaharlal Nehru on 13 December 1946. N.A. Palkhivala called it the "identity card" of the Constitution.

The philosophy it contains

1. **Source of authority:** "We, the people of India": sovereignty rests with the people.
2. **Nature of the State:** Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic ("Socialist" and "Secular" added by the 42nd Amendment, 1976).
3. **Objectives:**
   - **Justice:** social, economic and political;
   - **Liberty** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
   - **Equality** of status and of opportunity;
   - **Fraternity**, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.
4. **Date of adoption:** 26 November 1949.

Why it is the philosophy of Indian democracy

- It aims at **social and economic democracy**, not only political democracy; Dr Ambedkar saw liberty, equality and fraternity as an inseparable trinity.
- Its ideals run through the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles, and courts use it to interpret the Constitution. *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973) held it part of the Constitution, departing from *Berubari* (1960).

Conclusion: the Preamble is the compass of the Constitution. In November 2024 the Supreme Court dismissed challenges to the words "socialist" and "secular".

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Objectives Resolution (13 December 1946) · "identity card" (Palkhivala) · 42nd Amendment added socialist, secular, integrity · Berubari (1960) vs Kesavananda (1973).

2019 · Representation of the People Acts

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
> **Critically examine the main elements of the Representation of People's Act.**

The **Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950** and the **RPA, 1951** were made under Art. 327 and form the legal base of India's elections.

Main elements

- **RPA 1950:** allocation of seats, delimitation, qualifications of voters and preparation of electoral rolls.
- **RPA 1951:** conduct of elections, including:
  - **disqualifications** (Sec. 8: a sentence of two years or more disqualifies from the date of conviction until six years after release);
  - registration of parties (Sec. 29A) and reports of donations (Sec. 29C);
  - **corrupt practices** such as bribery and appeals to religion or caste (Sec. 123);
  - election petitions in the High Court;
  - a limit of two seats per candidate (Sec. 33(7)) and by-elections within six months (Sec. 151A).

Strengths: courts have added disclosure of assets and criminal cases (*ADR*, 2002), NOTA (*PUCL*, 2013) and the end of protection for convicted sitting members (*Lily Thomas*, 2013).

Weaknesses

- The ECI cannot **deregister** parties.
- There is no limit on **party** spending.
- Election petitions drag on for years.
- Over 40% of MPs elected in 2019 declared criminal cases.
- Rules for social media are unclear.

Conclusion: the Law Commission's 255th Report (2015) offers a road map for a modern RPA.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> RPA 1950 = rolls and seats; RPA 1951 = conduct of elections · Sec. 8, 29A, 123 · Lily Thomas (2013) · PUCL NOTA (2013).

2019 · Creating and abolishing Legislative Councils

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
> **Describe the procedure of creation and abolition of Legislative Councils in States.**

Under **Article 169**, Parliament may by law **create or abolish** a state's Legislative Council.

Procedure

1. The **Legislative Assembly** passes a resolution by a **special majority**: a majority of its total membership and at least two-thirds of members present and voting.
2. **Parliament** then passes a law by a **simple majority**; it is not deemed an amendment of the Constitution under Art. 368.
3. Parliament is not bound to act; bills for Councils in Rajasthan and Assam have long been pending.

Composition (Art. 171): at most one-third of the Assembly's strength and at least 40 members: one-third elected by local bodies, one-third by MLAs, one-twelfth each by graduates and teachers, and one-sixth nominated by the Governor.

Practice: six states have Councils: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Andhra Pradesh abolished its Council in 1985 and revived it in 2007. **UP's Council** has been an upper house since 1937 and has 100 members.

Assessment: Councils allow revision and expert voices but are called costly and dilatory, and their fate hangs on the ruling party's majority.

Conclusion: a uniform national policy on second chambers would end such ad hoc decisions.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 169 (special majority in the Assembly + simple majority in Parliament) · Art. 171 (one-third cap, minimum 40) · six states · UP Council: 100 members.

2019 · Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
> **Describe the main provisions of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019.**

The **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019** amended the Citizenship Act, 1955; its rules were notified on 11 March 2024.

Main provisions

1. **Who benefits:** Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan** who entered India **on or before 31 December 2014** are not treated as "illegal migrants".
2. **Faster naturalisation:** their residence requirement is cut from 11 years to **5 years**.
3. **Pending cases:** proceedings against them for illegal entry or citizenship abate once citizenship is granted.
4. **Exemptions:** tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura under the **Sixth Schedule**, and areas under the **Inner Line Permit** system.
5. **OCI cardholders:** registration may be cancelled for violating any law notified by the Centre, after a hearing.

Rationale: relief for minorities persecuted on religious grounds in three neighbouring countries.

Criticism

- Religion becomes a test for citizenship, which may offend **Art. 14** and secularism.

- Muslims, including sects such as Ahmadiyyas, and refugees such as Sri Lankan Tamils are left out.
- Assam fears it dilutes the **Assam Accord** (1985) cut-off of 24 March 1971.

Conclusion: the Act serves a humanitarian aim; a transparent refugee law would combine compassion with constitutional equality.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Six communities · three countries · cut-off 31 December 2014 · 11 → 5 years · Sixth Schedule and ILP areas exempt · rules March 2024.

2019, 2022 · Basic Structure Doctrine

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks · also asked in 2022 (12 marks)
> **What do you understand by the Doctrine of Basic Structure?** ***(2022: Discuss the evolution and impact of the Basic Structure Doctrine.)***

The **Basic Structure Doctrine** holds that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under **Article 368** is wide but not unlimited: it cannot destroy the Constitution's essential features. It is a judicial creation, first laid down in *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973).

Evolution

1. ***Shankari Prasad* (1951) and *Sajjan Singh* (1965):** Parliament could amend any part, including Fundamental Rights.
2. ***Golaknath* (1967):** an 11-judge bench held that Parliament could not abridge Fundamental Rights.
3. **24th Amendment (1971):** reasserted Parliament's power to amend any part.
4. ***Kesavananda Bharati* (24 April 1973):** a 13-judge bench (7:6) upheld the 24th Amendment but held that the **basic structure** cannot be altered.
5. ***Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain* (1975):** struck down a clause of the 39th Amendment; free and fair elections are a basic feature.
6. ***Minerva Mills* (1980):** struck down Art. 368(4) and (5), added by the 42nd Amendment. Limited amending power and the balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are basic features.
7. **Later cases:**
   - *Waman Rao* (1981): the doctrine applies to amendments made after 24 April 1973.
   - *S.R. Bommai* (1994): federalism and secularism.
   - *I.R. Coelho* (2007): Ninth Schedule laws added after that date are open to review.
   - *NJAC case* (2015): judicial independence.

Features recognised: supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law, judicial review, separation of powers, federalism, secularism, parliamentary democracy and free and fair elections.

Impact

- **Positive:** a shield against majoritarian excess, as during the Emergency, which preserves the Constitution's identity. Bangladesh and other countries have borrowed it.
- **Criticism:** the list is open-ended and uncertain. Critics call it supremacy of unelected judges, and the NJAC verdict revived the debate.

Conclusion: on balance, the doctrine is the Constitution's safety valve: Parliament can reform the Constitution but cannot replace its soul.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Golaknath (1967) → 24th Amendment (1971) → Kesavananda (24 April 1973, 7:6, 13 judges) → Raj Narain (1975) → Minerva Mills (1980) → Waman Rao (1981) → I.R. Coelho (2007).

2019, 2023 · Role and powers of the Prime Minister

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks · also asked in 2023 (12 marks)
> **Discuss the emerging role of the Prime Minister in India.** ***(2023: Critically examine the increasing powers and role of the Prime Minister.)***

The Prime Minister heads the **Council of Ministers** that aids and advises the President (Art. 74), is appointed under Art. 75 and is the link between the President and the Cabinet (Art. 78). In theory *primus inter pares*, the PM is the real head of government; Dr Ambedkar compared the PM, not the President, with the US President.

Constitutional and conventional powers

- Forms and reshapes the ministry; the PM's resignation or death dissolves it.
- Advises the President on key appointments and on dissolving the Lok Sabha.
- Leads the Lok Sabha and the ruling party.
- Chairs **NITI Aayog**, the Inter-State Council, the NDMA and the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Why the role has grown

1. **Single-party majorities** in 2014 and 2019, after the coalition era (1989–2014), centralised authority.
2. The **PMO** became the hub of policy, with project reviews through **PRAGATI** (2015).
3. **Personalised campaigns** and social media turn elections into a vote on the leader.
4. **Summit diplomacy**, for example India's G20 presidency (2023).
5. **Crisis leadership**, for example COVID-19 management under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Critical examination

- **Merits:** quick decisions, coherent policy, faster delivery and a clear centre of accountability.
- **Concerns:**
  - **collective responsibility** (Art. 75(3)) is diluted, and the Cabinet risks becoming a rubber stamp;
  - fewer bills go to parliamentary committees;
  - centralisation can strain federalism and the civil service.
- **Context matters:** coalition-era PMs were weaker, and the return of coalition government in 2024 (the BJP won 240 seats) may again restrain the office.

Conclusion: a strong PM is an asset when power works through the Cabinet and stays answerable to Parliament, together with genuine cooperative federalism.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Arts. 74, 75, 78 · 91st Amendment caps the ministry at 15% of the Lok Sabha · PRAGATI (2015) · PM chairs NITI Aayog, ISC, NDMA, ACC.

2019 · Right to Life under Article 21

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks

Examine the Right to Life in the Constitution of India.

Article 21 says no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. It protects citizens and foreigners alike and, after the **44th Amendment (1978)**, cannot be suspended even during an Emergency (along with Art. 20).

From a narrow to a wide meaning

- ***A.K. Gopalan* (1950):** any procedure enacted by law was enough.
- ***Maneka Gandhi* (1978):** the procedure must be "just, fair and reasonable", linking Arts. 14, 19 and 21 (the "golden triangle"). In effect, due process entered India.
- ***Francis Coralie Mullin* (1981):** life means a life with **human dignity**, not mere animal existence.

Rights read into Article 21

Right	Case
Livelihood	*Olga Tellis* (1985)
Clean environment	*Subhash Kumar* (1991); *M.C. Mehta* (Taj Trapezium, 1996)
Speedy trial, free legal aid	*Hussainara Khatoon* (1979); *M.H. Hoskot* (1978)
Emergency medical care	*Parmanand Katara* (1989)
Shelter	*Chameli Singh v. State of UP* (1996)
Protection from custodial violence	*D.K. Basu* (1997)
Education (now Art. 21A)	*Unnikrishnan* (1993); 86th Amendment (2002)
Privacy	*K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017)
Dying with dignity	*Common Cause* (2018)

Examination

- **Strengths:** Article 21 has become the most dynamic right and, through PIL, gives a voice to the poor. The Taj Trapezium orders protected the Taj Mahal at Agra from industrial pollution.
- **Gaps:** custodial deaths, crowded jails where most prisoners are undertrials, toxic air and weak public health show poor enforcement. Critics also warn that a very wide reading creates rights the State cannot fund.

Conclusion: Article 21 is the heart of the Fundamental Rights. Police reform, health spending and environmental governance must give it real content.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Gopalan (1950) → Maneka Gandhi (1978) → Francis Coralie Mullin (1981) · Puttaswamy (2017, 9 judges) · non-suspendable after the 44th Amendment.

2019, 2021 · Parliamentary control over the Executive

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks · also asked in 2021 (12 marks)

Identify the main methods by which Parliament controls the Executive. ***(2021: Discuss the main methods by which Parliament controls the Executive.)***

In India's parliamentary system, the Council of Ministers is **collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha (Art. 75(3))** and stays in office only while it keeps the House's confidence. Parliament enforces this accountability in several ways.

Main methods

1. **Question Hour:** the first hour of a sitting. Starred questions get oral answers with supplementaries; unstarred ones get written answers; short-notice questions deal with urgent matters.
2. **Zero Hour:** an informal Indian practice for raising urgent issues without notice.
3. **Motions and debates:** calling-attention motions, adjournment motions (Lok Sabha only, backed by 50 members), short-duration discussions and the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.
4. **No-confidence and censure motions:** a no-confidence motion needs 50 members' support and, if passed, removes the government.
5. **Financial control:** no tax or spending without Parliament's approval (Arts. 265, 266 and 112–117). Demands for grants are voted, and **cut motions** (policy, economy and token cuts) allow criticism.
6. **Committees:**
   - the **PAC** examines CAG reports;
   - the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings scrutinise spending;
   - 24 **Departmentally Related Standing Committees** (since 1993) examine bills and budgets;
   - the committees on Government Assurances and Subordinate Legislation watch ministers' promises and delegated rules.
7. **Other checks:** approval of ordinances within six weeks of reassembly (Art. 123) and of Emergency proclamations.

Limits in practice

- Fewer sittings and frequent disruptions that waste Question Hour.
- Most demands for grants pass by the "guillotine" without debate.
- Fewer bills are sent to committees.
- The anti-defection law and party whips keep MPs to the party line.

Way forward: more sittings (the NCRWC, 2002, suggested 120 days a year for the Lok Sabha), compulsory committee scrutiny of bills and a weekly PM's Question Time.

Conclusion: orderly, informed debate keeps the Executive answerable, the essence of responsible government. The UP Legislature uses the same devices to hold the state government to account.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 75(3) · Question Hour, Zero Hour · adjournment and no-confidence motions need 50 members · cut motions · PAC, Estimates, COPU, 24 DRSCs.

2020 · Judicial activism and executive–judiciary relations

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
> **Explain the concept of Judicial Activism and its impact on Executive–Judiciary relations.**

Judicial activism is the proactive use of judicial power to protect rights and fill gaps left by the other organs. Arthur Schlesinger Jr. coined the term in 1947. In India it grew after the Emergency through Justices **P.N. Bhagwati** and **V.R. Krishna Iyer**.

Tools: Public Interest Litigation with relaxed *locus standi*, letter petitions, "continuing mandamus" (*Vineet Narain*, 1997), guidelines where the law is silent (*Vishaka*, 1997) and Art. 142 to do "complete justice".

Impact on executive–judiciary relations

- **Greater accountability:** the Court cancelled the 2G licences (2012) and coal block allocations (2014), monitored investigations and ordered police reforms (*Prakash Singh*, 2006).
- **Filling gaps:** environmental protection (*M.C. Mehta* cases) and the right to food.
- **Friction:**
  - the executive sees intrusion into policy, for example the ban on liquor sales near highways (2016);
  - striking down the **NJAC** (2015) deepened tension over judicial appointments;
  - many directions, such as those on police reform, remain unimplemented.

Conclusion: the Supreme Court itself warned against overreach (*Aravali Golf Club*, 2008). A balance of activism and restraint, within the separation of powers, keeps the relationship healthy.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Schlesinger (1947) · Bhagwati and Krishna Iyer · Vineet Narain (1997) · Vishaka (1997) · NJAC struck down (2015) · Aravali Golf Club (2008).

2020 · Why the President cannot become a dictator

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
> **"The President of India cannot become a dictator." Explain.**

Dr Ambedkar likened the President to the English King: head of the State, not of the Executive. Several safeguards rule out dictatorship.

1. **Bound by advice (Art. 74(1)):** the 42nd Amendment (1976) made ministerial advice binding; the 44th (1978) allows it to be returned only once for reconsideration.
2. **Accountability:** indirect election (Art. 54) and **impeachment** for "violation of the Constitution" by two-thirds of the total membership of each House (Art. 61).
3. **Emergency safeguards (44th Amendment and courts):**
   - a national Emergency needs the Cabinet's **written** advice and each House's approval within one month by special majority;
   - "armed rebellion" replaced "internal disturbance", and Arts. 20 and 21 cannot be suspended;
   - Art. 356 is open to judicial review (*S.R. Bommai*, 1994).
4. **Ordinances (Art. 123):** issued on advice, they lapse six weeks after Parliament reassembles and are open to judicial review.
5. **Money and force:** no spending without Parliament (Arts. 112–114), and command of the armed forces is regulated by law (Art. 53(2)).
6. **Wider checks:** independent courts, a free press, federalism and periodic elections.

Conclusion: the President is the guardian of the Constitution, not its master; real power rests with a Cabinet answerable to Parliament.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 74(1) (42nd and 44th Amendments) · Art. 61 impeachment · 44th Amendment Emergency safeguards · S.R. Bommai (1994).

2020 · Inter-State Council and cooperative federalism

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
> **Critically analyse the role of the Inter-State Council in promoting cooperative federalism.**

Article 263 allows the President to set up an Inter-State Council (ISC). It was created in **1990** on the **Sarkaria Commission's** recommendation (1988).

Composition: the Prime Minister (Chairman); Chief Ministers of all states and of UTs with legislatures; Administrators of other UTs; Governors of states under President's Rule; and six Union Cabinet Ministers, including the Home Minister. A Standing Committee under the Home Minister and a permanent secretariat support it.

Role in cooperative federalism

- A constitutional forum to **discuss subjects of common interest** and recommend better coordination of policy.
- It examined the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations on Centre–state relations and later took up the **Punchhi Commission** report (2010).
- It builds trust through dialogue rather than litigation.

Limitations

- **Recommendatory only:** its advice is not binding.
- **Rarely convened:** by 2020 it had met only eleven times, the last in 2016 after a ten-year gap.
- **Unused power:** it has not been given the dispute-inquiry function of Art. 263(a).
- **Overshadowed:** NITI Aayog's Governing Council and the **GST Council** (Art. 279A) now carry most Centre–state dialogue.

Conclusion: the ISC should become a permanent body with a fixed calendar of meetings. The GST Council shows that institutionalised cooperation works.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Art. 263 · set up 1990 (Sarkaria) · PM chairs · 11 meetings, last in 2016 · advisory only.

2020 · Article 32 as the soul of the Constitution

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Article 32 is the soul of the Constitution. Explain.

Article 32 gives every person the right to move the **Supreme Court** directly to enforce Fundamental Rights. Dr Ambedkar called it "the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it".

Why it is the soul

1. **A right to a remedy:** Art. 32 is itself a Fundamental Right; without it, the other rights would be a nullity.
2. **Writs:** habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto (Art. 32(2)).
3. **Guardian court:** judicial review under Arts. 32 and 226 is part of the **basic structure** (*L. Chandra Kumar*, 1997).
4. **Access for the weak:** PIL relaxed *locus standi* (*S.P. Gupta*, 1981) and allowed letter petitions; the Court can award compensation (*Rudul Sah*, 1983).
5. **Protected status:** it can be suspended only as the Constitution provides (Art. 32(4)), under Art. 359 during an Emergency.

Lessons: in *ADM Jabalpur* (1976) remedies were suspended during the Emergency. The **44th Amendment** then made Arts. 20 and 21 non-suspendable, and *Puttaswamy* (2017) overruled that judgment. To limit its backlog, the Court often sends petitioners to the High Courts under Art. 226.

Conclusion: Art. 32 turns rights from promises into guarantees and makes the Supreme Court the "sentinel on the qui vive".

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Five writs · L. Chandra Kumar (1997) · S.P. Gupta (1981) · Rudul Sah (1983) · ADM Jabalpur (1976) overruled in Puttaswamy (2017).

2020 · Limits of Public Interest Litigation

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks

Every matter of public interest cannot be a matter of Public Interest Litigation. Evaluate.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) lets any public-spirited person approach a High Court (Art. 226) or the Supreme Court (Art. 32) for those who cannot do so themselves. It began with cases such as *Hussainara Khatoon* (1979), and *S.P. Gupta* (1981) relaxed the rule of *locus standi*.

Achievements: release of undertrials, freedom for bonded labourers (*Bandhua Mukti Morcha*, 1984), action on Ganga pollution and protection of the Taj (*M.C. Mehta* cases), the *Vishaka* guidelines (1997) and the right to food (mid-day meals).

Why every public-interest matter cannot be a PIL

1. **Policy belongs to the government:** courts do not judge the wisdom of economic policy (*BALCO Employees' Union*, 2002, on disinvestment).
2. **Separation of powers:** courts cannot order the legislature to make a law or take over executive work.
3. **Misuse:** "publicity", "private" and "political" interest litigation. The Court demanded bona fides and warned off busybodies (*Janata Dal v. H.S. Chowdhary*, 1992), and laid down guidelines to curb frivolous PILs (*State of Uttaranchal v. Balwant Singh Chaufal*, 2010).
4. **Other forums exist:** the National Green Tribunal, the Election Commission, regulators and tribunals are better placed for many issues.
5. **Burden and enforceability:** courts already face crores of pending cases, and orders that cannot be enforced weaken their authority. The Allahabad High Court's 2015 direction that children of public servants study in government primary schools raised exactly this question.

Tests for a genuine PIL: a bona fide petitioner, a real public injury, a violation of legal or constitutional rights, a justiciable issue and no effective alternative remedy.

Evaluation: the statement is valid. PIL is a tool for the voiceless, not a substitute for governance or politics, and courts now screen PILs and impose costs on frivolous ones.

Conclusion: used with restraint, PIL keeps justice accessible (SDG 16) without upsetting the balance among the organs of the State.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

S.P. Gupta (1981) · BALCO (2002) · Janata Dal v. H.S. Chowdhary (1992) · Balwant Singh Chaufal (2010) guidelines.

2020 · Problems and solutions for the Election Commission

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks

What problems is the Election Commission facing today? Mention solutions.

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** under **Article 324** superintends, directs and controls elections to Parliament, the state legislatures and the offices of President and Vice-President. It has been a multi-member body (a CEC and two ECs) since 1993 and runs the world's largest elections.

Problems

1. **Appointment:** the executive alone chose the CEC and ECs, raising doubts about independence.
2. **Unequal security:** the CEC can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge, but an EC can be removed on the CEC's recommendation (Art. 324(5)).
3. **Limited powers:** it cannot **deregister** parties (2002 judgment) or regulate their internal democracy and finances.
4. **Money and muscle power:** no ceiling on party spending, opaque funding, freebies and candidates with criminal cases.
5. **Model Code of Conduct:** it has no statutory backing, and delays in acting on hate speech hurt credibility.
6. **Fake news and paid news** on social media; paid news is not an electoral offence.
7. **Trust deficit** over EVMs.
8. **Dependence:** it relies on state staff, has no independent secretariat, and its budget is not charged on the Consolidated Fund.
9. **Migrant voters:** millions of workers, many from UP and Bihar, cannot vote where they work.

Solutions

- A neutral selection panel, as proposed by the **Dinesh Goswami Committee** (1990) and the **Law Commission's 255th Report** (2015).
- Equal removal protection for ECs, an independent secretariat and a charged budget.

- Power to deregister parties, a ceiling on party spending and making paid news an offence.
- Wider VVPAT audits, the **cVIGIL** app for citizens' complaints, voluntary Aadhaar–voter ID linking (2021 law) and remote voting for migrants.

Later development: in *Anoop Baranwal* (2023) the Supreme Court ordered a selection committee of the PM, the Leader of the Opposition and the CJI; a 2023 law replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet Minister.

Conclusion: a trusted, independent ECI guards free and fair elections, a basic feature of the Constitution.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 324 · multi-member since 1993 · Art. 324(5) removal · Dinesh Goswami (1990) · 255th Law Commission Report · Anoop Baranwal (2023).

2020 · Finance Commission and fiscal federalism

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **What are the functions of the Finance Commission? Examine its emerging role in fiscal federalism.**

Article 280 requires the President to constitute a **Finance Commission** every five years or earlier. It has a chairman and four members, whose qualifications are set by the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

Functions (Art. 280(3))

1. **Vertical devolution:** sharing the net proceeds of central taxes between the Union and the states.
2. **Horizontal devolution:** dividing the states' share among them.
3. **Grants-in-aid:** principles for grants to states from the Consolidated Fund of India (Art. 275).
4. **Local bodies:** measures to augment a state's Consolidated Fund to support panchayats and municipalities, based on the State Finance Commissions' recommendations.
5. Any other matter referred by the President in the interest of sound finance.

Its recommendations are advisory and are laid before Parliament with an explanatory memorandum (Art. 281).

Emerging role

- **Main channel of transfers:** after the Planning Commission was abolished (2015), the Finance Commission became the chief rule-based channel.
- **Higher devolution:** the 14th FC (Y.V. Reddy) raised the states' share from 32% to **42%**; the 15th FC (N.K. Singh) set **41%** for 2021–26.
- **Equity and incentives:** the 15th FC weighted income distance (45%), population and area (15% each), forest and ecology (10%), demographic performance (12.5%) and tax effort (2.5%).
- **After GST:** states lost much taxing autonomy, so revenue-deficit, local-body, disaster and sector grants matter more.
- **Fiscal discipline:** it suggests deficit and debt paths.

Concerns: growing cesses and surcharges lie outside the divisible pool; the Centre alone sets the terms of reference; southern states objected to the use of the 2011 Census.

UP angle: Uttar Pradesh receives the largest share, about **17.9%** under the 15th FC.

Conclusion: the 16th FC (chaired by Arvind Panagariya, for 2026–31) can deepen cooperative fiscal federalism, which UP's goal of a USD 1 trillion economy needs.

> **NOTE**
> The figures above are those of the 15th Finance Commission (2021–26). The 16th Finance Commission's award applies from 2026–27: check its devolution share, its criteria and UP's share before the exam.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 280 · Art. 281 · 14th FC 42% · 15th FC 41% · income distance 45% · UP share about 17.9% · 16th FC: Arvind Panagariya.

2020 · Pressure groups in Indian politics

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Identify the major pressure groups in Indian politics and examine their role.**

Pressure groups are organised groups that try to influence public policy without contesting elections or seeking office. Unlike parties, they seek influence, not power.

Major pressure groups in India

Type	Examples
Business	FICCI (1927), CII, ASSOCHAM
Trade unions	AITUC (1920), INTUC (1947), BMS (1955), CITU (1970)
Farmers	All India Kisan Sabha (1936); Bharatiya Kisan Union of Mahendra Singh Tikait (Sisauli, Muzaffarnagar)
Professional	Indian Medical Association, Bar associations
Students	ABVP, NSUI, SFI
Caste, religious and linguistic	caste sabhas, religious bodies
Movements and NGOs	Chipko, Narmada Bachao Andolan, MKSS

Positive role

- **Interest articulation:** they carry citizens' demands to policymakers between elections.
- **Expert input:** for example, chambers of commerce in pre-budget consultations.
- **Landmark laws:** the MKSS campaign led to the **RTI Act, 2005**; the Anna Hazare movement to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013; farmer unions won the repeal of the three farm laws (2021).
- **Safety valve:** they let grievances out peacefully.

Negative role

- Narrow sectional interests can override the common good.
- Opaque lobbying and crony capitalism.
- Unions tied to parties.
- Caste and communal mobilisation.
- Coercive tactics such as bandhs and road blockades.
- Resourceful groups dominate, while the poor remain unorganised.

Assessment: in India, pressure groups often work through parties and the bureaucracy rather than as independent lobbies. The BKU's 1988 Boat Club rally in Delhi showed the strength of western UP's farmers.

Conclusion: transparency rules for lobbying and regular pre-legislative consultation can channel their energy constructively.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Pressure group = influence without office · AITUC 1920 · FICCI 1927 · MKSS → RTI 2005 · farm laws repealed 2021.

2021 · Preamble and the basic features

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
> **The Preamble affirms the basic features of the Constitution.**

The Preamble sums up the Constitution's goals. In *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973) the Supreme Court held it to be **part of the Constitution** and used it to identify the **basic structure**, which no amendment can destroy.

Basic features affirmed

Words of the Preamble	Basic feature and supporting provisions
"We, the people"	popular sovereignty; adult franchise (Art. 326)
Sovereign	independence in internal and external affairs
Socialist	welfare state; Directive Principles (Arts. 38, 39)
Secular	equal respect for all religions (Arts. 25–28); *S.R. Bommai* (1994)
Democratic Republic	parliamentary government; elected head of State (Art. 54)
Justice	Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
Liberty	Arts. 19–22 and 25
Equality	Arts. 14–18
Fraternity, unity and integrity	single citizenship; Art. 17; Fundamental Duties (Art. 51A)

Judicial view

- *Berubari* (1960) had said the Preamble is not part of the Constitution; *Kesavananda* held otherwise, and *LIC of India* (1995) confirmed it.
- It can be amended (42nd Amendment, 1976), but not so as to damage these basic features.
- It is not enforceable on its own, but it guides interpretation where the text is unclear.

Conclusion: the Preamble is the key to the Constitution: its words state, and the courts protect, the core identity of the Republic.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Kesavananda (1973): Preamble is part of the Constitution and can be amended without touching the basic structure · LIC of India (1995).

2021 · Centre–state financial relations

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
> **Describe the financial relations between Centre and States.**

Part XII (Arts. 264–293) and the Seventh Schedule govern these relations. The Centre has the elastic taxes; states have large spending duties.

1. Taxing powers

- The Union taxes non-agricultural income, customs and corporations, and holds residuary taxes (Art. 248).
- The states tax land, agricultural income, alcohol and electricity.
- **GST** (101st Amendment, 2016) gave both levels concurrent power (Art. 246A), with the **GST Council** (Art. 279A).

2. Sharing of revenue

- Duties levied by the Union but collected and kept by states (Art. 268); taxes assigned to states (Art. 269); IGST (Art. 269A).
- A **divisible pool** of central taxes shared with states (Art. 270; 80th Amendment, 2000).
- Surcharges for the Union alone (Art. 271).

3. Grants: statutory grants on the Finance Commission's advice (Art. 275) and discretionary grants (Art. 282).

4. Borrowing: states borrow only within India and need the Centre's consent while indebted to it (Art. 293).

5. Emergencies: the Centre can modify revenue sharing (Art. 354) and order salary cuts in a financial emergency (Art. 360).

Issues: vertical imbalance, cesses outside the pool and the end of GST compensation (2022).

Conclusion: a rule-based Finance Commission and a consensual GST Council anchor cooperative fiscal federalism.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Arts. 264–293 · Art. 270 divisible pool · Art. 275 vs 282 grants · Art. 293 borrowing · Art. 279A GST Council.

2021 · Role of political parties

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Critically examine the role of Political Parties in the Indian Political System.

Political parties link the people and the State. In India they work under the **Tenth Schedule** (anti-defection law, 1985) and are recognised by the ECI under the Election Symbols Order, 1968.

Positive role

- **Representation:** they aggregate interests and give voters clear choices.
- **Government and opposition:** they form governments and hold them to account.
- **Policy and leadership:** they shape policy through manifestos and recruit leaders.
- **Political education:** they mobilise and inform citizens.
- **Deepening democracy:** regional and caste-based parties gave a voice to backward classes and Dalits; in UP the SP and BSP led what Christophe Jaffrelot called a "silent revolution".

Weaknesses

- **No inner-party democracy:** dynastic leadership and powerful "high commands".
- **Criminalisation** and **money power**; parties resist being brought under RTI.
- **Identity politics:** appeals to caste and religion despite Sec. 123 of the RPA.
- **Defections:** the "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram" politics of 1967 led to the anti-defection law, which in turn curbs MPs' freedom.
- **Populism:** competitive freebies.

Reforms: internal elections and audited accounts (Law Commission's 170th Report, 1999), ECI power to deregister, and transparent funding.

Conclusion: parties are indispensable to democracy. Making them internally democratic and transparent is the key electoral reform.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Tenth Schedule (52nd Amendment, 1985) · Election Symbols Order 1968 · "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram" (1967) · Law Commission 170th Report (1999).

2021 · Parliamentary committees

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Describe the role of Parliamentary Committees in the functioning of Parliament.

Parliament sits for limited days and handles complex subjects, so much of its detailed work is done by **committees**, often called "mini-Parliaments". They are elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker or Chairman, work under the Presiding Officer's direction and report to the House.

Types

- **Standing committees:**
  - financial: the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings;
  - 24 Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs, since 1993);
  - others such as Privileges, Subordinate Legislation, Government Assurances and Business Advisory.
- **Ad hoc committees:** Select and Joint Parliamentary Committees on particular bills or issues.

Role

1. **Detailed scrutiny of bills,** clause by clause, with expert and public evidence, away from party posturing.
2. **Financial accountability:** the PAC, chaired by an opposition member since 1967, examines CAG reports.
3. **Oversight:** DRSCs examine demands for grants and ministries' work.
4. **Delegated legislation:** rules framed by the executive are checked.
5. **Consensus-building** across parties.

Limits: recommendations are advisory; referral of bills is not compulsory and has fallen sharply in recent Lok Sabhas; committees have short tenures and little research support.

Conclusion: compulsory referral of major bills and better research staff would make committees the real engine of parliamentary accountability.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

PAC (22 members, opposition chair) · Estimates (30, Lok Sabha only) · COPU (22) · 24 DRSCs since 1993.

2021 · Federal in structure, unitary in spirit

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

"The Indian Constitution is federal in structure but unitary in spirit." Elucidate.

The Constitution sets up a federation with a **strong Centre**. K.C. Wheare called it "quasi-federal", and Dr Ambedkar said it could be unitary or federal according to the needs of time and circumstances.

Federal in structure

1. A dual polity: the Union and the states, each with its own government.
2. A written and supreme Constitution.
3. Division of powers in the Seventh Schedule (Union, State and Concurrent Lists).
4. Rigidity: federal provisions need ratification by half the states (Art. 368(2)).
5. An independent judiciary to settle disputes (Art. 131).
6. A bicameral Parliament, with the Rajya Sabha representing the states.

Unitary in spirit

1. **Strong Centre:** more and weightier subjects, residuary powers (Art. 248) and Union law prevailing on the Concurrent List (Art. 254).
2. **Destructible states:** Parliament can change boundaries (Art. 3), as in the creation of **Uttarakhand from UP in 2000**.

3. **One Constitution, single citizenship** and an integrated judiciary.
4. **Centre-appointed Governor** (Art. 155), who may reserve state bills for the President (Art. 200).
5. **Emergency provisions** (Arts. 352, 356 and 360) can make the system unitary.
6. **Parliament on state subjects** (Arts. 249, 250, 252 and 253) and **All India Services** (Art. 312).
7. **Unequal representation** in the Rajya Sabha and integrated bodies such as the ECI and the CAG.

Judicial view: *State of West Bengal v. Union of India* (1962) held that India is not a traditional federation. *S.R. Bommai* (1994) made federalism part of the basic structure and checked misuse of Art. 356.

In practice: cooperative federalism (NITI Aayog, the GST Council, 42% devolution under the 14th FC) and competitive federalism (state rankings) have moved the balance towards the states.

Conclusion: the unitary features are safety valves for unity in a diverse nation. The spirit is shifting from "unitary bias" to partnership, as Team India for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> "Quasi-federal" (K.C. Wheare) · Arts. 3, 248, 249, 254, 312, 352–360 · West Bengal v. Union (1962) · S.R. Bommai (1994).

2021 · Panchayati Raj: challenges and the 73rd Amendment

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
> **Analyse the challenges to Panchayati Raj and evaluate the 73rd Amendment.**

The **73rd Amendment (1992)**, in force from **24 April 1993** (National Panchayati Raj Day), added **Part IX (Arts. 243–243O)** and the **Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects)**. It gave panchayats constitutional status, fulfilling Art. 40 and Gandhi's ideal of *Gram Swaraj*.

Key provisions

- A Gram Sabha (Art. 243A) and a **three-tier system**; the middle tier is optional for states with under 20 lakh people.
- Direct elections every five years, and fresh elections within six months of a dissolution.
- Reservation for SC/ST in proportion to population and **at least one-third for women**, including chairpersons.
- A **State Election Commission** (Art. 243K) and a **State Finance Commission** every five years (Art. 243I).

Evaluation: successes

- Regular elections and over 30 lakh elected representatives, nearly half of them women, since many states have raised the women's quota to 50%.
- New leadership from SC, ST and backward groups.
- Digital tools such as **e-GramSwaraj** and **SVAMITVA** property cards.

Challenges

1. **Funds:** low own revenue (property tax is rarely collected), dependence on grants and delayed State Finance Commissions.
2. **Functions:** most states have not devolved all 29 subjects; panchayats remain agents for schemes.
3. **Functionaries:** too few staff, and parallel bodies bypass panchayats.
4. **Proxy rule:** "Pradhan Pati" practices undermine women's leadership.
5. **Social barriers:** elite and caste capture, and weak, irregular Gram Sabhas.
6. **Bureaucratic control:** officials can curb elected heads, and elections are sometimes delayed.

UP angle: Uttar Pradesh has about **58,000 gram panchayats**, the most of any state, under the UP Panchayat Raj Act, 1947.

Conclusion: the 73rd Amendment created a lasting third tier of democracy, but self-government remains partial. Clear activity mapping of the "3Fs" (funds, functions, functionaries), stronger own revenue and capacity building under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan can make panchayats engines of local SDGs.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 73rd Amendment 1992, in force 24 April 1993 · Part IX · Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects) · Arts. 243A, 243D, 243I, 243K · UP Panchayat Raj Act 1947.

2021 · CAG as custodian of public money

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
> **Examine the role of the CAG as the custodian of public money.**

The **CAG** (Art. 148) audits all receipts and spending of the Union and the states. Called the **guardian of the public purse**, the CAG is the eyes and ears of the legislature over the executive's use of money.

Role as custodian of public money

1. **Audit coverage:** the Consolidated, Contingency and Public Accounts of the Union and the states; bodies substantially funded by government; and government companies, whose auditors the CAG appoints under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. **Three kinds of audit:**
   - compliance audit: was money spent as the law allows?
   - **propriety** audit: was it spent wisely and economically?
   - **performance** audit: did schemes achieve their outcomes?
3. **Reporting:** reports go to the President or Governor (Art. 151) and are examined by the Public Accounts Committee, for which the CAG is a "friend, philosopher and guide".
4. **Certification:** the CAG certifies the net proceeds of taxes for sharing with states (Art. 279).
5. **Exposing misuse:** reports on 2G spectrum (2010, presumptive loss of ₹1.76 lakh crore), coal block allocation (2012) and the Commonwealth Games led to policy changes and court action.
6. **Local bodies:** technical guidance and support for the audit of panchayats and municipalities.

Limitations

- Audit comes **after** spending; unlike the British Comptroller, the CAG has no control over the release of funds.

- Secret service spending escapes detailed scrutiny.
- PPPs, regulators and many private users of public money fall outside full audit.
- Reports are tabled late, especially in states, and PAC follow-up is slow.
- The executive alone appoints the CAG, and the 1971 Act is dated.

UP angle: CAG reports on Uttar Pradesh are laid before the Vidhan Sabha and examined by its Public Accounts Committee.

Way forward: a transparent appointment panel, time-bound action on reports, audit of PPPs and real-time audit with data analytics.

Conclusion: a strong CAG is vital for good governance and fiscal discipline on the road to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Compliance, propriety, performance audit · Art. 151 · Art. 279 · 2G report (2010, ₹1.76 lakh crore) · coal report (2012).

2022 · Rights within Article 21

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
> **What are the rights within the ambit of Article 21?**

Article 21 says no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except by procedure established by law. Since *Maneka Gandhi* (1978) the procedure must be just, fair and reasonable, and courts have read "life" as a **life with dignity**.

Rights within Article 21

Right	Leading case
Livelihood	*Olga Tellis* (1985)
Privacy	*K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017)
Clean environment	*Subhash Kumar* (1991)
Health and emergency care	*Parmanand Katara* (1989)
Shelter	*Chameli Singh v. State of UP* (1996)
Speedy trial	*Hussainara Khatoon* (1979)
Free legal aid	*M.H. Hoskot* (1978)
Against handcuffing and custodial torture	*Prem Shankar Shukla* (1980); *D.K. Basu* (1997)
Against undue delay in execution	*Shatrughan Chauhan* (2014)
Travel abroad	*Satwant Singh Sawhney* (1967)
Choice of partner	*Shafin Jahan* (2018)
Dying with dignity	*Common Cause* (2018)
Free education up to 14	now Art. 21A (86th Amendment, 2002)

Later, *M.K. Ranjitsinh* (2024) recognised a right against the adverse effects of climate change.

Conclusion: after the 44th Amendment, Art. 21 cannot be suspended even in an Emergency. It has become the widest Fundamental Right, and its promise depends on police, prison and health reform.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> "Life with dignity" · Maneka Gandhi (1978) · Puttaswamy (2017) · Chameli Singh v. State of UP (1996) · Art. 21A (2002).

2022 · Chief Minister and Governor

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
> **Consider the functions and relations of the Chief Minister and Governor.**

The **Governor** is the constitutional head of the state (Art. 153), appointed by the President and holding office at the President's pleasure (Arts. 155–156). The **Chief Minister**, appointed by the Governor (Art. 164), is the real executive head.

Functions

- **Governor:** appoints the CM and ministers; summons, prorogues and dissolves the Assembly; assents to bills or reserves them for the President (Art. 200); issues ordinances (Art. 213); grants pardons (Art. 161); reports under Art. 356; and is Chancellor of state universities, as in UP.
- **Chief Minister:** heads the Council of Ministers, allocates portfolios, leads the House and links the Governor and the cabinet.

Relations

1. **Aid and advice (Art. 163):** the Governor acts on the council's advice, except where the Constitution requires discretion.
2. **Communication (Art. 167):** the CM must inform the Governor of decisions and furnish information.
3. **Situational discretion:** choosing a CM in a hung Assembly; majority is tested on the floor (*S.R. Bommai*, 1994), and discretion is narrow (*Nabam Rebia*, 2016).
4. **Friction:** delays on bills; a Governor cannot sit on bills indefinitely (*State of Punjab*, 2023).

Conclusion: the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions advised appointing detached persons after consulting the CM. Mutual respect serves good governance.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Arts. 153–167 · Art. 163 discretion · Art. 167 duties of the CM · S.R. Bommai (floor test) · Nabam Rebia (2016).

2022 · Finance Commission: a critical view

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
> **Critically examine the role of Finance Commission in Centre–State financial relations.**

The Finance Commission (Art. 280) is a quasi-judicial body set up every five years, often called the **balancing wheel of fiscal federalism**.

Positive role

- **Corrects vertical imbalance:** the states' share of the divisible pool rose to 42% (14th FC) and is 41% (15th FC, 2021–26).
- **Horizontal equity:** criteria such as income distance favour poorer states; Uttar Pradesh gets the largest share (about 17.9%).
- **Grants:** for revenue deficits, local bodies, disaster management and sectors.
- **Fiscal discipline:** it suggests deficit and debt paths.
- **Credibility:** the Union usually accepts its devolution formula, giving predictable, untied funds.

Limitations

- **Advisory only;** discretionary grants (Art. 282) and centrally sponsored schemes bypass it.
- **Cesses and surcharges** lie outside the divisible pool, so actual devolution is below the headline share.
- **Terms of reference** are set by the Centre alone; the 15th FC's use of the 2011 Census upset southern states that had controlled population.
- **Temporary body:** no permanent secretariat; after GST, the GST Council decides tax rates.
- **Weak State Finance Commissions** limit transfers to local bodies.

Conclusion: a permanent secretariat, consultation with states on its terms of reference and limits on cesses would strengthen it. The 16th FC (Arvind Panagariya) is the next test.

> **NOTE**
> Shares quoted are from the 15th Finance Commission (2021–26); check the 16th Finance Commission's figures (from 2026–27) before the exam.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> "Balancing wheel of fiscal federalism" · 42% → 41% · cesses outside the pool · 2011 Census controversy.

2022 · Lok Adalats as catalysts of change

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
> **"Lok Adalats have acted as catalysts for change in the Indian Legal System." Explain.**

Lok Adalat ("people's court") settles disputes by compromise. The first was held in **Gujarat in 1982**, and the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** gave it statutory status. Legal services authorities (NALSA, state and district) organise them under Art. 39A.

Features

- Settles pending and pre-litigation cases: motor accident claims, bank recovery, family disputes, utility bills and compoundable offences.
- **No court fee**; fees paid are refunded on settlement.
- The award is deemed a **civil court decree**, final and binding, with **no appeal**.
- **Permanent Lok Adalats** (2002) for public utilities can decide on merits if conciliation fails.
- **National Lok Adalats** sit nationwide on one day; e-Lok Adalats began during COVID-19.

How they have been catalysts

1. **Reduced pendency:** crores of cases are settled every year.
2. **Access to justice:** quick, cheap and informal, especially for the poor.
3. **Restorative culture:** compromise preserves relationships, moving justice from adversarial to conciliatory.
4. **Paved the way** for mediation (Sec. 89 CPC; Mediation Act, 2023).

Limits: consent of both sides is essential, parties may feel pressed to compromise, and non-compoundable offences are excluded.

Conclusion: Lok Adalats have humanised Indian justice. Trained conciliators and awareness can make them a pillar of SDG 16.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> First Lok Adalat: Gujarat 1982 · Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 · award = decree, no appeal · Permanent Lok Adalats (2002) · Art. 39A.

2022 · Role of the Estimates Committee

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the role of the Estimates Committee in Parliamentary work.**

The **Estimates Committee** began in **1950** on the suggestion of Finance Minister **John Mathai**. It has **30 members, all from the Lok Sabha**, elected every year by proportional representation through the single transferable vote. Ministers cannot be members, and the Speaker appoints its chairman, usually from the ruling party.

Functions

1. Report what **economies**, improvements in organisation, efficiency or administrative reform can be made, consistent with the policy behind the estimates.
2. Suggest **alternative policies** to bring efficiency and economy into administration.
3. Examine whether money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates.
4. Suggest the **form** in which estimates are presented to Parliament.

Because it works through the year, it is called a "**continuous economy committee**".

Role in parliamentary work

- It extends Parliament's control over spending beyond the short budget debate, where most demands pass by the guillotine.
- It studies a few ministries in depth each year and takes evidence from officials.
- Its reports and action-taken reports keep ministries under pressure to improve.

Limitations

- It examines estimates only after Parliament has voted them, so it cannot change that year's budget.
- It cannot question policy laid down by Parliament.
- Its recommendations are advisory.

- It covers only selected ministries each year.
- It lacks expert staff and has no Rajya Sabha members.
- The Departmentally Related Standing Committees (1993) now overlap with its work.

Basis	Estimates Committee	Public Accounts Committee
Members	30, Lok Sabha only	22 (15 Lok Sabha + 7 Rajya Sabha)
Focus	economy in current and future spending	regularity of past spending (CAG reports)
Chairman	usually from the ruling party	an opposition member (since 1967)

Conclusion: linking its work to outcome budgets and giving it expert support would make it a true watchdog of efficiency. The UP Legislature has a similar committee for state spending.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Set up 1950 (John Mathai) · 30 Lok Sabha members · "continuous economy committee" · no ministers · advisory.

2022 · Election of the President

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
> **How is the President of India elected?**

The President is elected **indirectly** by an **electoral college** (Art. 54), by **proportional representation through the single transferable vote** and secret ballot (Art. 55(3)). The Election Commission conducts the election.

1. Electoral college

- Elected members of both Houses of Parliament.
- Elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the states and of **Delhi and Puducherry** (70th Amendment, 1992).
- Nominated members and members of Legislative Councils do not vote.

2. Value of votes (Art. 55): this secures uniformity among states and parity between the states and the Union.

- **MLA's vote** = state population (Census 1971) ÷ number of elected MLAs ÷ 1,000. The 1971 figure is frozen until the first census after 2026 (84th Amendment, 2001).
- **MP's vote** = total value of all MLAs' votes ÷ number of elected MPs.
- In **2022**, an MP's vote was worth **700**, and a UP MLA's vote **208**, the highest of any state.

3. Qualifications and nomination (Art. 58)

- A citizen aged 35 or more, qualified for the Lok Sabha and holding no office of profit.
- The nomination needs 50 proposers and 50 seconders from the electoral college and a deposit of ₹15,000 (Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952).

4. Counting

- A candidate must secure a **quota** of more than half the valid votes.
- If no one reaches it on first preferences, the lowest candidate is eliminated and those votes are transferred by next preferences until someone wins.

5. Disputes: decided only by the **Supreme Court** (Art. 71); a vacancy in the electoral college does not invalidate the election.

Why indirect election: a directly elected President would rival the Prime Minister, and a nationwide poll would be costly. The electoral college gives the office both a **national and a federal** character.

Example: in 2022 **Droupadi Murmu** was elected the 15th President, the first from a Scheduled Tribe.

Conclusion: the method balances democracy, federalism and parliamentary government.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Arts. 54, 55, 58, 71 · Delhi and Puducherry MLAs (70th Amendment) · MP vote 700 (2022) · UP MLA vote 208 · 50 + 50 · ₹15,000.

2022 · One Nation, One Election

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
> **Examine "One Nation, One Election" and its prospects and limitations.**

"**One Nation, One Election**" **(ONOE)** means holding elections to the Lok Sabha and all state Assemblies together, and possibly local bodies too. India did this in **1951–52, 1957, 1962 and 1967**. The cycle broke when several Assemblies were dissolved early in 1968–69 and the Lok Sabha in 1970.

Backing for the idea: the Law Commission (170th Report, 1999), a Parliamentary Standing Committee (2015), NITI Aayog (2017) and the Law Commission's draft report (2018).

Prospects

1. **Lower cost:** separate polls cost the exchequer and parties heavily.
2. **Less policy paralysis:** the Model Code of Conduct, in force somewhere almost every year, halts new schemes.
3. **Efficient use of security forces** and of teachers and officials on poll duty.
4. **Governance focus:** less permanent campaigning and fewer populist promises.
5. **Voter convenience,** which may raise turnout.

Limitations

1. **Constitutional changes:** Arts. 83, 85, 172, 174 and 356 and the RPA must be amended, and some Assemblies' terms cut short.
2. **Federalism:** national issues may overshadow state issues, as voters tend to choose the same party at both levels.
3. **Mid-term collapse:** if a government falls, either fresh elections for the rest of the term or a "constructive vote of no-confidence" (as in Germany) is needed.
4. **Logistics:** many more EVMs and VVPATs, and huge manpower.
5. **Accountability:** frequent elections keep governments responsive.

Later developments: the **Ram Nath Kovind Committee** (report March 2024) proposed two steps: Lok Sabha and Assemblies together first, then municipalities and panchayats within 100 days, with a common electoral roll. The **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024** was sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

UP angle: UP has 80 Lok Sabha and 403 Assembly seats; its panchayat (2021), Assembly (2022) and Lok Sabha (2024) polls in quick succession show the strain of frequent elections.

Conclusion: ONOE has merit, but it needs broad political consensus, federal safeguards and phased implementation.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Simultaneous polls till 1967 · Law Commission 170th Report (1999) · Kovind Committee (2024) · 129th Amendment Bill (2024) to JPC.

2023 · 42nd Amendment as a rewriting of the Constitution

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **Why is the 42nd Amendment called a rewriting of the Constitution?**

The **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**, passed during the Emergency on the **Swaran Singh Committee's** advice, made such sweeping changes that it is called a "**mini-Constitution**".

Major changes

1. **Preamble:** added "Socialist", "Secular" and "Integrity".
2. **Fundamental Duties:** new Part IV-A (Art. 51A).
3. **Directive Principles:** new Arts. 39A (free legal aid), 43A (workers' participation) and 48A (environment); Art. 31C extended to give all Directive Principles primacy over Arts. 14 and 19.
4. **Executive:** the President was bound by ministerial advice (Art. 74(1)).
5. **Terms:** the Lok Sabha and Assemblies got six-year terms.
6. **Federal balance:** education, forests, weights and measures, wild animals and birds, and administration of justice moved to the Concurrent List.
7. **Judiciary curbed:** Art. 368(4) and (5) barred court challenges to amendments; Arts. 32A, 131A and 226A restricted judicial review; tribunals were provided (Part XIV-A).

Why a "rewriting": it touched the Preamble, many articles and the Schedules, shifting power to Parliament and the executive.

Aftermath: the 43rd and 44th Amendments undid much of it, and *Minerva Mills* (1980) struck down Art. 368(4)–(5) and the wider Art. 31C.

Conclusion: the 42nd Amendment shows why the amending power must respect the basic structure.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> "Mini-Constitution" · Swaran Singh Committee · Part IV-A · five subjects to the Concurrent List · undone by the 43rd and 44th Amendments · Minerva Mills (1980).

2023 · Three demerits of judicial activism

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **Mention three demerits of Judicial Activism.**

Judicial activism is the judiciary's proactive role in protecting rights and correcting failures of the other organs, mainly through PIL. It has done much good, but it has three main demerits.

1. Breach of separation of powers (judicial overreach) Courts sometimes enter the policy domain, for example the order to link rivers (2012) and the ban on liquor sales within 500 metres of highways (2016), later modified. Judges lack the executive's expertise and data, and such orders can cost jobs and revenue.

2. Lack of democratic accountability Judges are not answerable to voters, so when courts make policy no one is politically responsible. Collegium appointments are also opaque, and striking down the NJAC (2015) sharpened this criticism.

3. Burden, uncertainty and poor enforcement With over **5 crore cases pending**, activist cases divert scarce judicial time. Orders the executive ignores, such as the police reform directions in *Prakash Singh* (2006), weaken the courts' authority, and ad hoc guidelines create uncertainty.

Conclusion: the Supreme Court itself warned against overreach in *Aravali Golf Club* (2008). Activism should be the exception, guided by **judicial restraint** and respect for the other organs.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Overreach · no accountability · burden and non-implementation · Aravali Golf Club (2008) · Prakash Singh (2006).

2023 · Pardoning powers of the Governor and the President

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **How is the Governor's pardon power different from that of the President under Article 72?**

Article 72 gives the **President**, and Article 161 the **Governor**, power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites and remissions, or to suspend, remit or commute sentences. Both act on ministerial advice (*Maru Ram*, 1980; *Kehar Singh*, 1989), subject to limited judicial review (*Epuru Sudhakar*, 2006).

Differences

Basis	President (Art. 72)	Governor (Art. 161)
Laws covered	offences against Union laws	offences against laws on matters within the state's executive power
Court-martial	can pardon sentences of a court-martial	no such power
Death sentence	can pardon it in all cases	cannot pardon it; can only suspend, remit or commute it (Art. 72(3))

Similarities

- Both exercise executive, not judicial, power and may examine a case afresh; the convict has no right to an oral hearing (*Kehar Singh*).
- Undue delay in deciding a mercy petition can justify commuting a death sentence (*Shatrughan Chauhan*, 2014).

Recent clarification: in *A.G. Perarivalan* (2022) the Court held the Governor bound by state cabinet advice under Art. 161, with unexplained delay open to judicial review.

Conclusion: the President's power is wider, covering court-martial and full pardon of death sentences. Together, the two powers are a final humanitarian check on judicial error.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 72 vs Art. 161 · court-martial and death-sentence pardon only with the President · Art. 72(3) · Maru Ram (1980) · Perarivalan (2022).

2023 · Federalism and the diverse needs of states

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **How does the federal structure in India accommodate the diverse needs of states?**

India is a "holding-together" federation of very different regions, languages and peoples. It meets their needs through **flexible and asymmetric federalism**.

1. Reorganisation of states (Art. 3)

- Linguistic states after the Fazl Ali Commission and the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- New states for regional aspirations: Uttarakhand (carved out of UP), Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in 2000, and Telangana in 2014.

2. Special provisions (Arts. 371 to 371J)

- Development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada, Saurashtra and Kutch (Art. 371).
- Protection of Naga and Mizo customary law and land (Arts. 371A and 371G).
- Manipur's hill areas (371C), Sikkim (371F) and the Hyderabad-Karnataka region (371J).

3. Tribal autonomy

- Fifth Schedule areas with Tribes Advisory Councils, and PESA, 1996.
- Sixth Schedule Autonomous District Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The Inner Line Permit system in parts of the North-East.

4. Language and culture: 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule, each state choosing its official language (Art. 345), and minority rights (Arts. 29–30).

5. Fiscal accommodation

- Finance Commission criteria for area, forest cover and income distance.
- 90:10 funding of central schemes for the North-Eastern and Himalayan states.
- The North Eastern Council and the Ministry of DoNER.

6. Forums for voice: the Rajya Sabha, the Inter-State Council, Zonal Councils (UP is in the Central Zonal Council), the NITI Aayog Governing Council and the GST Council, where states hold two-thirds of the voting weight.

7. Special UT arrangements: Delhi (Art. 239AA) and Puducherry have legislatures.

UP angle: within the state, development boards for **Bundelkhand** and **Purvanchal** address regional backwardness.

Limits: demands for special category status (Bihar, Andhra Pradesh), friction over Governors, ethnic conflict in Manipur, and southern states' fears about the next delimitation.

Conclusion: asymmetric, cooperative federalism has kept India united in its diversity. Deeper fiscal devolution and dialogue will help every state contribute to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Asymmetric federalism · Arts. 3, 371–371J · Fifth and Sixth Schedules · Eighth Schedule (22 languages) · GST Council (states two-thirds weight).

2023 · Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **What alternative dispute resolution mechanisms have emerged recently?**

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) means settling disputes outside regular courts through arbitration, conciliation, mediation, negotiation and Lok Adalats. With over 5 crore cases pending, ADR is central to Art. 39A (equal justice) and to ease of doing business; Sec. 89 of the CPC lets courts refer cases to it.

Mechanisms that have emerged recently

1. **Institutional arbitration:**
   - amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (2015, 2019 and 2021) set time limits for awards, provided for an Arbitration Council of India and allowed unconditional stay of awards obtained by fraud;
   - the **India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019** created a national arbitration institution.
2. **Mediation:**
   - **pre-institution mediation** is compulsory for commercial suits that need no urgent relief (Sec. 12A, Commercial Courts Act, 2015, inserted in 2018);
   - the **Mediation Act, 2023** provides voluntary pre-litigation mediation, online and community mediation, a Mediation Council of India, and settlements enforceable like court decrees;
   - India signed the **Singapore Convention on Mediation** in 2019.
3. **Lok Adalats:** National Lok Adalats, Permanent Lok Adalats for public utilities, and **e-Lok Adalats** since the pandemic.
4. **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR):** NITI Aayog's ODR policy plan (2021), SEBI's online dispute resolution portal for the securities market (2023) and the RBI's Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (2021).
5. **Consumer mediation:** mediation cells attached to consumer commissions under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, with online filing through e-Daakhil.
6. **Settlement schemes:** *Vivad se Vishwas* for direct-tax (2020) and contractual (2023) disputes with the government.
7. **Village-level justice:** Gram Nyayalayas (2008) use conciliation.

UP angle: the Allahabad High Court and district courts run mediation and conciliation centres, and National Lok Adalats in UP settle lakhs of cases.

Challenges: low awareness, few trained mediators, court interference with awards and slow enforcement.

Conclusion: a "multi-door courthouse" with trained mediators and ODR can cut pendency, make India an arbitration hub and advance SDG 16.3 (access to justice).

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Sec. 89 CPC · Arbitration amendments 2015/2019/2021 · IIAC Act 2019 · Sec. 12A Commercial Courts Act · Mediation Act 2023 · ODR · Vivad se Vishwas.

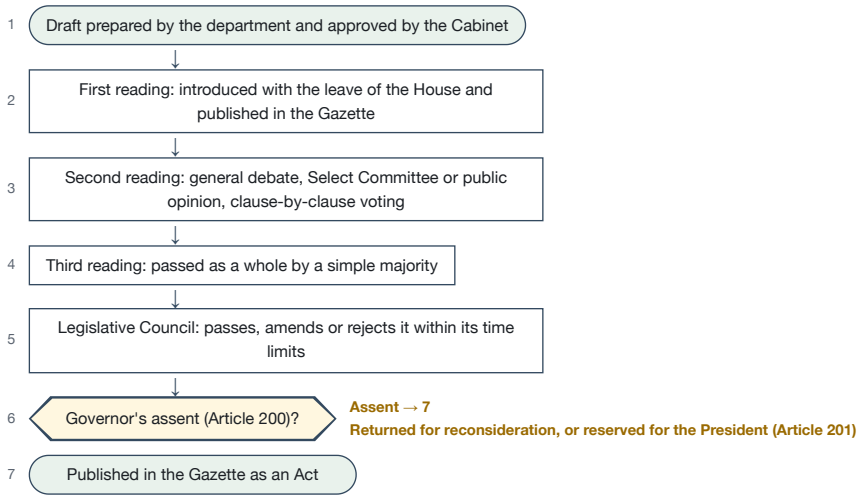
Polity (contd.)

2023 · Law-making in the UP Legislative Assembly

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Describe the law-making process in the UP Legislative Assembly.**

Uttar Pradesh has a **bicameral legislature** (Article 168): the **Vidhan Sabha** (403 elected members) and the **Vidhan Parishad** (100 members). Law-making follows **Articles 196–201** of the Constitution.

Stages of an ordinary bill



Legislative Council (Article 197)

- It can hold up an ordinary bill for **three months**; if the Assembly passes it again, for only **one more month**, after which the bill is deemed passed.
- There is **no joint sitting**, so the Assembly has the final word. A bill from the Council that the Assembly rejects ends there.

Money Bills (Articles 198, 199 and 207)

- Introduced only in the Assembly, on the **Governor's recommendation**; the **Speaker certifies** them.
- The Council must return them within **14 days**, and its suggestions may be ignored.

Governor (Article 200)

- May assent, withhold assent, or return a non-Money Bill once; if the House passes it again, assent is compulsory.
- May reserve a bill for the **President**; this is compulsory if it would endanger the High Court's position.
- Between sessions, may issue **ordinances** (Article 213), which lapse six weeks after the legislature reassembles unless replaced by an Act.

Conclusion: the process gives primacy to the elected Assembly, with review by the Council and the Governor. More sitting days and active committees would improve UP's laws.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 168 (UP bicameral) · 196 (introduction) · 197 (3 months + 1 month) · 198 (Money Bill, 14 days) · 200–201 (assent, reservation) · 213 (ordinance) · 403 MLAs + 100 MLCs.

2024 · Composition of the Constituent Assembly

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Write a short note on the composition of the Constituent Assembly.**

The Constituent Assembly was formed in **1946** under the **Cabinet Mission Plan**.

Composition

- **Total strength 389:** 296 seats for British India (292 from the Governors' provinces and 4 from the Chief Commissioners' provinces) and **93** for the princely states.
- **Basis of seats:** roughly one seat per ten lakh people, divided among **General, Muslim and Sikh** voters by population.
- **Method:** members from the provinces were **elected indirectly** by the provincial assemblies through the **single transferable vote**. Princely state members were to be nominated by their rulers.
- **1946 elections:** Congress won 208 seats, the Muslim League 73, and small groups and independents 15.
- **After Partition (1947):** members from areas that went to Pakistan left, and the strength fell to **299**.

Representative character: it included all major communities, Scheduled Castes and women such as Sarojini Naidu and Hansa Mehta. The **United Provinces (UP)** sent 55 members, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Govind Ballabh Pant, Purushottam Das Tandon and Begum Aizaz Rasul.

Criticism: it was not directly elected and the Congress dominated it; still, it worked by consensus.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Cabinet Mission 1946 · 389 → 299 · first meeting 9 Dec 1946 (Sachchidananda Sinha, temporary chairman) · President Dr Rajendra Prasad (11 Dec 1946) · Constitution adopted 26 Nov 1949.

2024 · Special legislative powers of the Rajya Sabha

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

What are the special legislative powers of Rajya Sabha?

The Rajya Sabha, a permanent House (Article 83(1)), represents the **states**. As the federal chamber it has some **exclusive powers**.

Special powers

1. **State List subjects (Article 249):** by a resolution of **two-thirds of members present and voting**, it can let Parliament legislate on a State List matter in the **national interest**, for one year at a time (renewable).
2. **New All-India Services (Article 312):** by a similar resolution, it can authorise Parliament to create them.
3. **Removal of the Vice-President (Article 67(b)):** the resolution can start **only in the Rajya Sabha**, and the Lok Sabha must then agree.
4. **Emergency when the Lok Sabha is dissolved:** a proclamation under Article 352, 356 or 360 continues if the Rajya Sabha approves it, until the new Lok Sabha does so within 30 days of its first sitting.

Equal powers: constitutional amendments (no joint sitting), ordinary bills and approval of ordinances.

Limits: it can hold a Money Bill for only **14 days** and cannot remove the government.

Conclusion: these powers make it the guardian of the states; UP, with **31** members, has the largest voice in it.

2024 · Judicial independence and the Basic Structure

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

How does the Constitution ensure judicial independence? Discuss the Basic Structure Doctrine.

An independent judiciary protects rights and keeps every government within the Constitution.

Constitutional safeguards

- **Appointment:** the President appoints judges after consulting the judiciary (Articles 124 and 217); under the **collegium system** (Second Judges case, 1993) the judiciary has the decisive say.
- **Security of tenure:** removal only by Parliament, by a special majority, for proved misbehaviour or incapacity (Article 124(4)).
- **Financial security:** salaries are charged on the Consolidated Fund and cannot be cut after appointment, except in a financial emergency (Articles 112, 125 and 360).
- **Other protections:** no discussion of a judge's conduct in the legislature (Articles 121, 211), contempt powers (Articles 129, 215), no practice after retirement (Article 124(7)) and separation from the executive (Article 50).

Basic Structure Doctrine In **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**, a 13-judge bench held (7:6) that Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution but **cannot destroy its basic structure**. Later cases built on it:

- **Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain (1975):** free and fair elections.
- **Minerva Mills (1980):** limited amending power and judicial review.
- **NJAC case (2015):** the 99th Amendment was struck down because it threatened **judicial independence**.

Conclusion: the safeguards and the doctrine together keep the judiciary free.

2024 · State legislatures as the voice of states

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

"State legislatures are the voice of states within the federal structure." Analyse.

India is a "Union of States" (Article 1) with a dual polity, and directly elected state legislatures speak for the states in law-making and in the federation.

How they act as the voice of states

1. **State List laws:** on police, land, agriculture and local government, they make laws for local needs, such as the **UP Revenue Code, 2006**.
2. **Control of the state government:** the Council of Ministers is responsible to the Assembly (Article 164(2)), which passes the budget and taxes.
3. **Role in the Union:** MLAs elect the **President** (Article 54) and **Rajya Sabha** members (Article 80). A UP MLA's vote has the highest value (208), and UP elects 31 Rajya Sabha members.
4. **Constitutional amendments:** federal provisions need **ratification by half the states** (Article 368(2)), as with the GST amendment (101st, 2016).
5. **Other powers:** creating or abolishing a Legislative Council (Article 169), joining other states to ask Parliament to legislate on a state subject (Article 252) and giving views, which are not binding, on boundary changes (Article 3).
6. **Political expression:** resolutions on national issues, such as those of Kerala and Punjab on the CAA (2019–20).

Limits on this voice

- **Union dominance:** Parliament can legislate on state subjects (Articles 249, 250, 252 and 253), and Union law prevails in a Concurrent List conflict (Article 254).
- **Governor's role:** bills can be delayed or reserved for the President (Articles 200–201). In *State of Punjab v Principal Secretary to the Governor* (2023), the Supreme Court held that a Governor cannot sit on bills indefinitely.
- **President's Rule (Article 356)** can suspend the Assembly, though *S.R. Bommai* (1994) limits misuse.
- **Weak functioning:** few sitting days, little committee work and the anti-defection law reduce real debate.

Conclusion: state legislatures are a real but conditioned voice. Time limits for assent, more sittings and an active Inter-State Council (Article 263) would deepen cooperative federalism.

2024 · Revised appointment process of the Election Commission

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Discuss the implications of the revised appointment process of the Election Commission.

Under Article 324(2), the President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) "subject to any law made by Parliament". Until 2023 no such law existed, so the government in effect chose them.

What changed

- **Anoop Baranwal v Union of India (March 2023):** a Constitution Bench ruled that, pending a law, appointments must follow the advice of a committee of the **Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India**.
- **The CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023** then provided:
  - a **Search Committee** under the **Law Minister**, with two Secretary-level officers, to prepare a panel of five names;
  - a **Selection Committee** of the **PM, a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM, and the LoP**, which may also choose someone outside the panel;
  - eligibility for officers of **Secretary rank** with election experience, salary equal to a Supreme Court judge, and protection from suits for official acts.
- The first appointments under the Act were made in **March 2024**.

Positive implications

- A **statutory and transparent** procedure, as the Constitution intended.
- A formal role for the Opposition, fixed eligibility rules and legal protection for commissioners.

Concerns

- The government has a **2:1 majority**, so the executive in effect still chooses; the neutral role of the CJI is gone.
- A minister's committee prepares the shortlist, and the panel can be bypassed.
- An appointment stays valid even if a seat on the committee is vacant.
- ECs still lack the removal protection of the CEC (Article 324(5)).
- Challenges to the Act are pending in the Supreme Court.

Conclusion: public trust rests on neutrality. A balanced committee including the CJI, as the **Goswami Committee (1990)** and the **Law Commission's 255th Report (2015)** suggested, and equal protection for all commissioners would strengthen free and fair elections.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Art. 324 · Anoop Baranwal (2 March 2023) · CEC and ECs Act, 2023 (search committee under the Law Minister; selection committee PM + Cabinet Minister + LoP) · term 6 years or age 65.

2024 · Flexibility and rigidity: a comparison

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Compare Indian Constitution with other modern constitutions in terms of flexibility and rigidity.

A **rigid** constitution needs a special procedure for amendment, as in the USA. A **flexible** one can be changed like an ordinary law, as in Britain. The Indian Constitution is a **blend of both**.

India's three methods

1. **Simple majority of Parliament** (outside Article 368): new states and boundaries (Articles 2–4), Legislative Councils (Article 169), the Fifth and Sixth Schedules.
2. **Special majority** (a majority of total membership and two-thirds of those present and voting in each House): most provisions, including Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.
3. **Special majority plus ratification by half the states:** federal provisions such as the President's election, the higher judiciary, the division of powers and Article 368 itself (for example, the GST amendment).

Comparison

Country	Amendment method	Nature
USA	Two-thirds of both Houses of Congress, then three-fourths of the states	Very rigid: only 27 amendments since 1789
UK	Ordinary Act of a sovereign Parliament; no single written document	Most flexible
Australia	Act of Parliament, then a referendum with a "double majority"	Rigid: only 8 proposals have passed
Japan	Two-thirds of each House, then a national referendum	Never amended since 1947
Germany	Two-thirds of the Bundestag and of the Bundesrat; "eternity clause" (Article 79(3))	Moderate, with a fixed core
India	Three methods, by subject	Partly rigid, partly flexible; 106 amendments by 2023

Assessment

- Like Germany, India protects a core, but through the judge-made **Basic Structure Doctrine** (*Kesavananda Bharati*, 1973) rather than a written clause.
- Flexibility allowed key reforms: **Panchayati Raj** (73rd Amendment), **GST** (101st) and **women's reservation** (106th).
- Easy amendment can be misused, as with the **42nd Amendment (1976)**; judicial review is the check.

Conclusion: India's Constitution is rigid on its federal and democratic core and flexible elsewhere; this balance has let it adapt for over seven decades.

2024 · Finance Commission and regional disparities

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

What role can the Finance Commission play in reducing regional disparities?

The Finance Commission (FC) is a constitutional body set up by the President every five years under **Article 280**. It recommends how central taxes are shared between the Centre and the states (**vertical devolution**) and among the states (**horizontal devolution**), and which states need grants-in-aid (Article 275).

How it can reduce disparities

1. **Equity-based formula:** the 15th FC (N.K. Singh, 2021–26) gave the states **41%** of the divisible pool and gave the largest weight, **45%**, to **income distance**, so poorer states get more. UP gets the largest share, about **17.9%**, and Bihar the second largest.

2. **Needs-based criteria:** population (15%), area (15%) and forest and ecology (10%) help states with many people, large territories or green cover to protect.
3. **Revenue deficit grants** fill the gap for states whose own revenue cannot meet basic spending.
4. **Sector-specific grants** for health, school education, agriculture and rural roads target areas where backward states lag.
5. **Local body grants** to panchayats and municipalities, partly tied to water and sanitation, reach villages directly.
6. **Disaster risk management funds**, allocated partly by risk, protect vulnerable regions.
7. **Rewards for effort:** demographic performance (12.5%) and tax effort (2.5%) encourage good governance.

Limits

- Rising **cesses and surcharges** lie outside the divisible pool and shrink what states receive.
- Developed states argue that equity criteria penalise efficiency.
- The FC cannot address **disparities within a state**, such as Bundelkhand and Purvanchal against western UP; that is the task of State Finance Commissions.
- Conditional Centrally Sponsored Schemes often matter more for backward areas.

Conclusion: the FC is India's main tool for fiscal equalisation. The **16th FC** (Arvind Panagariya, set up in December 2023) can deepen this by balancing equity with efficiency and linking grants to outcomes, so that regions such as eastern UP share in Viksit Bharat.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> Art. 280 · 15th FC: 41% share; income distance 45, population 15, area 15, forest 10, demographic performance 12.5, tax effort 2.5 · UP ≈ 17.9% (largest) · 16th FC: 2026–31.

Governance

2018, 2024 · SHGs and rural development

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks · also asked in 2024 (8 marks)
>
> **What has been the impact of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) on India's rural life? *(2024: What is the role of Self-Help Groups in rural development?)***

A Self-Help Group is a voluntary group of **10–20 people**, usually women, who save regularly, lend to one another and borrow from banks as a group. The movement grew from **NABARD's SHG–Bank Linkage Programme (1992)**; under **DAY-NRLM** (2011) it had about 10 crore women members by 2024.

Impact and role

- **Economic:** cheap credit frees the poor from moneylenders and funds dairy, tailoring and food processing; the **Lakhpati Didi** drive aims at household incomes of ₹1 lakh a year.
- **Financial inclusion:** bank accounts, insurance and digital payments; UP's **BC Sakhi** scheme (2020) makes SHG women village banking agents.
- **Women's empowerment:** confidence, a say in family decisions and leadership; many members contest panchayat elections.
- **Social change:** awareness of health, nutrition and girls' education; action against dowry and alcoholism.
- **Delivery and markets:** SHGs make take-home ration and school uniforms, and sell **One District One Product** goods at SARAS fairs and on GeM.

Limits: many groups stay small, depend on subsidies and lack markets.

Conclusion: SHGs have turned rural women from beneficiaries into **agents of development**; with skills and markets they can help power UP's **USD 1 trillion** economy goal.

2018 · Indian diaspora and the economy

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
>
> **Write a short note on the contribution of the Indian Diaspora towards India's economic structure.**

The Indian diaspora of Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin numbers more than **3 crore**; India is the largest source of international migrants (UN, 2019).

Economic contribution

1. **Remittances:** India is the **world's largest recipient**, about **USD 79 billion in 2018** (World Bank), and in 2022 it became the first country to receive over USD 100 billion in a year. They support the balance of payments and household incomes.
2. **Deposits and investment:** NRI deposits (NRE and FCNR accounts), diaspora FDI and start-up funding.
3. **Knowledge and technology:** Indians in Silicon Valley and global firms helped build India's IT industry; brain drain is turning into **brain circulation**.
4. **Trade and tourism:** demand for Indian goods, food, films and travel.
5. **Philanthropy and soft power:** support for schools, hospitals and relief, and lobbying, as for the India–US nuclear deal.

UP angle: Azamgarh and other districts of eastern UP send many workers to the Gulf, and their remittances sustain local households.

Conclusion: the diaspora is a strategic asset; outreach such as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (9 January) and the OCI card, with safe migration and easier investment, can raise its role.

2018 · NITI Aayog: reasons, objectives, functions and reorganisation

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the reasons, objectives, and functions of NITI Aayog and describe its recent reorganisation.**

> **NOTE**
>
> The question does not say which reorganisation it means. This answer covers the replacement of the Planning Commission by NITI Aayog (2015) and the reconstitution of NITI Aayog in June 2019.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was set up by a **Union Cabinet resolution on 1 January 2015** in place of the **Planning Commission (1950)**. It is a non-constitutional, non-statutory **policy think tank**.

Reasons

- The Planning Commission followed a **top-down, one-size-fits-all** approach, and states had to seek its approval.

- After the 1991 reforms, a market-led economy needed **strategic guidance** rather than central allocation.
- Its discretionary plan grants overlapped with the Finance Commission's role and weakened fiscal federalism.
- India needed a forum for **cooperative and competitive federalism**.

Objectives

- A shared national vision with active involvement of the states.
- Plans built from the village level upwards.
- Focus on sections at risk of being left behind.
- Support for innovation and entrepreneurship, and monitoring of programmes.

Functions

- **Think tank:** advises the Centre and states; prepared the Three-Year Action Agenda (2017–20) and *Strategy for New India @75* (2018) instead of Five-Year Plans.
- **Competitive federalism:** ranks states through the SDG India Index, Health Index and Composite Water Management Index.
- **Programmes:** the **Aspirational Districts Programme** (2018), with eight districts in UP such as Bahraich and Shravasti, and the **Atal Innovation Mission**.
- **Evaluation:** through the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO).

Reorganisation

- **2015:** fund allocation to states moved to the Finance Ministry. NITI got a **Governing Council** of all Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors, **Regional Councils**, a Vice-Chairperson, full-time and part-time members and a CEO.
- **June 2019:** after the general election, NITI was reconstituted; **Rajiv Kumar** continued as Vice-Chairperson and new Union ministers became ex officio members.

Conclusion: NITI Aayog shifted planning from control to cooperation; closer links with state think tanks will make it more effective.

2018 · E-governance: features, benefits and challenges

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain E-Governance, its features, benefits, and challenges.**

E-governance is the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to deliver government services, share information and run internal processes. It covers Government-to-Citizen (G2C), Government-to-Business (G2B), Government-to-Government (G2G) and Government-to-Employee (G2E) links. Its legal base is the **IT Act, 2000**, and it grew through the **National e-Governance Plan (2006)** and **Digital India (2015)**.

Features

- Online, **round-the-clock services** through portals, mobile apps and Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- **Single-window** delivery and integration of departments.
- **Digital identity and payments:** Aadhaar, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and UPI.
- **Two-way communication** with citizens through MyGov and grievance portals.
- **Paperless offices** through e-Office.

Benefits

1. **Efficiency:** faster service at lower cost, for example online land records (**Bhulekh** in UP).
2. **Transparency:** DBT removes middlemen; **GeM** and e-tendering make purchases open.
3. **Access:** villages reach services through CSCs; UP's **e-District** issues income, caste and domicile certificates online.
4. **Accountability:** UP's **IGRS (Jansunwai)** portal and CM Helpline 1076 track complaints.
5. **Better policy:** real-time data and dashboards.
6. **Ease of doing business:** single-window approvals such as UP's **Nivesh Mitra**.

Challenges

- **Digital divide** between rural and urban areas, men and women, and rich and poor.
- **Low digital literacy** and little content in local languages.
- **Infrastructure gaps** in power, broadband and devices.
- **Cyber security and privacy** risks.
- **Exclusion** when biometric checks fail for rations or pensions.
- **Resistance to change**, and computerisation without simplifying processes.

Conclusion: e-governance is the route to **SMART** (simple, moral, accountable, responsive and transparent) governance. Digital literacy, assisted access and strong data protection will make it inclusive.

2018 · 2019 amendments to the RTI Act and anti-terror laws

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Analyse the changes brought by the 2019 amendments to the RTI Act and Anti-Terror Laws.**

> **NOTE**
>
> The sheet lists this question under 2018, but these amendments were passed in July–August 2019, so the year may be misprinted. The answer covers the 2019 amendments as asked.

In 2019 Parliament amended the **Right to Information Act, 2005**, the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967** and the **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008**.

1. RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The fixed **five-year term** of Information Commissioners at the Centre and in the states became a term "as prescribed" by the Centre; rules of October 2019 set it at **three years**.
- Salaries, earlier linked to those of the Election Commission and Chief Secretaries, are now fixed by the Centre.
- **Government's view:** the Election Commission is constitutional and Information Commissions are statutory, so equal status was an anomaly.
- **Critics' view:** it weakens the **independence** of bodies that often rule against the government, and central control over state commissions hurts **federalism**.

2. UAPA (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The Centre can designate **individuals**, not only organisations, as terrorists; Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Dawood Ibrahim were the first (September 2019).
- The **Director General of the NIA** can approve seizure of property in NIA cases, without the state police chief.
- NIA officers of **Inspector** rank can investigate.

3. NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The NIA can investigate scheduled offences **committed abroad** against Indians or Indian interests.
- New offences: human trafficking, counterfeit currency, prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and explosives.
- The Centre can designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts.

Analysis

- **Merits:** terrorists cannot escape by forming new groups under new names; the laws match global standards (FATF) and tackle cross-border and cyber terror.
- **Concerns:** labelling a person a terrorist **without trial** harms reputation and Article 21 rights, with the remedy lying first with the government and a review committee it appoints; police is a **state subject**; and UAPA cases have a low conviction rate.

Conclusion: security and transparency are both public goods. Independent commissions, judicial oversight of designations and time-bound trials would keep the balance.

2018 · Issues of poverty and hunger

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the main issues related to poverty and hunger?**

Poverty is the inability to meet basic needs; hunger is the lack of enough safe and nutritious food. By the Tendulkar method, **21.9%** of Indians were poor in 2011–12; UP, at about **29%**, had the largest number of poor of any state. India ranked **103 of 119** in the Global Hunger Index 2018.

Main issues

1. **Measurement:** experts disagree on the poverty line (Tendulkar 21.9% against Rangarajan 29.5% for 2011–12), and no new official estimate has been made since. Poverty is also **multidimensional**, covering health, education and living standards.
2. **Rural distress and informal work:** small farms, low productivity, disguised unemployment and a large informal workforce keep incomes low and insecure.
3. **Paradox of plenty:** foodgrain output reached a record of about 285 million tonnes in 2018–19, yet malnutrition persists. NFHS-4 (2015–16) found **38.4%** of children under five stunted and **53%** of women anaemic; in UP stunting was about **46%**.
4. **Hidden hunger:** cereal-heavy diets lack protein and micronutrients.
5. **Weak delivery:** PDS leakages (about 46%, Shanta Kumar Committee, 2015), exclusion of eligible families and poor targeting.
6. **Health and social factors:** high out-of-pocket health spending pushes families into poverty, poor sanitation spreads infections that worsen malnutrition, and SCs, STs, women and children suffer most.
7. **Regional inequality and climate:** regions such as Bundelkhand face drought and distress migration.

Responses: the **National Food Security Act, 2013**, MGNREGA, Mid-Day Meals, **POSHAN Abhiyaan** (2018) and **Ayushman Bharat** (2018). About 27 crore Indians left multidimensional poverty between 2005–06 and 2015–16 (Global MPI 2018).

Conclusion: poverty and hunger are linked problems of income, nutrition and access. Jobs, a varied food basket and better delivery are the way to **SDG 1 and SDG 2** (No Poverty, Zero Hunger).

2019 · Role of the NHRC

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Briefly state the role of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India.**

The NHRC is a **statutory body** set up on **12 October 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**, in line with the UN **Paris Principles**. A former Chief Justice of India or Supreme Court judge heads it.

Role

1. **Inquiry:** it inquires, on its own or on a petition, into human rights violations by public servants or their negligence in preventing them, with the powers of a **civil court**.
2. **Custody watchdog:** it visits jails, requires **custodial deaths to be reported within 24 hours** and has issued guidelines on encounter killings.
3. **Relief:** it recommends **compensation**, interim relief and prosecution of guilty officials.
4. **Review and awareness:** it reviews laws and treaties, intervenes in court cases and promotes human rights education.

Limitations

- Its recommendations are **not binding**.
- It cannot take up cases more than **one year old**, and has only a limited role over the **armed forces**.
- It has a heavy backlog; **UP** usually accounts for the largest share of complaints.

Conclusion: binding recommendations and better follow-up would make this conscience-keeper more effective.

2019 · Citizen's Charter

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Write a note on Citizen's Charter.**

A **Citizen's Charter** is a public declaration by a government office of the services it provides, the **standards and time limits** it promises, and how citizens can seek redress. The idea began in the **United Kingdom in 1991** under John Major. India adopted it after the **Conference of Chief Ministers in 1997**, and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (**DARPG**) coordinates it.

Main components

- Vision and mission of the organisation.

- Services offered, with standards and timelines.
- Procedures, fees and the officers responsible.
- A **grievance redress** mechanism.
- Expectations from citizens.

Related steps

- **Sevottam model (2006):** a DARPG framework that links the charter, grievance redress and service-delivery capacity, based on **IS 15700:2005** of the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- **Right to service laws** make promises enforceable; the **UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011** fixes time limits and penalises delay.

Problems: charters are rarely legally binding, are drafted without consulting citizens, are little known and are seldom updated.

Conclusion: the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (12th Report, *Citizen Centric Administration*) asked for realistic, consulted and enforceable charters. Backed by e-governance, they can make administration truly citizen-centric.

2019, 2022 · SHGs: challenges and remedies

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks · also asked in 2019 (8 marks)
>
> **Discuss the challenges before SHGs and ways to make them effective.** ***(2019: What are the challenges before Self-Help Groups (SHGs)? Suggest measures to make them effective.)***

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of 10–20 members, mostly women, save and borrow together. Under **DAY-NRLM** they have become the base of rural livelihood programmes, yet many groups remain small and fragile.

Challenges

1. **Credit gaps:** loans are small and often used for consumption; some banks are reluctant to lend, and repayment is weak in places.
2. **Regional imbalance:** the movement is strongest in the southern states; in northern states, including UP, it came later and is weaker.
3. **Low skills and market access:** low-value products with poor quality, branding and packaging.
4. **Internal problems:** domination by a few members, poor record-keeping due to low literacy, and groups breaking up.
5. **Patriarchy:** male relatives may control loans, and women's mobility is limited.
6. **Over-indebtedness:** borrowing from several microfinance lenders, as in the Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis of 2010.
7. **Dependence on subsidies and promoters:** groups formed to meet targets often collapse when support ends.

Measures to make them effective

- **Strong federations:** village organisations and cluster-level federations for bulk buying, marketing and bargaining, linked with **Farmer Producer Organisations**.
- **More and cheaper credit:** larger collateral-free loans, interest subvention and insurance.
- **Skills and enterprise:** training through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) to move into higher-value work.
- **Market access:** UP's One District One Product scheme, SARAS fairs, GeM, e-commerce and common brands.
- **Digital records:** NABARD's **EShakti** digitises SHG accounts.
- **Convergence:** UP's **BC Sakhi**, SHG-run take-home ration units and the **Lakhpati Didi** target of 3 crore women.
- **Gender awareness**, regular grading and social audits.

Conclusion: SHGs must move from **thrift groups to enterprises**. With credit, skills and markets, they can drive the women-led development that Viksit Bharat @2047 needs.

2019 · Digital India: pillars and challenges

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **What is meant by Digital India? Discuss its pillars and challenges.**

Digital India, launched on **1 July 2015**, aims to make India a **digitally empowered society and knowledge economy**. Its three vision areas are digital infrastructure as a core utility for every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens.

The nine pillars

1. **Broadband highways:** BharatNet to connect gram panchayats.
2. **Universal access to mobile connectivity.**
3. **Public Internet Access Programme:** Common Service Centres and post offices as service points.
4. **e-Governance:** reforming government through technology, with simpler forms and online records.
5. **e-Kranti:** electronic delivery of services in health, education, farming and justice.
6. **Information for All:** open data and the MyGov platform.
7. **Electronics manufacturing:** a target of net zero imports; Samsung's large mobile phone factory in **Noida** (2018) is an example.
8. **IT for Jobs:** training youth for IT and IT-enabled services.
9. **Early Harvest Programmes:** quick projects such as biometric attendance and Wi-Fi in universities.

Achievements: Aadhaar, DigiLocker, UPI, UMANG, GeM and the **JAM trinity** have made India a leader in digital public infrastructure; **PMGDISHA** aims to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate.

Challenges

- **Digital divide** between urban and rural areas and between men and women.
- **Slow BharatNet** roll-out and weak last-mile connectivity.
- **Low digital literacy** and little content in Indian languages.
- **Cyber security and privacy**, with no data protection law at the time.
- **Exclusion** due to Aadhaar authentication failures in welfare schemes.
- **Import dependence** for electronics and semiconductors.
- Poor power supply and few devices in poorer states such as UP.

Conclusion: Digital India has laid the rails of a modern economy. Universal connectivity, digital literacy and strong data protection (now the DPDP Act, 2023) will make it inclusive.

2019, 2021 · Central Vigilance Commission

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks · also asked in 2021 (12 marks)
>
> **Describe the composition and functions of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and analyse its limitations.** ***(2021: Describe the composition, functions, and limitations of the Central Vigilance Commission.)***

The **CVC** was set up in **1964** by an executive resolution on the advice of the **Santhanam Committee** on prevention of corruption. After the **Vineet Narain** judgment (1997), it became a statutory body under the **CVC Act, 2003**.

Composition

- A **Central Vigilance Commissioner** and up to **two Vigilance Commissioners**.
- Appointed by the President on the recommendation of the **Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha**.
- Term of **four years** or till age 65; no further government post after retirement.
- Removal by the President on set grounds, or for misbehaviour or incapacity after a Supreme Court inquiry.

Functions

1. Inquire into offences under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** by senior central officials and officers of central PSUs and public sector banks.
2. **Superintend** the CBI in corruption cases and review its progress.
3. Supervise **vigilance work** in ministries and advise in disciplinary cases.
4. Receive **whistle-blower** complaints (since 2004).
5. Chair the committees that recommend senior CBI officers and the Director of Enforcement.
6. Prevent corruption through technical checks on public works, integrity pacts and **Vigilance Awareness Week** around 31 October.

Limitations

- **Advisory only:** its advice is not binding and is often delayed or ignored.
- **No investigating force of its own** for criminal cases; it relies on the CBI, which is under government control.
- **Small staff** for lakhs of officials; no power over private persons or state employees.
- **Prior approval** is needed under Section 17A of the PC Act (added in 2018) before probing officials' decisions.
- **Executive-dominated appointments:** the Supreme Court quashed the appointment of P.J. Thomas as CVC in 2011.
- **Overlap** with the Lokpal and departmental vigilance.

Conclusion: binding advice in serious cases, its own investigators and close coordination with the Lokpal would make the CVC far more effective.

2019, 2021, 2023 · Civil services in a democracy

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks · also asked in 2021 and 2023 (12 marks)
>
> **Discuss the role of Civil Services in a democratic set-up.** ***(2021: Discuss the role of Civil Services in a democratic set-up (India-specific).) (2023: Clarify the role of Civil Servants in strengthening democracy.)***

Civil services are the permanent, professional officials who run the government. In India they are covered by **Part XIV (Articles 308–323)**; Article 311 protects them from arbitrary dismissal, and **Sardar Patel** built the All-India Services to hold the Union together. In a democracy ministers decide, while civil servants advise and implement, staying **neutral and accountable**.

Role in a democracy

1. **Policy advice:** data, expertise, continuity and frank advice to elected ministers.
2. **Implementation:** they turn laws and schemes into results; the District Magistrate is the key link between the state and citizens.
3. **Free and fair elections:** officials serve as returning officers and district election officers.
4. **Rule of law and rights:** impartial enforcement of laws and protection of minorities and weaker sections.
5. **Continuity and unity:** governments change but the services provide stability; the All-India Services link the Centre and states.
6. **Development:** they lead programmes such as Aspirational Districts (eight in UP, including Bahraich, Shravasti and Sonbhadra).
7. **Crisis management:** for example, the **Kumbh at Prayagraj (2019)** and the COVID-19 response in UP.

How they strengthen democracy

- **Responsiveness:** grievance systems such as UP's **IGRS** and CPGRAMS.
- **Transparency:** RTI, social audits and proactive disclosure.
- **Participation:** working with panchayats, SHGs and civil society.

Challenges: politicisation and frequent transfers (*T.S.R. Subramanian v Union of India*, 2013, asked for fixed tenure and Civil Services Boards), red tape, corruption, a colonial mindset and weak specialist skills.

Reforms: Mission Karmayogi (2020) for capacity building "from rule to role", lateral entry, performance-based appraisal and a code of ethics, as the Second ARC recommended.

Conclusion: a neutral, capable and citizen-friendly civil service carries democracy to the last citizen and is essential for Viksit Bharat @2047.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> Arts. 308–323 · Art. 311 (protection) · Art. 312 (All-India Services) · Civil Services Day 21 April · T.S.R. Subramanian (2013) · Mission Karmayogi (2020) · Second ARC 10th Report (personnel administration).

2020 · ICT and government policies

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Evaluate the role of ICT in the context of government policies.**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT), covering computers, the internet, mobiles and data systems, now shapes every stage of government policy.

Positive role

1. **Policy design:** data, dashboards and public consultation on **MyGov** give better evidence and citizen input.
2. **Targeted delivery:** the **JAM trinity** (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) enables Direct Benefit Transfer; **PM-KISAN** (2019) pays farmers directly, and **One Nation One Ration Card** makes rations portable.
3. **Monitoring: PRAGATI** (2015) lets the Prime Minister review projects; geo-tagging checks MGNREGA and housing assets.
4. **Crisis response:** in 2020, cash reached Jan Dhan accounts and **Aarogya Setu** helped contact tracing.
5. **UP examples:** e-PoS machines at ration shops, the **IGRS** grievance portal, **Nivesh Mitra** for investors and drone mapping of villages under **SVAMITVA** (2020).

Limits

- The **digital divide** leaves out many poor, elderly and women.
- **Biometric failures** can deny benefits.
- **Privacy and cyber risks**, with no data protection law then.

Evaluation: ICT has made policies faster, better targeted and more transparent, but it is a tool, not a substitute for good design and human support.

Conclusion: digital literacy, offline options and data protection will make ICT-led policy inclusive.

2020 · NGOs and rural development in UP

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Examine the role of NGOs for rural development in Uttar Pradesh.**

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are voluntary, non-profit bodies working for public causes. In UP, with a mostly rural population and wide regional gaps, they complement the state in rural development.

Role

1. **Education: Pratham** runs learning programmes and its ASER survey tracks children's reading levels in UP's villages.
2. **Water:** in **Bundelkhand**, NGOs such as Parmarth have trained women as "Jal Sahelis" to revive ponds and manage water.
3. **Sanitation and health: Sulabh International** spread low-cost toilets; NGOs support immunisation, nutrition and encephalitis control in eastern UP.
4. **Livelihoods:** they form and train self-help and producer groups, often with NABARD.
5. **Disaster relief** during floods in eastern UP.
6. **Accountability:** social audits, RTI and awareness of rights under MGNREGA and the Food Security Act.
7. **Innovation:** low-cost models the government can scale up.

Problems

- Uneven spread, with many concentrated in towns.
- Dependence on grants, and tighter foreign funding rules after the **FCRA amendment of 2020**.
- Weak transparency in some organisations.

Conclusion: registration on NITI Aayog's **NGO Darpan** portal, transparent funding and partnership with panchayats can make NGOs real partners in UP's rural transformation.

2020 · Human resource management in India

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Analyse various aspects relating to management of human resources in India.**

Human resource management means developing a country's people through education, health, skills and jobs, and managing the government's own workforce. With about two-thirds of its people of working age, India has a **demographic dividend** to use in time.

Aspects

1. **Education:** high enrolment but weak learning; **NEP 2020** stresses foundational literacy and targets 50% higher-education enrolment by 2035.
2. **Skills:** few workers have formal training; **Skill India** (2015), **PMKVY** and the **UP Skill Development Mission** aim to close the gap.
3. **Health and nutrition:** stunting and anaemia reduce productivity.
4. **Employment:** most workers are informal, with low wages and no social security.
5. **Women's participation:** among the lowest in the world.
6. **Migration:** workers from UP and Bihar move to cities; the 2020 lockdown exposed their lack of protection.
7. **Public personnel:** recruitment delays, vacancies and weak appraisal; **Mission Karmayogi** (2020) aims at competency-based civil services.

UP angle: UP has the largest population (about 20 crore, Census 2011) and a young workforce, so skilling in UP will shape India's dividend.

Conclusion: human capital is the base of Viksit Bharat @2047.

2020 · Has e-governance made administration citizen-centric?

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **To what extent has e-Governance made administration citizen-centric?**

Citizen-centric administration puts the citizen at the centre: services are easy to reach, quick, transparent and accountable, and citizens have a voice (Second ARC, 12th Report). Through the National e-Governance Plan (2006) and Digital India (2015), e-governance has moved administration a long way towards this.

How it has helped

1. **Easy access:** Common Service Centres, **UMANG**, **DigiLocker** and UP's **e-District** portal bring services to the village and the phone; **Passport Seva** cut waiting times sharply.
2. **Transparency:** online land records (**Bhulekh**), e-tendering and **GeM** reduce discretion and bribes.
3. **Direct benefits:** DBT through Jan Dhan accounts removed middlemen; in April–June 2020, ₹500 a month reached women's Jan Dhan accounts.
4. **Grievance redress:** CPGRAMS, **IGRS (Jansunwai)** and **CM Helpline 1076** in UP let citizens complain and track action; **MyGov** invites ideas.
5. **Time-bound services:** online applications under UP's **Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011** come with fixed time limits.
6. **Ease of doing business: Nivesh Mitra** single-window approvals helped UP rise to **second** in the Business Reform Action Plan 2019 rankings.

Where it falls short

- **Digital divide:** poor, elderly, rural and women users struggle, and many still depend on agents.
- **Old processes in new forms:** without process re-engineering, red tape simply moves online.
- **Complaints closed without being solved** on grievance portals.
- **Exclusion** through biometric failures and poor connectivity.
- **Privacy and data security** concerns; the right to privacy was recognised in *Puttaswamy* (2017).
- Complex interfaces in few languages.

Assessment: e-governance has made administration more **accessible, faster and more transparent**. But citizen-centricity also needs empathy, participation and accountability, which technology alone cannot provide.

Conclusion: an "assisted digital" model, local languages, digital literacy and redesign based on feedback will complete the shift from office-centric to citizen-centric governance.

2020 · RTI and sincere public service

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **"RTI Act has forced civil servants to serve people sincerely." Explain.**

The **Right to Information Act, 2005** lets every citizen obtain information from public authorities. It grew out of grassroots campaigns such as the **Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan** in Rajasthan, and the Second ARC titled its first report *Right to Information: Master Key to Good Governance*. By opening records to the public, it has changed how officials work.

How it pushes officials to serve sincerely

1. **Answerability:** officials must explain their decisions; file notings and reasons can be seen, so arbitrary action is risky.
2. **Time limits and penalties:** information must be given within **30 days** (48 hours where life or liberty is involved), and a Public Information Officer can be fined up to **₹25,000** (Section 20).
3. **Exposing wrongdoing:** RTI has brought out irregularities in ration shops, MGNREGA muster rolls and housing allotments, such as the **Adarsh Housing** scam in Mumbai.
4. **A tool for ordinary people:** citizens use RTI to ask why a pension, ration card or scholarship is pending, and files often move once an application is filed.
5. **Proactive disclosure (Section 4):** departments must publish rules, budgets and decisions, which improves record-keeping.
6. **Deterrence:** knowing their work may be examined, officers follow rules more carefully.

Limits

- Many replies are incomplete or late, and penalties are **rarely imposed**.
- **Pending appeals and vacancies** in Information Commissions; in *Anjali Bhardwaj v Union of India* (2019), the Supreme Court ordered timely appointments.
- **Attacks on RTI users**, while the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 has not been brought into force.
- The **2019 amendment** reduced the commissions' independence.
- Some officers now avoid recording reasons, which hurts transparency.
- Awareness is low in rural areas.

Conclusion: RTI has made sincerity partly **compulsory**, but lasting change needs ethical values, strong commissions and good record management. Together they can make officials true servants of the people.

2020, 2022 · UP's administrative system: problems and reforms

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks · also asked in 2022 (12 marks)
>
> **Examine problems and reforms in the administrative system of Uttar Pradesh.** ***(2022: Write a critical note on problems and reforms in UP's administrative system.)***

Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, is governed through **18 divisions and 75 districts**, about 350 tehsils, more than 800 development blocks and about 58,000 gram panchayats. Serving over 20 crore people at this scale is a severe test of administration.

Problems

1. **Scale and shortage:** few officials, doctors, teachers and police per lakh people, and many vacancies.
2. **Frequent transfers and political interference:** short tenures of District Magistrates and police chiefs weaken accountability.
3. **Corruption and red tape**, especially at tehsil, police station and block level.
4. **Land disputes:** heavy pendency in revenue courts and outdated records.
5. **Law and order:** organised crime, land mafias and a low police–population ratio.
6. **Weak decentralisation:** panchayats lack funds, functions and staff.
7. **Regional gaps:** Bundelkhand and Purvanchal lag in capacity and outcomes.
8. **Recruitment delays** and exam paper leaks.

Reforms

- **Grievance redress:** the **IGRS (Jansunwai)** portal and **CM Helpline 1076**, with checks on how complaints are closed.
- **Digital administration:** e-Office, e-District, **Bhulekh**, the **RCCMS** for revenue court cases and **Gharauni** property cards under SVAMITVA.
- **Investment climate: Nivesh Mitra**; UP rose to **second** in the Business Reform Action Plan 2019 rankings.
- **Policing:** the **commissionerate system** in Lucknow and Gautam Buddh Nagar (2020) and later other big cities, **UP 112**, anti-land-mafia drives and **Mission Shakti**.
- **Grassroots capacity:** panchayat secretariats with Panchayat Sahayaks.
- **Training:** the Uttar Pradesh Academy of Administration and Management, Lucknow.

Critical assessment: the reforms have improved digital delivery, the investment climate and the sense of security. Yet complaints are often closed without real relief, police excesses draw criticism, power is centralised in Lucknow and local bodies remain weak.

Conclusion: fixed tenures, filled vacancies, real devolution to panchayats and outcome-based monitoring are needed so that UP's administration can carry its **USD 1 trillion** economy goal.

2021, 2022 · NGOs in policy formulation

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks · also asked in 2022 (8 marks)
>
> **Discuss the role of NGOs in the process of policy formulation.** ***(2022: Discuss the role of NGOs in the policy-making process.)***

NGOs are voluntary, non-profit groups outside government. They bring field evidence and the voices of the marginalised into policy.

Role in policy formulation

1. **Agenda setting:** grassroots campaigns raise issues; the **MKSS** campaign in Rajasthan paved the way for the **RTI Act, 2005**.
2. **Research and data: Pratham's ASER** reports drew attention to poor learning levels, a concern taken up in **NEP 2020**; **PRS Legislative Research** analyses bills.
3. **Drafting and advice:** civil society members of the **National Advisory Council** (2004–14) shaped MGNREGA, the Forest Rights Act and the Food Security Act.
4. **Consultation:** the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy (2014) invites public comments on draft laws.
5. **Advocacy and litigation:** the **ADR** case (2002) made candidates disclose criminal records and assets; disability groups shaped the **RPwD Act, 2016**.
6. **Feedback:** social audits and field reports help revise schemes.

Limits

- **Urban and elite bias**, and weak accountability.
- Concerns over foreign funding, with stricter **FCRA** rules in 2020.

Conclusion: the **National Policy on the Voluntary Sector (2007)** sees NGOs as partners; transparent funding and structured consultation can make policy more responsive.

2021 · Why the Citizen's Charter has not been effective

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Evaluate "Citizen Charter in India could not become effective."**

Citizen's Charters came to India in **1997** to state the standards, time limits and grievance procedures of public offices, but their impact has been limited.

Why they did not become effective

1. **No legal force:** citizens cannot enforce them, and there is no penalty for failure.
2. **Top-down drafting:** prepared without consulting citizens or front-line staff, often in a copied format.
3. **Low awareness:** most citizens do not know they exist.
4. **Vague standards**, rarely updated.
5. **Weak grievance redress**, with no link to officers' appraisal.
6. **Culture and resources:** a rule-bound mindset and poor training.
7. **Failed law:** the Citizen's Charter and Grievance Redressal Bill, 2011 lapsed in 2014.

Some progress

- **Sevottam** (2006) linked charters to quality standards.
- **Right to service laws**, starting with Madhya Pradesh (2010) and including the **UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011**, added time limits and fines.
- Online services and **CPGRAMS** make standards trackable.

Evaluation: the statement is largely true of charters as stand-alone documents, but their spirit lives on in right-to-service laws and e-governance.

Conclusion: as the Second ARC advised, charters should be realistic, made with citizens and enforceable.

2021 · Challenges before UP's revenue system

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the challenges before the revenue system of Uttar Pradesh?**

> **NOTE**
>
> "Revenue system" can mean land revenue administration or the state's income. This answer covers mainly the first and adds the main fiscal challenges.

UP's revenue administration works under the **UP Revenue Code, 2006** (in force since 2016). It runs from the **Board of Revenue** through the Divisional Commissioner, District Collector, SDM and Tehsildar down to the village **Lekhpal**. It keeps land records, collects dues and settles land disputes.

Challenges in revenue administration

1. **Pending cases:** a large backlog of mutation, partition and boundary cases in revenue courts.
2. **Outdated records:** old surveys and maps, inheritance disputes and fragmented holdings.
3. **Encroachment** on public and gram sabha land by land mafias.
4. **Overburdened lower staff:** too few Lekhpals for many villages, and petty corruption.
5. **Partial digitisation:** records are online on **Bhulekh**, but maps and records often do not match.

Fiscal challenges

- Heavy dependence on central transfers and a modest own-tax base.
- Revenue loss through stamp duty evasion and illegal mining.
- Pressure after GST compensation ended in June 2022.

Reforms: the **RCCMS** portal for revenue courts, **Gharauni** cards under SVAMITVA, anti-land-mafia drives and digital land records.

Conclusion: modern surveys, digitised maps, time-bound disposal and trained staff can make UP's revenue system fair and efficient.

2021 · MGNREGA and the rural poor

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **MGNREGA empowers rural poor to alleviate poverty — Comment.**

The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005** guarantees **100 days of wage employment** a year to every rural household whose adults volunteer for unskilled manual work. It is a **legal right**: work must be given within 15 days of demand, or an unemployment allowance is due. It began in February 2006 and now covers the whole country.

How it empowers the rural poor

1. **Income security:** a safety net in drought and crisis; in COVID-19 (2020–21) its spending crossed **₹1 lakh crore** as it absorbed returning migrants, many in UP.
2. **Bargaining power:** it has pushed up rural wages and reduced distress migration.
3. **Women:** at least one-third of beneficiaries must be women; nationally they get more than half of the work days, at equal wages, paid into their own accounts.
4. **Social justice:** SCs and STs take part in large numbers and receive individual assets such as farm ponds.
5. **Assets and resilience:** ponds, check dams and plantations conserve water and soil; in **Bundelkhand**, revived ponds have helped farming.
6. **Democratic empowerment:** the Gram Sabha plans works, social audits (Section 17) let people check spending, and wages through banks promote financial inclusion.

Limitations

- **Delayed wages**, criticised by the Supreme Court (*Swaraj Abhiyan*, 2016), and compensation for delay is rarely paid.
- Wages in many states are below the state minimum wage.
- Households get about **50 days** of work a year on average, not 100.
- Fund shortages, fake job cards and poor-quality assets in places.

Comment: MGNREGA empowers the poor as a **rights-based safety net**, but it cannot lift them out of poverty alone; it must be linked with skills, livelihoods and farm growth.

Conclusion: timely payment, fair wage rates and durable assets would make it a stronger tool for **SDG 1** and rural prosperity in UP.

2022 · UMANG: salient features

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the salient features of the "UMANG Scheme" related to e-governance.**

UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) was launched by the Prime Minister on **23 November 2017**. The **Ministry of Electronics and IT** and the **National e-Governance Division** developed it to bring government services onto one mobile platform.

Salient features

1. **One app, many services:** more than a thousand services of central and state departments and local bodies.
2. **Integrated platform:** linked with **Aadhaar**, **DigiLocker** and a payment gateway, so users can sign in, fetch documents and pay fees in one place.
3. **Many channels:** Android and iOS apps, a website, SMS and phone-based access.
4. **Indian languages:** Hindi, English and several regional languages.
5. **Popular services:** EPFO passbook and claims, Jeevan Pramaan, PAN and Aadhaar services, gas booking, bill payments and exam results.
6. **Feedback:** ratings and grievance filing.

Benefits: services anytime and anywhere, fewer office visits, lower cost and more transparency.

Challenges: limited smartphone and internet access in villages, low digital literacy and uneven inclusion of state services.

Conclusion: UMANG puts government in the citizen's pocket. Wider state integration and assisted access through Common Service Centres can make it universal.

2022 · Mission Shakti in UP

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Describe the objectives and achievements of "Mission Shakti" by UP Government.**

> **NOTE**
>
> Mission Shakti runs in phases and its figures change; check the latest phase and data before the exam.

Mission Shakti is the UP Government's campaign for the **safety, dignity and self-reliance of women and girls**. It was launched on **17 October 2020**, during Sharadiya Navratri, and has continued in phases. The police, many departments and civil society work together under it.

Objectives

1. **Nari Suraksha (safety):** prevent crimes against women and ensure quick police response and justice.
2. **Nari Samman (dignity):** change social attitudes and spread awareness of rights and laws.
3. **Nari Swavalamban (self-reliance):** promote education, skills, jobs and financial independence.
4. **Convergence:** make women aware of helplines and schemes, and bring departments together.

Achievements

- **Policing: women help desks** in police stations, **Pink Booths** and **Pink Patrols**, Anti-Romeo Squads, **UP 112** response vehicles and the helplines **1090** and **181**.
- **Justice:** fast-track and POCSO courts, and drives for quick convictions in crimes against women.
- **Economic support:** the **Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana** gives ₹15,000 in six stages from birth to graduation (raised to ₹25,000 in 2024); lakhs of girls have benefited.
- **Livelihoods:** SHG women work as **BC Sakhis** and run nutrition units.
- **Jobs: 20% reservation** for women in UP Police has raised their presence.
- **Awareness:** campaigns in schools, colleges and villages, and self-defence training for girls.
- **Data:** UP records the most crimes against women because of its size, but its rate per lakh women is below the national average (NCRB).

Challenges: under-reporting, slow trials, deep-rooted patriarchy, women's low share in the workforce and the risk of the mission becoming event-based.

Conclusion: Mission Shakti has made women's safety a governance priority in UP. Sustained focus on education, jobs and attitudes will turn safety into real empowerment, in line with **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**.

2022 · NITI Aayog: objectives, composition and achievements

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Explain the objectives, composition, and achievements of NITI Aayog.

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) replaced the Planning Commission on **1 January 2015** through a Cabinet resolution. It is the Government of India's main **policy think tank**, based on cooperative and competitive federalism.

Objectives

- A shared vision of national development with the states.
- **Cooperative federalism** and plans built from the village level upwards.
- Focus on sections at risk of being left behind.
- Long-term policy advice, support for innovation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Composition

- **Chairperson:** the Prime Minister.
- **Governing Council:** Chief Ministers of all states and of UTs with legislatures, and Lieutenant Governors of other UTs.
- **Regional Councils** for regional issues.
- **Vice-Chairperson** of Cabinet rank, appointed by the PM (Suman Bery since 2022).
- **Full-time members**, up to **two part-time members** from leading institutions, and up to **four Union ministers** as ex officio members.
- A **CEO** of Secretary rank, and special invitees.

Achievements

1. **Competitive federalism:** state rankings such as the **SDG India Index**, Health Index, School Education Quality Index, Composite Water Management Index and Export Preparedness Index.
2. **Aspirational Districts Programme** (2018): 112 backward districts, eight in UP, tracked on health, education and other indicators; the UNDP praised it.
3. **Atal Innovation Mission** (2016): Atal Tinkering Labs in schools and incubation centres.
4. **Policy reform:** its proposals led to the **National Medical Commission Act, 2019**, and it prepared the **National Monetisation Pipeline** (2021).
5. **Poverty measurement:** the first **National Multidimensional Poverty Index** (2021).
6. **Evaluation:** the **DMEO** reviews centrally sponsored schemes.
7. **COVID-19:** its Member (Health) led the national expert group on vaccine administration.

Limits: it has no funds to allocate, its advice is not binding, and critics question its independence.

Conclusion: NITI Aayog has made policy more data-driven and state-friendly; stronger partnerships with states are key to Viksit Bharat @2047.

2023 · Transparency and accountability

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

"Transparency and Accountability are complementary." Comment.

Transparency means that government decisions, rules and information are open to the public. **Accountability** means that officials must answer for their actions and face consequences. Each is incomplete without the other.

Why they are complementary

1. **Transparency makes accountability possible:** citizens, the media and Parliament can question only what they can see; RTI replies and audit reports supply the evidence.
2. **Accountability gives transparency teeth:** information matters only if wrongdoing leads to action through courts, the Lokpal, vigilance bodies or elections.
3. **Together they reduce corruption and build trust**, the core of good governance.

Examples

- **MGNREGA social audits** (Section 17) open muster rolls to the Gram Sabha and lead to recoveries.
- **CAG reports**, examined by the Public Accounts Committee, and the digital trail of **DBT** and **GeM**.
- In UP, the **IGRS** portal tracks complaints openly, and the **UP Lokayukta** (Act of 1975) inquires into complaints against public servants.

Tensions: transparency must respect privacy and security (Section 8 of the RTI Act), and too much fear of scrutiny can slow decisions.

Conclusion: transparency and accountability are two sides of good governance, reflected in **SDG 16.6** on effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

2023 · SHGs: composition and functions

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Write an analytical note on the composition and functions of SHGs.

A Self-Help Group (SHG) is an informal, voluntary group of poor people, mostly women, who save and borrow together and support one another.

Composition

- **Size:** usually **10–20 members**; as few as five in difficult areas or for special groups (DAY-NRLM norms).
- **Membership:** people of similar socio-economic background, one per household.
- **Leadership:** a president, secretary and treasurer chosen by members, ideally by rotation.
- **Rules:** the **Panchasutra**: regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, timely repayment and up-to-date books.
- **Federations:** Village Organisations and Cluster Level Federations.

Functions

1. **Savings and credit:** internal loans and bank loans under the SHG–Bank Linkage Programme.
2. **Livelihoods:** dairy, handicrafts and food processing, often linked to UP's One District One Product scheme.
3. **Delivery partners:** BC Sakhis and take-home ration units in UP.
4. **Social action:** awareness of health, nutrition and sanitation, and campaigns against social evils.
5. **Empowerment:** leadership and a path into panchayat politics.

Analysis: the group model builds **social capital**, and peer pressure keeps repayment high; but small size limits scale, and many groups depend on outside support.

Conclusion: federations and market links can turn SHGs into community enterprises.

2023 · ICT for delivering government services

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **"ICT is an application for delivering government services." Discuss.**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become the main channel for delivering services to citizens (G2C), businesses (G2B) and other government bodies (G2G).

ICT as a delivery tool

1. **Online services:** UP's **e-District** portal issues certificates, and **UMANG** and **DigiLocker** put hundreds of services on the phone.
2. **Assisted access:** Common Service Centres serve villagers without devices or skills.
3. **Direct Benefit Transfer:** Aadhaar-linked bank accounts carry pensions, scholarships and PM-KISAN money directly.
4. **Food security:** e-PoS machines at ration shops and **One Nation One Ration Card**.
5. **Grievance redress:** CPGRAMS and UP's **IGRS**.
6. **Emergency response: UP 112** sends police vehicles using GPS.

More than an application: ICT also changes how government works. It enables process re-engineering, data-based decisions and **digital public infrastructure** (Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker), which India promoted during its G20 presidency (2023).

Concerns: the digital divide, low digital literacy, cyber threats, privacy (now covered by the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**) and exclusion when systems fail.

Conclusion: ICT is a powerful delivery application, but works best with simple processes, human help and data protection.

2023 · Management of health services in UP

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss aspects related to management of Health Services in UP.**

Public health is a state subject (State List, Entry 6). UP, with the largest population, runs one of India's biggest public health systems through the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare, the Department of Medical Education and the **National Health Mission**.

Aspects of management

1. **Infrastructure:** sub-centres and **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** (Health and Wellness Centres), Primary and Community Health Centres, district hospitals and medical colleges. The state aims at a medical college in every district, and their number has risen sharply since 2017.
2. **Human resources:** shortages of specialists at CHCs and of doctors and nurses in rural areas; **ASHAs** link villages to services.
3. **Financing:** high out-of-pocket spending; **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY** (2018) and the state's **Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan** give hospital cover to poor families.
4. **Maternal and child health:** institutional deliveries have risen and **102 and 108 ambulances** serve mothers and emergencies. Still, the maternal mortality ratio was **167** (SRS 2018–20) against 97 nationally, and the total fertility rate is **2.4** (NFHS-5).
5. **Disease control:** joint campaigns of several departments, such as **Dastak**, sharply cut deaths from **encephalitis** in the Gorakhpur region; work continues on TB and filaria.
6. **Digital health:** telemedicine through **e-Sanjeevani** and health IDs under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** (2021).
7. **Performance:** UP ranked last among large states in NITI Aayog's Health Index (2019–20) but first in **year-on-year improvement**.

Challenges: vacancies and absenteeism, weak referral systems, unregulated private clinics, poor nutrition and sanitation, and gaps in Bundelkhand and eastern UP.

Way forward: incentives for rural postings, stronger primary care, careful public–private partnership and data-based tracking of outcomes.

Conclusion: better health management is essential for **SDG 3** and for the human capital that UP's USD 1 trillion economy needs.

2023 · Citizen's Charter and citizens' welfare

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **What is Citizen's Charter? What is its role in welfare of citizens?**

A **Citizen's Charter** is a written commitment by a public organisation about the **services it offers, the standards and time limits it promises, and the remedy available** if it fails. It began in the **UK in 1991** and was adopted in India in **1997**, with the **DARPG** as the guiding agency. DARPG lists its principles as quality, choice, standards, value for money, accountability and transparency.

Components of an Indian charter

- Vision and mission, and the services offered with standards for each.
- Procedures, fees and the officers responsible.
- A grievance redress mechanism.
- What citizens are expected to do.

Role in citizens' welfare

1. **Awareness of entitlements:** people learn what they can get and how, for example pensions, ration cards and scholarships, and depend less on middlemen.
2. **Timely services:** clear time limits speed up delivery; the **UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011** gives legal force to time limits for notified services.
3. **Accountability:** named officers and escalation steps make someone answerable for delay.
4. **Less corruption and harassment:** fixed fees and procedures leave less room for discretion.
5. **Equity:** promises of non-discrimination and courtesy help the elderly, women, persons with disabilities and the poor.
6. **Feedback:** citizens' responses help departments improve schemes.
7. **Quality management:** the **Sevottam** model and **IS 15700:2005** link charters to grievance redress and service capacity.

Limits: most charters are not legally enforceable, are drafted without consultation and are little known.

Way forward (Second ARC, 12th Report): prepare charters with citizens, keep promises realistic, review them regularly, fix responsibility and compensate for failures; put them online and link them to right-to-service laws.

Conclusion: a well-made charter turns the welfare state of **Article 38** into everyday reality by treating citizens as rights-holders, not supplicants.

2024 · NITI Aayog and India's development

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Write the role of NITI Aayog in India's development.**

NITI Aayog, which replaced the Planning Commission on 1 January 2015, is India's **policy think tank**. It guides development through ideas, data and partnership with the states.

Role in development

1. **Long-term vision:** it is shaping the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**, the theme of its Governing Council meetings since 2023.
2. **Cooperative federalism:** the Governing Council brings Chief Ministers together, and NITI helps states build their own think tanks.
3. **Competitive federalism:** rankings such as the **SDG India Index** push states to improve.
4. **Backward areas:** the **Aspirational Districts Programme** (2018), with eight districts in UP, has improved health, nutrition and education indicators; the **Aspirational Blocks Programme** (2023) covers 500 blocks.
5. **Poverty tracking:** its 2024 paper estimated that about **24.8 crore** people left multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23, with UP showing the largest decline.
6. **Innovation and evaluation:** the **Atal Innovation Mission**, and scheme evaluation by the DMEO.

Limits: it is advisory and has no funds to give.

Conclusion: NITI Aayog works as the platform of **Team India**; its value lies in turning the 2047 vision into action in the states.

2024 · PDS and poverty alleviation

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Review the contribution of PDS in poverty alleviation.**

The **Public Distribution System (PDS)** supplies subsidised grain through fair price shops. It became the **Targeted PDS** in 1997 and a **legal right** under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**, covering up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population.

Contribution

1. **Food security:** about 80 crore people get 5 kg of grain per person a month (35 kg per Antyodaya household), **free since January 2023**.
2. **Income support:** free grain frees household money for health and education.
3. **Shock absorber:** extra free grain under **PMGKAY** (from April 2020) prevented hunger in COVID-19.
4. **Nutrition and gender: fortified rice** fights anaemia, and the eldest woman heads the household on the ration card.
5. **UP example:** about **15 crore** beneficiaries, the most of any state, with e-PoS machines and **One Nation One Ration Card** for migrants.

Limitations

- **Leakages** (about 46%, Shanta Kumar Committee, 2015), since cut by digitisation.
- **Exclusion:** coverage rests on Census 2011, and biometric checks fail.
- A **cereal-heavy basket** and high fiscal cost.

Conclusion: the PDS is a pillar of poverty alleviation; updated coverage, millets and pulses can make it a stronger tool for **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**.

Governance (contd.)

2024 · Civil society in administrative development

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Examine the role of Civil Society in Indian administrative development.**

Civil society is the space of voluntary association between the family, the market and the State. It includes NGOs, community groups, self-help groups, trade unions, the media and academia. In India it is both a partner and a watchdog of administration.

Role in administrative development

- **Policy reform:** the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan's campaign led to the **RTI Act, 2005**, and the Right to Food campaign helped bring the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- **Accountability:** social audits under MGNREGA, citizen report cards and the Association for Democratic Reforms (whose case led to disclosure of candidates' assets and criminal records) make officials answerable.
- **Last-mile delivery:** Pratham's ASER survey, Akshaya Patra's mid-day meals and SEWA's work with informal women workers fill gaps in state capacity.
- **Participation:** NGOs mobilise gram sabhas and SHGs. In UP's Banda, the Gulabi Gang took up women's rights and local corruption.
- **Crisis response:** food and migrant relief during COVID-19.

Limits: opaque foreign funding (hence the FCRA), urban bias, politicisation and weak internal accountability.

Conclusion: A transparent and autonomous civil society makes administration citizen-centric, as the Second ARC urged.

2024 · Challenges in implementing welfare schemes

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks · also listed under Social Justice (2024)
>
> **What challenges is the Government facing in implementing welfare schemes for vulnerable sections?** ***(Social Justice list: What challenges is the government facing in implementing welfare schemes for the most vulnerable sections?)***

The most vulnerable sections are SCs, STs (especially PVTGs), women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants and informal workers. Hundreds of central and state schemes exist for them, but there is a gap between what is designed and what is delivered.

Challenges

1. **Identification and targeting:** lists often rest on old data such as SECC 2011. This causes inclusion and exclusion errors. The homeless, migrants and nomadic groups often lack documents.
2. **Access and awareness:** low literacy, language barriers and the digital divide keep people out. Biometric authentication often fails for the elderly and manual workers.
3. **Leakages and corruption:** middlemen, fake beneficiaries, ghost job cards and diversion of ration grain.
4. **Fragmentation:** many overlapping schemes run by different departments, with poor convergence and rigid norms for centrally sponsored schemes.
5. **Weak capacity:** delayed fund releases (for example, MGNREGA wage delays), vacancies, overburdened ASHA and anganwadi workers, and weak monitoring.
6. **Social barriers:** caste discrimination, patriarchy and stigma (manual scavengers, transgender persons) let local elites capture benefits.
7. **Poor grievance redress and evaluation:** social audits are irregular, and outputs are counted instead of outcomes such as learning or nutrition.

Steps taken

- **JAM trinity and DBT** have removed duplicate beneficiaries, and *One Nation One Ration Card* gives migrants portability.
- **Saturation approach:** the Aspirational Districts Programme (2018), PM-JANMAN for PVTGs (2023) and the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (2023–24).
- **UP:** the Family ID (*Ek Parivar Ek Pehchan*) builds a single database of families for scheme delivery.

Way forward: a dynamic beneficiary registry, offline fallbacks when authentication fails, community monitoring, outcome budgeting and sensitive frontline staff.

Conclusion: Welfare succeeds when it reaches the last person. That is the spirit of *Antyodaya* and of the SDG promise to "leave no one behind".

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> JAM + DBT · ONORC · Aspirational Districts (2018) · PM-JANMAN (2023) · inclusion vs exclusion errors · social audit.

2024 · New Economic Policy and the labour class

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks · also listed under Social Justice (2024)
> **The labour class has been affected by the New Economic Policy. Explain.** ***(Social Justice list: The labour class of the country has been significantly affected by the New Economic Policy. Explain.)***

The **New Economic Policy of July 1991** responded to a balance-of-payments crisis with liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG). It moved India from state-led to market-led growth, and this changed the world of work.

Gains for workers

- Faster growth created jobs in services such as IT, telecom, retail, finance and logistics, and raised the wages of skilled workers.
- Export industries (garments, leather, auto parts) and FDI opened factory jobs, many of them for women in garment units.

Losses and new insecurities

1. **Informalisation:** nearly nine in ten workers remain informal, without written contracts or social security.
2. **Contractualisation:** firms hired contract and casual labour to stay outside labour laws. The share of contract workers in organised manufacturing rose sharply.
3. **Jobless growth:** growth became capital-intensive and manufacturing's share of jobs stayed low.
4. **Shrinking public sector:** disinvestment, voluntary retirement schemes and closures of sick units. The decline of **Kanpur's textile mills** is a UP example.
5. **Weaker bargaining:** union membership and strikes declined, and employers demanded freedom to hire and fire.
6. **Distress migration:** stagnant farm incomes pushed workers from UP and Bihar into insecure urban jobs. The 2020 lockdown, when lakhs walked home to UP, exposed this.
7. **Gig work:** flexible, but without job security.

Policy response

- Four **Labour Codes (2019–20)** merged 29 central laws. The Code on Social Security, 2020 recognises gig and platform workers.
- The **e-Shram** portal (2021) registers unorganised workers, and UP has the largest number of registrations. PM-SYM pensions, skilling and PLI schemes add support.
- **UP:** *One District One Product* (2018) supports artisans and small units.

Conclusion: The reforms widened opportunity but also widened insecurity. "Flexicurity", universal social security and labour-intensive manufacturing are needed for decent work (SDG 8) and for UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

2024 · Progress on hunger and poverty after 2014

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **What is India's progress on hunger and poverty after 2014?**

After 2014, policy moved towards **saturation coverage** of basic needs (bank accounts, houses, toilets, cooking gas, electricity, tap water and food), backed by direct benefit transfers.

Progress on poverty

- **NITI Aayog (discussion paper, January 2024):** multidimensional poverty fell from **29.17% in 2013–14 to 11.28% in 2022–23**. About **24.82 crore** people escaped it. **Uttar Pradesh** recorded the largest decline, about 5.94 crore people.
- **World Bank (2025):** extreme poverty (USD 2.15 a day) fell from about 16% in 2011–12 to about 2.3% in 2022–23.
- **Drivers:** Jan Dhan (over 50 crore accounts), PM Awas, Ujjwala (over 10 crore LPG connections), Swachh Bharat, Saubhagya, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat and PM-KISAN.

Progress on hunger

- **Food security:** free food grains under PMGKAY began in April 2020. Since January 2024, about 81 crore people get free grain for five years. Fortified rice is also distributed.
- **Nutrition:** POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018), Mission Poshan 2.0 and PM POSHAN. Between NFHS-4 (2015–16) and NFHS-5 (2019–21):

- stunting fell from 38.4% to 35.5%;
- underweight fell from 35.8% to 32.1%;
- wasting fell from 21.0% to 19.3%.

Concerns

- **Anaemia rose:** among women (15–49 years) from 53.1% to 57.0%, and among children (6–59 months) from 58.6% to 67.1%.
- **Global Hunger Index 2024** ranks India **105 of 127** ("serious"). The government disputes the method, since three of its four indicators measure only children.
- **Measurement gap:** there is no official poverty line after the Tendulkar estimate of 2011–12.
- **Other gaps:** informal jobs, low wages, inequality and high out-of-pocket health spending keep many people just above the line.

Conclusion: India has sharply cut basic deprivation. The next stage is better nutrition, quality jobs and higher incomes, to meet SDG 1 and 2 and the goal of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **NOTE**
> Poverty and hunger figures change with each survey and index. Check the latest MPI, NFHS and GHI values before the exam.

International Relations

2018 · India's opposition to mediation on Kashmir

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
> **Why is India opposed to mediation on Kashmir?**

India holds that Jammu and Kashmir became an integral part of India when Maharaja Hari Singh signed the **Instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947**. Any issue with Pakistan is therefore bilateral, and India rejects third-party mediation.

Reasons

- **Simla Agreement (1972):** India and Pakistan agreed to settle differences through bilateral negotiations. The Lahore Declaration (1999) reaffirmed this. Mediation would breach it.
- **Sovereignty:** Kashmir is an internal matter. Parliament's unanimous resolution of **22 February 1994** declared J&K an integral part of India and asked Pakistan to vacate PoK.
- **Bitter UN experience:** India's own complaint to the UN in January 1948 got caught in Cold War politics. The precondition for a plebiscite, Pakistan's withdrawal, was never met.
- **No false equivalence:** a mediator would treat the victim and the sponsor of cross-border terrorism alike. Pakistan seeks internationalisation only to gain leverage.
- **Consistent practice:** India rejected the US President's offer to mediate in July 2019.

Conclusion: India is open to talks with Pakistan, but only bilaterally and in an atmosphere free of terror and violence.

2018 · Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
> **Critically examine the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.**

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the UN. It sits at The Hague and has **15 judges** elected for nine years by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Jurisdiction

1. **Contentious:** only states can be parties, and only with their consent. Consent comes through a special agreement, a treaty clause, or a declaration accepting compulsory jurisdiction (Article 36(2) of the Statute). India relied on the Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations in the **Kulbhushan Jadhav case (2019)**.
2. **Advisory:** opinions on legal questions asked by the UNGA, the UNSC or authorised agencies, such as the Chagos opinion (2019).
3. **Binding effect:** members undertake to comply (Article 94 of the Charter).

Limitations

- **Consent can be withheld:** India's declaration excludes Commonwealth states, so the Court declined Pakistan's *Aerial Incident* case (2000).
- **No enforcement:** the USA ignored the *Nicaragua* judgment (1986), and Russia ignored the 2022 order to halt operations in Ukraine.
- **Advisory opinions do not bind.**
- **Individuals cannot be parties;** crimes of individuals go to the ICC.

Conclusion: The ICJ offers a peaceful forum, but its reach depends on state consent and political will.

2018 · US withdrawal from Afghanistan and India

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
> **How will the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan affect India?**

The US-led intervention of 2001 removed the Taliban. By 2018–19, US–Taliban talks in Doha aimed at a pull-out. The **Doha Agreement (February 2020)** led to full withdrawal by the end of August 2021, and the Taliban took Kabul on **15 August 2021**.

Security effects

- A Taliban-run Afghanistan serves Pakistan's search for "strategic depth". Groups such as LeT and JeM could find safe havens, with spill-over into J&K. The IC-814 hijacking (1999), which ended at Kandahar, is a reminder.
- Drug trafficking and radicalisation could increase, since Afghanistan is a leading opium producer.

Economic and development effects

- India has committed **over USD 3 billion** in aid, including the Parliament building (2015), the Salma (Afghan–India Friendship) Dam in Herat (2016), the Zaranj–Delaram highway (2009), schools and hospitals. These assets and the goodwill they built are at risk.
- Connectivity plans through **Chabahar** to Afghanistan and Central Asia, the INSTC and the TAPI pipeline become uncertain.

Strategic effects

- India's influence shrinks while China, Pakistan, Russia and Iran gain space. India was left out of some negotiating formats.
- The region could again become a theatre of great-power and proxy rivalry.

India's options

- Engage all Afghan stakeholders pragmatically, while not legitimising terror.
- Work through regional formats (the Moscow format and the SCO) and with Iran, Russia and the Central Asian states.
- Keep the humanitarian bond with the Afghan people. Under India's UNSC presidency, **Resolution 2593 (August 2021)** demanded that Afghan soil not be used for terrorism. India later sent wheat, medicines and vaccines.

Conclusion: The withdrawal raises India's security risks. Patient, people-centred engagement and regional coordination can protect India's interests.

2018 · India–China relations and OBOR

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the nature of India–China relations in the light of OBOR.**

One Belt One Road (OBOR), now the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was launched by Xi Jinping in 2013. It has a land belt (the Silk Road Economic Belt) and a sea route (the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road). India is the only major neighbour that has refused to join.

Why India opposes OBOR

- **Sovereignty:** its flagship, the **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, passes through Gilgit-Baltistan in PoK. India boycotted the Belt and Road Forums of 2017 and 2019.
- **Debt trap:** Sri Lanka leased **Hambantota port** to a Chinese firm for 99 years in 2017.
- **Strategic encirclement:** Chinese-linked ports at Gwadar, Hambantota and Kyaukphyu, and China's naval base at Djibouti (2017), are seen as a "string of pearls".
- **Opacity:** weak transparency and weak environmental and labour standards.

Nature of the relationship: cooperation, competition and conflict

1. **Cooperation:** both are in BRICS, the SCO, the AIIB (India is a founding member and its second-largest shareholder) and the New Development Bank. China is one of India's largest trading partners. The Wuhan informal summit (2018) tried to reset ties after Doklam.
2. **Competition:** both seek influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. India's answers include SAGAR (2015), the Act East Policy, Chabahar, the INSTC and the Asia–Africa Growth Corridor with Japan (2017).
3. **Conflict:** the 73-day **Doklam standoff (2017)**, China's blocking of India's NSG bid, its long hold on listing Masood Azhar (lifted in May 2019) and a huge trade deficit.

Assessment: The relationship is one of "**competitive coexistence**". OBOR sharpens the rivalry because it turns connectivity into geopolitics.

Conclusion: India supports connectivity that respects sovereignty, transparency and sustainable debt. It must also build its own alternatives with partners, such as the later India–Middle East–Europe Corridor (2023).

2019, 2022 · Irritants in India–Nepal relations

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks · also asked in 2022 (8 marks)
>
> **What are the main irritants in Indo–Nepal bilateral relations?** ***(2022: Which are the contentious issues between India and Nepal?)***

India and Nepal share an open border and deep "roti-beti" ties; seven UP districts, from Pilibhit to Maharajganj, border Nepal. Yet irritants persist.

Main irritants

1. **Boundary disputes:** Nepal claims **Kalapani–Lipulekh–Limpiyadhura**. It objected to India's new political map (November 2019) and the Lipulekh road to Kailash–Mansarovar (May 2020). In June 2020 it adopted a new map by a constitutional amendment. Susta is another disputed area.
2. **1950 Treaty:** Nepal calls it unequal. The Eminent Persons Group report (2018) has not been formally received.
3. **2015 "blockade":** during the Madhesi agitation against Nepal's new Constitution, Nepal blamed India for the border blockade.
4. **China factor:** Nepal joined the BRI in 2017 and signed transit agreements with China.
5. **Water and projects:** the Kosi and Gandak agreements are seen as unfair, and the Pancheshwar project under the Mahakali Treaty (1996) is delayed.
6. **Others:** Gorkha recruitment paused after Agnipath (2022), a trade deficit, and misuse of the open border for smuggling and trafficking.

Conclusion: Projects such as the Motihari–Amlekhganj pipeline (2019) and long-term power trade show that delivery and quiet diplomacy can ease these irritants.

2019 · India's claim to permanent UNSC membership

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **Is India a strong claimant for permanent membership of the UN Security Council?**

The UN Security Council has **15 members**: five permanent members with the veto (USA, UK, France, Russia and China) and ten elected for two years. Its structure still reflects 1945. India argues that a Council without it is neither representative nor credible.

Strengths of India's claim

1. **Population and democracy:** about one-sixth of humanity and the world's largest democracy.
2. **Economy:** among the five largest economies in the world, and one of the fastest-growing.
3. **Peacekeeping:** one of the largest troop contributors since the 1950s, with more than 2.5 lakh personnel in about 50 missions. India sent the first all-women formed police unit (Liberia, 2007).
4. **UN record:** a founding member, elected to the Council seven times by 2019. In June 2020 it won an eighth term (2021–22) with 184 of 192 votes.
5. **Responsible nuclear power:** a No-First-Use doctrine, and membership of the MTCR (2016), the Wassenaar Arrangement (2017) and the Australia Group (2018).
6. **Support:** the USA, UK, France and Russia back India. It works with the G4 (Brazil, Germany, Japan) and speaks for the Global South.

Obstacles

- **China** has not endorsed India's bid.
- **Uniting for Consensus** (Italy, Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico, South Korea and others) opposes any new permanent seats.

- **Article 108 of the Charter:** an amendment needs two-thirds of the General Assembly and ratification by two-thirds of members, including all five permanent members.
- **Stalled talks:** the Intergovernmental Negotiations (since 2009) have no agreed text. Africa's Ezulwini Consensus seeks two permanent seats with the veto.

Judgement: On merit India's claim is among the strongest. The obstacle is the politics of reform, not India's credentials.

Conclusion: India should keep building coalitions (G4, L.69, the African Union) and acting as a responsible power, while pressing for "reformed multilateralism".

2019 · Climate change and developing countries

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the impact of climate change on developing countries.**

The IPCC's Special Report (2018) found that the world has already warmed by about **1°C** above pre-industrial levels. Developing countries contributed least to historical emissions. Yet they suffer most, because their economies depend on climate-sensitive sectors and they have little money to adapt.

Impacts

1. **Agriculture and food security:** heat stress, erratic monsoons and droughts cut yields of wheat and rice. This hurts rain-fed farmers in South Asia and Africa.
2. **Water stress:** retreating Himalayan glaciers threaten river flows, while the Sahel faces long droughts.
3. **Extreme events:** stronger cyclones such as **Idai** (Mozambique, 2019) and **Fani** (Odisha, 2019), floods and heat waves destroy lives and assets.
4. **Sea-level rise:** a threat to the survival of small island states such as the Maldives, Tuvalu and Kiribati, and to deltas such as Bangladesh and the Sundarbans.
5. **Health:** more malaria, dengue and heat stroke.
6. **Development and poverty:** the World Bank's *Shock Waves* report (2015) warned that climate change could push over 100 million more people into extreme poverty by 2030. Rebuilding after disasters adds to debt.
7. **Migration and conflict:** displacement and competition for water and land. Women, the poor and tribal communities are hit hardest.

Uttar Pradesh: recurring drought in Bundelkhand, floods in the Ghaghra and Rapti basins of eastern UP, and severe heat waves. The state has a State Action Plan on Climate Change.

Global response and justice

- The UNFCCC rests on **common but differentiated responsibilities**, and the Paris Agreement (2015) on national pledges (NDCs).
- The promise of USD 100 billion a year by 2020 was not met. A Loss and Damage Fund was later agreed at COP27 (2022).
- India leads through the International Solar Alliance (2015).

Conclusion: Climate justice needs finance, technology transfer and adaptation support, so that developing countries can grow while meeting SDG 13.

2019 · US–Iran tensions and India

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the causes behind recent USA–Iran tensions and their impact on India?**

US–Iran hostility dates from the 1979 Islamic Revolution. It sharpened from 2018.

Causes

1. **US exit from the nuclear deal:** in May 2018 the USA left the **JCPOA** (2015, Iran with the P5+1). It reimposed "maximum pressure" sanctions and in May 2019 ended waivers for oil buyers. Iran then breached enrichment limits.
2. **Regional rivalry:** Iran backs Hezbollah, the Houthis and Shia militias in Iraq and Syria. US allies Israel and Saudi Arabia see Iran as their main threat.
3. **Gulf incidents of 2019:** attacks on tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's downing of a US drone (June), and the strike on Saudi Aramco plants (September) blamed on Iran. The USA had named Iran's IRGC a terrorist organisation (April 2019).
4. **Escalation in January 2020:** a US strike in Baghdad killed Quds Force commander **General Qasem Soleimani**. Iran fired missiles at US bases in Iraq.

Impact on India

- **Energy security:** India imports over 80% of its crude oil. It stopped buying Iranian oil after May 2019. Price spikes raise inflation and the current account deficit and weaken the rupee.
- **Chabahar and the INSTC:** the USA exempted Chabahar from sanctions (2018), but uncertainty slowed India's route to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- **Diaspora:** nearly 90 lakh Indians live in the Gulf, and their remittances and safety are at stake.
- **Shipping:** the Indian Navy launched **Operation Sankalp** (June 2019) to escort Indian-flagged ships in the Gulf.
- **Diplomatic balancing:** India must balance its partnership with the USA (with CAATSA-type sanctions risks) against ties with Iran, the Gulf Arab states and Israel.

Conclusion: India should keep its strategic autonomy, diversify oil suppliers, enlarge strategic reserves and keep urging dialogue, because peace in the Gulf is a direct national interest.

2020 · India's diaspora policy and its challenges

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **What is India's diaspora policy? What challenges does it face?**

India has the **world's largest diaspora** (UN DESA, 2020) and receives the most remittances (World Bank). Its policy has moved from distance to active engagement.

Evolution and tools

- **Early years:** Nehru advised Indians abroad to integrate with their host societies.
- **L.M. Singhvi Committee (set up in 2000):** led to the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**, held since 2003 on 9 January (Gandhi's return from South Africa in 1915). The 2019 edition was held in **Varanasi**.
- **Status and services:** PIO card (1999) and OCI (2005), merged into OCI in 2015; the Indian Community Welfare Fund, the MADAD portal and e-Migrate.
- **Protection:** evacuations such as Operation Raahat (Yemen, 2015) and the Vande Bharat Mission (2020).

Challenges

- Exploitation of low-skilled workers in the Gulf (the *kafala* system, unpaid wages, seized passports) under an outdated **Emigration Act, 1983**.
- Visa curbs (H-1B), racial attacks and COVID-19 job losses.

- No dual citizenship or easy overseas voting.
- Brain drain, and pro-Khalistan fringes in Canada and the UK.

Conclusion: A new emigration law, skill certification and stronger welfare support abroad would make the diaspora a full partner in *Viksit Bharat*.

2020 · India–US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Comment on India–America "2+2 Ministerial Dialogue."**

The **2+2 dialogue** brings together the foreign and defence ministers of India and the USA. It was agreed by PM Modi and President Trump in June 2017, and the first round was held in **New Delhi on 6 September 2018**.

Key outcomes

- **2018 (New Delhi): COMCASA** for secure communications, and hotlines between the ministers.
- **2019 (Washington):** the **Industrial Security Annex**, which lets private defence firms share classified technology. The first tri-service exercise, *Tiger Triumph*, was held the same year.
- **2020 (New Delhi): BECA** for sharing geospatial intelligence. It completed the four foundational agreements (GSOMIA 2002, LEMOA 2016, COMCASA 2018, BECA 2020).

Significance

- It turns strategic convergence on the Indo-Pacific, the Quad, terrorism and maritime security into a regular, institutional process.
- It deepens interoperability and technology access, building on India's status as a Major Defence Partner (2016).
- BECA was signed in October 2020, in the middle of the LAC standoff with China.

Concerns: possible CAATSA sanctions over the S-400, trade disputes, and India's wish to keep strategic autonomy.

Conclusion: The 2+2 has become the backbone of a comprehensive global strategic partnership. India now holds similar dialogues with Japan and other partners.

2020 · LAC dispute despite the Mamallapuram summit

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Despite cordial Mamallapuram summit, LAC dispute deepened — Why?**

The second **informal summit at Mamallapuram (11–12 October 2019)** followed Wuhan (2018). It produced warm images and a new high-level economic and trade dialogue. Yet in **April–May 2020** the PLA moved troops into eastern Ladakh at Galwan, Pangong Tso, Gogra–Hot Springs and Depsang. On **15 June 2020**, 20 Indian soldiers died in the Galwan clash.

Why the dispute deepened

1. **Undefined LAC:** the boundary is neither agreed nor marked on the ground. Each side patrols up to its own claim line, and the clarification of the LAC stalled after 2002.
2. **India's border infrastructure:** roads such as the **Darbuk–Shyok–Daulat Beg Oldi** road and new bridges alarmed China, which sees them as a threat to Aksai Chin and its western highway.
3. **Reorganisation of J&K (August 2019):** creating the Union Territory of Ladakh, and statements in Parliament on Aksai Chin, were read in Beijing as a challenge. China raised the issue at the UNSC.
4. **Chinese assertiveness:** under Xi Jinping, China used the COVID-19 distraction to press claims in the South China Sea, Hong Kong and the Himalayas.
5. **India's strategic choices:** closer ties with the USA and the Quad, opposition to the BRI, and curbs on FDI from neighbours (Press Note 3, April 2020).
6. **Limits of personal diplomacy:** informal summits built chemistry but no binding mechanisms, so the trust deficit and the trade imbalance remained.

Aftermath

- Disengagement came step by step after many rounds of corps-commander talks: Pangong (February 2021), Gogra (August 2021) and PP-15 (September 2022).
- A patrolling arrangement for Depsang and Demchok followed in October 2024.
- India also banned many Chinese apps and kept large troop deployments in place.

Conclusion: Summits cannot replace a settled boundary. As India insists, normal ties need peace on the border and "mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest".

2020 · QUAD and the Malabar exercise

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **What do you know about QUAD? Will Malabar exercise contain China?**

The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** links **India, the USA, Japan and Australia**. It grew from their Tsunami Core Group of 2004 and was proposed by Japan's PM Shinzo Abe in 2007. It lapsed when Australia withdrew in 2008, and was revived in November 2017. Its foreign ministers met in New York (2019) and Tokyo (October 2020).

Agenda of the QUAD

- A free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law and freedom of navigation.
- Maritime security, connectivity, supply chains, emerging technology, health and climate.
- It is **not a military alliance** and has no mutual-defence clause.

The Malabar exercise

- It began in 1992 as an India–US naval exercise. Japan became a permanent member in 2015.
- **Australia rejoined in November 2020**, so for the first time since 2007 all four QUAD navies exercised together.

Can Malabar contain China? It can help

- It signals resolve and builds interoperability in anti-submarine warfare and maritime awareness.
- It strengthens India's position on the sea lanes near the Malacca Strait, through which much of China's oil passes.
- It reassures smaller states in the region.

But it cannot contain China alone

- An exercise is not a deterrent alliance. China has the world's largest navy by number of ships.
- All four countries are deeply tied to China's economy, and ASEAN prefers not to take sides.
- India's main threat is on the **land border (LAC)**, which Malabar does not address.
- India's strategic autonomy rules out joining a containment bloc.

Judgement: Malabar can **balance and constrain** Chinese behaviour by raising its costs, but not contain it. That needs economic, technological and diplomatic strength, such as resilient supply chains and connectivity options for the region.

Conclusion: India's aim is a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. The QUAD and Malabar serve this aim alongside India's own capabilities.

2020 · Role of WHO during COVID-19

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the role of WHO during COVID-19 pandemic.**

The World Health Organization (1948, Geneva) coordinates international health under the **International Health Regulations (2005)**. COVID-19 was the hardest test of its role.

Positive role

1. **Alerts:** it declared a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020** and called COVID-19 a pandemic on **11 March 2020**.
2. **Guidance:** technical advice on testing, treatment, masks and distancing, and fighting the "infodemic" of false news.
3. **Research:** the *Solidarity* trial of treatments, and a global research roadmap.
4. **Equitable access:** the **ACT-Accelerator** and **COVAX** (with Gavi and CEPI) to give vaccines to poorer countries, with emergency use listing to speed approvals.
5. **Supplies:** with WFP, it sent testing kits and protective equipment to many low-income countries.

Criticism

- **Slow and deferential:** in mid-January 2020 it repeated China's claim that there was no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission. It delayed the emergency declaration and opposed early travel bans.
- **Changing advice** on masks and airborne spread hurt public trust.
- **Weak powers:** under the IHR it cannot enter a country or verify data without consent. The study of the virus's origins was inconclusive.
- **Funding:** most of its money is voluntary and earmarked. The USA announced its withdrawal in 2020, a decision reversed in January 2021.
- **Vaccine inequity:** rich countries hoarded doses and COVAX fell short. India and South Africa proposed a TRIPS waiver in October 2020.

India's angle: India chaired the WHO Executive Board from May 2020. It also supplied medicines and vaccines abroad under *Vaccine Maitri*.

Way forward: sustainable core funding, stronger IHR with timely reporting and independent verification, and a global pandemic treaty.

Conclusion: The WHO was indispensable but under-powered. A stronger, better-funded WHO is a global public good.

2021 · Main theme of the G-20 Rome Summit

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Comment on the main theme of the G-20 Summit held in Rome (2021).**

The **16th G20 Summit** met in **Rome on 30–31 October 2021** under Italy's presidency, with the theme "**People, Planet, Prosperity**" for recovery from COVID-19.

How the theme was reflected

- **People (health and recovery):** support for the WHO target of vaccinating **40% of the world by end-2021 and 70% by mid-2022**, and backing for COVAX and the ACT-Accelerator.
- **Planet (climate):** a commitment to keep the 1.5°C goal "within reach", and to end public financing of new unabated coal power abroad by the end of 2021.
- **Prosperity (economy):** endorsement of the OECD/G20 deal on a **global minimum corporate tax of 15%**. It also welcomed the IMF's new SDR allocation and debt relief for poor countries.

India's role: PM Modi offered to produce over 5 billion vaccine doses by the end of 2022 and promoted "One Earth, One Health".

Critical view: no firm net-zero year (only "by or around mid-century") and no domestic coal phase-out date.

Conclusion: Rome gave a people-centred direction to recovery and set the stage for Indonesia (2022) and India's own presidency (2023).

2021 · Chinese factor in India–Nepal relations

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the Chinese factor behind strained India–Nepal relations.**

Landlocked Nepal has long balanced India and China. After the 2015 blockade, which it blamed on India, it turned to China to reduce dependence.

How China figures

- **Connectivity:** the Transit and Transport Agreement (2016) gives Nepal access to Chinese ports. Nepal joined the **BRI in 2017**, and a Kerung–Kathmandu railway has been proposed.
- **High-level ties: Xi Jinping's visit in October 2019** was the first by a Chinese President in 23 years.
- **Politics:** in 2020 China's ambassador was seen mediating within the ruling Nepal Communist Party, and PM K.P. Sharma Oli's government issued a new map claiming Kalapani.
- **Investment:** Chinese-funded projects such as Pokhara International Airport.

Limits of the China card

- India is still Nepal's largest trade partner, with about two-thirds of its trade, and its main transit route.
- Open borders, Gorkha soldiers and "roti-beti" ties cannot be replaced.
- Debt fears and reports of Chinese encroachment in Humla make Nepal cautious.

Conclusion: India should not view Nepal only through a China lens. Delivering projects, such as the Jaynagar–Kurtha railway and power trade, wins more trust than rivalry.

2021 · Structure and functioning of the Arctic Council

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Write a short note on the structure and functioning of the Arctic Council.**

The **Arctic Council** was set up by the **Ottawa Declaration of 1996**. It is the main intergovernmental forum for cooperation on the Arctic, especially on environmental protection and sustainable development. It is not a treaty organisation.

Structure

1. **Members:** the eight Arctic states: **Canada, Denmark (for Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA**.
2. **Permanent Participants:** six organisations of indigenous peoples, including the Saami Council, the Inuit Circumpolar Council and RAIPON. They take part in all discussions.
3. **Observers:** 13 non-Arctic states and several international organisations and NGOs. India became an observer in **2013 (Kiruna)**, together with China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Italy.
4. **Chair:** rotates every two years among the members (Russia from May 2021).
5. **Working Groups:** six of them:
   - ACAP (contaminants);
   - AMAP (monitoring and assessment);
   - CAFF (flora and fauna);
   - EPPR (emergencies);
   - PAME (marine environment);
   - SDWG (sustainable development).
6. **Secretariat:** a permanent secretariat at **Tromsø, Norway** (since 2013).

Functioning

- Decisions are taken by **consensus** of the eight members. Ministerial meetings are held every two years, with Senior Arctic Officials in between.
- It produces scientific assessments, for example on climate change and black carbon.
- Three legally binding agreements were negotiated under its auspices: on **search and rescue (2011)**, **marine oil pollution (2013)** and **scientific cooperation (2017)**.
- **Military security is excluded** from its mandate, and it cannot enforce decisions.

Challenges: the Arctic is warming much faster than the global average, which opens new sea routes and a race for resources. China calls itself a "near-Arctic state" (2018 white paper). (In 2022, seven members paused work with Russia after its invasion of Ukraine.)

India's interest: the **Himadri** station at Svalbard (2008), the **Arctic Policy (2022)** and research on Arctic links with the monsoon.

Conclusion: The Council is a model of science-led, consensus-based cooperation, but its soft-law nature limits it as geopolitics intensifies.

2021 · India's soft power diplomacy in Afghanistan

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Evaluate the reasons for India's 'Soft Power' diplomacy in Afghanistan.**

Soft power, in Joseph Nye's phrase, is the ability to attract rather than coerce. After 2001, India chose development, education and culture, not troops, as the core of its Afghan policy.

Reasons for choosing soft power

1. **Civilisational bonds:** Gandhara art, Buddhist Bamiyan, the Kabuliwala image, and Bollywood and cricket ties gave India natural goodwill.
2. **Avoiding a military role:** Indian troops would have provoked Pakistan and drawn India into a war. Development made India a partner, not an occupier.
3. **Strategic aims through goodwill:** a friendly, stable Afghanistan denies space to anti-India terror groups and limits Pakistan's influence.
4. **Connectivity and resources:** access to Central Asia through **Chabahar** and the Zaranj–Delaram road (2009), and the TAPI gas pipeline.
5. **A democratic, inclusive Afghanistan:** helping institutions such as the **Parliament building (2015)** fitted India's own values.

Instruments

- **Development aid:** over USD 3 billion, including the **Salma Dam (2016)**, hundreds of small community projects in every province, and the Shahtoot dam agreement (2021).
- **Education:** about 1,000 ICCR scholarships a year, and training for Afghan officials and security forces.
- **Cricket:** Afghanistan's team used grounds in India, including **Lucknow's Ekana Stadium** (2019), as home venues.
- **Trade links:** an air freight corridor (2017) and wheat sent through Chabahar.

Evaluation

- **Gains:** surveys showed India as one of the most liked countries among Afghans, and India became a major regional donor.
- **Limits:** soft power could not shape the security outcome. With the Taliban's return in August 2021, India lost access and influence, its projects were put at risk, and it was not part of the US–Taliban negotiations.
- **Still useful:** the goodwill let India keep a humanitarian channel open after 2021, with wheat, medicines and vaccines.

Conclusion: Soft power was the right choice under India's constraints, but it must be backed by strategic engagement with all regional actors.

2021 · Abraham Accords and West Asian politics

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Abraham Accords are a new beginning in West Asian politics. Explain.**

The **Abraham Accords** were signed at the White House on **15 September 2020**. Brokered by the USA, they normalised relations between **Israel and the UAE and Bahrain**. **Sudan and Morocco** joined later in 2020–21. The name honours Abraham, the patriarch common to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Why they are a new beginning

1. **A break with old Arab consensus:** the Khartoum "three no's" (1967) and the Arab Peace Initiative (2002) tied recognition of Israel to a Palestinian state. The Accords separated the two.
2. **Pragmatism over ideology:** the shared concern about Iran, and interest in trade, technology, tourism and investment, now drive ties. Direct flights, embassies and business deals followed quickly.
3. **New security alignment:** Israel was moved into the US Central Command (2021), which eases defence coordination with Gulf states.
4. **New minilateral groups: I2U2** (India, Israel, the UAE and the USA) began with a foreign ministers' meeting in October 2021.
5. **Changed US role:** the USA can rely on regional partners as it reduces its own footprint.

Limits

- **Palestinians sidelined:** they rejected the Accords, and the core conflict remains unresolved.
- **Not peace between enemies:** the UAE and Bahrain had never fought Israel.
- **Transactional deals:** F-35 offers to the UAE, US recognition of Morocco's claim over Western Sahara, and removing Sudan from the terror list.
- **Polarisation:** the risk of a sharper Arab–Israeli versus Iran divide. (Saudi normalisation later stalled after the Hamas attack of October 2023.)

Significance for India: India has close ties with both Israel and the Gulf, so it no longer has to balance them so carefully. It gains through I2U2 projects such as food parks and renewable energy, and through future connectivity.

Conclusion: The Accords began a new, interest-based regional order. Lasting peace in West Asia, however, still needs a just two-state solution for the Palestinians.

2022 · Energy cooperation with West Asian countries

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Analyse India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries.**

India imports about **85% of its crude oil**, much of it from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and **Qatar is its largest LNG supplier**. Ties are moving from buyer–seller to strategic partnership.

Main features

- **Strategic reserves:** the UAE's ADNOC stores crude in India's strategic petroleum reserve at **Mangaluru**.
- **Upstream stakes:** an Indian consortium led by ONGC Videsh won a **10% stake in Abu Dhabi's Lower Zakum field (2018)**.
- **Downstream:** Saudi Aramco and ADNOC agreed (2018) to invest in a west-coast refinery, though it is delayed.
- **Clean energy:** Gulf investment in renewables and green hydrogen, including an I2U2 hybrid renewable project in Gujarat.
- **New payment and connectivity links:** rupee–dirham trade settlement with the UAE (2023) and the planned India–Middle East–Europe Corridor.

Challenges

- **Chokepoints:** dependence on the Strait of Hormuz and exposure to Gulf conflicts.
- **Sanctions:** US sanctions ended Iranian oil imports (2019) and stalled projects such as Farzad-B.
- **Prices:** OPEC+ output cuts; discounted Russian oil cut West Asia's share after 2022.

Conclusion: India should diversify suppliers while deepening long-term, investment-based partnerships with the Gulf for both oil and green energy.

2022 · Causes of the Russia–Ukraine conflict

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the causes of the Russia–Ukraine conflict.**

On **24 February 2022** Russia launched a "special military operation" against Ukraine, Europe's largest war since 1945.

Causes

1. **NATO's eastward expansion:** after enlargements in 1999 and 2004, the **Bucharest Summit (2008)** said Ukraine and Georgia "will become members". In December 2021 Russia demanded legal guarantees against further expansion.
2. **Ukraine's westward turn:** the **Euromaidan protests (2013–14)** ousted President Yanukovych after he dropped an EU association agreement. Russia then **annexed Crimea (March 2014)**.
3. **Donbas conflict:** Russia-backed separatists held parts of Donetsk and Luhansk. The **Minsk agreements (2014–15)** failed, and Russia recognised the two "republics" on 21 February 2022.
4. **History and identity:** Putin's essay of July 2021 called Russians and Ukrainians "one people"; Moscow claims to protect Russian speakers.
5. **Strategic geography:** the Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol and Ukraine's value as a buffer.

India's stand: India abstained on UN resolutions and called for dialogue and diplomacy. PM Modi told President Putin that "today's era is not an era of war" (SCO, Samarkand, September 2022).

Conclusion: The war reflects a clash between Europe's security order and Russia's insecurity; only negotiation can end it.

2022 · Contention and cooperation in India–US relations

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the areas of contention and cooperation in India–USA relations?**

India and the USA call their ties a **Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership**. Their interests converge in the Indo-Pacific, yet they differ on several issues.

Areas of cooperation

1. **Defence:** India is a **Major Defence Partner (2016)**. The four foundational agreements (GSOMIA, LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA) are in place. India has bought C-17, P-8I and Apache aircraft, and the two hold exercises such as *Yudh Abhyas*, *Malabar* and *Tiger Triumph*.
2. **Strategic:** the QUAD, a free and open Indo-Pacific, counter-terrorism, and the 2+2 dialogue.
3. **Technology:** the **initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET, 2023)** covers semiconductors, AI and space. A deal was announced (June 2023) for GE and HAL to co-produce F414 jet engines.
4. **Trade and investment:** the USA became **India's largest trading partner** (from 2021–22), and India has a trade surplus with it. US firms are major investors.
5. **Energy:** US LNG and crude, and the civil nuclear deal (2008).

6. **People, space and health:** over 4 million Indian Americans, the NISAR satellite, the Artemis Accords (2023) and pharma.

Areas of contention

1. **Trade:** the US ended India's GSP benefits (2019) and imposed steel and aluminium tariffs. There are disputes over data localisation, digital taxes and patents.
2. **Russia:** the S-400 purchase and the CAATSA threat, India's neutral stand on Ukraine, and its imports of Russian oil.
3. **Pakistan:** a US package to sustain Pakistan's F-16s (2022).
4. **Iran:** sanctions affected oil imports and Chabahar.
5. **Mobility:** H-1B visa curbs and green-card backlogs.
6. **Values:** US reports on religious freedom in India, which India rejects.

Assessment: Cooperation is structural and growing, while differences are mostly manageable. India's strategic autonomy means it partners with the USA but does not ally with it.

Conclusion: Dialogue, a trade deal and co-developed technology can make this a defining partnership of the century.

2022 · World Bank and India's sustainable development

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Evaluate the role of the World Bank in India's sustainable development.**

The **World Bank Group** (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID) came out of Bretton Woods (1944). India is a founding member and one of its largest borrowers. India **graduated from IDA's soft loans in 2014**, but still uses IBRD loans, IFC investment and the Bank's knowledge work.

Positive role

1. **Infrastructure:** the **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor**, which runs largely through UP, rural roads, power and urban transport.
2. **Water and environment:** the National Ganga River Basin project (2011), the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), the National Hydrology Project and **Atal Bhujal Yojana** for groundwater.
3. **Sanitation and health:** support for the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)**, health systems and the COVID-19 emergency response.
4. **Social protection:** a programme (2020) to scale up cash and food support during the pandemic.
5. **UP examples:** the long-running **UP Sodic Lands Reclamation** projects revived barren *usar* land, and a pro-poor tourism project covered Agra and Braj.
6. **Climate and private capital:** IFC investments in renewable energy and green bonds, and partnership with the International Solar Alliance.

Limitations

- **Conditionalities:** the structural adjustment of 1991 was criticised for imposing a "Washington Consensus" model.
- **Social and environmental costs:** Bank funding for the **Sardar Sarovar project ended in 1993** after the independent Morse review criticised resettlement.
- **Scale:** its lending is small compared with India's investment needs.
- **Voice:** India's voting share is lower than its economic weight. The *Doing Business* report was discontinued (2021) after data irregularities.

Reform: during India's G20 presidency (2023), an expert group led by **N.K. Singh and Lawrence Summers** recommended stronger, bigger multilateral banks for climate and development finance.

Judgement: The World Bank has been a useful catalyst, bringing finance, technology and global practice, but India's own policy has driven its sustainable development.

Conclusion: A reformed, climate-focused Bank can help India meet its SDGs and its 2070 net-zero target.

2023 · SAARC's failure and the turn to BIMSTEC

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **The failure of SAARC forced India to strengthen BIMSTEC. Explain.**

SAARC (Dhaka, 1985) has eight members, but its last summit was held in **Kathmandu in 2014**. The 19th summit at Islamabad (2016) was called off after the **Uri attack**, when India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan stayed away.

Why SAARC stalled

- India–Pakistan hostility and Pakistan's support to terrorism.
- The consensus rule, which let Pakistan block the motor vehicles and railway agreements (2014).
- SAFTA (2006) has not lifted intra-regional trade, which stays at about 5% of the region's total trade.

Why BIMSTEC

- **BIMSTEC** (Bangkok Declaration, 1997) links **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**, without Pakistan.
- It joins *Neighbourhood First* with the *Act East Policy* and opens the Bay of Bengal and India's Northeast through the Kaladan project and the Trilateral Highway.
- India invited BIMSTEC leaders to the Goa BRICS outreach (2016) and to the 2019 swearing-in.
- The **BIMSTEC Charter (Colombo, 2022)** gave it legal personality and seven sectors, with India leading security.

But: BIMSTEC is slow too. Its FTA is unfinished, and Myanmar's crisis and the Rohingya issue hurt it.

Conclusion: BIMSTEC is a practical alternative, not a full substitute, for regional integration.

2023 · Rationale for India's involvement in QUAD

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain the rationale behind India's involvement in QUAD.**

The **QUAD** (India, the USA, Japan and Australia) has held leaders' summits since **2021** to promote a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Rationale

1. **Balancing China:** after the 2020 LAC clashes and China's naval push into the Indian Ocean, the QUAD helps keep a favourable balance of power.
2. **Maritime security:** safety of sea lanes and freedom of navigation under UNCLOS. The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (2022) helps track illegal fishing and dark shipping.

3. **Technology and supply chains:** cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, semiconductors, clean energy and resilient supply chains supports *Make in India*.
4. **Public goods:** the QUAD Vaccine Partnership (2021), disaster relief, climate action and infrastructure raise India's standing as a net security provider.
5. **Status and partnerships:** it deepens defence and intelligence ties with three major democracies.

Strategic autonomy kept

- India insists the QUAD is **not a military alliance**, and it respects ASEAN centrality.
- India stays in BRICS and the SCO at the same time. This is "multi-alignment".

Conclusion: The QUAD serves India's goals of a stable, rules-based Indo-Pacific without binding India to any bloc.

2023 · Significance of India's G-20 presidency

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What is the significance of India's presidency in G-20?**

India held the **G20 presidency from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023**. The theme was ***Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*: "One Earth, One Family, One Future"**, and the summit met at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on **9–10 September 2023**.

Significance

1. **Voice of the Global South:** India held the *Voice of the Global South* summit (January 2023). The **African Union** became a **permanent member** of the G20.
2. **Consensus in a divided world:** the **New Delhi Leaders' Declaration** was adopted unanimously despite the Ukraine war.
3. **Development and climate:** a Green Development Pact, support for tripling renewable capacity, the **Global Biofuels Alliance**, and principles for *LiFE* (Lifestyle for Environment).
4. **Digital public infrastructure:** a G20 framework for DPI, drawing on India's Aadhaar and UPI.
5. **Finance:** a push for reform of multilateral development banks and a roadmap on crypto-assets.
6. **Connectivity:** the **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** was announced at the summit.
7. **A people's G20:** about 200 meetings in some 60 cities. In UP, **Varanasi** hosted the Development Ministers' Meeting (June 2023).

Conclusion: The presidency raised India's profile as a bridge between the developed world and the Global South.

2023 · Is India ready for world leadership?

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **"India is ready for world leadership." Analyse this comment.**

World leadership needs the **capacity, will and acceptance** to shape global rules. India's recent record makes the claim plausible, but gaps remain.

Arguments that India is ready

1. **Economic weight:** the fifth-largest economy and the fastest-growing major one, with digital public infrastructure (Aadhaar, UPI) that it now offers to other countries.
2. **Demography:** the most populous country (2023), with a young workforce.
3. **Diplomatic success:** the **G20 presidency (2023)** brought in the African Union and a consensus declaration. India speaks for the Global South.
4. **Global institutions it started:** the International Solar Alliance (2015), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (2019) and the Global Biofuels Alliance (2023).
5. **First responder:** *Vaccine Maitri*, *Operation Dost* after the Turkey earthquake (2023), and about USD 4 billion of support to Sri Lanka in 2022.
6. **Science and technology: Chandrayaan-3** made the first landing near the lunar south pole (August 2023).
7. **Multi-alignment:** India is in the QUAD, the SCO, BRICS and I2U2, and so can act as a bridge.
8. **Soft power:** International Day of Yoga (UNGA, 2014) and the diaspora.

Constraints

- **Development gaps:** per-capita income is still lower-middle; India ranks **134 in the HDI** (HDR 2023–24); malnutrition and low female workforce participation persist.
- **Security pressures:** an unsettled border with China, hostile Pakistan and an unstable neighbourhood.
- **Global structures:** no permanent UNSC seat, and the NSG bid is blocked.
- **Capacity:** heavy dependence on defence imports (among the largest arms importers, SIPRI) and a small foreign service.

Analysis: India is ready to **lead on specific issues**, such as climate, digital public goods, the Global South and disaster relief. Full world leadership, however, needs much greater economic and human development at home.

Conclusion: As *Vishwa Mitra*, India leads by partnership rather than dominance. Achieving *Viksit Bharat @2047* will turn its potential into lasting leadership.

2023 · Indian diaspora as an asset in the USA

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **How has the Indian diaspora emerged as an asset in promoting national interests in America?**

The Indian-American community, **over 4 million strong**, is among the most educated and highest-earning groups in the USA. It has become a living bridge between the two democracies.

How the diaspora serves India's interests

1. **Political influence:**
   - Lobbying by Indian-American groups helped pass the Hyde Act (2006) and the **India–US civil nuclear deal (2008)**.
   - The **India Caucus** is one of the largest country caucuses in Congress, and several Indian Americans now sit in Congress.
   - **Kamala Harris** became Vice-President (2021–25), and Indian Americans contested the 2024 presidential primaries.
2. **Economic bridge:**
   - Leaders such as **Sundar Pichai** (Alphabet) and **Satya Nadella** (Microsoft), and many founders in Silicon Valley, link Indian talent and markets with US capital.

- The USA was the largest source of India's remittances (RBI survey, 2020–21).

3. **Technology and knowledge:** diaspora scientists, doctors and professors help transfer technology and support partnerships in IT, pharma and space.
4. **Soft power:** yoga, Diwali celebrations (New York City made Diwali a public-school holiday in 2023) and Indian food and films. Big community events such as *Howdy Modi* (Houston, 2019) showcase India.
5. **Strategic voice:** the community has shaped US opinion on terrorism from Pakistan and on India's role in the Indo-Pacific.

Challenges

- Dependence on H-1B visas and long green-card backlogs.
- Hate crimes and racial profiling.
- Divisions within the diaspora (religious and regional lines, and pro-Khalistan fringes).
- Accusations of "dual loyalty" when the community lobbies for India.

Way forward

- Deeper engagement through the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and OCI benefits.
- New consulates, and better protection for students.
- Involving young Indian Americans in India's development.

Conclusion: The diaspora is one of India's most valuable strategic assets in the USA, and engaging it wisely strengthens the partnership for *Viksit Bharat*.

2023 · Bitterness in India–Pakistan relations

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **"Indo–Pak relations are illusionary." Discuss the underlying causes of bitterness.**

Every peace effort between India and Pakistan has been followed by a setback, so hopes of normal ties have proved **illusory**:

- **Lahore bus diplomacy (February 1999)** was followed by **Kargil**.
- The **Agra summit (2001)** was followed by the **Parliament attack**.
- The **Composite Dialogue (2004)** was followed by **26/11 (2008)**.
- PM Modi's **Lahore visit (December 2015)** was followed by **Pathankot and Uri (2016)**.

Underlying causes of bitterness

1. **Kashmir and territory:** Pakistan's claim on J&K, India's claim on PoK, and disputes over Siachen and Sir Creek.
2. **Cross-border terrorism:** Pakistan uses groups such as LeT and JeM as state policy. The **Pulwama attack (February 2019)** led to the Balakot air strike, and Pakistan was on the FATF grey list from 2018 to 2022.
3. **The army's dominance:** Pakistan's military controls foreign and security policy, so civilian peace moves rarely last.
4. **History and identity:** Partition, the two-nation theory, and the wars of 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1999.
5. **Article 370 (August 2019):** after the change, Pakistan downgraded ties and suspended trade. India had already withdrawn MFN status after Pulwama.
6. **Water:** strains over the **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)**. India sought its modification in January 2023.
7. **The China–Pakistan nexus:** CPEC through PoK, and Chinese protection of Pakistan at the UN.
8. **Hostile domestic narratives** on both sides.

Small positives: the **Kartarpur Corridor (2019)** and the renewed LoC ceasefire understanding (February 2021).

Later development: after the **Pahalgam attack (April 2025)**, India held the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance and launched **Operation Sindoor**.

Way forward

- India's position is that "terror and talks cannot go together".
- Keep firm deterrence and isolate Pakistan diplomatically on terrorism.
- Use people-to-people links when conditions allow.

Conclusion: Normal ties will stay an illusion until Pakistan ends support to terrorism. Until then India should combine firmness with openness to genuine dialogue.

2024 · India–Maldives relations and mutual interests

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **India–Maldives relations are linked to mutual interests.**

The **Maldives**, a chain of about 1,200 coral islands, lies near the main Indian Ocean sea lanes. India was among the first to recognise it in 1965, and geography makes the two interdependent.

Mutual interests

- **Security:** India foiled a coup in 1988 (**Operation Cactus**). It helps patrol the Maldives' EEZ and trains its forces (exercise *Ekuverin*; trilateral coast guard exercise *Dosti* with Sri Lanka).
- **First responder:** the 2004 tsunami, the Malé water crisis (**Operation Neer**, 2014) and COVID-19 vaccines.
- **Development:** the **Greater Malé Connectivity Project** (about USD 500 million), the largest infrastructure project in the Maldives, plus hospitals and water projects.
- **Economy:** the Maldives depends on India for food, medicines and building materials, and Indian tourists are a key market.

Recent strains and reset

- President Muizzu's "India Out" campaign led to Indian military personnel being replaced by civilians (2024).
- Ministers' remarks on PM Modi's Lakshadweep visit (January 2024) triggered a boycott call.
- Yet Muizzu attended PM Modi's swearing-in (June 2024). His state visit (October 2024) brought a currency swap and a vision for a comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership.

Conclusion: Shared interests keep ties resilient under *Neighbourhood First*.

2024 · Structure and funding of the WHO

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Describe the organisational structure and funding of the WHO.

The **World Health Organization** (7 April 1948, Geneva) is the UN's specialised agency for health, with **194 member states**.

Organisational structure

- **World Health Assembly:** all members meet every May. It sets policy, approves the budget and appoints the Director-General.
- **Executive Board: 34** members qualified in health, elected for three years. It carries out the Assembly's decisions.
- **Secretariat:** headed by the **Director-General** (Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus since 2017) for a five-year term.
- **Six regional offices:** Africa (Brazzaville), Americas (Washington), **South-East Asia (New Delhi)**, Europe (Copenhagen), Eastern Mediterranean (Cairo) and Western Pacific (Manila), plus country offices and centres such as the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, Jamnagar.

Funding

- **Assessed contributions:** dues based on each country's wealth and population. They are now less than a fifth of the budget.
- **Voluntary contributions:** the rest, mostly earmarked by donors such as governments, the Gates Foundation and Gavi.
- **Reform:** in 2022 the Assembly agreed to raise assessed contributions to **50% of the base budget** by about 2030.

Conclusion: Earmarking skews priorities and the USA's announced withdrawal (January 2025) hits funding, so predictable core funding is key to an independent WHO.

2024 · India's policy towards South-East Asia

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Discuss India's regional policy towards South-East Asia.

The **Look East Policy (1991–92)** became the **Act East Policy** in 2014, with ASEAN at its centre and a focus on **commerce, connectivity and culture**.

Key elements

- **Institutions:** ASEAN dialogue partner (1996), summit partner (2002), strategic partner (2012) and **Comprehensive Strategic Partner (2022)**; also the East Asia Summit.
- **Trade:** the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement (2009) is now under review. India stayed out of RCEP (2019) to protect its industry.
- **Connectivity:** the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway and the **Kaladan** project (Sittwe port, 2023) link India's Northeast to the region.
- **Security: BrahMos missiles for the Philippines**, a corvette gifted to Vietnam (INS *Kirpan*, 2023), naval exercises, and support for UNCLOS in the South China Sea.
- **Culture:** Buddhist and Ramayana links, restoration of Angkor Wat, and the Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (2000). UP's **Kushinagar International Airport (2021)** links the Buddhist circuit to the region.

Challenges: a widening trade deficit with ASEAN, slow projects, the Myanmar crisis and China's influence.

Conclusion: A stronger economic offer and faster connectivity would anchor India's Indo-Pacific vision.

2024 · India–Bangladesh issues and improvements

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Examine major issues between India and Bangladesh and suggest improvements.

India and Bangladesh share a **4,096 km border**, India's longest, and 54 common rivers. After a "golden chapter" under Sheikh Hasina, ties turned uneasy when she was ousted on **5 August 2024** and an interim government under **Muhammad Yunus** took over.

Major issues

1. **Water sharing:** the **Teesta** agreement has been stuck since 2011, mainly over West Bengal's objections. The **Ganga Water Treaty (1996)** expires in 2026 and needs renewal.
2. **Border management:**
   - illegal migration, and cattle and drug smuggling;
   - deaths in BSF firing;
   - disputes over fencing. The Land Boundary Agreement (2015) did, however, settle the enclaves.
3. **Political transition:** anti-India sentiment, attacks on Hindus and other minorities, and Bangladesh's demand for Hasina's extradition.
4. **China and Pakistan factor:** Chinese interest in Teesta management and ports, Chinese submarines, and warming ties with Pakistan. Yunus's remarks in China (March 2025) on India's "landlocked" Northeast caused concern.
5. **Trade frictions:** non-tariff barriers, and India's withdrawal of a transshipment facility (April 2025). Bangladesh is still India's largest trade partner in South Asia.
6. **Sensitive issues:** the Rohingya, and Bangladesh's concerns over the NRC and the CAA.

Suggested improvements

- **Engage all stakeholders:** the interim government and all parties, not one leader.
- **Water:** settle the Teesta issue with the Centre and West Bengal on board, and renew the Ganga treaty in time.
- **Border:** non-lethal border management, coordinated patrols and smart fencing.
- **Connectivity:** expand rail links (Akhaura–Agartala, 2023), the Maitri Setu, power trade and inland waterways. The **MV Ganga Vilas** cruise from **Varanasi** to Dibrugarh through Bangladesh (2023) showed what is possible.
- **Economy and people:** conclude a CEPA and ease visas; Bangladeshis are the largest group of medical tourists in India.
- **Minorities:** raise their security through quiet diplomacy.

Conclusion: Geography makes the two permanent partners; patient, inclusive diplomacy can restore trust.

2024 · Israel–Palestine conflict and India's response

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

What are the consequences of the Israel–Palestine conflict? How should India respond?

The conflict peaked after **Hamas's attack on Israel on 7 October 2023**, which killed about 1,200 people and took around 250 hostages. Israel's campaign in **Gaza** has since killed tens of thousands and displaced most of its 2 million people.

Consequences

1. **Humanitarian:** mass deaths, destroyed hospitals and famine conditions.
2. **Regional spread:**
   - Israel–Hezbollah fighting in Lebanon (ceasefire in November 2024).
   - **Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping** from late 2023, which forced ships around the Cape of Good Hope.
   - **Direct Iran–Israel strikes** (April and October 2024).
3. **Diplomatic:** Saudi–Israel normalisation and projects such as IMEC were put on hold.
4. **Legal:**
   - the **ICJ** ordered provisional measures in South Africa's genocide case against Israel (January 2024);
   - in July 2024 it advised that Israel's occupation is unlawful;
   - the **ICC** issued arrest warrants (November 2024) for Israeli leaders and a Hamas commander.
5. **Global and economic:** UN vetoes blocked ceasefire resolutions; shipping and oil costs rose, hurting India's trade with Europe through Suez.

India's response so far

- India **condemned the terror attack**, urged respect for humanitarian law and backed a **two-state solution**: a sovereign, viable Palestine living in peace beside Israel.
- It sent aid to Gaza, funds UNRWA, evacuated citizens under **Operation Ajay** (2023), and deployed naval ships in the Arabian Sea to protect shipping.

How India should respond

- Keep its **de-hyphenated** policy: strategic ties with Israel and solidarity with Palestinians.
- Back a lasting ceasefire, the release of hostages and unhindered aid, using its links with Israel, the Arab states and Iran to push for de-escalation.
- Protect its diaspora, energy security and Indian workers in Israel, many recruited from UP in 2024, and revive IMEC when possible.

Conclusion: Peace in West Asia is vital for India; a principled, balanced role suits a voice of the Global South.

2024 · Has the UN failed to maintain peace and security?

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **"UNO has failed to maintain international peace and security." Discuss with examples.**

The UN Charter gives the **Security Council** "primary responsibility" for peace and security (Article 24), through peaceful settlement (Chapter VI) and enforcement (Chapter VII). Its record is mixed.

Evidence of failure

1. **Veto paralysis:**
   - Russia vetoed action on its invasion of **Ukraine (2022)**.
   - The USA vetoed several **Gaza** ceasefire resolutions (2023–24).
   - Russia and China repeatedly blocked action on **Syria**.
2. **Failure to prevent genocide: Rwanda (1994)** and **Srebrenica (1995)** happened in front of UN peacekeepers.
3. **Bypassed by powers:** the US-led invasion of **Iraq (2003)** went ahead without Security Council approval.
4. **Ongoing wars:** Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen and the Sahel continue with little UN impact. Mali forced the UN mission (MINUSMA) to leave in 2023.
5. **Terrorism and proliferation:** North Korea's nuclear tests; India's proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (1996) is still pending.

Evidence of success

1. **No third world war** since 1945, and help in **decolonisation**.
2. **Peacekeeping:** over 70 missions since 1948, with successes in **Namibia, Cambodia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Timor-Leste**. India is one of the largest troop contributors.
3. **Crisis diplomacy:** U Thant's role in the Cuban missile crisis (1962), and the **Black Sea Grain Initiative (2022)** brokered with Turkey.
4. **Norms:** the NPT, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Responsibility to Protect (2005).
5. **Humanitarian work:** WFP (Nobel Peace Prize, 2020), UNHCR and UNICEF.

Analysis: Most failures come from the **politics of the five permanent members**, not from the idea of the UN.

Reforms under way: the General Assembly's **veto initiative (2022)** requires a debate whenever a veto is cast. The **Pact for the Future (September 2024)** promises Council reform. India seeks "reformed multilateralism" and a permanent seat.

Conclusion: The UN has not failed outright; it is only as effective as its members allow. A reformed, representative Security Council is essential for SDG 16.

Social Justice

2018 · Problems of farmers and agriculture in UP

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
>
> **Throw light on the challenges and problems of farmers and the agriculture sector in Uttar Pradesh. Suggest measures for improvement.**

Uttar Pradesh is India's **largest producer of food grains, wheat, sugarcane, potatoes and milk**. Yet most of its farmers earn little, because about four-fifths of holdings are marginal (under one hectare).

Challenges

- **Small, fragmented holdings** limit investment and mechanisation.
- **Regional imbalance:** drought-prone, rain-fed **Bundelkhand**; floods and waterlogging in the **east**; a richer **west** that depends on sugarcane and groundwater.
- **Water and soil:** falling water tables, *usar* (sodic) land and excess urea.
- **Markets:** little procurement beyond wheat and paddy, delayed cane payments, potato price crashes and weak cold chains.

- **Stray cattle** that damage crops.
- **Risk and debt:** climate shocks, informal loans and low insurance cover.

Measures

- **Irrigation:** projects such as **Saryu Nahar** and **Arjun Sahayak** (both 2021) and the **Ken–Betwa link** for Bundelkhand, plus drip irrigation and solar pumps (PM-KUSUM).
- **Markets:** FPOs, e-NAM, timely cane dues, cold storage and food processing linked to ODOP.
- **Diversification:** pulses, oilseeds, horticulture and natural farming.
- **Credit and insurance:** Kisan Credit Cards and PMFBY; the 2017 crop-loan waiver for small farmers.
- **Cow shelters (*gau ashray*)** for stray cattle.

Conclusion: Raising farm incomes is central to UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

2018 · Main issues of poverty and hunger (repeat)

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the main issues related to poverty and hunger?**

> **NOTE**
>
> Same question as "2018 · Issues of poverty and hunger", answered above under Governance.

2019 · UP's vulture conservation project

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the Vulture Conservation Project of Uttar Pradesh Government.**

India's vulture numbers crashed by over 95% from the 1990s, mainly because of **diclofenac**, a cattle painkiller fatal to vultures that eat carcasses. It was banned for veterinary use in **2006**. Losing these scavengers meant more feral dogs and rabies risk.

UP's project

- **Breeding centre:** the UP Forest Department set up a **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre** in the Gorakhpur forest division. It focuses on the critically endangered **red-headed (king) vulture**.
- **Captive breeding and release:** pairs are bred in aviaries and their young released into the wild.
- **Safe food and safe zones:** the plan provides drug-free carcasses and creates "vulture safe zones" where toxic veterinary drugs are not used.
- **Awareness and monitoring:** outreach to farmers, vets and chemists, rescue of injured birds, and vulture counts.

National link: the **Vulture Action Plan 2020–25** and the Bombay Natural History Society's breeding centres, such as Pinjore (Haryana). Ketoprofen and aceclofenac were also banned for animal use in 2023.

Challenges: illegal use of human diclofenac on animals, slow breeding (one egg a season), and loss of tall nesting trees.

Conclusion: Saving vultures protects public health and ecological balance.

2019 · Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **Write a note on the role and importance of "Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan."**

The **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign)** was launched on **3 December 2015**, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Census 2011 counted **2.68 crore persons with disabilities** (2.21%), with **UP having the largest number**. The campaign follows Article 9 (accessibility) of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (ratified by India in 2007).

Role: three verticals

1. **Built environment:** access audits of government buildings in major cities, followed by ramps, lifts, accessible toilets and tactile paths. The Harmonised Guidelines on barrier-free buildings (2016, revised 2021) set the standards.
2. **Transport:** accessible airports, railway stations (ramps, lifts, Braille signs) and low-floor buses.
3. **Information and communication:** accessible government websites, captions and sign language in TV news, and the **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre** (2015).

Supporting measures

- The **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** made accessibility a legal duty and set deadlines. It also gives 4% reservation in government jobs and 5% in higher education.
- The **Sugamya Bharat App** (2021) lets citizens report barriers.

Importance

- **Rights and dignity:** it moves from charity to rights, in line with Articles 14 and 21 and Article 41 (public assistance in disablement).
- **Inclusion:** access opens the way to education, jobs and public life.
- **Universal design:** it also helps the elderly and pregnant women, and serves SDGs 10 and 11.

UP angle: Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University (Lucknow) and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang University (Chitrakoot) are dedicated to persons with disabilities.

Limitations

- Missed deadlines, slow retrofitting and inaccessible websites.
- Rural areas and private buildings lag, and enforcement is weak.
- In *Rajive Raturi v. Union of India* (2024), the Supreme Court asked the Centre to frame mandatory accessibility rules.

Conclusion: Accessibility is a precondition for equal citizenship. Sustained funding and enforcement can make *Sugamya Bharat* a reality.

2019 · The Bodo problem and the 2020 peace accord

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **What do you understand by the "Bodo Problem"? Evaluate whether the 2020 Bodo Peace Agreement ensures development and peace in Assam.**

The **Bodos**, a Tibeto-Burman Scheduled Tribe, are the largest plains tribe of Assam, living mainly north of the Brahmaputra.

The Bodo problem

1. **Identity:** protecting language, script and culture. Bodo entered the Eighth Schedule by the **92nd Amendment (2003)**.
2. **Land and backwardness:** loss of tribal land to settlers, poor infrastructure and few jobs.
3. **Statehood demand:** the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) led a movement for a separate **Bodoland** from 1987.
4. **Militancy and ethnic violence:** the NDFB (formed in 1986) and the Bodo Liberation Tigers took up arms. There were clashes with Adivasis (1996, 1998) and with Muslims (2012, 2014).

Earlier accords: the 1993 accord failed; the **2003 accord** with the BLT created the **Bodoland Territorial Council** under the Sixth Schedule (Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri).

The 2020 Agreement (27 January 2020)

- **Signatories:** the Centre, Assam, all four NDFB factions, ABSU and the UBPO.
- **Name and area:** the area was renamed the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**, with more powers. A commission was to review the inclusion of Bodo-majority villages and the exclusion of others.
- **Development:** a **Rs 1,500 crore** package over three years.
- **Language:** Bodo in Devanagari script became an associate official language of Assam.
- **Rehabilitation** of about 1,600 surrendered cadres.
- **No separate state:** Assam's territorial integrity was kept.

Evaluation

- **Peace:** all NDFB factions disbanded, violence fell sharply, and BTC elections (December 2020) were peaceful.
- **Development:** the package and wider autonomy fund roads, education and livelihoods.
- **Concerns:**
  - non-Bodo groups in the BTR (Adivasis, Koch-Rajbongshis, Muslims) fear marginalisation;
  - constitutional amendments for more powers are pending;
  - money has been slow to arrive;
  - past accords failed at implementation.

Conclusion: The 2020 accord is the most inclusive so far and has brought real peace. It will ensure lasting peace and development only with fair treatment of all communities and timely delivery.

2020 · Impact of UP's welfare schemes for SCs and STs

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Evaluate the impact of welfare schemes implemented for SCs and STs by the Uttar Pradesh Government.**

UP has the **largest Scheduled Caste population** of any state: about **4.1 crore, or 20.7%** of its people (Census 2011). Scheduled Tribes, such as the Tharu, Gond and Sahariya, are below 1%.

Main schemes

- **Education:** pre- and post-matric scholarships and fee reimbursement through DBT, and residential schools (Ashram Paddhati and Sarvodaya Vidyalayas). The **Abhyudaya Yojana (2021)** offers free coaching for competitive exams.
- **Housing and basic needs:** PM Awas and the **Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)**, which covers groups such as the **Musahars and Vantangiyas**. Vantangiya forest villages were given revenue-village status. Ujjwala, toilets, electricity and free ration add to this.
- **Livelihood: PM-AJAY**, Stand-Up India loans and SHGs.
- **Social security:** the CM Samuhik Vivah Yojana and pensions.
- **Protection:** relief and special courts under the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.

Positive impact

- UP saw the **largest fall in multidimensional poverty** of any state (NITI Aayog), which benefits SC households most.
- Scholarships have raised school and college enrolment among SC students.
- Houses, land rights and basic services have reached some of the most excluded groups, such as the Musahars and Vantangiyas.
- Reservation in local bodies has given SCs a political voice.

Limitations

- **Atrocities:** UP records the highest number of crimes against SCs in absolute terms (NCRB).
- **Scholarships:** delays and fraud, poor quality in residential schools, and dropouts at higher levels.
- **Livelihoods:** landlessness and dependence on casual labour persist, and manual scavenging has not ended.
- **Reach and monitoring:** low awareness, capture by better-off families, neglect of small ST groups, and little measurement of outcomes.

Way forward: saturation of schemes, skilling and entrepreneurship, land rights, fast-track courts for atrocity cases, and social audits.

Conclusion: The schemes have improved access and living conditions, but dignity, safety and economic mobility for SCs and STs still need sustained effort.

2021 · Hunger, poverty and electoral politics

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **How do hunger and poverty issues influence electoral politics in India?**

In India the poor vote in large numbers, so hunger and poverty shape campaigns, manifestos and results.

How they influence politics

- **Slogans:** Indira Gandhi's "*Garibi Hatao*" won the 1971 election.
- **Food as a poll plank:** N.T. Rama Rao's rice at Rs 2 a kilo (Andhra Pradesh, 1983) and Tamil Nadu's Amma canteens won wide support. Free ration under **PMGKAY** became a major plank.
- **The "labharthi" (beneficiary) voter:** free ration, houses, toilets and gas cylinders are widely seen as factors in the **2019 Lok Sabha** and **2022 UP Assembly** elections.
- **Competitive populism:** parties promise freebies. In *S. Subramaniam Balaji* (2013), the Supreme Court asked the Election Commission to frame guidelines on election promises, and the "freebies" debate continues.
- **Vote-buying:** cash, liquor and gifts are aimed at poor voters.

Effects

- **Positive:** the poor's vote makes governments responsive and has improved delivery through DBT.
- **Negative:** short-term handouts can replace long-term investment in jobs, health and education. They strain state finances, and identity politics can still overshadow poverty.

Conclusion: Electoral politics should move from handouts to empowerment through jobs, skills and nutrition, as the Election Commission and voters demand more accountability.

2021 · MGNREGA and rural poverty (repeat)

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

MGNREGA empowers rural poor to alleviate poverty — Comment.

NOTE

Same question as "2021 · MGNREGA and the rural poor", answered above under Governance.

2021 · Panchayati Raj and the 73rd Amendment (repeat)

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

Analyse the problems that restricted the success of Panchayati Raj in India and evaluate the 73rd Amendment.

NOTE

Same question as "2021 · Panchayati Raj: challenges and the 73rd Amendment", answered above under Polity.

2022 · Causes of poverty and hunger, and government schemes

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

What are the fundamental causes of poverty and hunger? Mention government schemes to eliminate them.

Poverty is deprivation of income and capabilities. Hunger is the lack of enough nutritious food. Each causes the other.

Fundamental causes

- **Jobs and income:** low-productivity farming, disguised unemployment and informal jobs.
- **Unequal assets and exclusion:** landlessness, and caste, gender and regional exclusion.
- **Human capital:** poor health and education, and high out-of-pocket health spending.
- **Shocks:** droughts, floods, inflation and pandemics.
- **Nutrition:** poor diet diversity, maternal undernutrition, and unsafe water and sanitation.

Government schemes

- **Food and nutrition:**
  - NFSA (2013) and **PMGKAY**, with free grain for about 81 crore people;
  - **PM POSHAN** (school meals);
  - **POSHAN Abhiyaan** and **Mission Poshan 2.0**;
  - fortified rice.
- **Jobs and livelihoods:** MGNREGA, DAY-NRLM, PM-KISAN (Rs 6,000 a year), PM SVANidhi and MUDRA loans.
- **Assets and social security:**
  - PM Awas, Ujjwala and Jan Dhan;
  - **Ayushman Bharat** (Rs 5 lakh health cover per family);
  - PMJJBY, PMSBY and the Atal Pension Yojana.
- **UP:** *One District One Product* (ODOP) for artisans' incomes, and free ration distribution.

Conclusion: Linking these schemes with jobs and nutrition can meet SDG 1 and SDG 2.

2022 · Mission Shakti of the UP Government (repeat)

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Describing the objective of the "Mission Shakti" programme of UP Government, tell how far it has been successful.

NOTE

Same question as "2022 · Mission Shakti in UP", answered above under Governance.

2023 · Composition and functions of SHGs (repeat)

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Write an analytical note on Self-Help Groups' composition and functions.

NOTE

Same question as "2023 · SHGs: composition and functions", answered above under Governance.

2024 · Welfare schemes for the most vulnerable (repeat)

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

What challenges is the government facing in implementing welfare schemes for the most vulnerable sections?

NOTE

Same question as "2024 · Challenges in implementing welfare schemes", answered above under Governance.

2024 · New Economic Policy and the labour class (repeat)

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

The labour class of the country has been significantly affected by the New Economic Policy. Explain.

NOTE

Same question as "2024 · New Economic Policy and the labour class", answered above under Governance.

UPPCS Mains · General Studies Paper 3

Economy · Agriculture · Science & Technology · Environment · Security · 2018–2024 · 132 questions

Economy

2018 · Globalisation and industrial development

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Evaluate the effects of globalization on industrial development in India.

Globalisation is the integration of a national economy with the world economy through trade, investment, technology and people. In India it began with the **New Industrial Policy of July 1991** (the LPG reforms), which ended the licence raj and opened industry to foreign competition.

Positive effects

- **Competition and efficiency:** de-licensing and lower tariffs forced firms to modernise. Automobiles, auto components and pharmaceuticals became globally competitive.
- **FDI and technology:** most sectors moved to the automatic route, bringing capital, technology and management practices.
- **Global value chains:** electronics and mobile phones joined them. Samsung's Noida plant (2018) is among the world's largest mobile factories.
- **Exports and scale:** SEZs (SEZ Act, 2005) and export-oriented units widened markets.

Negative effects

- **Stagnant share:** manufacturing stayed at about **15–17% of GVA** for three decades, a sign of premature deindustrialisation.
- **Import competition:** cheap imports, mainly from China, hurt MSMEs in toys, electronics and solar modules.
- **Jobless and uneven growth:** growth was capital-intensive and created few jobs. Investment concentrated in western and southern states.

Evaluation: globalisation raised efficiency but not industrial depth or employment. *Make in India*, PLI schemes and UP's ODOP aim to fill that gap.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

NIP 24 July 1991 · SEZ Act 2005 · manufacturing about 15–17% of GVA · Noida electronics hub.

2018 · Renewable energy targets in the Draft National Energy Policy 2017

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Describe the targets of energy generation through renewable energy sources in accordance with National Energy Policy 2017 drafted by NITI Aayog.

NITI Aayog released the **Draft National Energy Policy (NEP)** in **June 2017**, looking ahead to 2040. It has four objectives: **access at affordable prices, improved security and independence, greater sustainability, and economic growth**. Renewable energy (RE) is central to sustainability.

Renewable energy targets

Source	Target by 2022
Solar	100 GW (60 GW ground-mounted, 40 GW rooftop)
Wind	60 GW
Bio-power	10 GW
Small hydro	5 GW
Total	**175 GW**

- **Paris NDC (2015):** about **40% of installed power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030**, and a 33–35% cut in the emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels.
- **Supporting measures:** renewable purchase obligations, Green Energy Corridors for the grid, storage, decentralised solar for rural access, and biofuels to cut oil imports.

UP angle: the UP Solar Power Policy 2017 set a state target of **10,700 MW by 2022**, with solar parks in Bundelkhand.

Later revision: the 175 GW goal was not fully met by 2022, but India raised its ambition. It now aims for **500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030** (COP26, 2021) and a **50% non-fossil share of capacity by 2030** (updated NDC, 2022).

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

175 GW = 100 solar + 60 wind + 10 bio + 5 small hydro · NDC 2015: 40% non-fossil by 2030 · Updated: 500 GW and 50% by 2030, net zero 2070.

2018, 2023 · India's efforts to achieve the SDGs

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks · also asked in 2018 (8 marks)

Describe the various efforts being made in India to achieve the 'Sustainable Development Goals'. *(2018, listed under both Economy and Environment: Throw light on the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India.)*

The UN's **2030 Agenda** has 17 SDGs and 169 targets. It was adopted in September 2015 and came into force on 1 January 2016, with the aim of ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all. India is home to about a sixth of humanity, so its progress largely decides the global result.

1. Institutional framework

- **NITI Aayog** coordinates: it has mapped each goal to ministries and schemes.
- **MoSPI** tracks progress through the **National Indicator Framework**.
- India presented **Voluntary National Reviews** at the UN in 2017 and 2020.

2. Competitive and cooperative federalism: the **SDG India Index** (since 2018) ranks states. The national score rose from 57 (2018) to 71 (2023–24), and UP was among the fastest improvers.

3. Schemes aligned to goals

- **SDG 1–2:** MGNREGA, NFSA/PMGKAY, PM-KISAN, DAY-NRLM.
- **SDG 3–4:** Ayushman Bharat, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Samagra Shiksha, NEP 2020.
- **SDG 5–6:** Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **SDG 7 and 13:** Saubhagya, Ujjwala, the 500 GW non-fossil target, the International Solar Alliance, Mission LiFE.
- **SDG 8, 9 and 11:** Make in India, Startup India, PMAY, Smart Cities, AMRUT.

4. Localisation

- The **Aspirational Districts Programme** (2018) covers 112 districts, 8 of them in UP, such as Bahraich, Shravasti and Sonbhadra.
- The **Aspirational Blocks Programme** followed in 2023.
- Panchayats plan on **nine LSDG themes** in their Gram Panchayat Development Plans.

5. Finance and partnership: CSR spending, sovereign green bonds (2023) and the G20 New Delhi Declaration's call to accelerate the SDGs.

Gaps: nutrition (NFHS-5: 35.5% of children stunted), gender equality, decent work and climate finance.

Conclusion: through data, competition among states and saturation of schemes, India has turned the SDGs into a mass programme. Closing the remaining gaps is essential for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> SDGs: 17 goals, 169 targets, 1 January 2016 to 2030 · SDG India Index since 2018 (57 → 71) · VNRs 2017, 2020 · 112 aspirational districts (8 in UP) · 9 LSDG themes for panchayats.

2018 · Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
> **What is Pradhanmantri Kisan Sampada (SAMPADA) Yojana? Mention its objectives and provisions.**

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) is an umbrella central sector scheme of the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**. It was approved in May 2017 with ₹6,000 crore for 2016–20 and has since been extended to 2025–26. SAMPADA stands for *Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters*.

Objectives

- Modern infrastructure and supply chains from **farm gate to retail outlet**.
- Fewer **post-harvest losses** and more processing.
- Better prices for farmers, rural jobs and more processed-food exports.

Provisions (component schemes)

1. Mega Food Parks
2. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
3. Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities
4. Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
5. Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
6. Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
7. Human Resources and Institutions
8. **Operation Greens** (added 2018) for tomato, onion and potato

Support comes mainly as capital grants. At launch the scheme was expected to benefit about **20 lakh farmers** and create over 5 lakh jobs.

UP angle: as India's largest producer of milk, potato and sugarcane, UP gains most from cold chains and processing clusters.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> MoFPI · approved May 2017 · ₹6,000 crore (2016–20) · 7 components + Operation Greens (TOP) · farm gate to retail.

2018 · MSMEs as drivers of growth and employment

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
> **"Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the drivers of economic growth and employment proliferation in India." Examine.**

MSMEs are defined under the **MSMED Act, 2006**. Since July 2020 they have been classified on a composite criterion of investment and turnover. For example, a micro unit could have up to ₹1 crore of investment and ₹5 crore of turnover; the Union Budget 2025–26 raised these limits. The **NSS 73rd Round (2015–16)** counted **6.34 crore** MSMEs.

Why they drive growth

1. **Output and exports:** about **30% of GDP** and around **45% of exports**, in textiles, leather, engineering goods and handicrafts.
2. **Supply chains:** they serve large industry as ancillaries (auto parts, defence) and support *Make in India*.
3. **Entrepreneurship:** low capital needs let first-generation, women and SC/ST entrepreneurs start firms.

Why they drive employment

1. **Labour-intensive:** about **11 crore jobs** make MSMEs the second-largest employer after agriculture. They need less capital per job than large industry.
2. **Regional spread:** they take industry to small towns and reduce migration. UP has the **largest number of MSMEs** (about 14% of India's units). Its clusters include Moradabad (brass), Firozabad (glass), Kanpur and Agra (leather), Bhadohi (carpets) and Varanasi (silk), and **ODOP** (2018) builds on them.

Constraints that limit their role

- **Credit:** a large credit gap, demands for collateral, and **delayed payments**.
- **Scale and formality:** over 99% are micro units, mostly informal, with old technology and low productivity (the "missing middle").

- **Shocks:** compliance burdens, Chinese imports, and the effects of demonetisation, the GST transition and COVID-19.

Measures

- **Registration and credit:** Udyam registration, CGTMSE guarantees and ECLGS.
- **Delayed payments:** TReDS, the MSME Samadhaan portal and the 45-day payment rule under the Income Tax Act.
- **Artisans:** PM Vishwakarma (2023), and in UP, ODOP and the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana.

Conclusion: MSMEs are indeed India's growth-and-jobs engine. With formalisation, cheaper credit, technology and market access, they can power *Viksit Bharat* and UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> NSS 73rd Round: 6.34 crore MSMEs, about 11 crore jobs, UP the largest share (about 14%) · about 30% of GDP, about 45% of exports · ODOP launched 24 January 2018.

2018 · Regional disparities in Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain inter-regional disparities in economic development of Uttar Pradesh and discuss the obstacles in backward regions' growth.**

Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state and one of its largest economies, but development is very uneven across its four economic regions: **Western, Central, Eastern (Purvanchal) and Bundelkhand**.

Nature of the disparities

Region	Level of development
Western UP	Most developed: Green Revolution farming, sugarcane, dairy, the NCR industrial belt (Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut), high income and urbanisation
Central UP	Moderate: Lucknow and Kanpur are service and industrial centres, but the rural hinterland lags
Eastern UP	Dense population, tiny holdings, low per capita income, floods, heavy out-migration
Bundelkhand	Drought-prone, rocky, little irrigation or industry, distress migration

Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) has many times the per capita income of districts such as Shravasti or Bahraich. Eastern and Bundelkhand districts also trail on literacy, health, credit and industry.

Obstacles in the backward regions

1. **Physical:** floods and waterlogging in the east (Ghaghra, Rapti, Gandak), and drought, rocky soils and falling water tables in Bundelkhand.
2. **Agrarian:** small, fragmented holdings, low productivity and few agro-industries.
3. **Demographic pressure:** high density and fertility have created "money-order economies" that live on migrants' remittances.
4. **Infrastructure and finance:** poor roads and power in the past, and a low credit-deposit ratio, so local savings are lent elsewhere.
5. **Industrial decline:** many sugar mills closed, as did the Gorakhpur fertiliser plant (revived in 2021).
6. **Social and governance factors:** low human development (for example encephalitis around Gorakhpur), feudal and caste structures, and weak local institutions.

Remedies under way

- **Connectivity:** the Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Gorakhpur Link expressways.
- **Industry:** the Defence Industrial Corridor (with nodes at Jhansi and Chitrakoot) and ODOP.
- **Water and targeting:** Har Ghar Jal in Bundelkhand, the aspirational districts, and the Purvanchal and Bundelkhand development funds.

Conclusion: balanced growth needs region-specific strategies: water security for Bundelkhand, and flood control and agro-industry for the east. This is essential for UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> Four regions: Western, Central, Eastern, Bundelkhand · Bundelkhand (UP): Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot.

2019 · Inclusive growth, poverty and inequality

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **What do you mean by 'Inclusive Growth'? How is it helpful in reducing poverty and inequality in India?**

Inclusive growth is growth that is broad-based across sectors and regions and creates productive jobs. Every section, especially the poor, women, SC/ST and backward regions, both **contributes to it and shares in it**. It was the theme of the **11th Five Year Plan (2007–12), "Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth"**.

How it reduces poverty and inequality

1. **Jobs, not only GDP:** labour-intensive sectors (agriculture, MSMEs, construction, tourism) raise the incomes of the poor directly.
2. **Human capabilities:** health and education (Ayushman Bharat, Samagra Shiksha) build what Amartya Sen calls capabilities and allow social mobility.
3. **Financial inclusion and DBT:** PMJDY accounts and the JAM trinity send benefits straight to people and cut leakages.
4. **Social protection:** NFSA, MGNREGA and pensions shield the poor from shocks.
5. **Regional and gender balance:** aspirational districts and SHG-based livelihoods (DAY-NRLM) reach lagging areas and women.

Evidence: NITI Aayog estimates that **24.82 crore people** escaped multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23, the largest number (**5.94 crore**) in Uttar Pradesh.

Conclusion: inclusive growth turns growth into well-being. Wide income and wealth gaps still call for better jobs and progressive taxation.

2019 · Measuring poverty and fighting rural poverty

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss how poverty is measured in India and examine the steps taken to overcome rural poverty.**

How poverty is measured: India draws a **consumption-based poverty line**. This is the monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) needed for a minimum basket of goods, estimated from NSO household surveys.

Committee	Basis
Alagh Task Force (1979)	Calorie norm: 2,400 kcal rural, 2,100 kcal urban
Lakdawala (1993)	State-specific lines updated with CPI-AL and CPI-IW
Tendulkar (2009)	Basket including health and education; 21.9% poor in 2011–12 (UP 29.4%)
Rangarajan (2014)	₹972 rural and ₹1,407 urban per month; 29.5% poor in 2011–12

Since 2021, NITI Aayog's **National Multidimensional Poverty Index** (12 indicators of health, education and living standards, using NFHS data) has added a non-income measure.

Steps against rural poverty

- **Jobs and livelihoods:** MGNREGA (100 days of wage work), and DAY-NRLM for self-employment through SHGs.
- **Assets:** PMAY-G (housing), PMGSY (roads) and Saubhagya (electricity).
- **Food and income:** NFSA/PMGKAY grain, and PM-KISAN (₹6,000 a year).
- **Security and skills:** NSAP pensions and DDU-GKY skilling.

Assessment: rural poverty has fallen sharply, but low farm productivity, few non-farm jobs and distress migration (as from eastern UP) persist.

2019 · Industrial sickness

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the causes of industrial sickness in India? Suggest measures to overcome it.**

A **sick** industrial unit cannot survive without outside help. Under the **Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA), 1985**, a company was sick when its accumulated losses equalled or exceeded its net worth, and it was referred to the BIFR. SICA was repealed in 2016, and sickness is now handled under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**.

Causes

- **Internal:** poor management, faulty project planning, obsolete technology, diversion of funds, labour disputes and over-capacity.
- **External:**
  - scarce working capital, high interest and delayed payments by buyers and government;
  - power shortages and raw-material price shocks;
  - recession, cheap imports and sudden policy changes (demonetisation and the GST transition hit MSMEs).
- **UP example:** Kanpur's old textile mills (Lal Imli, Elgin) and many sugar mills declined this way.

Measures

1. **Early warning:** banks' Special Mention Account (SMA) classification and the RBI's revival framework for MSMEs.
2. **Time-bound resolution:** the IBC, including pre-packaged insolvency for MSMEs (2021).
3. **Credit:** CGTMSE, TReDS, MSME Samadhaan and the 45-day payment rule.
4. **Modernisation:** cluster schemes (MSE-CDP, SFURTI), technology upgrades and management training.
5. **Demand:** public procurement (25% from MSEs) and export promotion.

Conclusion: detecting sickness early is cheaper than reviving a unit later.

2019 · Causes of the energy crisis

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the causes of energy crisis in India.**

India is the world's **third-largest energy consumer**. It imports about **85% of its crude oil** and around half of its natural gas, yet millions still lack enough modern energy. This mix of shortage, dependence and inefficiency is its energy crisis.

Causes

1. **Demand outpacing supply:** industry, cities, cooling and rising incomes push peak demand up every year.
2. **Import dependence:** oil and gas imports bring price shocks and a high import bill. Even coal is imported despite large reserves.
3. **Coal-dominated mix:** coal gives about 70% of electricity, but it is high in ash, hard to move and sometimes short (as in 2021–22).
4. **Weak DISCOMs:** high technical and commercial (AT&C) losses, theft, low tariffs and mounting debt; UP's DISCOMs are among the worst hit.
5. **Grid gaps:** weak transmission, little storage, and weather-dependent solar and wind.
6. **Slow domestic supply:** little oil and gas exploration, and delayed hydro and nuclear projects.
7. **Inefficient use:** old industrial technology, pumps run on free power, and cooking with biomass.

Conclusion: a diverse mix (renewables, nuclear, green hydrogen), DISCOM reform, efficiency and storage together can give India energy security.

2019 · The New Industrial Policy, 1991

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **What is 'New' in the New Industrial Policy? State its features and effects on industrial growth.**

The **New Industrial Policy (NIP) of 24 July 1991** was the core of the LPG reforms that followed the balance-of-payments crisis.

What was 'new'

The **Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956** gave the public sector the "commanding heights" and controlled private industry through licences. The NIP reversed this. It trusted **markets, competition and private and foreign enterprise**, and made the state a facilitator.

Features

1. **De-licensing:** licences were abolished for all but **18 industries** (today only a few, such as defence and hazardous items).
2. **Public sector de-reservation:** industries reserved for the public sector were cut from **17 to 8**. Today only atomic energy and railway operations remain. PSUs saw disinvestment and gained autonomy through MoUs.

3. **MRTP reform:** pre-entry approval for big business houses was removed. The **Competition Act, 2002** later replaced the MRTP Act.
4. **Foreign investment: 51% FDI** was approved automatically in high-priority industries, and the FIPB was set up. FERA later gave way to **FEMA (1999)**.
5. **Technology and location:** foreign technology agreements were approved automatically, and location rules were eased.
6. **Other changes:** phased manufacturing programmes ended, and sick PSUs could be referred to the BIFR.

Effects on industrial growth

- **Positive:**
  - faster industrial growth in the 1990s and 2000s;
  - booms in automobiles, telecom, pharma and consumer durables;
  - large FDI inflows, with better quality, choice and exports;
  - new hubs such as Noida–Greater Noida in UP.
- **Negative:**
  - manufacturing stuck at about 15–17% of GDP;
  - **capital-intensive, job-poor** growth;
  - import pressure on MSMEs and decline of old centres such as Kanpur;
  - regional imbalance, as investment favoured coastal states;
  - land, labour and infrastructure reforms that lagged.

Conclusion: the NIP freed industry from the licence raj but was incomplete. *Make in India*, PLI schemes, the Labour Codes and PM Gati Shakti are its second generation.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 1956 IPR → 1991 NIP · licensing kept for 18 industries · public sector reserved list 17 → 8 → 2 · MRTP → Competition Act 2002 · FERA → FEMA 1999.

2019 · Growth with equity and distributive justice

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the policy of economic growth with equality and distributive justice in achieving inclusive growth.**

Growth with equity and distributive justice means that policy shares the gains of growth fairly among classes, regions and social groups. Its roots are in the Directive Principles: **Article 38** (minimise inequalities in income) and **Article 39(b)–(c)** (distribute resources for the common good and prevent concentration of wealth). The 5th Plan (*Garibi Hatao*) and the 11th Plan ("Faster and More Inclusive Growth") put it into practice.

Instruments of the policy

1. **Redistributing assets:** zamindari abolition (the UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950), land ceilings and tenancy reform.
2. **Redistributing through the budget:** progressive income tax, and Finance Commission transfers weighted towards poorer states (the income-distance criterion).
3. **Targeted programmes:** IRDP, MGNREGA, the PDS/NFSA and pensions.
4. **Social justice:** reservations (Articles 15(4) and 16(4)) and the EWS quota (103rd Amendment, 2019).
5. **Financial inclusion:** bank nationalisation (1969), priority-sector lending, and PMJDY with DBT.
6. **Human and regional development:** the RTE Act (2009), NRHM, Ayushman Bharat and the Aspirational Districts Programme.

How far it has achieved inclusive growth

- **Successes:**
  - poverty (Tendulkar method) fell from 37.2% (2004–05) to 21.9% (2011–12);
  - NITI Aayog estimates that 24.82 crore people left multidimensional poverty in 2013–14 to 2022–23, 5.94 crore of them in UP;
  - literacy, life expectancy and basic amenities improved.
- **Shortfalls:**
  - income and wealth have concentrated at the top since 1991;
  - about 90% of workers remain informal;
  - land reforms were only half-implemented;
  - leakages and exclusion errors persist;
  - UP and Bihar still lag on per capita income.

Conclusion: redistribution has eased poverty, but lasting inclusion depends more on **jobs, good education and health, and a wider tax base** than on transfers. That is the route to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2020 · Globalisation: trade, employment and income equality

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the impact of globalisation on trade, employment, and income equality.**

Since 1991, India has cut tariffs, opened up to FDI and joined the WTO (1995). The effects have been large but uneven.

1. Trade

- **Positive:** trade rose from about 15% of GDP in 1990–91 to over 40% in the 2010s (peaking above 50% around 2012). Services exports (IT-BPM) and pharmaceuticals became world-class. India became the largest rice exporter and a growing exporter of mobile phones.
- **Negative:** a persistent merchandise trade deficit, especially with China; dependence on imported electronics, APIs (drug ingredients) and solar cells; and exposure to global shocks (2008, COVID-19).

2. Employment

- **Positive:** new jobs in IT-BPM, telecom, banking, retail, logistics and export garments. Demand rose for skilled and English-educated workers, including women.
- **Negative:**
  - **jobless growth**, as firms facing global competition chose machines and contract labour;
  - informalisation, and job losses in MSMEs hit by imports;

- over 40% of workers still in agriculture.

3. Income equality

- **Poverty fell:** the poverty ratio (Tendulkar method) dropped from 45.3% (1993–94) to 21.9% (2011–12).
- **Inequality widened:**
  - skill premiums pushed skilled and unskilled wages apart;
  - urban–rural and regional gaps grew, as investment favoured the west and south over UP and Bihar;
  - wealth concentrated at the top.
- **UP example:** Noida's electronics and IT jobs stand beside eastern UP's migrant, remittance-based economy.

Assessment: globalisation has been positive-sum for growth and for reducing absolute poverty. Its gains, however, have gone mostly to skilled workers and to capital.

Conclusion: skilling, competitive MSMEs, labour-intensive exports and social protection can make globalisation more inclusive, in line with SDG 8 and SDG 10.

2020 · Challenges in reducing poverty and inequality

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the major challenges in reducing poverty and inequality in India?**

India has reduced poverty substantially. NITI Aayog's MPI shows multidimensional poverty falling from **24.85% (2015–16) to 14.96% (2019–21)**; in UP it fell from about 38% to about 23%. Yet many remain poor or vulnerable, and inequality is high.

Major challenges

1. **Jobs:** growth is capital-intensive, and about **90% of workers are informal**, without social security. Women's labour force participation was only about 23% in PLFS 2017–18.
2. **Farm distress: 86% of farmers are small or marginal** (Agriculture Census 2015–16). They face low productivity, disguised unemployment and climate risk.
3. **Weak human capital:** NFHS-5 (2019–21) found 35.5% of children stunted and 57% of women anaemic. Learning outcomes are poor.
4. **Health shocks:** high out-of-pocket spending on health pushes families back into poverty.
5. **Unequal assets and status:** land, wealth and education are unequally spread by caste, gender and religion, and income is concentrated at the top.
6. **Regional gaps:** UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and MP hold a large share of India's poor. Within UP, Bundelkhand and the east lag.
7. **Delivery problems:**
   - leakages and exclusion errors;
   - beneficiary lists based on the 2011 Census and SECC;
   - weak panchayats;
   - no official consumption survey between 2011–12 and 2022–23.
8. **Shocks and taxes:** COVID-19, inflation and climate disasters push the near-poor below the line, while heavy reliance on indirect taxes falls hardest on the poor.

Way forward

- Labour-intensive manufacturing and skilling.
- Universal health cover and a PDS focused on nutrition.
- Better, data-based targeting and empowered local bodies.

Conclusion: moving from poverty reduction to poverty elimination (SDG 1) and narrowing gaps (SDG 10) is central to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2020 · Poverty line and poverty alleviation programmes

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **What is meant by 'Line of Poverty'? Explain poverty alleviation programmes of India.**

The **poverty line** is the minimum income or consumption expenditure a person needs to meet basic needs: food, clothing, shelter, health and education. People below it are counted as poor.

- **In India:** it is set as monthly per capita consumption expenditure.
  - **Tendulkar:** ₹816 (rural) and ₹1,000 (urban) a month in 2011–12; 21.9% poor.
  - **Rangarajan:** ₹972 and ₹1,407; 29.5% poor.
- **Internationally:** the World Bank's extreme-poverty line was USD 2.15 a day (2017 PPP).

Poverty alleviation programmes

Approach	Programmes
Wage employment	MGNREGA (2005): 100 days of guaranteed work
Self-employment and livelihoods	DAY-NRLM (SHGs), PMEGP, MUDRA, PM SVANidhi (street vendors, 2020)
Food security	NFSA 2013: 5 kg of grain per person per month; free grain under PMGKAY
Housing and basic services	PMAY (Gramin and Urban), Ujjwala, Saubhagya, Swachh Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission
Health	Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY: ₹5 lakh per family per year
Social security	NSAP pensions, PMJJBY, PMSBY, Atal Pension Yojana, PM-SYM
Income support	PM-KISAN: ₹6,000 a year
Skilling	DDU-GKY, PMKVY

UP's own efforts: Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana–Gramin, Kanya Sumangala Yojana, old-age and destitute-women pensions, and ODOP for artisans.

Assessment

- **Strengths:** delivery through DBT and Aadhaar has cut leakages and widened coverage.
- **Weaknesses:** targeting errors, poor-quality assets, delayed MGNREGA wages and overlapping schemes.

Conclusion: measuring poverty in several dimensions, beyond income, and building jobs and human capital are the keys to SDG 1.

NOTE

In June 2025 the World Bank raised its international extreme-poverty line to USD 3.00 a day (2021 PPP). Check the latest value before the exam.

2020 · National Manufacturing Policy, Make in India and Startup India

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks

What are objectives of National Manufacturing Policy? Critically examine 'Make in India' and 'Startup India'. ***(Listed again under 2020 as: What are the objectives of National Manufacturing Policy?)***

Objectives of the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), 2011

- Raise manufacturing's share of GDP to **25% by 2022** (from about 16%).
- Achieve **12–14% annual growth** in manufacturing.
- Create **100 million additional jobs** by 2022.
- Train rural migrants and the urban poor, and deepen domestic value addition and technology.
- Grow sustainably, through **National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs)**.

Make in India (September 2014)

It rests on four pillars: new processes, new infrastructure, new sectors and a new mindset. It began with 25 sectors.

- **Achievements:**
  - FDI was liberalised, and inflows reached record levels.
  - India rose from 142nd to 63rd in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking (2014–2019).
  - India became the second-largest mobile phone maker, with much of it made in Noida, UP. Defence production grew.
  - PLI schemes (2020) now cover 14 sectors.
- **Limits:**
  - Manufacturing is still about 15–17% of GVA, and the jobs target was missed.
  - Much production is assembly of imported parts.
  - An inverted duty structure, land and labour rigidities, skill gaps and weak private investment persist.

Startup India (January 2016)

- **Measures:** DPIIT recognition, self-certification, a three-year tax holiday, a ₹10,000 crore Fund of Funds through SIDBI, fast-track patents and easy exit.
- **Achievements:** over one lakh recognised startups, more than a hundred unicorns, and the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. UP has a Startup Policy (2020) and incubators in Noida and Lucknow.
- **Limits:**
  - concentration in Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai;
  - more consumer-internet firms than deep tech;
  - a funding slump in 2022–23;
  - low R&D.

Conclusion: both programmes changed mindsets but have not yet transformed manufacturing. Pairing them with skills, logistics, R&D and labour-intensive sectors is vital for *Viksit Bharat*.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

NMP 2011: 25% of GDP, 12–14% growth, 100 million jobs (by 2022), NIMZs · Make in India 25 September 2014 · Startup India 16 January 2016 · PLI 2020, 14 sectors.

2020 · Welfare schemes of the Uttar Pradesh Government

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks

Explain the welfare schemes of Uttar Pradesh Government and its role.

UP has about a sixth of India's population and a large share of its poor, so state welfare is central to its human development. Most schemes now pay through **DBT**, alongside central schemes.

Major schemes (around 2020)

1. **Women and girls:**
   - **Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana** (2019): ₹15,000 in six instalments, from birth to graduation;
   - **Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana**, for weddings in poor families;
   - **Mission Shakti** (2020), for women's safety and self-reliance.
2. **Housing and pensions:** the **Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana–Gramin** builds houses for families left out of PMAY-G, such as Musahar, Vantangiya and Tharu families and flood victims. Old-age, destitute-women and divyang pensions are paid through DBT.
3. **Farmers:** the **Kisan Rin Mochan Yojana** (2017) waived crop loans of small and marginal farmers. The Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana covers accidents, and cow shelters (gaushalas) take in stray cattle.
4. **Health:** the **Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan** gives cashless treatment to families left out of Ayushman Bharat.
5. **Artisans and jobs: ODOP** (2018) and the **Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana** offer training, toolkits and loans. **Mission Rozgar** and skill mapping helped migrants who returned during COVID-19.
6. **Education: Operation Kayakalp** improves basic schools, and DBT pays for uniforms, bags and shoes.
7. **COVID relief:** ₹1,000 cash support for daily-wage workers, and free ration.

Role

- **Poverty reduction:** NITI Aayog estimates that 5.94 crore people in UP escaped multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23, the most of any state.
- **Social justice:** girls' education and marginal communities get support, and farm debt eases.
- **Economic multiplier:** rural demand and artisan incomes rise, and DBT brings transparency.

Limitations: a heavy fiscal burden, overlapping schemes, low awareness, exclusion errors, and a focus on spending rather than outcomes.

Conclusion: convergence, saturation and outcome monitoring can turn welfare into empowerment and support UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

2021 · Globalisation and formal-sector employment

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Examine the impact of globalisation on employment of formal sector of India.**

The **formal (organised) sector** covers workers with written contracts and social security (EPF, ESI) under labour laws. It is only about a tenth of India's workforce. Globalisation since 1991 has changed both its size and its nature.

Positive impact

- **New, better-paid jobs** in IT-BPM, banking, telecom, aviation, organised retail, automobiles and pharma, with MNC pay and HR standards.
- **Export-linked jobs** in garments, leather and electronics, such as mobile manufacturing in Noida.
- **Skill premium:** education, English and digital skills are rewarded, and more women work in services.

Negative impact

- **Informalisation inside the formal sector:** to stay flexible, firms shifted to **contract and fixed-term labour**, which is now roughly a third or more of organised factory workers (ASI).
- **Jobless growth:** automation raised output faster than jobs.
- **Shrinking public sector:** disinvestment and voluntary retirement cut PSU jobs.
- **Job losses** in import-hit units and closed mills (as in Kanpur), and exposure to global downturns.

Conclusion: globalisation created quality jobs for the skilled but weakened job security for many. The four Labour Codes, social security for gig workers, skilling and labour-intensive manufacturing must balance flexibility with security.

2021 · Inclusive growth, inclusiveness and sustainability

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **How does inclusive growth meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability?**

Inclusive growth spreads opportunities and gains across all sections and regions. **Sustainability** means meeting present needs without compromising those of future generations (Brundtland Report, 1987). The **12th Five Year Plan** joined the two: "Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth".

How it meets inclusiveness: it creates productive jobs and builds health, education and skills for the poor, women and lagging regions. Financial inclusion, social protection and panchayats give them a share and a voice.

How it meets sustainability

1. **Economic:** broad-based incomes create mass demand, so growth does not rest on a few sectors.
2. **Social and political:** less exclusion means less unrest and more trust in institutions.
3. **Environmental:** the poor depend most on nature, so inclusive programmes double as green ones: MGNREGA water works and Amrit Sarovars, PM-KUSUM solar pumps and natural farming. In Bundelkhand, farm ponds (*Khet Talab*) and Har Ghar Jal improve both livelihoods and water security.
4. **Between generations:** investing in children's nutrition and schooling sustains future growth.

Conclusion: inclusion and sustainability reinforce each other, which is the core of the SDG pledge to "leave no one behind". A just transition for workers in fossil-fuel regions is needed too.

2021 · Constraints on infrastructure projects in Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the constraints in development of projects in Uttar Pradesh?**

> **NOTE**
>
> The English text leaves out a word; the Hindi asks about **infrastructure** projects (बुनियादी ढांचागत परियोजनाएँ). The answer follows the Hindi.

UP is building expressways, airports, freight corridors and industrial corridors at scale, but its infrastructure projects face several constraints.

Constraints

1. **Land acquisition:** UP is dense and holdings are small, so one project needs land from thousands of owners, which brings compensation disputes and litigation.
2. **Finance:** salaries, pensions and interest leave little fiscal space; private partners hesitate to join PPPs, and DISCOM losses strain power projects.
3. **Clearances and coordination:** forest and environment approvals, utility shifting and many agencies cause overruns. Zones such as the **Taj Trapezium Zone** around Agra restrict industry.
4. **Geography:** eastern floods, soft alluvium and rocky, water-scarce Bundelkhand raise costs.
5. **Capacity:** too few engineers, contractors and project managers; weak quality control and maintenance.
6. **Landlocked location:** UP is far from ports, though the Eastern and Western DFCs (meeting at Dadri) and National Waterway-1 now help.
7. **Investor perception:** past worries about law and order.

Steps: UPEIDA, land banks, the Nivesh Mitra single window and PM Gati Shakti planning. UP now has the largest expressway network in India.

Conclusion: faster land acquisition, assured finance and strong project management are vital for UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

2021 · Make in India, Skill India and labour reforms

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Do you agree that Make in India's success depends on Skill India & labour reforms?**

Make in India (2014) aims to make India a global manufacturing hub. Skills and flexible labour markets are two of its foundations. Its success **depends heavily on them, but not on them alone**.

Why Skill India matters

- Only a small share of India's workers has formal vocational training (PLFS), against a large majority in Germany or South Korea. Industry reports a persistent shortage of skilled workers.
- Electronics, semiconductors, EVs and defence need ITI-trained technicians and Industry 4.0 skills.
- Without skills, a young workforce becomes a burden instead of a demographic dividend.
- Programmes: the Skill India Mission (July 2015), PMKVY, NSDC, the NSQF, apprenticeships (NAPS) and vocational education under NEP 2020.

Why labour reforms matter

- Old laws, such as the Industrial Disputes Act, required government permission for lay-offs in firms with over 100 workers. This kept firms small and pushed them towards contract labour.
- The **four Labour Codes (2019–20)** merged 29 central laws:
  - the permission threshold rose to 300 workers;
  - fixed-term employment was allowed;
  - gig workers got social security.
- "Flexicurity", flexibility for employers with security for workers, draws labour-intensive investment.

Why they are not enough

- High logistics and power costs, and difficult land acquisition.
- Infrastructure gaps, an inverted duty structure and costly credit.
- Low R&D (about 0.65% of GDP), which limits technology and value addition.
- Weak demand and private investment, and stiff competition from China and Vietnam.
- Policy stability, trade agreements and PLI support also matter.

UP angle: Noida's mobile-phone hub and the Defence Industrial Corridor depend on trained workers from the UP Skill Development Mission and ITIs.

Conclusion: Skill India and labour reforms are necessary conditions for *Make in India*, not sufficient ones. Success needs a **complete ecosystem**: skills, flexible labour, infrastructure, technology and stable policy.

2021 · New schemes in the UP Budget 2021–22

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Examine the impact of new schemes in U.P. Budget 2021–22 on socio-economic system.**

UP's Budget 2021–22 was presented on **22 February 2021**. It was the state's **first paperless budget** and, at about **₹5.5 lakh crore**, the largest until then. Coming after COVID-19, it combined relief, human development and infrastructure-led recovery.

Main new initiatives and their impact

1. **Infrastructure:** funds for the Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, Gorakhpur Link and Ganga expressways, the Noida International Airport at Jewar and the Ayodhya airport. Impact: construction jobs, investment along industrial corridors, and connections for the lagging east and Bundelkhand.
2. **Youth and education:** free coaching for competitive exams under the **Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana**, residential schools for workers' children and new medical colleges. Impact: equal opportunity for poorer students and fewer doctor shortages.
3. **Women:** support for **Mission Shakti**, the Kanya Sumangala Yojana and women's help desks in police stations. Impact: safety, girls' education and women's participation.
4. **Farmers:** irrigation projects such as the Saryu Nahar project, cane-price payments and farm credit. Impact: higher farm incomes and rural demand.
5. **Health:** hospitals, oxygen, testing and vaccination. Impact: a more resilient health system.
6. **Culture and tourism:** development of Ayodhya, Varanasi and Mathura–Vrindavan, which supports service jobs.
7. **Water:** Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Bundelkhand and the Vindhya region. Impact: less burden on women and less water-borne disease.

Critical view

- High committed spending and limited fiscal space, with borrowing raised after COVID-19.
- Project delays and unspent capital funds.
- Infrastructure creates mostly temporary construction jobs rather than lasting manufacturing jobs.
- Outlays are tracked more than outcomes.

Conclusion: the budget pushed both growth and welfare, especially infrastructure and human capital. Its real impact depends on timely execution and outcome budgeting, on the path to UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

> **NOTE**
>
> Allocations for individual schemes are not quoted. If you need figures, check the UP Budget 2021–22 speech.

2021 · Lockdown, the economy and budget strategy

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the impact of lockdown on Indian economy and budgetary strategies to combat slowdown.**

The nationwide **COVID-19 lockdown from 25 March 2020** saved lives but caused a severe economic shock, deepening the 2019–20 slowdown.

Impact on the economy

1. **Growth collapse:** GDP fell by about **24% in April–June 2020** (first estimate −23.9%). 2020–21 was the **first full-year contraction since 1979–80**.
2. **Jobs and incomes:** unemployment rose above 20% in April 2020 (CMIE). Crores of informal workers lost work, and lakhs of migrants returned home to UP and Bihar.
3. **Sectors:** tourism, aviation, hotels, trade, construction and MSMEs were hit hardest; **only agriculture kept growing**.
4. **Demand, supply and finances:** consumption and investment fell and supply chains broke. The Centre's fiscal deficit rose to **9.2% of GDP** (2020–21).
5. **Social effects:** more poverty and food insecurity, lost learning, and a "K-shaped" recovery.

Budgetary and policy strategies

- **Relief:**
  - the **PM Garib Kalyan Package** (March 2020, ₹1.7 lakh crore): free grain under PMGKAY, cash for women's Jan Dhan accounts and free Ujjwala cylinders;
  - more money for **MGNREGA**;
  - One Nation One Ration Card.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat packages** (about ₹20 lakh crore, roughly 10% of GDP, including RBI measures): **ECLGS** guaranteed loans for MSMEs, PM SVANidhi, farm infrastructure and **PLI schemes**.
- **Union Budget 2021–22:**
  - capital expenditure raised to **₹5.54 lakh crore** (up about 34.5%);
  - the health outlay more than doubled, including **₹35,000 crore for vaccines**;
  - the National Infrastructure Pipeline, asset monetisation, a "bad bank" and disinvestment.
- **Fiscal room for states:** they could borrow up to 5% of GSDP in 2020–21.
- **Monetary support:** the RBI cut the repo rate to 4% and allowed a loan moratorium.
- **UP:** Mission Rozgar, skill mapping of migrants, and ₹1,000 cash support for labourers.

Assessment: the response relied more on credit guarantees and supply-side support than on direct cash, but it protected banks and public finances. Recovery in 2021–22 was strong but uneven.

Conclusion: resilience needs universal social security for informal workers, stronger health systems and sustained public capex.

2022 · Financial inclusion and social justice

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Financial inclusion is key for social justice. Comment.**

The **Rangarajan Committee (2008)** defined **financial inclusion** as access to financial services, and timely, adequate credit at affordable cost, for vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low-income groups. Social justice, promised in the Preamble and Articles 38–39, requires that poverty, caste, gender or place does not deny anyone economic opportunity.

Why it is key to social justice

1. **It ends exploitation:** formal savings and credit free the poor from moneylenders and debt bondage.
2. **It makes welfare leak-proof:** the JAM trinity and DBT send subsidies and pensions straight to people.
3. **It empowers women:** about 55% of the over **50 crore PMJDY accounts** belong to women. UP's **BC Sakhi** scheme makes SHG women village banking agents.
4. **It provides security:** PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY protect families against shocks.
5. **It builds entrepreneurship:** MUDRA, Stand-Up India (SC/ST and women) and PM SVANidhi turn wage-seekers into owners.
6. **It reaches remote areas** through UPI and Aadhaar-enabled payments.

Limits: dormant accounts, low financial and digital literacy, cyber fraud and thin rural credit.

Conclusion: financial inclusion is necessary for social justice but not enough on its own. Literacy, credit and grievance redress must turn it into **financial empowerment**.

2022 · Industrial policy: Make in India and Stand-Up India

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Evaluate current Industrial Policy of India with reference to 'Make in India' and 'Stand up India'.**

India's current industrial policy aims at a manufacturing hub, self-reliance (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*) and inclusive entrepreneurship. Its tools include **Make in India (2014)**, PLI schemes (2020), PM Gati Shakti (2021), the National Logistics Policy (2022), Startup India and **Stand-Up India (2016)**.

Make in India

- **Gains:** liberal FDI rules and record inflows; India is now the second-largest mobile phone maker; electronics exports and defence production are rising; PLI has drawn investment in electronics, pharma and solar modules.
- **Gaps:** manufacturing is still about 15–17% of GVA, short of the 25% target; jobs targets were missed; imported inputs keep value addition low.

Stand-Up India: bank loans of **₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore** for greenfield enterprises, to at least one SC/ST and one woman borrower per bank branch.

- **Gains:** lakhs of loans, mostly to women, which created first-generation entrepreneurs.
- **Gaps:** a small SC/ST share, branches missing targets, and weak handholding and market links.

Evaluation: the policy has improved the investment climate and made inclusion an aim of industrial policy, but structural transformation is incomplete.

Conclusion: labour-intensive sectors, links with MSMEs and skills, as in UP's ODOP and Defence Corridor, can help it deliver jobs and inclusion.

2022 · Inclusive growth at the centre of development strategy

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **"Inclusive growth has become central to development strategy." Discuss.**

Inclusive growth creates opportunities for all and shares its benefits fairly. In India it has moved from a slogan to the core of policy, from the 11th Plan ("Faster and More Inclusive Growth") to *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*.

Why it became central

1. **Limits of trickle-down:** fast growth after 1991 brought jobless growth, farm distress and wider regional and income gaps.
2. **Demographic dividend:** a young population needs jobs and skills, or the dividend becomes a burden.
3. **Constitution and democracy:** Articles 38, 39 and 46, and the public demand for fairness and stability.
4. **Economic logic:** India's growth rests on domestic demand, which needs broad-based incomes.
5. **Global commitments:** the SDG pledge to "leave no one behind".

How it shows in strategy

- **Plans and budgets:**

- NITI Aayog's *Strategy for New India @75* (2018);
- "inclusive development", first of the seven *Saptarishi* priorities in the Union Budget 2023–24;
- the focus on **GYAN** (*Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Nari*) in the Interim Budget 2024.

- **Saturation of basic needs:** PMAY, Swachh Bharat, Ujjwala, Saubhagya, Jal Jeevan Mission and Ayushman Bharat.
- **Financial and digital inclusion:** PMJDY, JAM-DBT, UPI and MUDRA.
- **Livelihoods:** MGNREGA, DAY-NRLM (Lakhpati Didi), PM-KISAN, PM SVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma and skilling.
- **Lagging areas:** Aspirational Districts (8 in UP) and Aspirational Blocks.
- **UP:** ODOP, Kanya Sumangala and Mission Shakti. UP had the largest number of people leaving multidimensional poverty (5.94 crore, NITI Aayog 2024).

Gaps that remain

- informal, low-quality jobs;
- low participation of women in the workforce;
- weak learning and nutrition;
- high wealth inequality.

Conclusion: inclusive growth is now the organising principle of India's development, and its next stage is quality jobs and human capital. Without it, *Viksit Bharat @2047* would be neither achievable nor meaningful.

2022 · Skill development and economic growth

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **What is the role of skill development in economic growth?**

Skill development builds the knowledge and practical abilities that make people employable and productive. Growth theory treats skills as **human capital**, as important for productivity as machines (Schultz, Becker, endogenous growth models). India has one of the world's youngest populations, so skills decide whether its demographic window becomes a dividend.

Role in economic growth

1. **Productivity and wages:** skilled workers produce more, adopt technology faster and earn more, which raises output and demand.
2. **Structural change:** skills move workers from low-productivity farming into industry and services. Only a small share of India's workers has formal vocational training (PLFS).
3. **Manufacturing and investment:** *Make in India*, PLI sectors, semiconductors, EVs and defence need technicians, and a skilled workforce attracts FDI.
4. **Services and exports:** IT-BPM, healthcare and tourism earn foreign exchange. Skilled migrants have made India the **world's largest recipient of remittances**.
5. **Entrepreneurship:** training and toolkits (PM Vishwakarma, ODOP) raise artisans' incomes and help formalise MSMEs.
6. **Inclusion:** skilling women and rural youth raises women's workforce participation and reduces poverty.
7. **Future readiness:** AI, digital and green jobs need constant reskilling.

Indian initiatives

- **Policy and institutions:** the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (2014) and the **Skill India Mission** and the **National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (both 2015).
- **Programmes:** PMKVY, NSDC, the NSQF, apprenticeships (NAPS) and the Skill India Digital Hub (2023).
- **Education and internships:** vocational education from Class 6 under NEP 2020, and the PM Internship Scheme (2024).
- **UP:** the UP Skill Development Mission, the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana and ODOP-linked training.

Challenges

- training that does not match what industry needs;
- poor-quality ITIs;
- few apprenticeships;
- low participation of women;
- the low social status of vocational work.

Conclusion: skills multiply every other input of growth. Industry-led, outcome-based skilling is essential to reap the demographic dividend and reach *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2022 · Effects of globalisation and liberalisation

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss effects of globalisation and liberalisation on Indian economy.**

Liberalisation removes state controls such as licences, quotas and high tariffs. **Globalisation** integrates the economy with world markets. India adopted both in the **1991 reforms**, after a balance-of-payments crisis left forex reserves enough for only about two weeks of imports.

Positive effects

1. **Higher growth:** India moved from the "Hindu rate of growth" (about 3.5%) to an average of 6–7%, becoming the fifth-largest economy by 2022.
2. **External strength:** forex reserves are among the world's largest, FDI and portfolio inflows are large, and the current account deficit is manageable.
3. **Services revolution:** IT-BPM, telecom (some of the world's cheapest mobile data), banking, aviation and digital payments.
4. **Industrial competitiveness:** automobiles, pharmaceuticals, steel and mobile phones joined global value chains.
5. **Consumer welfare:** more choice and quality, and a large fall in poverty.
6. **Farm exports:** India became the largest rice exporter.

Negative effects

1. **Neglect of agriculture:** low public investment and volatile world prices deepened farm distress.
2. **Jobless growth and informalisation:** capital-intensive growth and more contract labour.
3. **Inequality:** wider income, wealth and regional gaps (west and south versus UP and Bihar).
4. **Vulnerability:** sudden capital outflows (the 2013 taper tantrum), oil shocks, global crises and dependence on Chinese inputs.

5. **Pressure on MSMEs and crafts** from cheap imports.
6. **Environmental stress** from faster resource use.

UP perspective: UP gained Noida's IT and electronics hub and exports of carpets (Bhadohi), leather (Kanpur, Agra) and brassware (Moradabad). Eastern UP, however, lagged behind.

Conclusion: the reforms made India faster-growing and more resilient, but not equally prosperous. Second-generation reforms (land, labour, agriculture), skills and social protection must spread the gains for *Viksit Bharat @2047* and UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

2022 · Backwardness of Eastern Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Why is Eastern U.P. less developed? Suggest remedies.**

Eastern UP (Purvanchal) covers mainly the Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Basti, Azamgarh, Devipatan, Mirzapur, Prayagraj and Ayodhya divisions. It is fertile and densely populated, yet it lags western UP in income, industry and human development.

Causes of backwardness

1. **History:** under the **Permanent Settlement of the Banaras region (1795)**, zamindars collected rent but invested little in land. Later, Green Revolution investment went mostly to the west.
2. **Floods:** the Ghaghra, Rapti, Gandak and Sharda flood the region every year and cause waterlogging, destroying crops and assets.
3. **Population pressure:** very high density and tiny holdings mean disguised unemployment. The region lives on migrants' remittances, a "money-order economy".
4. **Weak industry:**
   - handlooms in Mau and Varanasi declined;
   - sugar mills closed;
   - the **Gorakhpur fertiliser plant** shut in 1990 (revived in 2021);
   - there are few large industries or agro-processing units.
5. **Infrastructure and credit gaps:** poor roads, power and markets in the past, and a low credit-deposit ratio.
6. **Human development:** low literacy and health indicators, including encephalitis (AES/JE) around Gorakhpur.
7. **Social and governance factors:** caste conflict, criminalised politics and weak local institutions.

Remedies (several under way)

- **Connectivity:**
  - the **Purvanchal Expressway** (Lucknow–Ghazipur, opened in 2021) and the Gorakhpur Link Expressway;
  - **Kushinagar International Airport** (2021);
  - the multimodal terminal on National Waterway-1 at Varanasi.
- **Industry:**
  - industrial corridors along the expressways, and GIDA at Gorakhpur;
  - **ODOP** products: Banarasi silk (Varanasi), terracotta (Gorakhpur), black pottery (Azamgarh), carpets (Bhadohi).
- **Agriculture and floods:** flood-tolerant paddy, drainage, dairy, fisheries and horticulture, FPOs, embankments and joint river planning with Nepal.
- **Human development:** AIIMS Gorakhpur (2021), new medical colleges, the campaign against encephalitis, and skill centres.
- **Tourism:** the **Buddhist circuit** (Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti), Kashi Vishwanath Dham and Ayodhya.

Conclusion: now that it is connected, Purvanchal needs industry, skills and agro-value chains to turn its people and heritage into growth. This is vital for UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

2023 · Policies for food processing

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Evaluate government policies promoting food processing & related industries.**

Food processing links farms to markets: it cuts waste, raises farm incomes and creates jobs. India is a leading producer of milk, fruits, vegetables and grains, yet it processes only a small share of them.

Key policies

- **FDI: 100%** under the automatic route in food processing.
- **PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana** (2017): mega food parks, cold chains, agro-processing clusters and Operation Greens.
- **PLI Scheme for Food Processing** (2021, ₹10,900 crore): ready-to-eat foods, marine products and millet products.
- **PMFME** (2020): support for micro food units on the ODOP model.
- **Other support:** the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (₹1 lakh crore) and the Agriculture Export Policy (2018).
- **UP:** the **UP Food Processing Industry Policy 2023** builds on its lead in milk, potato and sugarcane.

Evaluation

- **Gains:** more cold-chain and processing capacity, formalised micro units, and more processed-food exports.
- **Gaps:** low processing levels and large post-harvest losses; several mega food parks underperformed; small farms supply fragmented quantities; credit is costly and links with FPOs weak.

Conclusion: policy has built infrastructure but not integration. Farm-to-fork clusters, FPOs and cheaper credit can make food processing a jobs engine.

2023 · Budget-making process; plan and non-plan expenditure

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain budget-making process & difference between plan and non-plan expenditure.**

The Union Budget is the **Annual Financial Statement (Article 112)**; for states it is under Article 202.

Budget-making process

1. **Preparation:** the Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs issues a budget circular; ministries send estimates; after pre-budget consultations, the Finance Ministry finalises the budget with the PM and the Cabinet approves it.
2. **Presentation:** on **1 February** (since 2017, when the Railway Budget was also merged), with the Finance Bill and the Demands for Grants (Article 113).
3. **Parliamentary approval:**
   - general discussion;
   - scrutiny by Department-related Standing Committees;
   - voting on demands in the Lok Sabha (cut motions, guillotine);
   - the **Appropriation Bill** (Article 114) and the **Finance Bill**;
   - a vote on account if needed (Article 116).
4. **Execution and audit:** ministries spend, the CAG audits, and the Public Accounts Committee reviews.

Plan vs non-plan expenditure

Plan expenditure	Non-plan expenditure
Schemes and projects of the Five Year Plans	All other spending
Developmental: irrigation, power, rural development	Committed: interest, defence, subsidies, salaries, pensions
Fixed with the Planning Commission	Fixed by the Finance Ministry

On the **Rangarajan Committee's (2011)** advice, the distinction was **abolished from 2017–18**. Budgets now show revenue and capital expenditure instead.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 112 Annual Financial Statement · Art. 113 Demands for Grants · Art. 114 Appropriation Bill · Art. 116 vote on account · Budget on 1 February since 2017.

2023 · Infrastructure and economic growth

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **"Infrastructure plays an important role in economic growth." Discuss.**

Infrastructure has two parts. **Economic infrastructure** means roads, railways, ports, power, telecom and water; **social infrastructure** means schools and hospitals. Together they are the backbone of production, and India's experience shows that public investment in them lifts growth.

How infrastructure drives growth

1. **Multiplier:** RBI studies find that capital spending raises output far more than revenue spending, and it **crowds in** private investment.
2. **Lower costs, wider markets:** freight corridors, Bharatmala, Sagarmala and logistics parks cut transport costs and make manufacturing and exports competitive.
3. **Jobs:** construction and allied industries (steel, cement) employ millions.
4. **Farm incomes:** irrigation, rural roads (PMGSY), cold chains and markets raise yields and prices.
5. **Human development:** schools, hospitals, water and sanitation raise labour productivity.
6. **Digital public infrastructure:** Aadhaar, UPI and ONDC widen formal economic activity.
7. **Regional balance:** better connectivity opens up backward regions.

India's push:

- the National Infrastructure Pipeline and **PM Gati Shakti** (2021);
- Union capex of **₹10 lakh crore** in 2023–24;
- in UP, expressways, the Jewar airport and the Defence Corridor.

Caveats: projects need maintenance, viable financing, timely completion and environmental safeguards.

Conclusion: infrastructure is the foundation of *Viksit Bharat @2047* and UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

2023 · NITI Aayog and the Planning Commission

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Explain objectives of NITI Aayog and how it differs from Planning Commission.**

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was set up by a Union Cabinet resolution on **1 January 2015**, replacing the **Planning Commission (1950)**. Neither body is constitutional or statutory.

- **Chair:** the Prime Minister.
- **Governing Council:** all Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors.
- **Other members:** a Vice-Chairperson, full-time, part-time and ex-officio members, and a CEO.

Objectives (from its founding resolution)

1. Build a **shared national vision** of development priorities with the states.
2. Foster **cooperative federalism**, on the principle that strong states make a strong nation.
3. Help make credible plans at the village level and add them up to higher levels (**bottom-up planning**).
4. Build national security interests into economic strategy.
5. Give special attention to sections at risk of being left out of growth.
6. Design long-term policy and **monitor and evaluate** it (through the DMEO).
7. Act as a **think tank** and knowledge hub, and support innovation (Atal Innovation Mission).
8. Resolve issues that cut across sectors and departments.

Differences from the Planning Commission

Basis	Planning Commission	NITI Aayog
Nature	Executive body controlling plan funds	Advisory think tank
Financial power	Allocated plan funds to ministries and states	No power to allocate funds
Approach	Top-down, "one size fits all"	Bottom-up; cooperative and competitive federalism
States' role	Limited, through the National Development Council	Full members of the Governing Council
Plans	Five Year Plans (the 12th, the last, ended 2017)	Long-term vision, strategy and action agendas
Tools	Plan approval	Indices (SDG India, Export Preparedness, School Education Quality), Aspirational Districts

Assessment:

- **Strengths:** NITI promotes competition among states and evidence-based policy.
- **Limits:** without financial powers it can only persuade, and critics see it as close to the Centre.

Conclusion: NITI Aayog marks a shift from central planning to shared governance. Making states equal partners is essential for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Planning Commission: 15 March 1950 · NITI Aayog: 1 January 2015 · both by Cabinet resolution · Governing Council of all CMs · no fund allocation.

2023 · Inclusive growth: concept, issues and challenges

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Explain concept, issues & challenges of inclusive growth in India.

Concept: inclusive growth is **broad-based, job-rich and fair** growth. Everyone takes part in creating it and shares its benefits, so it concerns both the *pace* and the *pattern* of growth.

- **Elements:** poverty reduction and productive jobs; farm development; access to health, education and finance; regional, gender and social equity; sustainability.
- **History:** the 11th Plan (2007–12) made it the central goal; today it is *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*.

Issues: where India stands

1. **Employment:** about 90% of workers are informal, and most are self-employed. Women's participation is rising (41.7% in PLFS 2023–24) but still low.
2. **Agriculture:** about 46% of workers produce under a fifth of GVA, so farm incomes stay low.
3. **Inequality:** the top holds a large and rising share of income and wealth. Bihar's per capita income is about a third of the national average, and UP's about half.
4. **Human development:** NFHS-5 found 35.5% of children stunted and 57% of women anaemic, and learning outcomes are weak.
5. **Social exclusion:** gaps for SC/ST, minorities, women and persons with disabilities, and a digital divide.
6. **Urban poverty:** slum dwellers and informal migrants lack social security.

Challenges

- **Money:** a narrow tax base limits social spending.
- **Delivery:** leakages, exclusion errors, weak local bodies and old data (Census 2011).
- **Jobs:** manufacturing absorbs little labour, and automation and AI threaten routine jobs.
- **Demography and climate:** the demographic window closes in the 2040s, and climate change hits the poor first.
- **Quality of welfare:** moving from transfers to capabilities, and from outlays to outcomes.

Way forward: labour-intensive manufacturing and MSMEs, agro-processing and FPOs, quality health and education for all, skills for women, and data-driven targeting. UP's ODOP and Mission Shakti are examples.

Conclusion: inclusive growth is both the means and the measure of *Viksit Bharat @2047*: growth must reach the last person, as *Antyodaya* urges.

2023 · Food security: the challenges that remain

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Despite measures, challenges remain in food security. Explain.

The **World Food Summit (1996)** defines food security as access, for all people at all times, to enough safe and nutritious food for an active, healthy life. Its four pillars are **availability, access, utilisation and stability**.

Measures taken

- **Grain:** the **National Food Security Act, 2013** (up to 75% of rural and 50% of urban people); free grain for about **81 crore** people under PMGKAY; MSP procurement, buffer stocks and One Nation One Ration Card.
- **Nutrition:** ICDS, PM POSHAN, **POSHAN Abhiyaan** (2018), fortified rice and millets.

Challenges that remain

1. **Nutrition, not just calories:** NFHS-5 (2019–21) found 35.5% of under-fives stunted, 32.1% underweight and 57% of women anaemic, a "hidden hunger" from diets poor in protein and micronutrients.
2. **Cereal bias:** procurement and the PDS centre on rice and wheat. Pulses lag, and India imports more than half its edible oil.
3. **Targeting:** leakages, exclusion errors, coverage based on the 2011 Census, and fingerprint failures for the elderly and migrants.
4. **Climate and resources:** heatwaves (wheat losses in 2022), erratic monsoons and falling groundwater in Punjab–Haryana.
5. **Storage, cost and distortions:** post-harvest losses and open (CAP) storage; a food subsidy of about ₹2 lakh crore a year; MSP that favours water-guzzling crops.
6. **Food inflation:** swings in vegetable and pulse prices hurt the poor.
7. **Global rankings:** the Global Hunger Index 2023 ranked India 111th of 125, though the government disputes its method.

UP angle: UP is the largest wheat producer and has the most NFSA beneficiaries, yet child stunting there is high.

Way forward: a nutrition-sensitive PDS (pulses, millets, oils), crop diversification, strong anganwadis, modern silos and updated beneficiary lists after the next Census.

Conclusion: India has largely achieved grain security. The next goal is **nutrition security** for all, under SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

2023 · The PDS, price stability and food access

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **"PDS is key to price stability & food access." Explain.**

The **Public Distribution System (PDS)** grew out of wartime rationing in the 1940s, became the Targeted PDS in 1997, and has been a legal right since the **NFSA 2013**. The Centre, through the FCI, procures, stores, transports and allocates grain. The states identify beneficiaries and distribute it through about 5 lakh fair price shops.

PDS and price stability

1. **Price floor:** MSP procurement gives farmers a minimum price and prevents distress sales after harvest.
2. **Market release:** buffer stocks are sold when prices rise. In 2023, for example, wheat was sold under the **Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)** and *Bharat Atta* at a subsidised price.
3. **Lower market demand:** about 81 crore people get free grain, so their buying does not push market prices up. Food is nearly half of the CPI basket (2012 series), so this helps anchor inflation.
4. **Shocks:** in droughts and pandemics, assured supply prevents panic buying and hoarding.

PDS and food access

1. **Economic access:** free grain under PMGKAY (5 kg per person; 35 kg per Antyodaya family) protects poor households' budgets.
2. **Physical access:** fair price shops reach every village, and *One Nation One Ration Card* lets migrants draw rations anywhere.
3. **Crises:** PMGKAY prevented mass hunger during COVID-19.
4. **Nutrition:** rice is fortified, and some states add millets.
5. **UP:** UP has the most NFSA beneficiaries, and ePoS devices at ration shops have cut leakages.

Limitations

- **Leakages:** the Shanta Kumar Committee (2015) estimated them at about 46%, though e-PoS has since reduced them.
- **Exclusion and a narrow basket:** some poor families are left out, and cereals alone do little for nutrition.
- **Cost and distortions:** storage losses, the FCI's high economic cost, rice–wheat monoculture and crowding out of private trade.

Conclusion: the PDS is indeed the backbone of price stability and food access. Better targeting, a more varied basket and decentralised procurement can take it from food security to nutrition security.

2024 · New Economic Policy and the employment structure

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **How has New Economic Policy changed employment structure?**

The **New Economic Policy of 1991** (liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation) changed not only what India produces but also how and where Indians work.

Changes in the employment structure

1. **Sectoral shift:** agriculture's share of jobs fell from about two-thirds (1993–94) to about 46% (PLFS 2023–24), while industry and services grew.
2. **Construction, not factories:** construction absorbed most workers leaving farms; manufacturing's share of jobs barely rose.
3. **Services boom:** jobs in IT-BPM, telecom, banking, retail and logistics. The **gig economy** is growing fast (about 77 lakh workers in 2020–21, NITI Aayog).
4. **Informalisation:** contract and casual work spread even in the organised sector, and over half of all workers are self-employed.
5. **From public to private:** PSU jobs shrank with disinvestment, while private and MNC jobs grew.
6. **Skill-biased change:** pay rose for educated, English-speaking and digitally skilled workers, widening wage gaps.
7. **Migration:** workers moved from UP and Bihar to industrial and service hubs.

Conclusion: the reforms made jobs more varied, but most remain informal and low-productivity. Labour-intensive manufacturing, skilling and social security for gig workers are needed.

2024 · Demographic dividend and tackling unemployment

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **India's population dividend & measures to tackle unemployment.**

The **demographic dividend** is the extra growth a country can achieve when the working-age share of its population is larger than the share of dependents. India's median age is under 30, and the **Economic Survey 2018–19** projected that the working-age share would peak around **2041**. The window will not last.

The challenge: the overall unemployment rate was **3.2% (PLFS 2023–24)**, but youth unemployment was about **10%**. Educated youth face even higher rates, and underemployment is widespread. Without jobs, the dividend turns into a burden.

Government measures

1. **Skilling:** the Skill India Mission, PMKVY 4.0, apprenticeships and the **PM Internship Scheme** (2024).
2. **Hiring incentives:** the employment-linked incentive package of Budget 2024–25, for job creation and first-time employees.
3. **Self-employment:** MUDRA, PMEGP, Startup India, Stand-Up India and PM SVANidhi.
4. **Manufacturing and infrastructure:** PLI schemes, Make in India and record public capex.
5. **Rural jobs:** MGNREGA and DAY-NRLM (Lakhpati Didi).
6. **Education:** vocational courses in schools under NEP 2020.
7. **UP:** Mission Rozgar, ODOP and the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana.

Conclusion: health, skills and jobs together can make India's youth the engine of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2024 · Inclusive growth and social justice

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Does inclusive growth ensure social justice? Discuss with steps taken by Govt.**

Inclusive growth spreads the opportunities and gains of growth to all. **Social justice** goes further. Rooted in the Preamble and Articles 38, 39 and 46, it means fair distribution, equal dignity, and the removal of disadvantages of caste, gender and region, as Ambedkar's idea of social democracy stressed.

How inclusive growth advances social justice

- Jobs, credit and assets for the poor reduce economic inequality.
- Universal health, education and nutrition widen capabilities (Amartya Sen).
- NITI Aayog estimates that 24.82 crore people left multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23, 5.94 crore of them in UP.

Why it does not, by itself, ensure social justice

1. **Formal access is not real equality:** a bank account or a house does not end discrimination, untouchability or violence against women.
2. **Unequal quality** of education, health care and jobs persists.
3. **Rising gaps:** wealth and regional inequality can grow even while poverty falls.
4. **Voice:** social justice needs representation, not only income.

So inclusive growth is **necessary but not sufficient**; it needs rights-based and affirmative action.

Steps taken by the Government

- **Economic inclusion:** PMJDY with DBT, MUDRA, Stand-Up India, PM SVANidhi and **PM Vishwakarma** (2023) for traditional artisans.
- **Basic needs:** NFSA/PMGKAY, Ayushman Bharat, PMAY, Ujjwala and Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **Affirmative action:**
  - reservations, including the 10% EWS quota (103rd Amendment, upheld in *Janhit Abhiyan*, 2022);
  - PM-AJAY for SC-majority villages, and Eklavya Model Residential Schools for tribal children;
  - **PM-JANMAN** (2023) for particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).
- **Gender justice:** Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Lakhpati Didi, and the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** (106th Amendment, 2023), which reserves one-third of legislature seats for women.
- **Lagging areas:** the Aspirational Districts and Blocks programmes.
- **UP:** Kanya Sumangala, Mission Shakti, and housing for Musahar and Vantangiya families.

Conclusion: inclusive growth gives social justice its economic base; rights, dignity and representation complete it. Together they fulfil the Constitution's vision and the ideal of *Antyodaya*.

2024 · The budget as more than a planning tool

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

"Budgets are half used if only planning tools." Examine.

NOTE

The sheet abridges the question. The Hindi means "A budget is only half used when it is treated merely as a tool of planning. Critically examine." The answer takes it that way.

A **budget** is a financial plan of expected revenue and expenditure for a year. Planning, which means setting priorities and allocating money, is only half of its use. The other half is to **control, monitor, evaluate and steer** the economy. A budget used only as a plan becomes a ritual, so the statement is largely valid.

The planning half: a budget sets priorities (infrastructure, welfare, *Viksit Bharat* goals), forecasts revenue and borrowing, and allocates funds to ministries and schemes.

The other half

1. **Control and accountability:** the legislature controls the public purse (Articles 112–117; Articles 202–207 for states). Appropriation limits, CAG audit and Public Accounts Committee scrutiny follow.
2. **Performance and outcomes:** the Outcome Budget (since 2005–06), NITI Aayog's output–outcome monitoring framework and zero-based reviews link money to results, not just outlays.
3. **Economic management:** in Musgrave's terms a budget performs **allocation** (public goods), **distribution** (taxes, subsidies, transfers) and **stabilisation** (counter-cyclical spending, as in COVID-19).
4. **Fiscal discipline:** the FRBM Act, 2003 (and UP's FRBM Act, 2004) keep deficits and debt on a sustainable path.
5. **Signals and coordination:** budgets guide investors and rating agencies, coordinate departments and the Centre and states, and support gender and green budgeting.

Critical examination

- **Without the other half:**
  - unspent funds lapse, and spending rushes in March;
  - estimates differ widely from actuals;
  - off-budget borrowing hides liabilities;
  - schemes run on without evaluation (CAG reports often find large unutilised grants).
- **But:** too much control makes budgets rigid, and outcomes are hard to measure in health or education.
- **Capacity:** good monitoring needs data and skills that many departments lack.

Conclusion: a budget is complete only when **planning, control and evaluation** work together. For UP's ₹7.36 lakh crore budget (2024–25), outcome-based and transparent budgeting is key to the USD 1 trillion goal and *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2024 · Recent poverty alleviation strategies

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Critically evaluate recent poverty alleviation strategies in India.

Since about 2014, India's anti-poverty strategy has moved from scattered income-based schemes to **saturating basic needs, technology-based delivery and multidimensional measurement**.

Main features

1. **Saturation of basic amenities:** houses (PMAY), toilets (Swachh Bharat), electricity (Saubhagya), cooking gas (Ujjwala), tap water (Jal Jeevan Mission) and bank accounts (PMJDY).
2. **JAM–DBT:** benefits go straight to Aadhaar-linked accounts, cutting out middlemen.
3. **Food and income floors:** free grain for about 81 crore people under PMGKAY (extended for five years from 1 January 2024), and PM-KISAN.
4. **Health cover: Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY** (₹5 lakh per family), extended in 2024 to everyone aged 70 or above.
5. **Livelihoods:** DAY-NRLM (Lakhpati Didi), MUDRA, PM SVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma and MGNREGA.
6. **Targeting:** Aspirational Districts and Blocks, PM-JANMAN for vulnerable tribes, and UP's **Zero Poverty campaign** for the poorest families in each village.

Achievements: NITI Aayog (2024) finds multidimensional poverty fell from **29.17% (2013–14) to 11.28% (2022–23)**; 24.82 crore people escaped it, 5.94 crore of them in UP.

Limitations

1. **Dependence:** free food for 81 crore people after years of growth shows wide vulnerability, at a large fiscal cost.
2. **Amenities more than incomes:** real rural wages have grown slowly and jobs remain informal.
3. **Quality gaps:** unused toilets, taps without water, weak learning and high out-of-pocket health spending.
4. **Exclusion:** Aadhaar authentication failures, the digital divide and lists based on the 2011 Census or SECC.
5. **Measurement:** no official poverty line since 2011–12; the MPI measures deprivations, not incomes.
6. **Shocks:** climate and health shocks push families back into poverty.

Judgement: the strategy has sharply reduced deprivation and leakages. Its next stage must move from **welfare to well-paid work**.

Conclusion: proper poverty measurement, skills, labour-intensive jobs and universal social security can make the end of extreme poverty (SDG 1) last, on the road to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2024 · Buffer stock and food security

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **What is buffer stock and its role in food security?**

A **buffer stock** is a reserve of foodgrains, mainly wheat and rice, held in the **Central Pool** by the **Food Corporation of India** (set up in 1965) and state agencies. It covers the needs of the PDS and welfare schemes and keeps a strategic reserve for emergencies and price control.

- **Buffer norms:** fixed for each quarter. Since 2015 they have included, for example, **411.2 lakh tonnes on 1 July** and **210.4 lakh tonnes on 1 April**, including the strategic reserve.
- **Pulses and onions:** a separate buffer is kept under the **Price Stabilisation Fund** (2015).

Role in food security

1. **Availability:** a steady supply for NFSA/PMGKAY (about 81 crore people), PM POSHAN and ICDS, whatever the harvest.
2. **Price stability:** stocks are sold through the **Open Market Sale Scheme** when prices rise (as with wheat in 2023) and built up through MSP procurement in good years.
3. **Emergencies:** stocks made free grain possible during COVID-19 and supply disaster relief and humanitarian aid (wheat to Afghanistan in 2022).
4. **Farmers:** assured MSP procurement protects them from price crashes.
5. **Strategic autonomy:** India no longer depends on food aid, as it did in the 1960s.

Issues

- **Costs:** stocks often far exceed the norms, and the FCI's economic cost is high.
- **Storage:** grain is lost in open (CAP) storage, and modern silos are too few.
- **Skewed procurement:** it is concentrated in Punjab, Haryana and MP, so farmers in eastern UP and Bihar often sell below MSP; it also encourages rice–wheat monoculture and groundwater depletion.
- **WTO:** public stockholding rests on the **Bali "peace clause" (2013)** under the Agreement on Agriculture.

Reforms: decentralised procurement, steel silos under PPP, the **grain storage plan in the cooperative sector** (2023), buffers of millets and pulses, and leaner stocks, as the **Shanta Kumar Committee (2015)** advised.

Conclusion: buffer stocks are the backbone of India's food security. Leaner, more diverse buffers can make that security cheaper and more nutritious.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> FCI 1965 · buffer norms (2015): 1 April 210.4 LMT, 1 July 411.2 LMT · OMSS · Price Stabilisation Fund 2015 · Bali peace clause 2013.

Environment

2018 · Balancing economic development and carbon emissions

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Write a note on the problem of equilibrium between economic development and carbon emission.**

Economic growth has run on fossil fuels, so output and carbon emissions have risen together. India must **raise living standards without locking in a high-carbon path**, while the world limits warming under the **Paris Agreement (2015)**.

Why the balance is difficult

1. **Development needs:** India's per capita income and electricity use are far below those of rich countries, and industry, cities and infrastructure need energy.
2. **A coal-heavy mix:** coal supplies about 70% of electricity and is abundant at home; jobs and revenues in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha depend on it.
3. **Equity:** India is the third-largest emitter in total, but its **per capita emissions are well below the world average** and its historical share is small. Hence the principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities** (UNFCCC, 1992) and its demand for climate finance and technology.
4. **The cost of inaction:** heatwaves, floods and crop losses hit the poor most, as in Bundelkhand and eastern UP.
5. **Trade pressure:** carbon border taxes such as the EU's **CBAM** may penalise carbon-intensive exports.

Achieving the balance (decoupling)

- **Commitments:** the **updated NDC (2022)** pledges a 45% cut in the emission intensity of GDP from 2005 levels and 50% non-fossil power capacity by 2030; **net zero by 2070** (COP26).
- **Clean energy:** the 500 GW non-fossil target, PM-KUSUM, the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** and ethanol blending.
- **Efficiency and markets:** PAT and UJALA, EV incentives and the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme** (2023).
- **Sinks and lifestyles:** the Green India Mission and **Mission LiFE**.
- **UP:** the Solar Energy Policy 2022, and Ayodhya as a model solar city.

Conclusion: the choice is not growth or climate but **green growth**, decoupling emissions from GDP through clean technology, finance and a just transition. India's emission intensity has fallen while its GDP has grown, so *Viksit Bharat @2047* and net zero by 2070 can go together.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> CBDR-RC (UNFCCC 1992) · Paris 2015 · Updated NDC 2022: 45% intensity cut, 50% non-fossil capacity by 2030 · Net zero 2070 · Green Hydrogen Mission 2023 · CCTS 2023.

2019 · Biodiversity and the tropics

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
>
> **Define biodiversity. Why are tropical countries rich in biodiversity?**

The **Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)** defines **biodiversity** as "the variability among living organisms from all sources", including land, marine and other aquatic ecosystems. It exists at three levels: **genetic, species and ecosystem diversity**.

Why the tropics are rich in biodiversity

1. **A warm, stable climate:** heat and rain all year, with no harsh winters, give long growing seasons.
2. **High energy and productivity:** strong sunlight drives high primary productivity, which supports more food chains and species.
3. **Evolutionary time:** the Pleistocene ice ages disturbed the tropics less, so species had long, uninterrupted periods to evolve.
4. **Complex structure:** layered rainforests (emergent, canopy, understorey, floor) create many niches.
5. **Low seasonality and intense interactions:** predictable conditions, competition, predation and mutualism (such as pollination) drive specialisation.

Examples: tropical rainforests cover a small fraction of Earth's land but hold more than half its species. India has about 2.4% of the world's land but 7–8% of recorded species, and shares **four of the 36 global hotspots** (Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats–Sri Lanka, Sundaland). In UP, Dudhwa's Terai forests and grasslands are rich habitats.

Conclusion: this richness is fragile, so protecting habitats is vital (SDG 15).

2020 · "Leave no one behind" in the SDGs

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **What do you understand by "leaving no one behind" with reference to Sustainable Development Goals?**

"**Leave No One Behind**" **(LNOB)** is the central, transformative promise of the UN's **2030 Agenda** (2015). All 193 member states pledged to end poverty in all its forms and to end the discrimination, exclusion and inequalities that leave people behind. They also pledged to "**reach the furthest behind first**".

What it means

1. **Universality:** the goals apply to every person in every country, so progress on averages is not enough.
2. **Focus on the marginalised:** the poorest, women and girls, children, persons with disabilities, tribal peoples, migrants, the elderly and sexual minorities.
3. **The five factors of exclusion (UNDP):** discrimination, geography, governance, socio-economic status, and shocks and fragility.
4. **Disaggregated data:** by income, sex, age, disability, social group and location (SDG target 17.18), so that hidden gaps become visible.
5. **Less inequality** within and among countries (SDG 10).

India's application

- *Antyodaya* and the Aspirational Districts Programme.
- PM-JANMAN for vulnerable tribes, the RPwD Act 2016 and the Transgender Persons Act 2019.
- One Nation One Ration Card for migrants.
- In UP, revenue-village status for Vantangiya villages and houses for Musahar families.

Conclusion: LNOB means judging development by how the last person fares, echoing Gandhi's talisman.

2020 · Challenges of wildlife conservation

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **Critically examine the challenges of conservation of wildlife in India.**

India is a megadiverse country. It protects wildlife through the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, a network of protected areas, **Project Tiger (1973)** and Project Elephant (1992). It now holds about three-quarters of the world's wild tigers (3,682 in the 2022 estimate), and Asiatic lions have recovered in Gir. Yet serious challenges remain.

Challenges

1. **Habitat loss and fragmentation:** highways, railways, mines, dams and farms cut wildlife corridors.
2. **Human–wildlife conflict:** around UP's Pilibhit and Dudhwa reserves, tiger attacks and revenge killings occur.
3. **Poaching and illegal trade** in pangolins, tiger parts, rhino horn, birds and turtles.
4. **Invasive species:** Lantana and *Prosopis juliflora* degrade forests and grasslands.
5. **Neglected ecosystems:** grasslands and wetlands get less attention; the **Great Indian Bustard** is dying on power lines.
6. **Climate change and disease** threaten small populations (canine distemper in lions).
7. **Governance gaps:** understaffed forest departments, poorly used CAMPA funds, and tension between forest rights (FRA 2006) and relocation.

Critical view: success with tigers hides the decline of whole ecosystems, and conservation needs local people, as in Bishnoi traditions.

Conclusion: landscape-level planning, corridors, prompt compensation and people's participation are the way ahead. UP's Ranipur Tiger Reserve (2022) shows growing commitment.

2021 · The 2030 Agenda and its associated agendas

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **What is Sustainable Development Goal–2030? Discuss the relevances of different agenda associated with it.**

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, set out in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, were adopted by all 193 UN members on **25 September 2015**. They replaced the eight Millennium Development Goals (2000–15). There are **17 goals and 169 targets**, tracked by 231 unique indicators. The goals are universal and integrated, and they pledge to "leave no one behind".

Relevance of its agendas (the "5 Ps")

Agenda	Goals	Relevance
People	1–5: poverty, hunger, health, education, gender	Dignity and capabilities; India's nutrition and learning gaps
Planet	6 and 12–15: water, consumption, climate, oceans, land	Climate change and biodiversity loss threaten all progress
Prosperity	7–11: energy, decent work, industry, inequality, cities	Inclusive, job-rich growth for a young India
Peace	16: justice and strong institutions	Rule of law and accountable governance
Partnership	17: finance, technology, data	Global support for developing countries

Companion agendas of 2015:

- the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** (financing);
- the **Paris Agreement** (climate);
- the **Sendai Framework** for disaster risk reduction (2015–2030).

Conclusion: the agendas are linked, and India, with about a sixth of humanity, is vital to their success.

2022 · E-pollution and space pollution

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain E-pollution and Space pollution. What measures are suggested for its management?**

E-pollution comes from discarded electrical and electronic goods: phones, computers, batteries and appliances. Their lead, mercury and cadmium poison soil, water and workers when burnt or acid-treated in informal yards, as along the Ramganga at Moradabad. India is the world's **third-largest e-waste generator**.

Managing e-waste

- The **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022**: Extended Producer Responsibility with recycling targets and tradable certificates.
- Formalising informal recyclers, and recovering metals ("urban mining").
- A Right to Repair portal, eco-design and public awareness.

Space pollution (space debris) is dead satellites, spent rocket stages and fragments from collisions or anti-satellite (ASAT) tests orbiting Earth. Tens of thousands of objects larger than 10 cm are tracked. They threaten satellites and the ISS, and could trigger the **Kessler syndrome**, a cascade of collisions.

Managing space debris

- UN COPUOS mitigation guidelines and IADC norms for de-orbiting satellites after use.
- Active debris removal, such as ESA's ClearSpace-1.
- **India:** ISRO's **IS4OM** monitoring system, Project NETRA and the goal of **Debris-Free Space Missions by 2030**. India's 2019 ASAT test was in low orbit so its debris decayed quickly.

Conclusion: both need prevention at source (design, EPR, de-orbiting) and global cooperation.

2023 · Meeting rising energy demand through renewable energy

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **What steps are being taken to meet the continuously increasing demand of energy resources in India? Discuss with special reference to renewable and sustainable energy resources.**

India is the world's **third-largest energy consumer**, and its demand is growing faster than that of any other major economy. To meet it while keeping its climate pledges, India is building a cleaner, more secure energy mix.

Targets: 500 GW of non-fossil capacity and a **50% non-fossil share** of installed capacity by 2030 (the 50% share was reached in 2025, five years early), and **net zero by 2070**.

Renewable and sustainable energy steps

1. **Solar:** the **National Solar Mission** (2010) and solar parks; **PM-KUSUM** (2019) for solar pumps; **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** (2024) for rooftop solar on one crore homes; PLI for high-efficiency modules; and the **International Solar Alliance**, which India co-founded.
2. **Wind:** onshore, wind–solar hybrid and offshore projects (Gujarat, Tamil Nadu).
3. **Green hydrogen:** the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** (2023), aiming at **5 million tonnes a year by 2030**.
4. **Bioenergy:** ethanol blending raised towards **E20**, compressed biogas under **SATAT**, and GOBARdhan.
5. **Hydro, storage and grid:** pumped storage, viability-gap funding for batteries, and **Green Energy Corridors**.
6. **Nuclear:** expanding capacity, including small modular reactors.
7. **Efficiency:** UJALA LEDs, star labelling, the PAT scheme, the Energy Conservation Building Code, and FAME/PM E-DRIVE for electric vehicles.
8. **Markets:** Green Energy Open Access Rules (2022), renewable purchase obligations and the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme** (2023).

Transition support: domestic coal, city gas networks and strategic petroleum reserves.

UP: the **UP Solar Energy Policy 2022** (target of 22,000 MW), Bundelkhand solar parks, **Ayodhya** as a model solar city, and policies for bioenergy and green hydrogen.

Challenges: grid integration of variable power, limited storage, weak DISCOM finances, land, and dependence on imported solar cells and critical minerals.

Conclusion: a diverse, renewable-led mix backed by storage and efficiency can give India both energy security and sustainability. It will power *Viksit Bharat @2047* on the road to net zero by 2070.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

500 GW non-fossil and 50% capacity by 2030 · net zero 2070 · NSM 2010 · PM-KUSUM 2019 · PM Surya Ghar 2024 (1 crore homes) · Green Hydrogen Mission: 5 MMT by 2030 · ISA co-founded 2015.

Environment (contd.)

2024 · Ecologically sensitive areas and their protection

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

What are the ecologically sensitive areas in India? Mention the policies of the Government of India for their protection.

Ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) are regions of high ecological value that human pressure can damage beyond repair. They hold rich or endemic biodiversity, fragile landforms or vital ecosystem services. Under **Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, the Centre can restrict activities in them.

Main ecologically sensitive areas

- **Biodiversity hotspots:** India has parts of four: the Himalaya, Indo-Burma, the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, and Sundaland (Nicobar Islands).
- **Protected areas and Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** around them. In UP: the Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Amangarh and Ranipur tiger reserves.
- **Mountains:** the Himalaya and the **Western Ghats**. The Kasturirangan Committee (2013) proposed about 37% of the Ghats as ESA.
- **Wetlands:** Ramsar sites such as Nawabganj, Sur Sarovar and the Upper Ganga (Brijghat–Narora) stretch in UP.
- **Coasts and seas:** mangroves (Sundarbans), coral reefs (Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar), estuaries.
- **Arid lands and grasslands:** the Thar, the terai grasslands and Ladakh.

Government policies for protection

1. **Laws:** Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended 2022); Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, renamed in 2023 as the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam; Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Biodiversity Heritage Sites).
2. **ESZ notifications:** MoEFCC guidelines (2011) allow ESZs of up to 10 km around protected areas. Mining and polluting industries are banned there.
3. **Wetlands and coasts:** Wetlands Rules, 2017; National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems; CRZ Notification, 2019; MISHTI (mangroves) and Amrit Dharohar (2023).
4. **Species and landscapes:** Project Tiger (1973), Project Elephant (1992), National Wildlife Action Plan 2017–2031, and the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem.
5. **Judiciary:** in *T.N. Godavarman* (2022) the Supreme Court required a minimum 1 km ESZ around protected areas. It relaxed the order in 2023.

Conclusion: Laws work best with community stewardship (the Forest Rights Act) and science-based zoning, in line with the "30×30" global target and SDGs 14 and 15.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

ESZ: up to 10 km (2011 guidelines) · Western Ghats: Gadgil (2011), Kasturirangan (2013, ~37%) · UP tiger reserves: Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Amangarh, Ranipur (2022).

2018 · National Energy Policy 2017: renewable targets

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks · cross-linked

Describe the targets of energy generation through renewable energy sources in accordance with National Energy Policy 2017 drafted by NITI Aayog.

NOTE

Same question as 2018 in the **Economy** section of this paper (Energy Policy). The sheet lists it again here because renewable energy links it to the environment. Its full model answer is in the Economy section.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Draft National Energy Policy (NITI Aayog, 2017) · four objectives: access at affordable prices, energy security and independence, sustainability, economic growth · 175 GW renewables by 2022 (100 GW solar, 60 GW wind, 10 GW bio-power, 5 GW small hydro) · NDC (2015): 40% non-fossil installed capacity by 2030 · Panchamrit (COP26, 2021): 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030.

Science & Technology

2018 · Cyber security science and its importance

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

What is Cyber Security Science? Mention its importance.

Cyber security science is the systematic, evidence-based study of how to protect computers, networks, programs and data from attack, damage or unauthorised access. It draws on computer science, cryptography, mathematics, law and behavioural science. Its goal is the **confidentiality, integrity and availability** (the "CIA triad") of information.

Importance

- **Critical infrastructure:** power grids, banks, railways, telecom and defence run on networks. The **NCIIPC** protects them under Section 70A of the IT Act, 2000.
- **Digital economy:** UPI, Aadhaar and e-governance need secure systems. The Cosmos Bank fraud in Pune (2018) showed the cost of a breach.
- **National security:** state-sponsored hacking, espionage and cyber warfare are now part of conflict.
- **Privacy and trust:** personal data must be protected from theft and misuse.
- **Crime control:** phishing, ransomware and identity theft need forensic tools to trace offenders.

India's framework: the IT Act, 2000, the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013, CERT-In, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the 1930 helpline. UP Police runs cyber crime police stations.

Conclusion: As India digitises, this science must grow into skilled people, indigenous tools and "secure-by-design" systems.

2018 · Fields of application of biotechnology

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the fields in which the application of biotechnology is being done.**

Biotechnology is the use of living organisms, cells or their parts (genes, enzymes) to make products or solve problems. Its fields are often grouped by colour.

- **Red (health):** vaccines (Rotavac, Covaxin), recombinant insulin, monoclonal antibodies, gene therapy and DNA diagnostics.
- **Green (agriculture):** GM crops such as **Bt cotton** (2002), tissue culture, marker-assisted breeding, bio-fertilisers and bio-pesticides.
- **White (industry):** enzymes for textiles, paper and detergents; bio-plastics; **biofuels** such as 2G ethanol.
- **Grey (environment):** bioremediation of oil spills and industrial waste, and sewage treatment.
- **Blue (marine):** products from algae and marine organisms; aquaculture.
- **Animal and food:** embryo transfer, sex-sorted semen for dairy breeding, fermentation and probiotics.
- **Forensics and genomics:** DNA fingerprinting, the Genome India Project and bioinformatics.

UP angle: Lucknow hosts CSIR labs such as CDRI (drugs), NBRI (plants) and CIMAP (aromatic plants). CIMAP's mint varieties support growers in Barabanki and Sitapur.

Conclusion: Guided by the Department of Biotechnology (1986), the field can serve health, food security and a green economy, provided biosafety rules are followed.

2018 · TIFAC and IT technologies by 2020

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **What is TIFAC (Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council), give its mandate. Enlist the upcoming technologies in India by 2020 in I.T. sector.**

The **Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)** is an autonomous body under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, set up in **1988**. It is India's technology think tank: it studies where technologies are heading and how India should prepare.

Mandate

1. **Technology forecasting:** assess global trends and prepare long-term visions and technology roadmaps.
2. **Technology assessment:** evaluate the status, needs and gaps of Indian technology in key sectors.
3. **Technology information:** databases, techno-market surveys and reports for industry and government.
4. **Promotion of key technologies:** support industry–academia projects and help commercialise home-grown technology.
5. **IPR support:** its Patent Facilitation Centre helps scientists protect their inventions.

Major outputs: *Technology Vision 2020* (1996), led by Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam; *Technology Vision 2035* (2016); and TIFAC-CORE centres in engineering colleges.

Upcoming IT technologies in India by 2020

- **Cloud computing** and data centres (MeghRaj, the government cloud).
- **Big data analytics** for governance, banking and health.
- **Artificial intelligence and machine learning** (NITI Aayog's AI strategy, 2018).
- **Internet of Things (IoT)** for smart cities, farms and Industry 4.0.
- **5G and broadband**, with BharatNet for villages.
- **Blockchain** for land records, supply chains and payments.
- **Cyber security**, biometrics and digital identity (Aadhaar).
- **Fintech and digital payments** (UPI, 2016).
- **AR/VR, robotics and process automation**, and early **quantum computing** research.

Conclusion: By foreseeing such shifts, TIFAC helps India move from technology dependence to technology leadership, a goal central to Digital India and *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2018 · Technology Vision 2035

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 12 marks
>
> **Mention the earmarked fields, aims and special powers provided to Indian citizens in Technology Vision Document 2035.**

Technology Vision 2035 was prepared by **TIFAC** and released by the Prime Minister at the Indian Science Congress in **January 2016**. It sets out how technology should serve every Indian by 2035. The "special powers" in the question are the document's **citizen prerogatives**.

Aims

- Use technology to ensure the **security**, enhance the **prosperity** and strengthen the **identity** of every Indian.
- Put the citizen at the centre: meet basic needs first, then aspirations.
- Build Indian capability in research, manufacturing and skills, so that India moves from technology dependence to leadership.

Earmarked fields (12 sectoral roadmaps) Education; medical sciences and healthcare; food and agriculture; water; energy; environment; habitat; transportation; infrastructure; manufacturing; materials; and information and communication technology.

Prerogatives of every Indian citizen

1. Clean air and potable water.
2. Food and nutritional security.
3. Universal healthcare and public hygiene.
4. 24×7 energy.

5. Decent habitat.
6. Quality education, livelihood and creative opportunities.
7. Safe and speedy mobility.
8. Public safety and national security.
9. Cultural diversity and vibrancy.
10. Transparent and effective governance.
11. Disaster and climate resilience.
12. Eco-friendly conservation of natural resources.

Significance: it links science policy to daily life, such as air quality in Kanpur or water in Bundelkhand. It names the research needed and calls for partnership between government, industry and academia.

Conclusion: The vision is a citizen-first road map. It needs higher R&D spending (still below 1% of GDP) and steady delivery through missions such as Jal Jeevan Mission and the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> TIFAC · released January 2016 (Indian Science Congress, Mysuru) · 12 prerogatives · 12 sectors · "security, prosperity, identity".

2018 · Public–private partnership in defence

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
> **What is the Public Private Partnership Model in Defence?**

The **PPP model in defence** means that the government (armed forces, DRDO and defence PSUs) and private industry jointly design, develop, produce and maintain defence equipment. They share risk, capital and technology. The aim is to end the near-monopoly of the public sector and to cut imports.

Key features

- **Strategic Partnership model** (added to the Defence Procurement Procedure in 2017): chosen Indian private firms tie up with foreign makers to build fighter aircraft, helicopters, submarines and armoured vehicles in India.
- **Opening the sector:** FDI up to 74% through the automatic route (2020); private firms licensed to make weapons and platforms.
- **Defence industrial corridors** in **Uttar Pradesh** (nodes at Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow and Chitrakoot) and Tamil Nadu. The BrahMos missile unit in Lucknow is part of the UP corridor.
- **Innovation:** iDEX (2018) funds start-ups; DRDO transfers technology to private firms.
- **Examples:** the Tata–Airbus C-295 aircraft line at Vadodara and L&T's K9 Vajra guns.

Concerns: slow contracts, small private R&D budgets, and a level playing field with defence PSUs.

Conclusion: PPP is central to *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* in defence and to India's aim of becoming a defence exporter.

2019 · Science and technology in national power

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
> **Explain with examples the role of science and technology in enhancing national power.**

National power is a country's ability to pursue its interests through military strength, economic capacity, diplomatic influence and soft power. Science and technology (S&T) raise every one of these.

- **Military power:** Pokhran-II (1998) and the Agni missiles give credible deterrence. **Mission Shakti** (2019) showed anti-satellite capability. BrahMos (with Russia) and Tejas show growing strength.
- **Economic power:** the Green Revolution made India food-secure. The IT sector and UPI make it a digital leader. Generic medicines earned it the title "pharmacy of the world".
- **Strategic autonomy in space:** Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan (2014, the first Asian mission to reach Mars orbit, on its first attempt) and **NavIC**, India's own navigation system.
- **Diplomatic and soft power:** *Vaccine Maitri* (2021) sent Indian COVID vaccines abroad. India shares its digital public infrastructure with other countries, and ISRO launches foreign satellites.
- **State capacity:** cyclone early warning and digital public services save lives and build trust.

Conclusion: Technology is now the currency of power. Raising R&D spending above 1% of GDP and building deep-tech strength (semiconductors, AI, quantum) will decide India's place by 2047.

2019 · Digital rights and their objectives

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
> **What are 'Digital Rights'? Discuss their objectives.**

Digital rights are human rights as they apply to the digital world. They are the rights to access, use, create and share digital content, and to use the internet and devices freely and safely. They extend existing rights such as expression, privacy, equality and education into cyberspace.

Indian legal basis

- *Shreya Singhal* (2015): Section 66A of the IT Act was struck down for violating free speech.
- *K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017): privacy, including informational privacy, is a fundamental right under Article 21.
- *Anuradha Bhasin* (2020): speech and trade over the internet are protected under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g).
- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the net-neutrality rules (TRAI 2016, DoT 2018).

Objectives

1. **Access:** affordable internet for all, closing the rural–urban and gender divide.
2. **Free expression online**, subject only to reasonable restrictions.
3. **Privacy and data protection:** consent and control over personal data.

4. **Security:** protection from cybercrime, fraud and online harassment.
5. **Equality and net neutrality:** no discrimination in access to content.
6. **Accountability:** grievance redress against platforms and the state.

Conclusion: Digital rights make people citizens of the internet, not just users of it. They are essential for an inclusive Digital India.

2019 · Cloud computing: services and advantages

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **What is Cloud Computing? Explain its services and advantages.**

Cloud computing is the delivery of computing services over the internet ("the cloud") on demand, with pay-as-you-use pricing. These services include servers, storage, databases, networking, software and analytics. Users rent resources from a provider instead of owning and maintaining hardware.

Key features: on-demand self-service, broad network access, pooled resources, rapid elasticity and metered use.

Services (service models)

Model	What the user gets	Examples
IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service)	virtual servers, storage, networks	AWS EC2, Azure virtual machines
PaaS (Platform as a Service)	a platform to build and run apps	Google App Engine
SaaS (Software as a Service)	ready software in the browser	Gmail, Microsoft 365

Newer forms include serverless computing (Function as a Service).

Deployment models: public, private, hybrid and community clouds. India's government cloud **MeghRaj** (2014) and MeitY's empanelled cloud providers serve e-governance.

Advantages

1. **Lower cost:** no large upfront spending; pay only for use, which suits MSMEs and start-ups.
2. **Scalability:** capacity grows or shrinks at once, as when CoWIN handled crores of registrations.
3. **Access anywhere:** remote work, online education and telemedicine.
4. **Reliability:** backups and disaster recovery across data centres.
5. **Innovation:** easy access to AI, big data and analytics tools.
6. **Green IT:** shared, efficient data centres use less energy per task.

Concerns: data security and privacy, data localisation, dependence on foreign providers, and the need for reliable broadband.

UP angle: the UP Data Centre Policy, 2021 has drawn hyperscale data centres to Greater Noida, such as Yotta's.

Conclusion: Cloud computing is the backbone of Digital India and the AI era. With strong data protection and domestic data centres, it can help UP's goal of a USD 1 trillion economy.

2020 · S.CNG and its uses

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **What is 'S.CNG'? Describe its different uses.**

> **NOTE**
>
> "S.CNG" is not a standard term. This answer takes it to mean the newer, cleaner forms of CNG that were in the news in 2020: hydrogen-enriched CNG (H-CNG) and Bio-CNG (compressed biogas).

CNG (compressed natural gas) is natural gas, mostly methane, stored at high pressure (around 200 bar). It burns more cleanly than petrol or diesel. Two improved forms are now promoted:

- **H-CNG:** CNG blended with hydrogen (about 18% in Indian Oil's trials). It burns more completely and cuts carbon monoxide emissions. Delhi has trialled it in buses.
- **Bio-CNG or Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG):** biogas purified to over 90% methane, made from crop residue, dung, press mud and city waste. The **SATAT** scheme (2018) aims at 5,000 CBG plants.

Uses

1. **Transport:** buses, autos, taxis and cars; CNG tractors on farms.
2. **City gas distribution:** CNG stations in cities such as Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra.
3. **Industry:** fuel for furnaces and boilers, for example in Firozabad's glass units, which shifted to gas to protect the Taj.
4. **Waste and farm benefits:** CBG plants use stubble and dung, cut stubble burning and leave organic manure.

Conclusion: These fuels bridge the shift from oil to green hydrogen. UP, with its sugar mills, dairies and paddy straw, has large Bio-CNG potential.

2020 · Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain Science, Technology and Innovation Policy–2020.**

The **Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020** is India's fifth national science policy. DST and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser released it as a draft in **December 2020**. Earlier policies were the Scientific Policy Resolution (1958), the Technology Policy Statement (1983), the S&T Policy (2003) and the STI Policy (2013).

Approach: it was built bottom-up through four consultation tracks: the public and scientists, expert groups, ministries and states, and apex bodies. It is meant to be decentralised, evidence-based and people-centric.

Key aims

- Place India among the **top three scientific superpowers** in the coming decade.

- **Double** the number of full-time researchers, the gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) and the private share of GERD **every five years**.
- Attract, nurture and retain scientific talent.

Major provisions

1. **Open science:** "One Nation, One Subscription" for access to journals, and a central archive of publicly funded research. The Cabinet approved One Nation, One Subscription in 2024.
2. **Funding:** more R&D spending by states, industry and ministries, with new financing mechanisms.
3. **Equity and inclusion:** at least 30% women in decision-making bodies, and support for persons with disabilities and rural groups.
4. **Traditional knowledge:** integrating indigenous knowledge systems with modern science.
5. **Education:** research-oriented higher education in line with NEP 2020.
6. **Governance:** an STI Observatory for data-driven policy, mission-mode projects and science diplomacy.
7. **Public engagement:** science communication in Indian languages.

Assessment: the policy is ambitious and inclusive. However, GERD is still below 1% of GDP, private R&D is weak, and the policy remains a draft. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (2023) addresses part of the funding gap.

Conclusion: If notified and funded, STIP 2020 can make science a driver of *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* and *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2020 · Nuclear proliferation and control mechanisms

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Describe in detail the issues of nuclear proliferation and existing control mechanism.**

Nuclear proliferation is the spread of nuclear weapons, fissile material and weapons technology. It is **horizontal** when new states or non-state actors acquire them, and **vertical** when existing nuclear powers expand their arsenals.

Issues

1. **Discriminatory regime:** the NPT recognises only five nuclear-weapon states (those that tested before 1 January 1967) and sets them no deadline to disarm.
2. **Defiant states:** North Korea left the NPT in 2003 and has tested weapons; Iran's enrichment remains disputed.
3. **Illicit networks:** the A.Q. Khan network passed centrifuge technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.
4. **Nuclear terrorism:** theft of material, "dirty bombs" and attacks on nuclear plants.
5. **Erosion of arms control:** the INF Treaty ended in 2019, and the major powers are modernising their arsenals.
6. **Dual-use technology:** civil enrichment and reprocessing can be diverted.
7. **India's neighbourhood:** China–Pakistan nuclear cooperation.

Existing control mechanisms

- **Treaties:** NPT (1968, extended indefinitely in 1995); Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963); CTBT (1996, not yet in force); Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (in force 2021).
- **IAEA (1957):** safeguards, inspections and the Additional Protocol.
- **Export controls:** Nuclear Suppliers Group (1974), Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group.
- **Non-state actors:** UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and the Nuclear Terrorism Convention (2005).
- **Regional and bilateral:** nuclear-weapon-free zones (Latin America, Africa, South-East Asia, Central Asia, South Pacific) and US–Russia treaties such as New START.

India's stand: India is outside the NPT but has a clean non-proliferation record. It follows no first use and a voluntary moratorium on testing. It received the NSG waiver in 2008 and joined the MTCR (2016), Wassenaar (2017) and the Australia Group (2018).

Conclusion: Lasting security needs a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable path to disarmament, as India's Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan (1988) proposed.

2021 · Digital India Programme

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the Digital India Programme of India.**

Digital India, launched on **1 July 2015** by MeitY, aims to make India a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Vision areas: digital infrastructure as a utility for every citizen; governance and services on demand; and digital empowerment of citizens.

Nine pillars: broadband highways; universal mobile connectivity; public internet access; e-Governance; e-Kranti (electronic delivery of services); information for all; electronics manufacturing; IT for jobs; and early-harvest programmes.

Achievements

- **Digital public infrastructure:** Aadhaar, UPI and DigiLocker (the core of the "India Stack"), with UMANG and CoWIN.
- **Inclusion:** the JAM trinity and Direct Benefit Transfer; Common Service Centres in villages (UP has one of the largest networks); BharatNet fibre to gram panchayats.
- **Electronics:** a mobile-manufacturing boom under PLI, and the India Semiconductor Mission (2021).
- **Skills:** PMGDISHA for rural digital literacy.

Challenges: the rural–urban and gender divide, weak last-mile connectivity, cyber fraud, data privacy and low digital literacy.

Conclusion: Digital India has become a global model of digital public infrastructure. Closing the access gaps will make it truly inclusive for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2021 · National policy on artificial intelligence

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **What is National Policy in India related to Artificial Intelligence? Explain in detail.**

India has no single AI law. Its national approach is set out in **NITI Aayog's National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (#AIforAll, June 2018)** and in later MeitY initiatives.

1. National Strategy for AI (2018)

- **Aim:** "AI for All", using AI for inclusive growth and making India an "AI garage" for solutions for developing countries.
- **Five priority sectors:** healthcare, agriculture, education, smart cities and infrastructure, and smart mobility and transport.
- **Institutions:** Centres of Research Excellence (COREs) for basic research, and International Centres for Transformational AI (ICTAIs) for applications.
- **Enablers:** skilling, data marketplaces and annotated datasets, shared high-performance computing (later proposed as the AIRAWAT cloud), and privacy and ethics.

2. Responsible AI (NITI Aayog, 2021): seven principles: safety and reliability; equality; inclusivity and non-discrimination; privacy and security; transparency; accountability; and protection of positive human values.

3. MeitY initiatives: the national AI portal **INDIAai** (2020), Responsible AI for Youth, and the **RAISE 2020** summit. Later came the **IndiaAI Mission** (2024, about ₹10,372 crore) for computing capacity, datasets, foundation models, skilling and safe AI. Bhashini builds AI for Indian languages.

4. Use in practice: crop advisories, TB screening, translation of Supreme Court judgments (SUVAS) and policing. UP Police's *Trinetra* app uses facial recognition to identify offenders.

Concerns: no dedicated law, gaps in data protection (now partly filled by the DPDP Act, 2023), bias, deepfakes, job losses, and shortages of computing power and talent.

Conclusion: India's approach is innovation-friendly and inclusive. A risk-based regulatory framework and indigenous models can make AI a lever for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> NSAI 2018 (#AIforAll) · 5 sectors · COREs and ICTAIs · Responsible AI (2021, 7 principles) · INDIAai portal (2020) · IndiaAI Mission (2024).

2021 · Cyber Dome and internet crime

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
> **Describe about Cyber Dome. Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.**

Cyberdome is the cyber-security and cyber-crime research and response centre of the **Kerala Police**, based in Thiruvananthapuram. It is run as a **public–private partnership**: police officers work with government agencies, technology firms, academic experts and volunteer "ethical hackers". It is seen as a model for other states.

Features

- A **cyber centre of excellence** that studies new threats, develops tools and trains police.
- Uses volunteers and industry experts at little cost to the state.
- Units for social-media monitoring, dark-web tracking, cyber forensics and threat intelligence.
- Has led operations against online child sexual abuse material (Operation P-Hunt) and warned the public about dangerous online games and fake news.

How it helps control internet crime

1. **Proactive policing:** watching the open and dark web catches crime before it spreads.
2. **Technical capacity:** expertise to trace IP addresses, crypto wallets and fake profiles.
3. **Speed:** quick takedown of fake news, morphed images and fraud websites.
4. **Safety of women and children:** tracking abuse material and cyber-stalking.
5. **Public awareness:** advisories on phishing, loan-app and sextortion scams.
6. **Low cost, high skill:** private talent fills gaps that police forces lack.
7. **Coordination:** it complements national bodies such as CERT-In, the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and the 1930 helpline.

Limits: reliance on volunteers raises questions of data privacy, accountability and legal oversight. The IT Act, 2000 also needs updating for new crimes.

UP angle: UP has cyber crime police stations. A Cyberdome-type centre with academic partners, such as IIT Kanpur's cyber security hub (C3iHub), could strengthen its response.

Conclusion: Replicating Cyberdome in every state, linked to I4C and backed by clear law, can make Indian policing ready for the digital age.

2022 · Science and technology in national security

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
> **Discuss the role of science and technology in national security.**

Science and technology are the backbone of modern national security, which now spans land, sea, air, space and cyberspace.

- **Defence preparedness:** indigenous missiles (Agni, BrahMos, Akash), the Tejas fighter, INS Vikrant (2022) and the nuclear submarine INS Arihant strengthen deterrence.
- **Surveillance and intelligence:** ISRO satellites such as RISAT, the naval satellite GSAT-7, drones and radars give real-time awareness. NavIC gives independent navigation.
- **Border management:** smart fencing under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), with sensors and thermal imagers.
- **Cyber security:** CERT-In, NCIIPC and the Defence Cyber Agency protect networks and critical infrastructure.
- **Internal security:** CCTNS, NATGRID, facial recognition and forensic science help track terrorists and criminals.
- **Emerging threats:** anti-drone systems, AI, quantum communication and defence against biological threats.
- **Self-reliance:** DRDO, iDEX and positive indigenisation lists cut import dependence.

Challenges: low R&D spending, imported critical components, and the risk of dual-use technology reaching terrorists.

Conclusion: Security in the 21st century is technology-led. Mission-mode R&D and private participation are essential.

2022 · Nanoscience and nanotechnology in science and agriculture

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
> **Define nanoscience and nanotechnology. Explain their potential in science and agriculture.**

Nanoscience is the study of matter at about **1–100 nanometres** (1 nm is a billionth of a metre). At this scale materials show new properties because of quantum effects and a very large surface area for their volume. **Nanotechnology** is the design, production and use of materials, devices and systems by controlling their shape and size at this scale. Richard Feynman's 1959 lecture "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom" is seen as its starting point. India's **Nano Mission** began in 2007 under DST.

Potential in science

1. **Medicine:** targeted drug delivery to cancer cells, nano-diagnostics, lipid nanoparticles in mRNA vaccines, and antimicrobial coatings.
2. **Electronics:** smaller, faster chips, quantum dots in displays, and sensors.
3. **Energy:** efficient solar cells, better batteries and fuel-cell catalysts.
4. **Materials:** carbon nanotubes and graphene, light but strong, for aerospace and sports goods.
5. **Environment:** nano-filters remove arsenic and other contaminants from water (IIT Madras's AMRIT filter); nano-catalysts break down pollutants.

Potential in agriculture

1. **Nano-fertilisers:** IFFCO's **Nano Urea** (2021) and Nano DAP release nutrients efficiently and can cut fertiliser use and imports. IFFCO makes nano urea at Aonla and Phulpur in UP.
2. **Nano-pesticides:** smaller, targeted doses and less residue.
3. **Nano-sensors:** track soil moisture, nutrients and crop disease for precision farming.
4. **Seeds and water:** nano-coatings for better germination; nano-zeolites and hydrogels hold soil moisture.
5. **Post-harvest:** nano-packaging and coatings extend the shelf life of fruit and vegetables.

Concerns: possible toxicity to soil life and humans, unknown long-term effects, debated field results of nano-fertilisers, high cost and weak regulation.

Conclusion: With biosafety rules and field-tested research, nanotechnology can raise farm incomes, cut chemical use and serve SDGs 2 and 3.

2022 · Issues of intellectual property rights

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the issues related to IPR and how their violation can be checked.**

Intellectual property rights (IPR) are legal rights over creations of the mind, such as inventions, works of art and literature, brands, designs and geographical indications. They give the creator exclusive use for a limited time. India's laws, from the Patents Act, 1970 to the Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, comply with the WTO's **TRIPS** Agreement. The **National IPR Policy, 2016** ("Creative India; Innovative India") guides the system.

Issues

1. **Access versus protection:** Section 3(d) of the Patents Act blocks "evergreening" of patents, as upheld in *Novartis v. Union of India* (2013). A compulsory licence (Natco–Bayer, 2012) kept a cancer drug affordable. Developed countries criticise both, and India stays on the US "Special 301" priority watch list.
2. **Biopiracy:** foreign patents on turmeric, neem and basmati had to be challenged. The **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library** (2001) now guards such knowledge.
3. **Piracy and counterfeiting** of films, software, books, medicines and branded goods.
4. **Low awareness and filing:** few patents come from MSMEs and universities.
5. **Slow system:** backlogs and long litigation, made worse when the IP Appellate Board was abolished in 2021.
6. **New issues:** AI-generated works and "TRIPS-plus" demands in trade agreements.

How violations can be checked

- **Enforcement:** the Delhi High Court's IP Division (2021), commercial courts, police IP cells, and customs IPR rules (2007).
- **Quick remedies:** "John Doe" orders against unknown pirates and blocking of pirate websites.
- **Awareness:** CIPAM and KAPILA (IP literacy in colleges).
- **Faster grants:** more examiners and fee concessions for start-ups and MSMEs.
- **Protecting heritage:** GI tags and TKDL. UP has one of the highest numbers of GI products, such as the Banarasi sari, Lucknow chikankari, Kalanamak rice and Moradabad metal craft.

Conclusion: A balanced IPR regime that rewards innovators while protecting public health and traditional knowledge is vital for an innovation-led *Viksit Bharat*.

2022 · AI in military and civil sectors

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain logically the role and effects of Artificial Intelligence in military and civil sectors.**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of machines to do tasks that need human intelligence: learning, reasoning, perception and decision-making. It is a **dual-use** technology, because the same algorithms serve soldiers and citizens.

Role in the military sector

1. **Intelligence and surveillance:** faster analysis of satellite, drone and radar data.
2. **Autonomous systems:** drones, drone swarms, unmanned vehicles and robots for dangerous tasks.
3. **Decision support:** quicker command and control, war-gaming and logistics.
4. **Cyber and electronic warfare:** detecting and countering attacks.
5. **Predictive maintenance** of aircraft, ships and tanks.

India set up the **Defence AI Council** and the **Defence AI Project Agency** in 2019 and launched 75 AI defence products in 2022.

Role in the civil sector

1. **Health:** AI screening for TB, cancer and diabetic eye disease.
2. **Agriculture:** crop advisories, pest detection and yield prediction.
3. **Governance:** Bhashini for Indian languages, SUVAS for translating judgments, and AI cameras for crowd management at the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh (2025).
4. **Finance:** fraud detection and credit scoring.
5. **Education and disasters:** personalised learning and early warning.

Effects: a logical assessment

Positive	Negative
Speed and precision; fewer soldiers at risk	Lethal autonomous weapons raise moral and legal questions of accountability
Productivity and better public services	Job losses, bias and exclusion
Stronger deterrence and intelligence	Arms race and risk of accidental escalation
Data-driven governance	Surveillance, loss of privacy, deepfakes

Conclusion: AI's effects depend on how it is governed. India should keep meaningful human control over weapons and follow its Responsible AI principles. It should also back global norms on military AI, so that AI strengthens both security and welfare.

2023 · Blood Moon

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What is 'Blood Moon'? When does it happen?**

A **Blood Moon** is the reddish or copper colour of the Moon during a **total lunar eclipse**.

When does it happen?

- A lunar eclipse occurs only on a **full-moon night**, when the Sun, Earth and Moon are in a straight line and the Moon passes through Earth's shadow.
- The full moon must fall near a **node**, where the Moon's orbit (tilted about 5°) crosses the plane of Earth's orbit. So eclipses do not happen every month.
- In a **total** eclipse the whole Moon enters the **umbra**, Earth's dark central shadow.

Why is it red? Earth's atmosphere scatters away the shorter blue wavelengths (**Rayleigh scattering**, the reason the sky is blue). It also **refracts** (bends) the longer red wavelengths into the umbra. This red light, like that of all Earth's sunrises and sunsets at once, falls on the Moon.

Example: the total lunar eclipse of **27 July 2018**, visible across India, had the longest totality of the 21st century, about 1 hour 43 minutes.

Conclusion: The Blood Moon is a natural optical event, safe to watch with the naked eye, and a good occasion to spread scientific temper.

2023 · Objectives of Chandrayaan-3

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the key objectives of India's moon mission programme 'Chandrayaan-3'?**

Chandrayaan-3 is ISRO's follow-on to Chandrayaan-2, whose lander crashed in 2019. It was launched on **14 July 2023** by the LVM3 rocket from Sriharikota. Its **Vikram** lander soft-landed near the lunar south pole on **23 August 2023**. India became the fourth country to soft-land on the Moon and the first near its south pole. The site is named "Shiv Shakti Point", and 23 August is now **National Space Day**.

Key objectives (ISRO)

1. **Demonstrate a safe and soft landing** on the lunar surface.
2. **Demonstrate rover movement:** the **Pragyan** rover roving on the Moon.
3. **Conduct in-situ scientific experiments.**

Scientific payloads

- **Lander:** ChaSTE (surface temperature), ILSA (moonquakes), RAMBHA-LP (plasma) and NASA's laser retroreflector.
- **Rover:** APXS and LIBS (elements in the soil). LIBS confirmed **sulphur** near the south pole.
- **Propulsion module:** SHAPE, which studies Earth as a habitable planet.

Significance: it proves landing technology for future missions such as Chandrayaan-4 (sample return) and the joint mission with Japan (LUPEX).

Conclusion: Chandrayaan-3 made India a leading space power at low cost.

2023 · Biotechnology achievements and the poor

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **What are India's main achievements in biotechnology? How will these help in upliftment of poor sections?**

India's bioeconomy has grown fast in the last decade. The **BioE3 Policy** (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment, 2024) supports the goal of a USD 300 billion bioeconomy by 2030. The Department of Biotechnology (1986) and BIRAC lead the effort.

Main achievements

1. **Vaccines:** India supplies a large share of the world's vaccines. Home-grown successes include Rotavac (2015), Covaxin, ZyCoV-D (2021, the world's first DNA vaccine against COVID-19) and Cervavac (2022), a low-cost HPV vaccine.
2. **Biopharma:** affordable insulin and biosimilars; NexCAR19 (2023), India's first home-grown CAR-T cell therapy for blood cancer.
3. **Agriculture:** Bt cotton (2002) made India a top cotton producer; GM mustard DMH-11 was cleared for environmental release (2022); biofortified varieties of rice, wheat and millets; genome-edited rice varieties (2025).
4. **Genomics:** the Genome India Project (10,000 genomes) and genome surveillance of COVID variants (INSACOG).
5. **Industry and energy:** enzymes, 2G ethanol and compressed biogas.
6. **Bioresources:** CSIR's Aroma Mission (CIMAP, Lucknow) and a fast-growing base of biotech start-ups.

How these help the poor

- **Affordable health:** low-cost vaccines reach poor families free through Mission Indradhanush, and cheap tests such as TrueNat speed up TB diagnosis.
- **Nutrition:** biofortified crops fight hidden hunger (iron, zinc, protein).
- **Farm incomes:** pest-resistant and drought-tolerant seeds and bio-fertilisers cut costs for small farmers. CIMAP's mint varieties raised incomes in Barabanki and Sitapur.
- **Livelihoods:** mushroom farming, sericulture, aroma crops and biogas units create rural jobs, often for women's SHGs.
- **Environment and health:** biogas and bioremediation improve village sanitation.

Challenges: biosafety debates over GM crops, low R&D funding and weak last-mile delivery.

Conclusion: With BioE3 and inclusive delivery, biotechnology can be a tool of social justice as well as growth, serving SDGs 2 and 3.

2024 · Technology for rural upliftment

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

What are major initiatives of Government of India for promoting technology-based solutions for rural upliftment?

Technology can cut distance, cost and middlemen in rural life. The Government's major initiatives are:

- **SVAMITVA (2020):** drone mapping of village homes and property cards. UP, where the card is called *Gharauni*, is a leader.
- **Connectivity:** BharatNet broadband to gram panchayats, Common Service Centres for e-services, and PM-WANI public Wi-Fi.
- **Digital agriculture:** the Digital Agriculture Mission (2024) with AgriStack, e-NAM, Soil Health Cards, Kisan drones and **Namo Drone Didi**, which gives drones to women's SHGs.
- **Financial inclusion:** the JAM trinity, DBT (PM-KISAN), UPI, and micro-ATMs run by banking correspondents.
- **Governance:** e-Gram Swaraj for panchayat planning and accounts; Geo-MGNREGA for geotagging assets.
- **Services:** e-Sanjeevani telemedicine, DIKSHA for school content, PMGDISHA for digital literacy, and sensor-based monitoring of water supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **S&T for villages:** DST's SEED programme, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, which links colleges with villages, and Rural Technology Action Groups (RuTAG).

Challenges: weak connectivity, low digital literacy (especially among women), and cyber fraud.

Conclusion: These tools are building "smart villages". Local-language content and digital literacy will make them reach the last household.

2024 · Traditional and modern aeronautics; DST policies

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Compare Indian Knowledge Tradition-based Aeronautics with modern Aeronautics. Mention the policies of the Department of Science and Technology for research in this field.

Indian texts describe flying vehicles (*vimanas*), such as the **Pushpaka Vimana** of the Ramayana and the mechanical birds of King Bhoja's *Samarangana Sutradhara* (11th century). The *Vaimanika Shastra*, attributed to sage Bharadwaja, was dictated by Pandit Subbaraya Shastry in the early 20th century; a 1974 **IISc** study found its craft unable to fly. Modern aeronautics began with the Wright brothers (1903).

Comparison

Basis	Knowledge-tradition aeronautics	Modern aeronautics
Source	Epics, Puranas and Sanskrit texts	Experiment, mathematics and physics
Principles	General or symbolic accounts (mercury engines, divine power)	Lift, drag, thrust and weight; Bernoulli's and Newton's laws
Testing	Not tested or reproduced	Wind tunnels, flight tests, certification
Output	Imagination and early ideas of mechanical flight	Jets, rockets, drones, Tejas, ISRO launchers
Value today	Heritage, inspiration and history of science	Civil aviation, defence and space

Assessment: the tradition shows rich imagination and real skill in fields such as metallurgy (the Delhi Iron Pillar), but claims about flight must pass the scientific method.

DST policies for research

1. **STIP 2020 (draft):** calls for integrating traditional knowledge systems with modern science.
2. **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (2023):** funds competitive research in engineering and basic sciences, including aerospace.
3. **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems:** technology hubs on drones and autonomous systems, such as TiHAN at IIT Hyderabad.
4. **Technology Development Board:** funds firms that commercialise indigenous technology, including drones.
5. **INSPIRE and FIST:** build research talent and laboratory infrastructure.
6. **Testing tradition:** SATYAM (yoga science) shows how DST tests traditional knowledge scientifically.

Core aeronautics R&D sits with CSIR-NAL, DRDO, HAL and ISRO; the Education Ministry's IKS Division (2020) studies ancient texts. In UP, HAL Kanpur and Lucknow and IIT Kanpur's National Wind Tunnel Facility add capacity.

Conclusion: India should treat its tradition as inspiration and history; its future in flight lies in Tejas, drones and space missions built on rigorous science.

Disaster Management

2018 · Disaster management at Centre, State and District

QUESTION 2018 · 12 marks

Discuss the disaster management in India at the Centre, State and District levels.

India's disaster management (DM) rests on the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, the **National Policy on DM (2009)** and the **National Disaster Management Plan** (2016, revised 2019, in line with the Sendai Framework). The focus has moved from relief alone to prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Centre

- **NDMA**, chaired by the **Prime Minister**, lays down policies, plans and guidelines.
- The **National Executive Committee**, under the Union Home Secretary, coordinates the national plan.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is the nodal ministry; drought and pest attacks fall under the Agriculture Ministry.
- **Early warning:** IMD (cyclones, heat waves), CWC (floods), INCOIS (tsunamis) and GSI (landslides).
- **NIDM** handles training and research. The **NDRF** (16 battalions) is the specialist response force. The National Crisis Management Committee under the Cabinet Secretary handles major crises.
- **Funds:** the National Disaster Response Fund and the National Disaster Mitigation Fund.

State

- The **SDMA**, chaired by the **Chief Minister**, and the State Executive Committee under the Chief Secretary prepare the state plan.

- The State Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response and Mitigation Funds.
- In **UP**, the Relief Commissioner's office and UP SDMA handle floods in the east, drought in Bundelkhand, lightning, and heat and cold waves.

District

- The **DDMA** is chaired by the **District Magistrate**, with the elected head of the zila panchayat as co-chair.
- It prepares the district plan, runs the emergency operations centre, and coordinates police, health and local bodies.
- Panchayats, municipalities and **Aapda Mitra** volunteers are the first responders.

Gaps: weak district capacity, outdated plans, little money at the local level, and poor handling of urban floods.

Conclusion: Strengthening districts and communities, the "last mile", is key. With risk-informed development, India can meet the Sendai Framework (2015–2030) and SDG 11.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> NDMA (PM) · NEC (Union Home Secretary) · SDMA (CM) · DDMA (DM; co-chair: zila panchayat head) · NDRF: 16 battalions · NIDM.

2020, 2022 · Types of disasters and their management in India

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks · also asked in 2022 (8 marks)
> **What are the types of disasters? Elucidate its management in India.**

A **disaster** is a grave event, natural or man-made, that causes loss of life, property or environment beyond a community's capacity to cope (DM Act, 2005).

Types

- **Natural:** geological (earthquake, tsunami, landslide), hydro-meteorological (flood, cyclone, drought, cloudburst, heat and cold waves, lightning) and biological (epidemics such as COVID-19; locust attacks).
- **Man-made:** industrial and chemical (Bhopal gas tragedy, 1984), nuclear, fire, building collapse, stampede, and road and rail accidents.
- By speed: **rapid-onset** (earthquake) and **slow-onset** (drought).

India's vulnerability (NDMA): about 58.6% of land is earthquake-prone and over 40 million hectares are flood-prone. About 5,700 km of the 7,516 km coastline faces cyclones and tsunamis, and 68% of cultivated land is drought-prone.

Management in India

- **Institutions:** DM Act 2005; NDMA, SDMAs and DDMAs; NDRF and SDRFs.
- **DM cycle:** prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
- **Early warning:** IMD, CWC and INCOIS; the Sachet alert system; the Damini app for lightning, a major killer in UP.
- **Success:** mass cyclone evacuations in Odisha (Phailin 2013, Fani 2019) kept deaths low.

Conclusion: Moving from relief to resilience through risk-sensitive planning and community participation is the way forward.

2021 · Types and functions of disaster management

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
> **Explain different types and works of disaster management.**

Disaster management (DM) is the organisation of resources and responsibilities to deal with every stage of an emergency. Its types follow the phases of the disaster cycle.

Types of disaster management

1. **Pre-disaster (risk reduction)**
   - **Prevention and mitigation:** structural measures (embankments, cyclone shelters, earthquake-resistant buildings) and non-structural measures (zoning, building codes, insurance, awareness).
   - **Preparedness:** plans, early warning, mock drills and stockpiles.
2. **During the disaster (response):** evacuation, search and rescue, first aid and relief camps.
3. **Post-disaster (recovery):** rehabilitation, reconstruction ("build back better") and restoring livelihoods.

Works (functions)

- Hazard, vulnerability and risk mapping.
- Forecasting and early warning by IMD, CWC and INCOIS.
- Training and capacity building through NIDM, the NDRF and Aapda Mitra volunteers.
- Coordination of agencies through emergency operations centres.
- Relief, damage assessment and compensation from the SDRF and NDRF funds.
- Research, documentation and learning lessons.

UP example: before each monsoon, flood-prone districts such as Bahraich and Gorakhpur repair embankments, set up flood posts and deploy SDRF and NDRF teams.

Conclusion: Effective DM joins all these phases. The Sendai Framework asks countries to reduce risk, not only to respond to disasters.

2022 · Government's role and training of local citizens

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
> **What is the role of Government in disaster management? Will it be appropriate to train local citizens for this? Give reasons.**

Under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, the government has the main responsibility for managing disasters. Communities, however, are always the first to respond.

Role of the Government

1. **Law and policy:** the DM Act, the National Policy (2009), the National DM Plan and hazard-wise guidelines.
2. **Institutions:** NDMA, SDMAs and DDMAs; the NDRF and SDRFs; NIDM.

3. **Early warning:** IMD, CWC and INCOIS; Sachet alerts on mobile phones.
4. **Mitigation:** building codes, cyclone shelters, embankments and mitigation funds.
5. **Response and relief:** evacuation, rescue, food, shelter and health care, with help from the armed forces.
6. **Recovery:** compensation, crop insurance (PMFBY) and reconstruction.
7. **International cooperation:** the Sendai Framework and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, launched by India in 2019.

Should local citizens be trained? Yes. Reasons:

- **First responders:** local people reach victims in the "golden hour", long before outside teams. In most earthquakes, neighbours rescue the majority of survivors.
- **Local knowledge:** they know the terrain, safe routes and vulnerable households.
- **Self-reliance:** in big disasters the state machinery is stretched thin.
- **Lasting preparedness:** trained communities keep up drills, warning chains and shelters.
- **Proven results:** Odisha's community-run cyclone shelters, and Kerala's fishermen who rescued thousands in the 2018 floods.
- **Policy support:** the **Aapda Mitra** scheme trains volunteers in disaster-prone districts, including in UP, and *Yuva Aapda Mitra* extends it to NCC, NSS and youth volunteers. The Sendai Framework calls for an "all-of-society" approach.

Precautions: training must be regular and include women, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Volunteers need safety kits and insurance, and should be linked to the DDMA.

Conclusion: Government provides the framework and resources, but resilience is built locally. Combining the two through community-based disaster management saves the most lives.

2024 · Artificial intelligence in disaster management

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the role of Artificial Intelligence in the safety and security during disaster management.**

Artificial intelligence (AI) can analyse huge streams of satellite, sensor, weather and social-media data faster than humans. This makes disaster management more predictive and precise.

Role across the disaster cycle

- **Forecasting and warning:** machine-learning models improve forecasts of rain, cyclones, heat waves and lightning. CWC's flood forecasts, built with Google, reach villagers' phones.
- **Risk mapping:** AI reads satellite images to find landslide zones, flood plains and unsafe buildings.
- **Crowd safety:** AI cameras estimate crowd density and flag dangerous surges, as used at the Prayagraj **Maha Kumbh 2025**.
- **Search and rescue:** drones with thermal cameras and AI locate survivors; robots enter collapsed buildings.
- **Damage assessment:** quick loss estimates from images speed up relief and compensation.
- **Communication:** chatbots and alerts in many languages (Sachet, Bhashini) reach people, and AI tools spot fake news during a crisis.
- **Security:** AI detects cyber attacks on power grids and hospitals during emergencies.

Limits: data gaps, cost, errors in algorithms and privacy concerns. AI cannot replace human judgement on the ground.

Conclusion: AI should be a decision-support tool, used with trained responders and prepared communities.

Agriculture

2018, 2021 · Technology Mission in Indian agriculture

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks · also asked in 2021 (8 marks)
>
> **What is meant by 'Technology Mission' in Indian agriculture? Discuss its objectives.** ***(2021: What is technology mission in agriculture? State its usefulness.)***

A **Technology Mission** is a time-bound, mission-mode programme that solves a specific production problem with modern technology. It brings research, extension, inputs, credit, processing and marketing under one coordinated plan. The idea comes from Rajiv Gandhi's six Technology Missions of the late 1980s, guided by Sam Pitroda.

Examples

- **Technology Mission on Oilseeds (1986)**, later widened to pulses, oil palm and maize. It brought the "Yellow Revolution": India became nearly self-sufficient in edible oils by the early 1990s.
- **Technology Mission on Cotton (2000)**, with four mini-missions: research, extension, market yards and modern ginning.
- **Horticulture mission for the North-East (2001)**, which led to the National Horticulture Mission (2005).
- Successors today: the National Mission on Edible Oils (Oil Palm 2021, Oilseeds 2024).

Objectives

1. Raise production and productivity with better seeds and technology.
2. Close the gap between lab and land.
3. Coordinate ministries, ICAR and states under clear targets.
4. Cut imports and raise farmers' income.
5. Improve post-harvest handling and marketing.

Usefulness: focused funding, faster adoption of technology, measurable results and import substitution.

Conclusion: The same mission approach can now tackle pulses, cotton yields and climate-resilient farming.

2018 · Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

> **QUESTION** 2018 · 8 marks
>
> **What is Pradhanmantri Kisan Sampada (SAMPADA) Yojana? Mention its objectives and provisions.**

NOTE

Same question as 2018 in the **Economy** section of this paper (Agro Industry). Its full model answer is there.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Ministry of Food Processing Industries · approved 2017 as SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters), ₹6,000 crore for 2016–20 · components: Mega Food Parks, integrated cold chains, food processing and preservation capacity, agro-processing clusters, backward and forward linkages, food safety and quality infrastructure; Operation Greens added in 2018 · aims: farm-to-retail infrastructure, less wastage, better prices for farmers, rural jobs.

2019 · Green Revolution and small and marginal farmers

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Explain the impact of Green Revolution on small and marginal farmers.

The **Green Revolution** of the mid-1960s, led in India by M.S. Swaminathan, introduced high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of wheat and rice with irrigation, chemical fertilisers and pesticides. It began in Punjab, Haryana and western UP.

Positive impacts

- HYV seeds are **scale-neutral**: small farms also raised yields once inputs reached them.
- More food and lower real grain prices helped small farmers, many of whom also buy food.
- Multiple cropping created more farm work and wages.
- Later, cooperatives, priority-sector credit and input subsidies spread the gains.

Negative impacts

- **Unequal early gains:** costly inputs, tubewells and credit favoured large farmers and widened rural inequality.
- **Debt:** small farmers borrowed for inputs, often from moneylenders.
- **Eviction and mechanisation:** some tenants were evicted and labourers displaced by tractors and threshers.
- **Regional and crop bias:** eastern UP, rain-fed areas, pulses and millets were left behind.
- **Ecological costs:** falling water tables, degraded soils and pesticide harm hit small farmers hardest.

Conclusion: Small and marginal farmers hold 86% of holdings (Agriculture Census 2015–16). They need an "evergreen revolution" of low-cost, climate-smart technology.

2019 · Measuring poverty and tackling rural poverty

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Discuss how poverty is measured in India and examine the steps taken to overcome rural poverty.

NOTE

Same question as 2019 in the **Economy** section of this paper (Poverty). Its full model answer is there.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Alagh Task Force (1979, calorie norms 2,400 rural and 2,100 urban) · Lakdawala (1993) · Tendulkar (2009; 21.9% poor in 2011–12) · Rangarajan (2014; 29.5% in 2011–12) · NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (health, education, living standards; 12 indicators) · rural steps: MGNREGA (2005), DAY-NRLM (2011), PMAY-G, PMGSY, NSAP, NFSA, PM-KISAN.

2019 · Food security: challenges and remedies

QUESTION 2019 · 12 marks

Explain the challenges of food security in India. How can they be removed?

Food security, as the FAO defines it, exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to enough safe and nutritious food. Its four pillars are **availability, access, utilisation and stability**. India produces record food grains and runs the world's largest food programme under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**, yet serious challenges remain.

Challenges

1. **Malnutrition:** NFHS-4 (2015–16) found 38% of children under five stunted, and anaemia is widespread. The Global Hunger Index 2019 ranked India 102nd of 117.
2. **Cereal bias:** PDS and MSP favour rice and wheat, so pulses, millets and vegetables are neglected. The result is protein and micronutrient deficiency.
3. **Farm stress:** small holdings, low yields, rain-fed farming and climate shocks such as heat waves and erratic monsoons.
4. **PDS leakages and exclusion:** the Shanta Kumar Committee (2015) found large leakages; migrants lost access away from home.
5. **Storage and wastage:** too little scientific storage and cold chain; high post-harvest losses.
6. **Economic access:** food inflation and low rural incomes hurt the poor.
7. **Resource stress:** groundwater depletion and soil degradation in the granary states.

Remedies

- **Diversify PDS and diets:** add millets, pulses and fortified rice; promote nutrition gardens.
- **Technology in PDS:** computerisation, Aadhaar-based ePoS and **One Nation One Ration Card** (2019) for migrants.
- **Nutrition schemes:** POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018), mid-day meals and Anganwadi services.
- **Climate-resilient farming:** drought-tolerant varieties, crop diversification, micro-irrigation and crop insurance.
- **Storage:** more warehouses, cold chains and decentralised procurement.
- **Income support:** PM-KISAN (2019) and MGNREGA.

UP angle: UP has the largest number of NFSA beneficiaries, about 15 crore, so PDS reform there matters most.

Conclusion: India must move from food security to **nutrition security**, in line with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

2019 · Agricultural marketing reforms

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
>
> **Evaluate in brief the agricultural marketing reforms in India. Are they adequate?**

Agricultural marketing covers every step from farm to consumer: assembly, grading, storage, transport, sale and pricing. It is a State subject, regulated through **APMC Acts** since the 1960s. Reforms aim to give farmers more buyers, better prices and freedom from middlemen.

Major reforms

1. **Model APMC Act (2003):** private markets, direct purchase and contract farming.
2. **e-NAM (2016):** an online platform linking APMC mandis. UP has one of the largest numbers of e-NAM mandis.
3. **Model APLM Act (2017):** the state as one market, a single licence and capped market fees. The **Model Contract Farming Act** followed in 2018.
4. **Price support:** MSP of at least 1.5 times the cost of production (from 2018–19), and **PM-AASHA (2018)** for buying pulses and oilseeds.
5. **Rural markets:** upgrading 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (Budget 2018–19).
6. **Collectives and value chains:** Farmer Producer Organisations; Operation Greens (2018) for tomato, onion and potato.
7. **Warehousing:** negotiable warehouse receipts under the WDRA.

Are they adequate? Not yet.

- Many states have adopted the model Acts only in part. e-NAM trade is mostly within a mandi, with little inter-state trade.
- Mandis are too few and far apart, so small farmers sell to local traders at low prices.
- MSP procurement covers few crops and states. The Shanta Kumar Committee found only about 6% of farmers sell to procurement agencies.
- Weak grading, storage and cold chains force distress sales.
- The three farm laws of 2020 were repealed in 2021 after protests, showing the need for consensus.

Way forward: strengthen FPOs, add assaying and logistics to e-NAM, build storage through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (2020), and reform with the states' agreement.

Conclusion: Reforms have begun the move to one national market but are incomplete. Completing them is key to farm incomes and UP's USD 1 trillion economy goal.

2020 · Causes of low agricultural productivity

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the causes of low agricultural productivity in India?**

India's yields per hectare of rice, wheat and pulses are well below those of China and other leading producers. The causes are:

1. Institutional

- Small, fragmented holdings: the average is 1.08 ha (Agriculture Census 2015–16), and 86% are small and marginal. In UP the average is below 1 ha.
- Insecure tenancy and poor land records discourage investment.
- Too little institutional credit and crop insurance.

2. Technological

- About half of the net sown area is still rain-fed.
- Low use of quality seed, unbalanced fertiliser use (too much urea), and little mechanisation.
- Weak extension services, leaving a gap between lab and land.

3. Economic and infrastructure

- Poor storage, roads and markets lower returns.
- Low public and private investment in agriculture.

4. Natural

- Soil degradation, falling organic carbon, salinity and groundwater depletion.
- Floods, droughts, pests and climate change, such as heat stress on wheat.

5. Demographic: too many people depend on farming, which causes disguised unemployment.

Conclusion: Consolidating holdings, micro-irrigation, soil-test-based fertiliser use, quality seed, digital extension and FPOs can close the yield gap.

2021 · Uttar Pradesh's place in food crop production

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **"Uttar Pradesh has a prominent position in the production of food crops in the country." Evaluate the statement.**

Uttar Pradesh is India's largest producer of food grains. It owes this to the fertile alluvial plains of the Ganga and Yamuna.

Evidence for the statement

- **Wheat:** the largest producer, with nearly a third of India's output.
- **Rice:** one of the leading producers in the country.
- **Potato and sugarcane:** the largest producer of both.
- **Pulses and millets:** gram, lentil and pigeon pea in Bundelkhand; bajra in the west.
- **Specialities:** GI-tagged Kalanamak rice of Siddharthnagar.

Reasons: deep alluvial soils, one of the largest irrigated areas in India (canals and tubewells), two or three crops a year, a large farming population, and procurement at MSP.

Limits (the other side)

- Yields are below those of Punjab and Haryana.
- Western UP is far ahead of eastern UP and Bundelkhand.

- Holdings are small (below 1 ha on average); the east floods, Bundelkhand faces drought and the west faces falling water tables.
- Procurement in the east is weak, and food processing is small.

Conclusion: The statement is true by volume, but UP's yields lag. Raising yields in the east and Bundelkhand, diversifying crops and expanding food processing can turn quantity into prosperity for farmers.

2022 · Digital agriculture and its benefits

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **What do you understand by digital agriculture? Comment on its benefits.**

Digital agriculture is the use of digital technologies (mobile phones, remote sensing, GIS, drones, IoT sensors, AI, big data) across the farm value chain, from sowing to credit, insurance and marketing. It makes farming data-driven and precise.

Indian initiatives: e-NAM, Soil Health Cards, PM-KISAN DBT, Kisan drones, Kisan Call Centres, and YES-TECH for estimating yields under PMFBY. Later, the Digital Agriculture Mission (2024) built **AgriStack**: a farmer registry, geo-referenced village maps and a crop-sown registry.

Benefits

1. **Higher productivity:** precise advice on seed, fertiliser and irrigation from soil and weather data.
2. **Lower costs:** targeted inputs, such as drone spraying, save water and chemicals.
3. **Better prices:** online markets and price information reduce dependence on middlemen.
4. **Risk management:** weather alerts, quick crop-loss assessment and faster insurance claims.
5. **Easier credit:** digital land records and farmer IDs speed up loans.
6. **Transparency and sustainability:** DBT and traceability cut leakages; resource-efficient, climate-smart farming.

Concerns: the digital divide, data privacy and the cost of devices for small farmers.

Conclusion: Built as public digital infrastructure, digital agriculture can do for farming what UPI did for payments.

2023 · E-technology for farmers: implications

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain the implications of using e-technology to help the farmers.**

E-technology means electronic and digital tools used to deliver information and services to farmers: mobile apps, portals, SMS advisories, e-markets, and satellite and sensor data.

Positive implications

- **Information:** weather and crop advisories (Meghdoot, Kisan Suvidha, Kisan Call Centre 1800-180-1551) and pest alerts.
- **Markets:** e-NAM and price apps improve price discovery.
- **Direct benefits:** PM-KISAN, subsidies and insurance claims reach bank accounts without middlemen.
- **Land and credit:** digital land records (UP's *Bhulekh* portal) and the Kisan Rin portal ease loans.
- **Productivity:** precision farming, drones and soil-health data cut costs.
- **New jobs:** agri-startups and SHG-run drone services for women and youth.

Negative implications

- **Digital divide:** poor connectivity, few smartphones and low literacy, especially among women and small farmers.
- **Exclusion errors:** mistakes in Aadhaar seeding or land records can deny benefits.
- **Data risks:** private platforms may misuse farmers' data.
- **Cyber fraud** aimed at farmers.
- **Over-dependence** on apps without local extension workers.

Conclusion: E-technology empowers farmers when it is inclusive: content in local languages, CSCs as help points, strong data protection, and human extension support.

2023 · Land reforms: challenges and suggestions

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the important challenges faced in the implementation of land reforms in India? Give your suggestions to remove these challenges.**

Land reforms after Independence had four parts: **abolishing intermediaries** (zamindari), **tenancy reform**, **ceilings on holdings** with redistribution of surplus land, and **consolidation of holdings**. UP led with the **UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950** and the UP Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953.

Challenges

1. **Weak political will:** landed elites dominated legislatures and local administration.
2. **Poor land records:** outdated records and benami deals hid real ownership.
3. **Ceiling evasion:** fictitious transfers to relatives; little surplus land was declared and less distributed.
4. **Concealed tenancy:** oral leases left sharecroppers unprotected.
5. **Litigation:** court cases tied up surplus land for decades.
6. **Fragmentation:** inheritance keeps dividing holdings.
7. **Gender and tribal gaps:** few women hold titles; tribal land is still lost.

Suggestions

- Update and digitise records under **DILRMP**, give every plot a **ULPIN** (Bhu-Aadhaar) and move to conclusive titles.
- Map rural homes under **SVAMITVA** (UP's *Gharauni* cards).
- Legalise leasing on the lines of NITI Aayog's **Model Land Leasing Act, 2016**.
- Fast-track land tribunals, give joint titles to women and enforce PESA.
- Use technology for consolidation (chakbandi).

Conclusion: Land reform must now shift from redistribution to clear titles, secure tenancy and efficient land markets.

2023 · Food security: challenges despite measures

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

"Despite various measures to address food security, major challenges remain." Explain.

NOTE

Same question as 2023 in the **Economy** section of this paper (Food Security). Its full model answer is there.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Measures: NFSA 2013 (75% rural and 50% urban population; 5 kg grain per person per month; 35 kg per AAY household), free grain under PMGKAY (extended for five years from January 2024), One Nation One Ration Card, PM-POSHAN, POSHAN Abhiyaan, rice fortification · challenges: malnutrition (NFHS-5: 35.5% of children under five stunted), cereal bias, climate change, leakages, storage losses, food inflation.

2024 · Upstream and downstream in food processing supply chains

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Highlight the key components of upstream and downstream activities in food processing supply chain management with suitable examples.

A food-processing supply chain links the farm to the consumer. **Upstream** activities come before and up to processing (the raw-material side). **Downstream** activities follow processing (the product and market side).

Upstream components

- **Farm inputs and planning:** seeds, advisories and contract farming, such as PepsiCo's contract potato farming for chips.
- **Procurement and aggregation:** from farmers, FPOs and cooperatives, such as village milk collection by **Amul** or UP's **Parag** dairy.
- **Primary processing:** cleaning, sorting, grading, pre-cooling and packing, as in Lucknow's pack houses for mango exports.
- **Storage and transport:** cold storages (Agra's potato belt), warehouses and refrigerated trucks.

Downstream components

- **Secondary processing:** milk into cheese, potatoes into chips, fruit into pulp and juice.
- **Packaging and branding:** labelling and FSSAI compliance.
- **Distribution:** wholesalers, retail chains, quick-commerce and e-commerce.
- **Marketing and exports:** advertising and export of products such as mango pulp and basmati rice.

Support: PM Kisan SAMPADA (mega food parks, cold chains), PMFME for micro units linked to ODOP, and PLI for food processing.

Conclusion: Strong upstream links (fair prices, FPOs) and efficient downstream links (cold chains, brands) cut wastage and raise the farmer's share of the consumer's rupee.

2024 · Measures for adequate agricultural credit

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Give a brief account of measures adopted by the Government to provide adequate credit to the farmers.

Timely, cheap credit frees farmers from moneylenders. The main measures are:

1. **Multi-agency network:** commercial banks, **Regional Rural Banks (1975)**, cooperative banks and PACS, with **NABARD (1982)** for refinance. Computerisation of about 63,000 PACS was approved in 2022.
2. **Priority-sector lending:** banks must lend 18% of their adjusted net bank credit to agriculture, with a sub-target for small and marginal farmers.
3. **Kisan Credit Card (1998):** flexible crop loans, extended to animal husbandry and fisheries in 2018–19.
4. **Interest subvention:** short-term loans at 7%, falling to an effective 4% on prompt repayment. Budget 2025–26 raised the KCC loan limit under the scheme from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh.
5. **Collateral-free loans:** the RBI raised the limit to ₹2 lakh from January 2025.
6. **Group lending:** Joint Liability Groups and SHG–bank linkage for tenants and landless farmers.
7. **Investment credit:** the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (₹1 lakh crore, 2020) with interest subvention.
8. **Risk cover:** PMFBY crop insurance lowers the risk of default.

Gaps: tenant farmers lack titles, and informal lenders remain strong.

Conclusion: Digital land records, AgriStack-based credit scoring and strong PACS can take credit to the last farmer.

2024 · Centre, States and PMKSY in irrigation

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Assess the role of States and Central Government in developing irrigation infrastructure in India. How has Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) helped in improving irrigation access?

About half of India's net sown area is still rain-fed. Under the Constitution, **water is a State subject** (Entry 17, State List), subject to **Entry 56 of the Union List** on inter-state rivers. So the States build and run irrigation, while the Centre funds, guides and settles disputes.

Role of the States

- Plan, build, run and maintain major, medium and minor projects and state tubewells.
- Fix water rates, form Water Users' Associations and regulate groundwater.
- UP examples: the **Saryu Nahar National Project** (inaugurated 2021, about 14 lakh ha in eastern UP) and the Arjun Sahayak project in Bundelkhand.

Role of the Centre

- **Finance:** the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP, 1996–97), the Long Term Irrigation Fund with NABARD, and the Micro Irrigation Fund.

- **Technical support:** the Central Water Commission (project appraisal) and the Central Ground Water Board (aquifer mapping); Atal Bhujal Yojana (2019).
- **Inter-state issues:** tribunals under Article 262 and the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The **Ken–Betwa link** (UP and MP) serves Bundelkhand.
- **Policy:** the National Water Policy (2012).

PMKSY (2015–16): "Har Khet Ko Pani" and "More Crop Per Drop"

1. **AIBP:** fast-tracked 99 priority major and medium projects.
2. **Har Khet Ko Pani:** command-area development, surface minor irrigation, and repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies.
3. **Per Drop More Crop:** subsidies for drip and sprinkler irrigation.
4. **Watershed development** for rain-fed areas.

How it helped: schemes converged under district irrigation plans, stalled projects were completed, the gap between potential created and used narrowed, and micro-irrigation spread fast, saving water and power.

Limits: cost overruns, unfinished canals, low water-use efficiency and falling water tables.

Conclusion: A Centre–State partnership through PMKSY, with reform of water pricing and wider micro-irrigation, can secure "more crop per drop" for SDG 6 and farm incomes.

Internal Security

2018 · Winning back LWE-affected citizens

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Discuss the corrective strategies needed to win back Left Wing Extremism-affected citizens into the mainstream of social and economic growth.

Left Wing Extremism (LWE), which began at **Naxalbari (West Bengal) in 1967**, feeds on tribal alienation, land and forest grievances and an absent state. Force alone cannot end it.

Corrective strategies

1. **Security with restraint:** the **SAMADHAN** doctrine (2017): intelligence-led operations and choking funds, with minimum harm to civilians.
2. **Connectivity and services:** roads under the Road Connectivity Project for LWE areas, mobile towers, banks and the Aspirational Districts Programme (2018).
3. **Rights over land and forest:** honest implementation of the **Forest Rights Act, 2006** and **PESA, 1996**, and an end to illegal land alienation.
4. **Human capital:** Eklavya Model Residential Schools, ITIs and health care.
5. **Surrender and rehabilitation:** stipends, training and housing for cadres who give up arms.
6. **Trust and participation:** grievance camps, civic action by the CAPFs, and local recruitment (the CRPF's *Bastariya Battalion*).

UP angle: Sonbhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli, once Naxal-affected, show how roads, policing and welfare shrink its base.

Conclusion: The **National Policy and Action Plan (2015)** rightly combines security, development and rights. Justice in tribal areas will make these citizens partners in a *Viksit Bharat*.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Naxalbari 1967 · National Policy and Action Plan 2015 · SAMADHAN 2017 · FRA 2006 · PESA 1996 · Aspirational Districts 2018.

2018 · India's apex defence and security council

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

Elaborate on the 'National Defence Council' of India.

NOTE

No standing body with this exact name exists today. The answer takes it to mean India's apex council for defence and security policy: the National Security Council (NSC), working with the Cabinet Committee on Security and the Defence Planning Committee.

In India, final decisions on defence rest with the political executive. The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)**, chaired by the Prime Minister, decides, while the **National Security Council**, set up in **November 1998** after Pokhran-II, is the apex advisory council.

Evolution

- The **Defence Committee of the Cabinet** (1947) was the first apex body.
- An NSC formed in **1990** met only once. The present NSC was created in 1998 by an executive order of the Vajpayee government.

Structure

- **Council:** the PM chairs it; the Ministers of Defence, Home, External Affairs and Finance are members; the **National Security Adviser (NSA)** is its secretary.
- **Strategic Policy Group:** senior secretaries, service chiefs and intelligence heads; chaired by the NSA since 2018.
- **National Security Advisory Board:** outside experts; it drafted India's nuclear doctrine in 1999.
- **NSC Secretariat:** it absorbed the Joint Intelligence Committee and supports the NSA.
- **Defence Planning Committee (2018):** chaired by the NSA, it prepares the national security strategy and capability plans.

Assessment: coordination has improved, but the council has no statute, meets rarely and has not published a national security strategy.

Conclusion: Statutory backing and a public national security strategy would make this apex system more accountable.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

DCC 1947 · NSC 1990 (met once) · NSC Nov 1998 · First NSA Brajesh Mishra · NSAB draft nuclear doctrine 1999 · DPC 2018.

2018 · Public–private partnership in defence (repeat)

QUESTION 2018 · 8 marks

What is the Public–Private Partnership model in Defence?

NOTE

Same question as "2018 · Public–private partnership in defence" in the Science & Technology section of this paper. See the model answer there.

2018 · National security challenges under globalisation

QUESTION 2018 · 12 marks

Discuss the challenges of national security in the age of globalisation.

Globalisation is the free flow of goods, capital, people, data and ideas across borders. It has made threats **borderless**, so national security today covers economic, energy, cyber, health and information security as well as military defence.

Challenges

1. **Transnational terrorism:** global networks, online radicalisation and state sponsorship. The **26/11 Mumbai attack (2008)** was planned abroad and run with satellite phones and internet calls.
2. **Terror financing and money laundering:** hawala, shell companies, digital payments and fake Indian currency notes fund violence.
3. **Cyber threats:** attacks on power grids, banks and defence networks, espionage and data theft, made worse by dependence on foreign hardware and software.
4. **Organised crime:** drugs from the **Golden Crescent** and **Golden Triangle**, arms smuggling and human trafficking.
5. **Economic and supply-chain risks:** India imports over 80% of its crude oil and depends on imports for weapons, electronics and drug ingredients. Volatile capital flows can shake the economy.
6. **Information warfare:** fake news and hostile propaganda spread instantly through social media.
7. **Porous borders and illegal migration:** for example the open Indo-Nepal border.
8. **Non-traditional threats:** pandemics such as COVID-19, climate change, piracy and the safety of sea lanes.

UP angle: seven UP districts touch the open Nepal border. Guarded by the SSB, it is a route for smuggling, fake currency and trafficking.

India's response: the NSC and intelligence fusion (Multi Agency Centre, NATGRID), the National Cyber Security Policy 2013 and CERT-In, strategic petroleum reserves, defence indigenisation, FATF membership (2010) and the PMLA, and cooperation through the UN, SCO and Quad.

Conclusion: A published, comprehensive national security strategy that joins military power with economic resilience, technology and diplomacy is needed to secure a *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

26/11 (2008) · Golden Crescent (Afghanistan–Iran–Pakistan) · Golden Triangle (Myanmar–Laos–Thailand) · CERT-In · NATGRID · FATF member 2010.

2018 · Law and order in Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2018 · 12 marks

Write a note on the challenges and solutions for law and order in Uttar Pradesh at the present time.

Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state (about 20 crore people, Census 2011) and has the country's largest state police force. Law and order is a State subject (Seventh Schedule, List II). In UP it is also the base for investment and its goal of a USD 1 trillion economy.

Challenges

1. **Organised crime and mafia:** land, mining, liquor and contract mafias, and gangs with political links.
2. **Crimes against women:** UP records the highest absolute number of such cases in NCRB data, although its rate per lakh is lower than some states.
3. **Social tensions:** communal and caste flashpoints, such as the Muzaffarnagar riots (2013) and the Saharanpur caste clashes (2017).
4. **New crimes:** cyber fraud, and smuggling of drugs and fake currency across the open Nepal border.
5. **Police capacity:** vacancies, a low police-to-population ratio, overloaded police stations, weak forensics and low conviction rates.
6. **Land disputes and mega-events:** land feuds turn violent, and crowds at events such as the Kumbh need careful management.

Solutions

- **Police reform:** implement the *Prakash Singh* (2006) directions on fixed tenure, a Police Establishment Board and separate investigation and law-and-order wings.
- **Modern policing:** UP-112 emergency response, the 1090 Women Power Line, CCTNS, CCTV under the Safe City project in Lucknow, and more forensic labs.
- **Women's safety:** Anti-Romeo squads (2017), women help desks and fast-track courts.
- **Firm action on organised crime:** the UP Gangsters Act, 1986, attaching criminals' property, and better prosecution so convictions follow.
- **Community policing:** beat constables, village-level contact and peace committees.

Later developments: the commissionerate system began in Lucknow and Gautam Buddh Nagar in 2020, and Mission Shakti started in October 2020.

Conclusion: Rule-bound, accountable and technology-driven policing, with speedy justice, will build public trust and support UP's growth.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006) · UP Gangsters Act 1986 · UP-112 · 1090 · Anti-Romeo squads 2017 · Commissionerates 2020 · Mission Shakti 2020.

2019 · Corruption as an internal security threat

QUESTION 2019 · 8 marks

Analyse corruption as a threat to internal security.

Corruption is the misuse of public office for private gain. In the police, customs, border and procurement systems it becomes a security threat. The **N.N. Vohra Committee (1993)** warned of a nexus between criminals, politicians and bureaucrats.

How corruption weakens internal security

1. **Leaky borders and ports:** bribed officials let the RDX for the **1993 Bombay blasts** land on the Raigad coast; bribes also ease smuggling of arms, drugs and fake currency.
2. **Crime–politics nexus:** mafias and gangs buy protection, which weakens the rule of law.
3. **Funding of extremism:** extortion from contractors and leakage of development funds feed LWE and insurgent groups.

4. **Fake identities:** bought documents help illegal migrants and terrorists settle.
5. **Hollow capability:** bribery in recruitment and procurement weakens the police and the forces.
6. **Loss of legitimacy:** lost public trust helps radical groups recruit.

Remedies: the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013; the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 (bribe-giving is an offence); the Benami amendment (2016); e-procurement and DBT. In UP, the Lokayukta, e-tendering and online services cut discretion.

Conclusion: Probity is a security asset. Transparent, technology-based governance closes the gaps that hostile groups exploit.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Vohra Committee 1993 · 1993 Bombay blasts (Raigad landing) · Lokpal Act 2013 · PC (Amendment) Act 2018.

2019 · AFSPA: harshness and constitutionality

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 8 marks
> **'Armed Forces Special Powers Act' has been criticised for harshness and unconstitutionality. Examine.**

The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958** gives special powers to the armed forces in areas declared "disturbed" under **Section 3** by the Centre or the Governor (a separate 1990 Act covers J&K).

Why it is called harsh

- **Section 4:** after a warning, the forces may fire, even causing death, on persons breaking prohibitory orders. They may arrest and search without a warrant.
- **Section 6:** no prosecution without the Centre's sanction, which is rarely given.
- Alleged fake encounters in Manipur; Irom Sharmila's 16-year fast against it.
- The **Jeevan Reddy Committee (2005)** and the **2nd ARC** advised repeal, moving essential parts into the UAPA.

On constitutionality

- In ***Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v. Union of India*** **(1997)**, the Supreme Court **upheld** the Act. It required periodic review of the declaration, minimum force and binding dos and don'ts.
- In ***EEVFAM v. Union of India*** **(2016)**, it held that there is no absolute immunity: every death must be inquired into.

Judgement: the Act is legally valid but morally contested; it has been withdrawn from Tripura (2015) and Meghalaya (2018).

Conclusion: Use it only where essential, with time limits, independent probes and human rights training, as a step towards ending it.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> AFSPA 1958 · Sec 3 (disturbed area), Sec 4 (powers), Sec 6 (sanction) · Naga People's Movement 1997 · EEVFAM 2016 · Jeevan Reddy Committee 2005.

2019 · International terrorism and world peace

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
> **"With escalation in terrorism, a grave threat looms before world peace." Explain.**

Terrorism is the use or threat of violence against civilians to spread fear for political, religious or ideological ends. Since **9/11 (2001)** it has become global, networked and digital. In 2019 alone came Pulwama (February), Christchurch (March) and the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka (April).

Why it threatens world peace

1. **Loss of life and fear:** mass-casualty attacks on markets, places of worship and transport cause terror far beyond the attack site.
2. **Collapse of states:** ISIS's "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria (2014–19), the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, and Boko Haram and al-Shabaab in Africa.
3. **Inter-state conflict:** state-sponsored groups provoke crises, as Pulwama led to the Balakot air strike (February 2019).
4. **Humanitarian crises:** millions of refugees and displaced people strain host societies.
5. **Economic damage:** tourism, trade and investment fall, and security costs rise.
6. **Online radicalisation:** propaganda and live-streamed attacks reach youth everywhere.
7. **WMD risk:** terrorists may seek nuclear, chemical or biological material.
8. **Social polarisation:** attacks fuel Islamophobia and other hate, and the backlash breeds more extremism.

Global response

- **UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001)** and the **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006)**.
- **1267 sanctions list:** Masood Azhar was listed in May 2019.
- **FATF:** Pakistan was on the grey list from 2018.
- **India:** it proposed the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)** in 1996, still not adopted because states cannot agree on a definition.

Conclusion: No "good" or "bad" terrorist can exist. Adopting the CCIT, choking terror finance, sharing intelligence and countering radicalisation online are essential for lasting world peace (SDG 16).

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 9/11 (2001) · UNSC 1373 · UN GCTS 2006 · India's CCIT 1996 · Masood Azhar listed 1 May 2019 · Balakot 26 Feb 2019.

2019 · Nuclear deterrence as the only answer

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
> **"Nuclear deterrence is the only effective alternative to counter nuclear weapons." Explain analytically.**

Nuclear deterrence means preventing an attack by the credible threat of unacceptable retaliation. Since **Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 1945)**, no nuclear weapon has been used in war. Many credit deterrence and the fear of **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)** for this.

Arguments for the statement

1. **The Cold War peace:** the USA and USSR never fought directly, despite crises.

2. **No full defence:** missile defences cannot stop every warhead, so only the threat of retaliation reliably restrains an enemy.
3. **Protection from blackmail:** a weaker state can stand up to a nuclear-armed rival.
4. **India's case: credible minimum deterrence** with **No First Use** steadies relations with two nuclear neighbours.

Limits of the statement

1. **Stability–instability paradox:** deterrence did not stop Kargil (1999) or cross-border terrorism under the nuclear umbrella.
2. **Risk of failure:** miscalculation, accidents or false alarms, as in the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), could end in catastrophe.
3. **Non-state actors:** terrorists have no territory to retaliate against.
4. **Arms race and proliferation:** deterrence encourages others to seek the bomb.

Other answers to nuclear weapons

- **Arms control:** INF, START and New START.
- **Non-proliferation and test bans:** NPT, CTBT and IAEA safeguards.
- **Disarmament:** the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017).
- **Missile defence:** India's two-tier Prithvi Air Defence and Advanced Air Defence system.
- **Confidence-building measures:** India and Pakistan exchange lists of nuclear installations every 1 January (agreement of 1988).

Conclusion: Deterrence is currently the most effective safeguard, but not the *only* one. It must be paired with arms control, CBMs and India's long-held goal of universal, verifiable disarmament (Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan, 1988).

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> MAD · Credible minimum deterrence + NFU (doctrine 2003) · Stability–instability paradox · TPNW 2017 · India–Pak non-attack agreement 1988.

2019 · Social media as a national security tool

> **QUESTION** 2019 · 12 marks
> **How far social media can be utilized as a significant tool in strengthening national security?**

India has hundreds of millions of social media users. The same platforms that spread rumours and radicalisation can also become force multipliers for the security apparatus, if used wisely.

How social media can strengthen security

1. **Intelligence (OSINT):** monitoring open posts helps track radical networks, planned riots and the movement of criminals.
2. **Rumour control:** police handles can bust fake news fast, as the PIB Fact Check unit (2019) and UP Police's active X (Twitter) handle do.
3. **Citizen tip-offs and grievances:** complaints, missing-person alerts and crime reports reach police in minutes.
4. **Counter-narratives:** de-radicalisation content, success stories from J&K and the North-East, and messages from the forces build trust.
5. **Disaster and crisis communication:** warnings, evacuation routes and helplines.
6. **Strategic communication and soft power:** the state can project its version in information wars and reach the diaspora.
7. **Recruitment and awareness:** campaigns for the forces and cyber hygiene.

Limits and risks

- **Fake news and lynchings:** WhatsApp rumours led to mob lynchings in 2018, so WhatsApp limited forwards.
- **Radicalisation:** ISIS-style online recruitment and hostile propaganda.
- **Deepfakes and bots:** they can overwhelm official messaging.
- **Privacy and free speech:** mass monitoring must respect *Puttaswamy* (2017) and Article 19.
- **Foreign platforms:** data stored abroad and slow takedowns.

Legal framework: Section 69A of the IT Act (blocking), and the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. In *Shreya Singhal* (2015), the Supreme Court struck down Section 66A.

Conclusion: Social media can be a significant tool if the state builds trained social media cells, fact-check units and digital literacy, within constitutional limits.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> PIB Fact Check 2019 · IT Act Sec 69A · IT Rules 2021 · Shreya Singhal 2015 · Puttaswamy 2017.

2020 · Narco-terrorism as an internal security threat

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 8 marks
> **'Narco-Terrorism' is a threat to India's internal security. Discuss.**

Narco-terrorism means using drug trafficking to finance terrorism, or using terror to protect the drug trade. India lies between the **Golden Crescent** (Afghanistan–Iran–Pakistan) and the **Golden Triangle** (Myanmar–Laos–Thailand), the two largest illicit opium regions.

Why it threatens internal security

1. **Terror financing:** drug money funds militancy in Punjab and J&K and insurgent groups in the North-East.
2. **Cross-border routes:** Pakistan-based handlers push heroin and weapons across the Punjab and J&K borders, often by drones; sea routes off Gujarat and the Myanmar border are also used.
3. **Damage to youth:** addiction, as in Punjab, wastes human capital and creates couriers and recruits.
4. **Crime and corruption:** it buys officials and links gangs, hawala and fake currency.
5. **Hybrid warfare:** hostile agencies use drugs to weaken society cheaply.

UP angle: charas and ganja are smuggled across the open Nepal border.

Response: the NDPS Act, 1985 and the Narcotics Control Bureau (1986), the NCORD coordination mechanism (2016), the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan* (2020), anti-drone systems with the BSF and NIA probes of narco-terror cases.

Conclusion: It must be fought as a security, health and social problem together: border control, financial tracking and de-addiction.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle · NDPS Act 1985 · NCB 1986 · NCORD 2016 · Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan 2020.

2020 · Money laundering and human trafficking

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Analyse 'Money Laundering' and 'Human Trafficking' as non-traditional security challenges.

Non-traditional security (NTS) threats are non-military dangers, often driven by non-state actors across borders, that harm people and the state.

Money laundering

- **Meaning:** making illegal money look legal through *placement, layering and integration*, using hawala, shell firms, trade invoicing and real estate.
- **Threat:** it funds terrorism and organised crime, erodes the tax base and corrupts institutions; weak control risks FATF "grey listing".
- **Response:** the PMLA, 2002, the Enforcement Directorate, FIU-IND and FATF membership (2010).

Human trafficking

- **Meaning:** moving people by force, fraud or coercion for sexual exploitation, bonded or child labour, forced marriage or organ trade.
- **Threat:** it destroys human dignity, enriches organised crime and exploits porous borders and poverty; fake online job offers are a new lure.
- **Response:** Article 23 bans trafficking. Other tools: the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956; Section 370 IPC (now Section 143, BNS); Anti-Human Trafficking Units; the Ujjawala scheme; and the UN Palermo Protocol (ratified 2011).

UP angle: the open Nepal border is a trafficking and hawala route, watched by the SSB and district AHTUs.

Conclusion: Both threats need financial intelligence, border management, victim protection and global cooperation, in line with SDG targets 8.7 and 16.4.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

PMLA 2002 · FIU-IND · Article 23 · ITPA 1956 · BNS Sec 143 · Palermo Protocol · SDG 8.7 (trafficking), 16.4 (illicit flows).

2020 · Revolution in Military Affairs and India

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

What is 'Revolution in Military Affairs' in India's security perspective?

A **Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA)** is a basic change in how wars are fought, when new technology combines with new doctrine and organisation. The **1991 Gulf War** showed one: precision-guided weapons, stealth aircraft and satellite-linked command and control.

Elements of today's RMA: precision strike, network-centric warfare, space and cyber power, drones, AI and hypersonic weapons.

Why it matters for India: India faces two nuclear-armed neighbours, a "two-front" threat, and China's lead in high-technology ("informatised") warfare.

India's steps

1. **Jointness:** the Chief of Defence Staff and the Department of Military Affairs (January 2020).
2. **New domains:** the Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and Armed Forces Special Operations Division.
3. **Space and strike:** the *Mission Shakti* anti-satellite test (27 March 2019), the GSAT-7 and GSAT-7A military satellites, and precision strikes at Balakot (2019).
4. **Innovation:** iDEX, DRDO's drones and anti-drone systems.

Gaps: a salary- and pension-heavy budget, high imports, low R&D and pending theatre commands.

Conclusion: For India, RMA means joint forces, indigenous technology and new doctrine for wars across land, sea, air, space and cyberspace.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Gulf War 1991 · CDS and DMA 1 Jan 2020 · Mission Shakti 27 Mar 2019 · Defence Cyber and Space Agencies · iDEX 2018.

2020 · Higher Defence Organisation of India

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks

Explain the 'Higher Defence Organisation of India'.

The **Higher Defence Organisation (HDO)** is the structure through which a nation's political leadership controls and directs its armed forces. It covers defence policy, planning, budget and the conduct of war. India's HDO rests on **civilian supremacy** and began with Lord Ismay's 1947 scheme.

Structure

1. **President and Parliament:** the President is the Supreme Commander (**Article 53(2)**). Parliament votes the defence budget and oversees it through its Standing Committee on Defence.
2. **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS):** the PM with the Ministers of Defence, Home, Finance and External Affairs. It is the highest decision-making body on defence.
3. **NSC and NSA:** advise on national security. The **Defence Planning Committee** (2018), chaired by the NSA, frames strategy and capability plans.
4. **Ministry of Defence:** headed by the Raksha Mantri, with five departments: Defence; **Military Affairs** (headed by the CDS); Defence Production; Defence R&D; and Ex-Servicemen Welfare.
5. **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and principal military adviser to the Raksha Mantri on tri-service matters. Gen. Bipin Rawat took office on **1 January 2020**. The Integrated Defence Staff (2001) supports the CDS.
6. **Service headquarters and commands:** the three chiefs command their services. The tri-service **Andaman and Nicobar Command** (2001) and **Strategic Forces Command** (2003) are joint.

Reforms over time

- **Kargil Review Committee (1999)** and the **Group of Ministers (2001):** led to the IDS and the A&N Command, and proposed a CDS.
- **Naresh Chandra Task Force (2012)** and **Shekatkar Committee (2016):** pushed further jointness.

Remaining issues

- Theatre commands are not yet formed.
- Civil and military staff are still poorly integrated.
- The budget is heavy on salaries and pensions.
- India has no published national security strategy.

Conclusion: Integrated theatre commands, joint planning and a national security strategy will give India an HDO fit for multi-domain war and the goals of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 53(2) · CCS · DPC 2018 · DMA and CDS 2020 · IDS 2001 · A&N Command 2001 · SFC 2003 · Kargil Review Committee (K. Subrahmanyam).

2020 · Nuclear weapons in India's security management

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **How nuclear weapons can be advantageous in India's security management?**

India became a declared nuclear weapon state after **Pokhran-II (11 and 13 May 1998)**. Its **nuclear doctrine (2003)** rests on:

- **credible minimum deterrence** and **No First Use**;
- **massive retaliation** to a first strike;
- civilian control through the **Nuclear Command Authority**.

Advantages for India's security

1. **Deterrence against nuclear neighbours:** China (nuclear since 1964) and Pakistan cannot use nuclear threats to coerce India.
2. **Ceiling on all-out war:** nuclear weapons raise the cost of a major invasion and make full-scale war unlikely.
3. **Strategic autonomy:** India needs no other power's "nuclear umbrella", so its foreign policy stays independent.
4. **Credible second strike:** the triad of Agni missiles (Agni-V over 5,000 km), aircraft and the SSBN **INS Arihant** (first deterrence patrol in 2018) assures retaliation.
5. **Diplomatic standing:** responsible conduct won the **India–US civil nuclear deal and the NSG waiver (2008)**. India then joined the MTCR (2016), the Wassenaar Arrangement (2017) and the Australia Group (2018).
6. **Technology spin-offs:** missiles, materials and space capabilities strengthen the defence industry.

Limits

- They do not deter sub-conventional war: Kargil (1999), 26/11 and Pulwama happened under the nuclear shadow. This is the stability–instability paradox.
- Arsenals, delivery systems and command systems are costly.
- They carry risks of an arms race, accidents and miscalculation.
- Pokhran-II brought sanctions, though they were lifted within a few years.

Making the advantage real: survivable forces, robust command and control (Strategic Forces Command), missile defence, a credible conventional force for limited conflicts, and confidence-building measures.

Conclusion: Nuclear weapons give India deterrence, autonomy and status, but not complete security. They must be combined with strong conventional forces, counter-terror capability and India's commitment to universal disarmament.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II) 1998 · Doctrine 2003: CMD + NFU + massive retaliation · NCA and SFC 2003 · INS Arihant patrol 2018 · NSG waiver Sept 2008.

2020 · Nuclear proliferation and its control (repeat)

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Describe issues of nuclear proliferation and control mechanisms.** ***(Linked with defence security)***

> **NOTE**
> Same question as "2020 · Nuclear proliferation and control mechanisms" in the Science & Technology section of this paper. See the model answer there.

2021 · Meaning of insurgency

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
> **What is meant by insurgency? Explain.**

Insurgency is an organised, long armed struggle by a group against the established government. It aims to overthrow that government, secede or win autonomy, using guerrilla warfare and propaganda, and depends on some local support.

Features: a political goal; armed, mostly guerrilla, violence; a base among the people and in difficult terrain; long duration; and often help from outside.

Insurgency and terrorism compared

Point	Insurgency	Terrorism
Aim	Control of territory and people	Spreading fear to force political change
Base	Mass support, armed bands	Small cells
Targets	Mainly security forces and the state	Often civilians

Insurgencies in India

- **Ethnic and secessionist:** Naga groups, ULFA in Assam, and Manipur valley groups.
- **Ideological:** Left Wing Extremism.
- **Separatist and cross-border sponsored:** J&K since 1989.
- **Ended:** Punjab (1980s to early 1990s) and Mizoram (1986 Accord).

Causes: identity fears, alienation, underdevelopment and poor governance.

Handling: security operations combined with "winning hearts and minds", development, and peace accords such as the Naga Framework Agreement (2015), the Bodo Accord (2020) and the Karbi Anglong Agreement (2021).

Conclusion: Insurgency is a political problem in armed form. It ends through dialogue, inclusion and good governance backed by firm security.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Mizo Accord 1986 · Naga Framework Agreement 2015 · Bodo Accord Jan 2020 · Karbi Anglong 2021 · WHAM.

2021 · Media and social networking in internal security

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
> **Analyse the role of media and social networking in internal security.**

Media and social networks shape public opinion within minutes. They can strengthen or undermine internal security.

Positive role

1. **Awareness and early warning:** alerts on riots, threats and disasters.
2. **Rumour busting:** police handles and fact-check units counter fake news quickly.
3. **Intelligence:** open-source monitoring reveals radical networks and planned violence.
4. **Accountability:** reporting exposes excesses and builds trust.
5. **Public cooperation:** citizen tips and counter-narratives against extremism.

Negative role

1. **Live coverage of operations:** coverage of 26/11 (2008) helped the terrorists' handlers. The 2015 Cable TV rules therefore bar live coverage of anti-terror operations.
2. **Fake news and riots:** a fake video inflamed the **Muzaffarnagar riots (2013)** in UP, and WhatsApp rumours led to lynchings (2018).
3. **Radicalisation:** online propaganda and recruitment, as by ISIS.
4. **Psychological warfare:** hostile states and bots spread propaganda.

Regulation: Section 69A of the IT Act; the IT Rules, 2021; the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995; and the Press Council of India.

Conclusion: Responsible journalism, quick official communication and digital literacy turn media into an ally of internal security, while Article 19 freedoms remain protected.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 26/11 live coverage · Cable TV rules 2015 · Muzaffarnagar 2013 · IT Act Sec 69A · IT Rules 2021.

2021 · Terrorism and corruption as security threats

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
> **Terrorism and corruption hinder internal security. Critically examine.**

Internal security means protecting a country's sovereignty, unity, public order and citizens' lives within its borders. **Terrorism** attacks it from outside, while **corruption** hollows it out from within. Often the two feed each other.

How terrorism hinders internal security

1. **Loss of life and fear:** 26/11 (2008) killed 166 people, and Pulwama (2019) killed 40 CRPF personnel.
2. **Polarisation:** attacks aim to provoke communal tension and radicalise youth.
3. **Economic cost:** they hit tourism and investment, as in J&K, and divert funds to security.
4. **Proxy war:** cross-border sponsorship keeps India under constant threat.

How corruption hinders internal security

1. **Leaks at borders, ports and prisons:** bribed officials let RDX land for the 1993 Bombay blasts.
2. **Crime–politics nexus:** the **Vohra Committee (1993)** exposed it.
3. **Hollow capacity:** corrupt recruitment and procurement weaken the police and the forces.
4. **Fake documents:** infiltrators and illegal migrants obtain them.

The nexus: hawala, fake currency and drug money finance terror. Corrupt officials enable it, while extortion by LWE and North-East groups funds them.

A critical view

- They are major hindrances but not the only ones. External hostility, unemployment, poor governance, communal politics and cyber threats also matter.
- Corruption-free countries also suffer terror attacks, so the link is not automatic.
- India has curbed hinterland terrorism through better intelligence and laws.

Measures

- **Against terrorism:** the UAPA (amended 2019 to list individuals as terrorists), the NIA (2008), NATGRID, the Multi Agency Centre, and the PMLA with FATF norms.
- **Against corruption:** the Lokpal (2013), the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, the CVC, e-governance and police reforms.
- **UP:** its Anti-Terrorism Squad and Lokayukta work on these lines.

Conclusion: Zero tolerance of both terror and graft, through clean institutions, coordinated intelligence and swift justice, is the base of a secure *Viksit Bharat*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 26/11: 166 killed · Pulwama 14 Feb 2019 · Vohra Committee 1993 · UAPA amendment 2019 · NIA 2008 · Lokpal 2013.

2021 · Civil defence and its working in UP

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

Discuss kinds and functions of civil defence. How effective is it in Uttar Pradesh?

Under the **Civil Defence Act, 1968**, civil defence means measures, short of actual combat, that protect people, property and places from hostile attack and reduce its effects. The **2009 amendment** added **disaster management** to its role. It is a voluntary body, run by the DG Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards (MHA) and state directorates, in notified towns.

Kinds of civil defence

- **By situation:** *wartime* (passive defence against air or missile attack) and *peacetime* (disaster response).
- **By service:** about a dozen services, such as headquarters, warden service (the backbone), fire-fighting, casualty and first aid, rescue, communication, welfare, depot and transport, supply and salvage.

Functions

1. **Before an emergency:** training, mock drills, shelter and evacuation plans, awareness.
2. **During an attack:** sirens, blackout, rescue, fire-fighting and first aid.
3. **After an attack:** salvage, restoring services, relief camps, morale and help to the police.
4. **In peacetime:** floods, fires, building collapses, large fairs and epidemics.

Effectiveness in Uttar Pradesh

- **Strengths:**
  - the Directorate of Civil Defence (Lucknow) runs units in the notified towns;
  - volunteers helped the administration during the COVID-19 lockdowns, at the Kumbh and in floods in eastern UP;
- **Weaknesses:**
  - it is largely urban and does not reach villages;
  - it has few active volunteers for over 20 crore people;
  - its equipment and training are old;
  - public awareness is low;
  - it overlaps with the Home Guards, SDRF and *Aapda Mitra* volunteers.

Suggestions

- Cover all districts.
- Integrate it with the SDRF, *Aapda Mitra*, NCC, NSS and NYKS.
- Recruit women and students.
- Provide modern equipment and hold regular drills.

Later development: the nationwide civil defence mock drill of 7 May 2025 covered many UP districts.

Conclusion: A modern, well-trained civil defence is a low-cost force multiplier for a disaster-prone, populous state like UP.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Civil Defence Act 1968 · 2009 amendment (disaster management) · Warden service = backbone · DG FS, CD and HG under MHA · Aapda Mitra.

2021 · Cyber Dome and internet crime (repeat)

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

Describe about Cyber Dome and its use in controlling internet crimes.

NOTE

Same question as "2021 · Cyber Dome and internet crime" in the Science & Technology section of this paper. See the model answer there.

2021 · Types of cyber crime and protection

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

What are various types of cyber crimes? How can one protect from them?

A **cyber crime** is any crime in which a computer, network or digital device is the target, the tool, or both. With cheap data and UPI, India's online population has grown fast, and NCRB data show cyber crime rising every year, mostly as fraud.

Types of cyber crime

1. **Against individuals:**
   - phishing, vishing and smishing;
   - OTP, KYC and UPI frauds;
   - identity theft;
   - sextortion, cyberstalking, cyberbullying and morphing of photos.
2. **Against property and business:**
   - hacking and data breaches;
   - ransomware (for example *WannaCry*, 2017);
   - theft of intellectual property;
   - crypto-jacking, and fake job and investment schemes.
3. **Against society:** fake news, hate speech, child sexual abuse material, and the sale of drugs and arms on the dark web.
4. **Against the state:**
   - cyber terrorism (Section 66F, IT Act);
   - espionage;

- attacks on critical infrastructure, as when malware was found in the administrative network of the Kudankulam nuclear plant (2019).

How to protect oneself

- **Individuals:**
  - use strong, separate passwords and two-factor authentication;
  - never share an OTP or PIN, and check links and apps before use;
  - update software, use antivirus, set privacy controls and keep backups;
  - report fraud at once on **1930** or **cybercrime.gov.in**. In the first hours, money can still be frozen.
- **Organisations:** security audits, staff training, encryption and following CERT-In advisories.
- **The state:**
  - the **IT Act, 2000** (amended 2008);
  - **CERT-In** and **NCIIPC** (for critical infrastructure);
  - the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013;
  - **I4C** (2020), Cyber Swachhta Kendra (botnet cleaning) and the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System.
- **UP:** cyber police stations, cyber help desks at police stations and awareness drives.

Conclusion: Most cyber crimes exploit human carelessness. Digital literacy, with strong institutions and quick reporting, is the best shield for a safe Digital India.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> IT Act 2000 (amended 2008) · Sec 66C (identity theft), 66D (cheating by impersonation), 66F (cyber terrorism) · CERT-In · NCIIPC · I4C 2020 · 1930.

2022 · UP Defence Industrial Corridor

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
> **Examine the importance of Defence Corridor Project being built in Uttar Pradesh.**

The **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor** was announced in **February 2018** at the UP Investors Summit in Lucknow. It is one of two defence corridors (the other is in Tamil Nadu), with six nodes: **Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow**. UPEIDA is the nodal agency.

Importance

1. **Self-reliance in defence:** local production cuts dependence on imported arms (*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*).
2. **Anchor investments:**
   - a BrahMos missile facility in Lucknow;
   - Adani Defence's ammunition complex near Kanpur;
   - a planned Bharat Dynamics missile unit at Jhansi;
   - these build on the existing HAL units and ordnance factories.
3. **Balanced regional growth:** the Jhansi and Chitrakoot nodes bring industry to backward Bundelkhand, helped by the Bundelkhand Expressway.
4. **MSMEs and jobs:** Aligarh's hardware and Kanpur's engineering clusters can join defence supply chains and employ local youth.
5. **Strategic depth and growth:** inland factories are safer, and exports support UP's goal of a USD 1 trillion economy.

Challenges: land acquisition, skilled manpower, testing facilities and steady orders.

Conclusion: With skilling (IIT Kanpur, ITIs), testing infrastructure and an assured order book, the corridor can make UP a hub of India's defence manufacturing.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Announced Feb 2018 · 6 nodes: Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow · UPEIDA · Other corridor: Tamil Nadu.

2022 · Agnipath (Agniveer) and defence needs

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
> **Analyse the Government of India's 'Agniveer' plan in light of India's defence needs.**

The **Agnipath scheme** was announced on **14 June 2022**. It recruits youth aged 17½–21 as **Agniveers** into the three services, below officer rank, for **four years**. Up to **25%** are retained; the rest leave with a *Seva Nidhi* of about ₹11.7 lakh, but no pension.

How it serves defence needs

1. **Younger force:** a lower average age suits high-intensity combat.
2. **Tech-savvy recruits:** for drones and networked weapons.
3. **Lower pension burden:** defence pensions exceed ₹1 lakh crore a year; savings can fund modernisation.
4. **Disciplined youth for society:** CAPFs reserve 10% of posts for ex-Agniveers, and states including UP have promised preference in police jobs.

Concerns

1. **Short service and shorter training:** these may weaken combat readiness on complex systems.
2. **Unit cohesion:** frequent turnover may dilute regimental ethos and trust.
3. **Future of the 75% who leave:** uncertain careers for trained youth.
4. **Protests:** the scheme met protests in 2022, including in UP and Bihar.

Way forward: review the retention share and training length, and assure second careers.

Conclusion: Agnipath can make the forces younger and leaner if it is fine-tuned so that operational strength is never compromised.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Announced 14 June 2022 · Age 17½–21 · 4 years · 25% retained · Seva Nidhi about ₹11.71 lakh · 10% CAPF reservation.

2022 · Science and technology in national security (repeat)

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

Discuss the role of Science & Technology in national security.

NOTE

Same question as "2022 · Science and technology in national security" in the Science & Technology section of this paper. See the model answer there.

2022 · Artificial intelligence in military and civil sectors (repeat)

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Explain the role and effects of Artificial Intelligence in military and civil sectors.

NOTE

Same question as "2022 · AI in military and civil sectors" in the Science & Technology section of this paper. See the model answer there.

2023 · Cyber crime as a national security threat

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Cyber crimes are a big threat to national security. How can a country be protected?

Cyberspace is the **fifth domain** of warfare. Criminals, terrorists and hostile states can harm a country through it without firing a shot.

Why they threaten national security

1. **Critical infrastructure:** power, banking, telecom and health systems can be crippled, as in the ransomware attack on **AIIMS Delhi (November 2022)**.
2. **Espionage:** state-backed hackers steal defence and government data.
3. **Economic harm:** mass fraud drains savings.
4. **Information warfare:** fake news and deepfakes spread unrest.
5. **Supply-chain risk:** untrusted apps and hardware; India banned 59 Chinese apps in June 2020.

How a country can be protected

- **Institutions:**
  - CERT-In and NCIIPC;
  - the Defence Cyber Agency;
  - the National Cyber Security Coordinator in the NSC Secretariat;
  - I4C for cybercrime.
- **Laws and rules:** the IT Act, 2000; CERT-In's 2022 direction to report incidents within six hours; and the DPDP Act, 2023.
- **Trusted technology:** trusted sources for telecom gear, and indigenous chips and software.
- **People and partners:** cyber skilling, hygiene, reporting on 1930, and global threat-intelligence sharing.

Conclusion: An updated national cyber security strategy and a skilled cyber workforce are now as vital as armies.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Fifth domain · AIIMS ransomware Nov 2022 · 59 apps banned June 2020 · CERT-In 6-hour rule 2022 · DPDP Act 2023.

2023 · Strengthening India's security forces

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

How can India's security forces be strengthened? Give your suggestions.

India's security forces include the **armed forces**, the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** and the **state police**. They face a two-front threat, terrorism, insurgency, cyber crime and disasters.

Suggestions

1. **Modernisation through indigenisation:** more capital spending, positive indigenisation lists, iDEX, drones, anti-drone and night-vision equipment.
2. **Jointness:** carry the CDS reforms forward into integrated theatre commands, and improve coordination between the Army, CAPFs and police.
3. **Intelligence and technology:** NATGRID, the Multi Agency Centre, satellites, AI and cyber cells.
4. **Manpower and training:** fill vacancies, especially in state police; give special training in counter-terrorism, cyber and disaster work; recruit more women.
5. **Police reforms:** implement *Prakash Singh* (2006) and the Model Police Act, 2006: fixed tenure, separate investigation wings and complaints authorities.
6. **Welfare and morale:** housing, leave and mental health support to cut stress and suicides in the CAPFs.
7. **Border infrastructure:** roads and the Vibrant Villages Programme (2023).

UP angle: large police recruitment drives, more forensic labs, the UP Special Security Force and the commissionerate system strengthen policing in the most populous state.

Conclusion: Modern equipment, joint structures and well-cared-for personnel together build forces fit for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

CDS 2020 · Positive indigenisation lists · Prakash Singh 2006 · Model Police Act 2006 (Soli Sorabjee) · Vibrant Villages Programme 2023.

2023 · India's stand on nuclear proliferation

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What is India's stand on the issues of nuclear proliferation?

India, a nuclear weapon state outside the NPT, joins **responsible deterrence** with a commitment to **universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament**, as set out in the **Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan (1988)**.

Key elements

1. **NPT (1968):** not signed, as it divides the world into nuclear "haves" and "have-nots".
2. **CTBT (1996):** not signed, but India has kept a **voluntary testing moratorium** since 1998.
3. **Doctrine (2003):** credible minimum deterrence, **No First Use**, and no use against non-nuclear weapon states.
4. **Fissile material:** India supports a non-discriminatory Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).
5. **Export controls:** the WMD Act, 2005; membership of the **MTCR (2016), Wassenaar Arrangement (2017) and Australia Group (2018)**; **NSG** membership is blocked by China.
6. **Safeguards:** its civilian reactors are under IAEA safeguards after the 2008 India–US deal and NSG waiver.
7. **Nuclear security:** India took part in the Nuclear Security Summits and opposes clandestine networks such as A.Q. Khan's.
8. **TPNW (2017):** not joined, as it was not negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament.

Conclusion: India is a responsible nuclear power that keeps its strategic autonomy while working for a world free of nuclear weapons.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan 1988 · Testing moratorium since 1998 · NFU · MTCR 2016, Wassenaar 2017, AG 2018 · NSG waiver 2008 · WMD Act 2005.

2023 · Money laundering and economic sovereignty

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **"Money laundering poses a serious threat to economic sovereignty." Explain.**

Economic sovereignty is a state's power to control its own economy, including taxes, money, capital flows, markets and resources, without illegal interference from inside or outside. **Money laundering** hides the criminal origin of money. UNODC estimates that 2–5% of global GDP is laundered every year.

How money laundering threatens economic sovereignty

1. **Erosion of the tax base:** black money hidden in tax havens (exposed by the *Panama Papers*, 2016) cuts revenue and the state's fiscal freedom.
2. **Weaker monetary control:** hawala and fake currency create a parallel economy that weakens RBI policy and the management of foreign exchange.
3. **Hidden control of assets:** shell companies "round-trip" money back as FDI. Hidden owners, possibly hostile, may take stakes in strategic sectors.
4. **Distorted markets:** inflated real estate and gold prices, stock manipulation and unfair competition for honest firms.
5. **Funding of terror and insurgency:** this challenges the state's monopoly over force.
6. **Global standing:** weak controls invite FATF grey-listing and costlier capital, as Pakistan found.
7. **Capture of institutions:** dirty money corrupts officials, regulators and election funding.
8. **New channels:** crypto assets and online gaming move money across borders anonymously.

India's response

- **Laws:**
  - the **PMLA, 2002**, upheld in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary* (2022);
  - the Black Money Act, 2015;
  - the Benami amendment (2016);
  - the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- **Institutions:** the Enforcement Directorate, FIU-IND and the SIT on black money (2014).
- **Closing loopholes:**
  - revising tax treaties, such as the Mauritius treaty in 2016;
  - striking off lakhs of shell companies;
  - automatic exchange of tax information;
  - bringing crypto service providers under the PMLA (2023).
- **Recognition:** the FATF's 2024 mutual evaluation placed India in its best category, "regular follow-up".

Conclusion: Money laundering lets criminals and foreign interests capture a nation's economy. Strong financial intelligence, beneficial-ownership registries and global cooperation are needed to protect India's economic sovereignty and its goal of a *Viksit Bharat*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Placement → Layering → Integration · PMLA 2002 · Vijay Madanlal Choudhary 2022 · Black Money Act 2015 · FEO Act 2018 · FATF 2024: regular follow-up.

2023 · Media revolution and security

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **What positive and negative changes occurred due to media revolution? Explain media's role in security.**

> **NOTE**
> The Hindi version asks about changes in India and the world, and about the media's role in both national and international security. The answer covers both.

The **media revolution** is the shift from print and radio to 24×7 television, the internet, smartphones and social media. It has made every citizen a publisher. India, with cheap data and a huge online population, is at its centre.

Positive changes

1. **Voice for all:** citizen journalism and instant access to information.
2. **Accountability:** exposés of corruption and abuse; mass movements such as the Arab Spring (2011).
3. **Inclusion and services:** awareness of welfare schemes, online education and digital payments.
4. **Crisis communication:** health and disaster messages, as during COVID-19.
5. **Soft power:** links with the diaspora and the spread of culture.

Negative changes

1. **Misinformation:** fake news, deepfakes and a "post-truth" climate.
2. **Polarisation:** echo chambers and hate speech.
3. **Poor journalism:** sensationalism, paid news and media trials.
4. **Privacy:** data misuse, as in the Cambridge Analytica case (2018).
5. **Social harm:** cyberbullying and addiction.

Role in national security

- **Helpful:**
  - public awareness and morale;
  - open-source intelligence;
  - counter-narratives against extremism;
  - quick rumour-busting, for example by PIB Fact Check.
- **Harmful:**
  - live coverage of 26/11 helped the attackers' handlers, so live coverage of anti-terror operations is now barred;
  - fake videos have fuelled riots;
  - radical propaganda spreads, and hostile handles run disinformation during crises.

Role in international security

- **Helpful:**
  - it exposes terror networks and war crimes;
  - it builds pressure for global action, such as the Christchurch Call (2019) against online terrorist content.
- **Harmful:**
  - information warfare and propaganda, as in the Russia–Ukraine war;
  - interference in elections;
  - terrorists' online recruitment and live-streamed attacks.

Way forward

- **Rules:** the IT Rules, 2021 and accountability of platforms.
- **Self-regulation:** through the Press Council and broadcasters' bodies.
- **Citizens:** fact-checking and media literacy.

Conclusion: The media is a double-edged sword. A free but responsible media, backed by an informed public, is itself a pillar of national and international security.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Arab Spring 2011 · Cambridge Analytica 2018 · Christchurch Call 2019 · PIB Fact Check 2019 · Cable TV rules 2015 (no live coverage of anti-terror operations) · IT Rules 2021.

2024 · Digital arrest fraud

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **What is Digital Arrest? Which states are most affected and what measures has GoI taken?**

Digital arrest is a cyber fraud. Callers posing as police, CBI or ED officers accuse the victim of a crime (say, drugs in a parcel) and hold the victim on a video call in "virtual custody", with fake warrants, until money is paid to "settle" the case. **Indian law has no such thing as a digital arrest.**

Most affected areas

- **Victims:** mostly in big cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Lucknow. NCRB's *Crime in India 2022* shows the most cyber crime cases in Telangana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- **Source:** many calls come from scam centres in South-East Asia, using Indian mule accounts and SIMs.

Government measures

1. **I4C (MHA):**
   - advisories, and blocking of thousands of Skype IDs, WhatsApp accounts and SIMs;
   - the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre and Suspect Registry (2024).
2. **Reporting:** the **1930** helpline and cybercrime.gov.in, to freeze stolen money fast.
3. **Telecom (DoT):** *Sanchar Saathi* and *Chakshu*, and blocking of spoofed international calls showing Indian numbers (2024).
4. **Awareness:** the PM's *Mann Ki Baat* (October 2024) gave the mantra "*Ruko, Socho, Action lo*" (Stop, Think, Act).

Conclusion: No agency arrests anyone over a video call; awareness and fast reporting are the best protection.

> **NOTE**
> State-wise figures change every year. Check the latest NCRB and I4C data before the exam.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> No "digital arrest" in law · I4C 2020 · 1930 · Sanchar Saathi / Chakshu · "Ruko, Socho, Action lo".

2024 · Role of DRDO in India's security

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Mention the role of Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation in India's security set-up.**

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, formed in **1958**, is the R&D arm of the Ministry of Defence, under the Department of Defence R&D. Its laboratories develop weapons and systems for the forces.

Role

1. **Strategic deterrence:**
   - the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (1983, led by Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam) produced Prithvi and Agni;
   - *Mission Divyastra* (March 2024) tested Agni-5 with multiple warheads (MIRV).
2. **Missiles and air defence:** Akash, Astra and BrahMos (an Indo-Russian joint venture), and a long-range hypersonic missile test (November 2024).
3. **Platforms:** the Tejas fighter (with ADA and HAL), the Arjun tank, Pinaka rockets and the Netra airborne early warning system.
4. **New domains:** the *Mission Shakti* anti-satellite test (2019) and the D4 anti-drone system.
5. **Self-reliance:** technology transfer to industry and the Technology Development Fund.
6. **Crisis support:** during COVID-19, the 2-DG drug, oxygen plants and makeshift hospitals.

UP angle: DRDO's DMSRDE in Kanpur develops body armour and materials.

Limits: delays and cost overruns (Tejas, Arjun), and the long-delayed Kaveri engine.

Conclusion: A more accountable DRDO, working closely with industry and academia, is key to *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* in defence.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> DRDO 1958 · IGMDP 1983 · Mission Divyastra 11 Mar 2024 · Mission Shakti 2019 · DMSRDE Kanpur.

2024 · Challenges before the Indian Coast Guard

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Outline the major challenges faced by the Coast Guard of India and explain efforts taken to deal with them.**

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** was set up on an interim basis in **1977** and by the **Coast Guard Act, 1978**. Under the Ministry of Defence, it guards India's maritime zones along a **7,516 km coastline** and an EEZ of about **2 million sq km**.

Challenges

1. **Vast area, limited assets:** too few ships, aircraft and men.
2. **Maritime terrorism:** the 26/11 attackers came by sea.
3. **Smuggling:** drugs and arms on Arabian Sea and Andaman routes.
4. **Fishing:** boundary crossings (Sri Lanka, Pakistan), and lakhs of small boats that are hard to track.
5. **Disasters:** oil spills, cyclones and search and rescue.
6. **Coordination:** with the Navy, marine police, customs and states.

Efforts

- **After 26/11:**
  - the Navy got overall charge, the ICG territorial waters and coastal police the shallow waters;
  - Joint Operations Centres were set up.
- **Surveillance:**
  - a coastal radar chain;
  - the NC3I network with IMAC in Gurugram;
  - the Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region (2018).
- **Fishermen:** biometric ID cards, registration of boats and transponders.
- **Fleet growth:** indigenous ships and Dhruv helicopters under *Make in India*.
- **Drills:** *Sagar Kavach* and *Sea Vigil* (since 2019).

Conclusion: More assets, technology and coordination will let the ICG secure India's blue economy.

> **NOTE**
> A re-measurement by a new method (2023–24) puts India's coastline at about 11,098 km. Many sources still use 7,516 km; check the latest figure before the exam.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> ICG 1977 / Act 1978 · Coastline 7,516 km · EEZ about 2.02 million sq km · IMAC · IFC-IOR 2018 · Sea Vigil 2019.

2024 · Social networking sites and cyber attacks

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **What are 'Social Networking Sites' and how does their uncontrolled use increase cyber attacks?**

Social Networking Sites (SNS) are online platforms where users create profiles, connect with others and share content, such as Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, YouTube and WhatsApp. India has hundreds of millions of users, many new to the internet. Used carelessly, these platforms are the easiest door for cyber attacks.

How uncontrolled use increases cyber attacks

1. **Oversharing:** birthdays, family names, workplaces and travel plans let attackers guess passwords and design *spear-phishing* messages.
2. **Phishing links:** fake offers, KYC alerts and "work-from-home" or investment groups on WhatsApp and Telegram spread malware and steal money.
3. **Fake profiles and impersonation:** cloned accounts ask friends for money, and fake "officers" run digital arrest scams.
4. **Honey-traps and espionage:** hostile agents befriend defence and government staff online to extract secrets. In 2020, the Army asked its personnel to delete 89 apps.
5. **Sextortion:** morphed images and recorded video calls are used for blackmail, by gangs operating from places such as Mewat and Bharatpur.
6. **Risky apps and permissions:** third-party quizzes and apps harvest data, as in the Cambridge Analytica case (2018), or take over accounts.
7. **Location tagging:** it reveals the movements of VIPs, troops and children.
8. **Weak habits:** reused passwords, no two-factor authentication and public Wi-Fi.

Measures

- **Users:**
  - use privacy settings and two-factor authentication;
  - check links and apps before clicking, and share less;
  - report fraud on **1930**.
- **Platforms:**
  - the **IT Rules, 2021** (grievance officers, quick takedowns);
  - the **DPDP Act, 2023** on personal data.
- **The state:**
  - CERT-In advisories, I4C and cybercrime.gov.in;
  - social media rules for defence and government staff.
- **UP:** cyber help desks at police stations, and awareness drives in schools and colleges.

Conclusion: Social networks are not the enemy; careless use is. Digital literacy, safe habits and accountable platforms can make SNS a safe public space.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Spear-phishing · Honey-trap · Army told personnel to delete 89 apps (2020) · Cambridge Analytica 2018 · IT Rules 2021 · DPDP Act 2023 · 1930.

2024 · Countering narco-terrorism

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest measures to counter it.

Narco-terrorism links drug trafficking with terrorism and insurgency. It has spread from border states to the whole country. In **September 2021**, about **3,000 kg of heroin** was seized at Mundra port (Gujarat). Drones drop drugs and pistols across the Punjab border, and the Myanmar border is a route for synthetic drugs into the North-East.

Measures to counter it

1. **Strong laws:**
   - the NDPS Act, 1985 and the PIT-NDPS Act, 1988 (preventive detention);
   - the UAPA for narco-terror cases;
   - attaching drug traffickers' property.
2. **Coordinated agencies:**
   - the four-tier **NCORD** mechanism;
   - the NCB, NIA and DRI;
   - Anti-Narcotics Task Forces in the states, including UP.
3. **Border and coastal security:**
   - anti-drone systems and smart fencing on the Pakistan border;
   - fencing of the Myanmar border and the end of the Free Movement Regime (announced 2024);
   - Coast Guard and Navy interdiction, and container scanners at ports.
4. **Following the money:**
   - FIU-IND, the PMLA and action against hawala;
   - tracking crypto payments and darknet markets.
5. **Technology and data:**
   - the NIDAAN database of drug offenders;
   - satellite mapping of illegal poppy and cannabis crops;
   - the **MANAS** helpline (1933) for anonymous tips.
6. **International cooperation:** UNODC, BIMSTEC, and bilateral work with Myanmar, Nepal and Central Asian states.
7. **Cutting demand:**
   - the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan* (2020);
   - de-addiction and rehabilitation centres;
   - awareness in schools, and sport and jobs for youth.
8. **Alternative livelihoods:** for farmers in illegal poppy-growing areas.

UP angle:

- **Border:** the SSB guards the open Nepal border, a route for charas and ganja.
- **Policing:** the UP Anti-Narcotics Task Force targets smack and synthetic-drug networks in cities.

Conclusion: Narco-terrorism can be defeated only by a "whole-of-government" approach: choke the supply, cut the money and reduce demand. A drug-free youth is essential for a secure *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Mundra seizure Sept 2021 · NDPS 1985 · PIT-NDPS 1988 · NCORD · MANAS 1933 · NIDAAN · Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan 2020 · FMR with Myanmar ended 2024.

2024 · Functions of the National Security Council

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Discuss the functions of the National Security Council of India.

The **National Security Council (NSC)** was set up in **November 1998** by an executive order of the Vajpayee government. It advises the Prime Minister on national security and strategic matters.

Composition:

- **Council:** the PM chairs it. The Ministers of Defence, Home, External Affairs and Finance are members, and the **National Security Adviser (NSA)** is its secretary.
- **Support bodies:**
  - the **Strategic Policy Group** (chaired by the NSA since 2018);
  - the **National Security Advisory Board**;
  - the **NSC Secretariat**, which includes the Joint Intelligence Committee.

Functions

1. **External security and strategic affairs:** policy towards neighbours and major powers. The NSA is India's **Special Representative** for the boundary talks with China.
2. **Internal security:** threat assessment and coordination on terrorism, insurgency and LWE.
3. **Defence planning:** through the **Defence Planning Committee** (2018, chaired by the NSA):
   - national security strategy;
   - capability development and defence diplomacy;
   - the defence manufacturing ecosystem.
4. **Nuclear policy:** the NSAB drafted the nuclear doctrine (1999). The NSA heads the **Executive Council of the Nuclear Command Authority**.
5. **Intelligence coordination:** the JIC combines inputs from the IB, R&AW, NTRO and military intelligence into assessments.
6. **Cyber and technology security:** the **National Cyber Security Coordinator** sits in the NSCS, which also guides trusted-source rules for telecom.
7. **Maritime security:** a **National Maritime Security Coordinator** was appointed in 2022.
8. **Economic and energy security:** supply chains, critical minerals and energy routes.
9. **Crisis management:** coordinating ministries and agencies during terror attacks, border standoffs and military operations.

Assessment

- **Strengths:** it brings a whole-of-government view of security.
- **Weaknesses:**
  - it has no statutory basis;
  - the full council rarely meets, and power is concentrated in the NSA;
  - Parliament has little oversight;
  - there is no published national security strategy.

Conclusion: Statutory backing, regular council meetings and a public national security strategy would make the NSC a stronger institution, as India's security challenges grow more complex.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

NSC Nov 1998 · NSA = secretary · SPG chaired by NSA (2018) · DPC 2018 · NSAB draft doctrine 1999 · NSA heads NCA Executive Council · NMSC 2022.

2024 · AI in disaster safety and security (repeat)

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Describe the role of Artificial Intelligence in the safety and security during disaster management.

NOTE

Same question as "2024 · Artificial intelligence in disaster management" in the Disaster Management section of this paper. See the model answer there.

UPPCS Mains · General Studies Paper 4

Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude (with case studies) · 2018–2024 · 140 questions

2018

2018 · Q1 · Values and their central elements

QUESTION 2018 · Q1 · 8 marks

What are the values? Throw light over their central elements.

Values are enduring beliefs about what is good, right and desirable. They serve as standards for judging actions and choosing goals. Milton Rokeach (1973) divided them into **terminal values** (desired end-states such as freedom or peace) and **instrumental values** (preferred ways of acting such as honesty or courage).

Central elements of values

1. **Cognitive element:** a belief about what is desirable, for example "truth is good".
2. **Affective element:** emotional attachment; we feel pride when we uphold a value and guilt when we break it.
3. **Behavioural element:** values guide choices and give consistency to conduct.
4. **Enduring nature:** values change slowly, unlike moods or opinions.
5. **Hierarchy:** each person ranks values into a value system, which settles conflicts (for example, truth over loyalty).
6. **Social origin:** values are learned from family, school, religion and society, so they vary across cultures, though some, like justice and non-violence, are nearly universal.
7. **Normative character:** values say what *ought* to be, not merely what *is*.

Conclusion: Gandhi's truth and non-violence, and the Preamble's justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, show how values shape both individuals and nations.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Rokeach: terminal vs instrumental values · cognitive, affective, behavioural parts · stable, hierarchical, learned, normative.

2018 · Q2 · Ethical concerns in government and private institutions

QUESTION 2018 · Q2 · 8 marks

Define the ethical concerns in Government and Private Institutions.

Ethical concerns are the moral questions that arise when an institution uses power, money or information that affects other people. Both sectors face them, in different forms.

Government institutions

- **Accountability and transparency** in the use of public money and discretion (RTI Act, 2005).
- **Impartiality and political neutrality** towards all citizens.
- **Corruption, nepotism and conflict of interest.**
- **Rule of law vs compassion** when rigid rules hurt the poor.
- **Responsiveness:** timely redressal of grievances, for example on UP's IGRS "Jansunwai" portal.

Private institutions

- **Profit vs social responsibility:** CSR under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Corporate governance:** honest accounts and fair disclosure (the Satyam fraud of 2009 is a warning).
- **Fair treatment** of workers, consumers and the environment.
- **Data privacy, insider trading and unfair competition.**

Common ground: honesty, fairness and trust. As public work is increasingly done through PPPs and outsourcing, private bodies doing public work must meet public-sector standards of ethics.

Conclusion: Codes of ethics, independent regulators and ethical leadership are needed in both sectors.

2018 · Q3 · Philosophical basis of probity in governance

QUESTION 2018 · Q3 · 8 marks

What is the philosophical basis of probity in governance? Discuss critically.

Probity means strict adherence to the highest standards of honesty and uprightness in public life. It goes beyond avoiding bribes to include fairness, transparency and the use of office only for public good.

Philosophical bases

- **Public office as a trust:** in John Locke's social contract, power is held in trust for the people; "We, the people" in the Preamble reflects popular sovereignty.
- **Rajdharma:** Kautilya held that the king's happiness lies in the happiness of his subjects. The Gita's *nishkam karma* asks for duty without selfish gain.
- **Virtue ethics:** Plato's philosopher-king and Aristotle's virtues make good character the base of good rule.
- **Deontology:** Kant's duty for duty's sake, treating every citizen as an end.
- **Gandhi:** purity of means and ends, and trusteeship of power.

Critical view

- Ideals often lose to political pressure, greed and weak institutions.
- Theories can conflict (rules vs results), leaving officers in grey zones.
- Hence probity needs institutional support: Lokpal, the UP Lokayukta, RTI, conduct rules and e-governance.

Conclusion: Probity rests on moral philosophy, but it survives only when values are backed by laws and accountability.

2018 · Q4 · Ethical and social ideas of Gandhi

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q4 · 8 marks
>
> **Examine the ethical and social ideas of Gandhi.**

Gandhi joined personal morality with social action, drawing on the Gita, Jainism, Ruskin, Tolstoy and Thoreau.

Ethical ideas

- **Truth (Satya):** "Truth is God"; life is an experiment with truth.
- **Non-violence (Ahimsa):** active love, even towards the opponent.
- **Purity of means and ends:** a good end cannot be reached through bad means.
- **Satyagraha:** resisting injustice through self-suffering, not hatred.
- **Seven social sins** (Young India, 1925), such as "politics without principles".

Social ideas

- **Sarvodaya and Antyodaya:** welfare of all, starting with the last person (his "talisman").
- **Trusteeship:** the rich hold wealth in trust for society.
- **Removal of untouchability**, women's equality and communal harmony.
- **Gram Swaraj, Swadeshi, dignity of labour** and *Nai Talim*.

Examination: Ambedkar found his early defence of *varna* conservative, and trusteeship depends on the goodwill of the rich. Yet his ideas live on in Panchayati Raj, Khadi and peaceful protest. Withdrawing the Non-Cooperation Movement after Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur, 1922) showed ethics placed above political gain.

Conclusion: Gandhi's ethics remain a guide for public life.

2018 · Q5 · Conscience, spirit of service and discipline

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q5 · 8 marks
>
> **Evaluate the relevance of the following in the context of Civil Service: (a) Conscience (b) Spirit of Service (c) Discipline**

(a) Conscience is the inner moral sense of right and wrong; Gandhi called it the "inner voice". **Relevance:** in grey areas where rules are silent, and under pressure from superiors or politicians, it keeps an officer honest. **Limit:** conscience can be subjective, so it must be informed by the Constitution and the law.

(b) Spirit of service (*seva bhav*) means treating the job as a duty to people, not a source of power or status. **Relevance:** it produces citizen-friendly, empathetic administration and effort beyond the minimum. Civil Services Day (21 April) recalls Sardar Patel's 1947 address urging probationers to serve the people.

(c) Discipline means obeying lawful orders and rules, punctuality and self-control. **Relevance:** it makes a large administration predictable and efficient. **Limit:** blind discipline breeds red tape and "only following orders"; it must never cover illegal orders.

Evaluation: The three complement each other. Discipline gives order, service gives purpose, and conscience gives moral direction. Together they make the "steel frame" both strong and humane.

2018 · Q6 · Tolerance and compassion towards weaker sections

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q6 · 8 marks
>
> **"Public service is recognised on the basis of tolerance and compassion towards the weaker section of the society." Explain.**

Tolerance is the readiness to accept differences of faith, opinion and lifestyle and to deal patiently with people. **Compassion** (*karuna*, central to the Buddha's teaching) is feeling another's suffering with the will to relieve it.

Why they define public service

- **Constitutional mandate:** Article 46 asks the State to promote the interests of the weaker sections. The All India Services conduct rules, amended in 2014, require fairness with special regard for the poor and under-privileged.
- **Access:** the poor, illiterate, disabled and elderly struggle with forms and offices; a patient officer removes these barriers.
- **Trust:** humane treatment builds faith in the State among marginal groups.
- **Last-mile delivery:** compassion turns schemes into real benefits. Gandhi's talisman asks us to recall the face of the poorest.

In practice: special camps for disability certificates, pensions delivered to the bedridden, sensitive handling of women complainants and quick redressal on UP's IGRS "Jansunwai" portal.

Caution: compassion must stay within rules and remain impartial.

Conclusion: A public servant is judged by how he treats those who can give him nothing in return.

2018 · Q7 · Functions of attitude

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q7 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the functions of attitude.**

An **attitude** is a learned tendency to evaluate a person, object or idea favourably or unfavourably. It has affective, behavioural and cognitive parts (the ABC model). Daniel Katz's **functional theory (1960)** explains why people hold attitudes.

Functions

1. **Utilitarian (adjustive):** attitudes help us gain rewards and avoid punishment; an employee favours a policy that brings promotion.
2. **Knowledge:** attitudes give a ready framework to make sense of a complex world and save mental effort; stereotypes are a side effect.
3. **Ego-defensive:** they protect self-esteem from unpleasant truths; a failing officer blames "the system".
4. **Value-expressive:** they express core values and identity; an environmentalist's dislike of plastic reflects concern for nature.
5. **Social-adjustive** (Smith, Bruner and White): they help us fit into groups we value.

Relevance to administration: to change an attitude, address the function it serves. Swachh Bharat tackled open defecation through dignity, health and social pressure, not facts alone.

Conclusion: Knowing these functions helps leaders persuade citizens and motivate staff.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Katz (1960): utilitarian, knowledge, ego-defensive, value-expressive · Smith, Bruner and White: social adjustment.

2018 · Q8 · Attitude vs value; attitude vs opinion

QUESTION 2018 · Q8 · 8 marks

Differentiate between: (a) Attitude and Value (b) Attitude and Opinion

(a) Attitude and value

Basis	Attitude	Value
Meaning	Evaluation of a specific object, person or issue	Enduring belief about what is desirable in life
Scope	Narrow; a person holds many attitudes	Broad; a few core values guide many attitudes
Stability	Changes more easily	Deep-rooted and stable
Relation	Grows out of values	Forms the base of attitudes
Example	Dislike of a bribe-taking clerk	Honesty

(b) Attitude and opinion

Basis	Attitude	Opinion
Nature	Inner tendency with feeling, belief and action parts	Spoken or written judgment on an issue
Visibility	May stay hidden	Expressed openly
Emotion	Strong affective part	Mainly cognitive
Durability	Fairly lasting	Changes quickly with new facts
Example	Positive attitude to girls' education	"This scholarship scheme is well designed"

L.L. Thurstone described an opinion as the verbal expression of an attitude. A civil servant should keep personal opinions out of public decisions and build attitudes rooted in constitutional values.

2018 · Q9 · Dedication to public service

QUESTION 2018 · Q9 · 8 marks

"Effective administration requires dedication towards Public Service." Explain.

Dedication to public service is a deep, lasting commitment to the public interest, often beyond the call of duty. Scholars call it *public service motivation* (Perry and Wise, 1990): an inner drive, not fear of punishment or hope of reward.

Why effective administration needs it

- **Rules set only the minimum:** a dedicated officer does what the situation needs within the rules.
- **Last-mile delivery:** schemes reach remote villages only when officers follow up on the ground.
- **Innovation despite scarce resources:** Armstrong Pame (IAS) built the 100-km "People's Road" in Manipur largely with public donations.
- **Crisis management:** floods, epidemics and mega-events such as the Prayagraj Kumbh 2019 need long hours and teamwork.
- **Timely results:** E. Sreedharan's commitment delivered the Delhi Metro on time.

Caution: dedication must be to the Constitution and the people, not to a party or person ("committed bureaucracy" in the wrong sense).

Conclusion: Laws give administration its form; dedication gives it life. Capacity-building such as Mission Karmayogi (2020) aims to nurture this spirit.

2018 · Q10 · Motivating staff in a failing office

QUESTION 2018 · Q10 · 8 marks · Case study

Recently you have taken charge as the head of a government organisation. On the very first day in your office, you observe that the organisation is crippled with many irregularities such as:

- (i) The staff is not punctual.
- (ii) The staff waste their time in unnecessary talks.
- (iii) Speedy action is not taken on public grievances.
- (iv) There is rampant corruption at every level in the organisation.
- (v) The quality of the services provided by the organisation is very poor.

How would you inspire your staff so that the above deficiencies of the organisation get removed? Discuss.

Stakeholders and issues: citizens denied timely, honest service; staff used to indiscipline and corruption; and me, accountable as head. **Options:** punishment alone is quick but breeds resentment; persuasion alone is slow and lets corruption continue. I would combine leadership by example, motivation and firm accountability.

1. **Lead by example:** reach office on time, stay accessible and keep my own conduct clean; staff copy the head.
2. **Shared goals:** a staff meeting to set a vision, a Citizen's Charter with time limits, and daily targets for grievances tracked on UP's IGRS portal.
3. **Motivation (Herzberg, Maslow):** fix hygiene factors (seating, equipment, fair duty rosters), then add motivators: recognition such as "employee of the month", praise, training and responsibility.
4. **Systems that cut discretion:** biometric attendance, e-office and online services with fixed timelines reduce both delay and bribe opportunities.
5. **Zero tolerance for corruption:** rotation of sensitive posts, surprise checks and prompt action under the conduct rules against habitual offenders, after a fair chance to reform.
6. **Feedback:** citizen feedback and periodic review raise service quality.

Values: integrity, accountability, empathy and leadership. Encouragement first and strictness where needed will turn the office around.

2018 · Q11 · Ethics vs morality; determinants of ethical action

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q11 · 12 marks
>
> **Differentiate between ethics and morality and explain the determinants of ethical actions.**

Ethics comes from the Greek *ethos* (character) and *morality* from the Latin *mores* (customs). The words are often used as synonyms, but they differ.

Basis	Ethics	Morality
Nature	Systematic, rational study of right and wrong	Actual beliefs and practices of right conduct
Source	Reason, philosophy, professional codes	Culture, religion, tradition, conscience
Scope	Often professional and social (medical ethics, civil-service codes)	Personal and community-based
Approach	Asks *why* an act is right	Tells *what* is right
Change	Revised through argument	Changes slowly with society
Example	Conflict-of-interest rule in a service code	"Do not lie", "respect elders"

Determinants of ethical actions

1. **Motive or intention:** Kant judges an act by the good will behind it.
2. **The act itself (means):** some acts, like torture, are wrong whatever the aim; Gandhi insisted on pure means.
3. **Consequences:** utilitarians (Bentham, Mill) judge by the greatest good of the greatest number.
4. **Circumstances:** time, place and situation change the moral weight of an act; taking food to save a starving child differs from theft for profit.
5. **Knowledge and freedom:** Aristotle held that only voluntary acts, done knowingly, deserve praise or blame.
6. **Conscience, values and character** of the person acting.
7. **Social and legal norms:** law, customs and codes of conduct shape and limit choices.

Conclusion: A sound ethical decision weighs intention, means and consequences together, in their context, and is guided by an informed conscience.

2018 · Q12 · Kant's ethics: formalist and rigorist

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q12 · 12 marks
>
> **"Kant's ethics is formalist and rigorist." Critically examine and evaluate its importance in moral life.**

Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) built a **deontological** ethics: an act is right when it is done from duty, whatever its results.

Why "formalist"

- Morality depends on the **form** of the maxim, not its content or results. The test is the **Categorical Imperative**: act only on a maxim that you can will to become a universal law.
- Its second form: treat humanity, in yourself and in others, always as an end and never merely as a means.
- Only a **good will** is good without qualification.

Why "rigorist"

- Moral rules allow **no exceptions**. Kant argued that one may not lie even to a murderer asking where a friend is hiding.
- Duty must be done **for duty's sake**; acts done from feeling, sympathy or self-interest have no moral worth.

Critical examination

- **Empty formalism (Hegel):** universalisability alone cannot tell us concrete duties.
- **Conflict of duties:** when truth-telling clashes with saving a life, Kant offers no way out. W.D. Ross later proposed *prima facie* duties to meet this gap.
- **Ignores consequences**, which matter greatly in public policy.
- **Excludes emotions** such as compassion, which care ethics values.

Importance in moral life

- **Human dignity:** the base of human rights and of the right to live with dignity under Article 21.
- **Impartiality:** one rule for all, which suits the rule of law and public administration.
- **Integrity:** duty without greed, close to the Gita's *nishkam karma*; it guards against "the end justifies the means".
- **Consistency** and predictability in decisions.

Conclusion: Kant's rigour is too strict for every case, but his core ideas, respect for persons and duty without selfish motive, remain a moral foundation. They work best when balanced with attention to consequences and compassion.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (1785) · universal law · humanity as an end · good will · Hegel's "empty formalism" · Ross's prima facie duties.

2018 · Q13 · Ethical dilemmas of public servants and conscience

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q13 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain the ethical dilemmas faced by the public servants. Will conscience be helpful in their solution? Discuss.**

An **ethical dilemma** arises when an officer must choose between two or more values, each with a valid claim, so that honouring one means sacrificing another.

Common dilemmas

1. **Rule vs compassion:** a strict rule may deny relief to a deserving poor applicant.
2. **Loyalty to superiors vs public interest:** an illegal oral order, or wrongdoing seen inside the department (whistle-blowing).
3. **Political neutrality vs political direction:** pressure to favour a party's supporters.
4. **Secrecy vs transparency:** the Official Secrets Act, 1923 vs the RTI Act, 2005.
5. **Efficiency vs equity:** speedy projects vs fair rehabilitation of displaced people.
6. **Personal vs professional:** a relative's file comes before the officer (conflict of interest).

Will conscience help?

- **Yes.** Conscience is the inner moral voice; Gandhi called it the "inner voice" and Bishop Joseph Butler gave it supreme authority over conduct. It guides where rules are silent, gives the courage to refuse wrong orders and keeps an officer honest when no one is watching. Lal Bahadur Shastri, a son of UP, resigned as Railway Minister after the Ariyalur rail accident of 1956, accepting moral responsibility.
- **But it has limits.** Conscience can be shaped by prejudice, can differ from person to person and can be mistaken. A "conscience" that ignores law becomes arbitrariness.

Way out: an *informed* conscience guided by the Constitution, the law and codes of conduct; consultation with seniors; recording reasons in writing; and frameworks such as the Nolan principles and the 2nd ARC's report on *Ethics in Governance*.

Conclusion: Conscience is the compass and the law is the map; public servants need both to resolve dilemmas.

2018 · Q14 · Corruption: challenges and preventive steps

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q14 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the challenges of corruption? What preventive steps should be taken in society? Explain.**

Corruption is the misuse of entrusted power for private gain. Kautilya's *Arthashastra* already listed some forty ways of embezzlement, so the problem is old, but today it is a major obstacle to development.

Challenges posed by corruption

- **Economic:** leakage of public money, costlier projects, lower investment and black money.
- **Poor service delivery:** the poor pay bribes for ration cards, pensions or hospital beds, and welfare misses them.
- **Weak rule of law:** impunity and the criminalisation of politics.
- **Inequality:** the rich buy advantages and merit loses.
- **Loss of trust** in institutions and in democracy itself.
- **Danger to life:** illegal mining, adulteration and unsafe buildings.

Why it is hard to fight: social acceptance of "speed money", costly elections, wide discretion, slow trials and fear among whistle-blowers.

Preventive steps in society

1. **Value education:** honesty taught at home and in school, and role models in public life.
2. **Citizen vigilance:** use RTI, social audits (as in MGNREGA) and complaint portals, and refuse to pay bribes.
3. **Technology to cut discretion:** DBT through JAM, e-tendering, GeM and online services; in UP, the IGRS portal.
4. **Strong laws and institutions:** the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (amended in 2018 to punish bribe-giving), the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, the UP Lokayukta and the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014.
5. **Free media and civil society:** the 2011 anti-corruption movement showed the power of public pressure.
6. **Political reform:** transparent funding of elections.
7. **Speedy trials** and confiscation of illegal assets.

Conclusion: Laws can punish corruption, but only an ethical society can prevent it. Clean governance is essential for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2018 · Q15 · Nishant's case: preaching vs practice

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q15 · 12 marks · Case study
>
> **Nishant is a socially sensitive socialist intellectual and professor. Through his writings, speeches and media, he advocates for labourers, minorities, women and tribals. A political party keeps him in its think-tank. He motivates civil society members, politicians and officers to enrol their children in government schools. During admission season, elite schools are criticised and Nishant also participates in the criticism. But it is found that he is trying to get his own child admitted into an elite school. People say that his words and actions are inconsistent.**
>
> **Questions: (i) Should Nishant get his child admitted in the government school? (ii) Should Nishant leave his intellectual discourses? (iii) Should he mobilise his party followers in his support? (iv) Or should he continue efforts for admission in the elite school? Discuss.**

(a) Facts and stakeholders: Nishant urges the elite to send their children to government schools and criticises elite schools, yet seeks an elite-school seat for his own child. Stakeholders: Nishant, his child and family, his party and followers, government schools and the public.

(b) Ethical issues

- **Integrity:** a gap between word and deed destroys moral authority.
- **Child's welfare vs public commitment:** the child's interest is real, and choosing a school is a lawful right.
- **Credibility of public debate:** when advocates do not practise, citizens grow cynical.
- **Leading by example:** Gandhi's life was his message.

(c) The four options

- **(i) Government school:** best upholds integrity. When influential parents join, schools improve; in 2015 the Allahabad High Court directed that children of public servants and elected representatives in UP study in government primary schools. Concern: a weak local school. He can choose a good government school, such as a Kendriya Vidyalaya, and work in its School Management Committee.
- **(ii) Leave intellectual discourse:** wrong. His ideas on equity are valid; silence would punish the cause, not the inconsistency.
- **(iii) Mobilise party followers:** unethical. It uses political muscle to defend a personal lapse and turns a moral question into a power contest.
- **(iv) Continue with the elite school:** lawful, but it confirms the charge of "saying one thing and doing another". If he chooses it, he must admit the inconsistency openly and stop condemning others' choices.

(d) Course of action: option (i), decided with his family and child. Nishant should enrol the child in a good government school, admit that pursuing the elite seat was a mistake, and lead parents in improving government schools through the School Management Committees of the RTE Act, 2009. Criticism then becomes leadership.

(e) Values upheld: integrity, consistency of thought and action, honesty, moral courage, accountability and social justice, the ideals of UP's own socialist thinker Ram Manohar Lohia.

2018 · Q16 · Persuasive communication and mass attitude change

QUESTION 2018 · Q16 · 12 marks

Explain the importance of persuasive communication in changing attitudes of the masses.

Persuasive communication is a deliberate message meant to change beliefs, attitudes or behaviour through reason and appeal, without force. Aristotle named its three tools: *ethos* (credibility of the speaker), *pathos* (emotion) and *logos* (logic).

How it works

- **Yale model (Carl Hovland):** success depends on the **source** (credible, likeable), the **message** (clear, with fear appeals that also show a solution), the **channel** (TV, radio, social media, face to face) and the **audience** (age, education, prior beliefs).
- **Elaboration Likelihood Model (Petty and Cacioppo):** involved audiences are moved by strong arguments (central route); others by cues such as celebrities and repetition (peripheral route). Central-route change lasts longer.

Importance in changing mass attitudes

1. **Voluntary compliance:** laws alone cannot end open defecation, dowry or female foeticide; changed minds can.
2. **Public health:** the Pulse Polio campaign ("Do Boond Zindagi Ki") used celebrities, and in western UP religious leaders helped overcome resistance to polio drops.
3. **Social reform:** Swachh Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and the "Give It Up" LPG campaign, in which millions of households gave up their subsidy.
4. **Democratic legitimacy:** persuasion respects autonomy, unlike coercion.
5. **Crisis communication:** clear, trusted messages stop rumours during riots, floods or epidemics.
6. **Local messengers:** ASHA workers, teachers and gram pradhans carry messages in the local idiom.

Ethical limits: persuasion must be truthful and leave people free to choose; misinformation or manipulation turns it into propaganda.

Conclusion: Persuasion is the bridge between policy and people. In a diverse state like UP, trusted messengers, local language and honest facts make it work.

2018 · Q17 · Emotional intelligence as a social skill

QUESTION 2018 · Q17 · 12 marks

"Emotional Intelligence is essentially not a theoretical notion but a multidimensional social skill." Explain.

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to recognise, understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others. Salovey and Mayer introduced the idea in 1990, and Daniel Goleman popularised it in his 1995 book.

Why it is a social skill, not mere theory

- EI shows itself in **behaviour**: how we handle anger, stress, conflict and other people.
- It can be **learned and improved** through practice, feedback and training.
- Reuven Bar-On calls it "emotional-social intelligence".
- Its value lies in **relationships**: teamwork, leadership, negotiation and care.

Dimensions (Goleman)

1. **Self-awareness:** knowing one's moods, strengths and triggers.
2. **Self-regulation:** controlling impulses and staying calm under pressure.
3. **Motivation:** inner drive and optimism despite setbacks.
4. **Empathy:** sensing others' feelings and needs.
5. **Social skills:** communication, influence, conflict management and team building.

Mayer and Salovey's ability model groups these as perceiving, using, understanding and managing emotions.

Many dimensions at work together

- A district magistrate calming a tense crowd uses self-control, empathy and persuasion at the same moment.
- A doctor breaking bad news gently, or a teacher noticing a withdrawn student, uses the same skills.
- Managing the crowds of the Prayagraj Kumbh requires calm coordination of many agencies.

Evaluation: EI does have a theoretical base and tests (MSCEIT, EQ-i), but its worth lies in daily use. Without integrity, it can become manipulation.

Conclusion: EI is a practical, learnable, many-sided social competence, which is why civil-service training increasingly stresses it.

2018 · Q18 · Integrity, impartiality, objectivity, non-partisanship

QUESTION 2018 · Q18 · 12 marks

Integrity, Impartiality, Objectivity, Non-partisanship — relevance in civil service.

These are the **foundational values** of the civil service. They decide whether citizens trust the State.

1. Integrity: consistency between values, words and actions, and honesty in money, advice and conduct.

- **Relevance:** it is the base of trust; without it the other values collapse. S. Manjunath, an Indian Oil officer, was killed in Lakhimpur Kheri (UP) in 2005 for sealing a pump selling adulterated fuel, a reminder of its price and value.

2. Impartiality: treating all citizens equally, without favour or prejudice of caste, religion, class or gender.

- **Relevance:** Article 14 requires it; it matters in recruitment, policing, relief distribution and law and order during communal tension.

3. Objectivity: decisions based on facts, evidence and merit, not on feelings or pressure.

- **Relevance:** evidence-based policy, fair inquiries, honest reports and data-driven planning.

4. Non-partisanship: serving the government of the day loyally without favouring any party.

- **Relevance:** governments change but the civil service is permanent; neutrality ensures continuity and free and fair elections. Conduct rules bar officers from political activity.

Evaluation

- **Strengths:** these values make administration fair, predictable and trusted, and curb corruption and politicisation.
- **Challenges:** political pressure and frequent transfers, caste and community loyalties, and fear of personal loss.
- **Balance:** impartiality is not indifference. Special care for weaker sections under Articles 15(4) and 46 is constitutional fairness, not partiality.

Conclusion: Fixed tenure and civil services boards (*T.S.R. Subramanian v. Union of India*, 2013), police reforms (*Prakash Singh*, 2006) and value-based training help keep these values alive.

2018 · Q19 · Attitudes as the result of experiences

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q19 · 12 marks
>
> **"Attitudes are the result of experiences." Explain & evaluate factors responsible for attitude formation.**

An **attitude** is a learned, fairly lasting evaluation of an object, person or idea. The statement stresses that most attitudes are **learned from experience**, not inborn.

Factors in attitude formation

1. **Direct experience:** a citizen helped by an honest official develops a positive attitude to government. Attitudes formed this way are strong and stable.
2. **Classical conditioning:** repeated pairing with pleasant or unpleasant feelings; advertisements pair products with joy.
3. **Operant conditioning:** praise or punishment strengthens an attitude; a child praised for sharing comes to value it.
4. **Observational learning (Bandura):** copying parents, teachers and role models.
5. **Mere exposure (Zajonc):** familiarity breeds liking.
6. **Family and socialisation:** the first and deepest source; caste or gender attitudes often begin at home.
7. **Education, peers, religion and culture:** they supply values and group norms.
8. **Mass and social media:** framing, repetition and echo chambers.
9. **Personality and heredity:** twin studies suggest some attitudes have a partial genetic basis.
10. **Self-perception and dissonance:** we infer attitudes from our own behaviour (Bem) and adjust them to reduce inner conflict (Festinger).

Evaluation of the statement

- **Largely true:** most factors above are forms of direct or indirect experience. That is also why new experience can change attitudes; Allport's contact hypothesis shows that contact between groups reduces prejudice.
- **But not fully:** many attitudes form without personal experience, through hearsay and stereotypes, and temperament and reasoning also play a part.

Conclusion: Attitudes are mainly products of experience in the broad sense. For administrators this means that good experiences of service delivery build public trust, and field exposure builds positive attitudes in officers.

2018 · Q20 · RTI case: disclosing one's own wrong decision

> **QUESTION** 2018 · Q20 · 12 marks · Case study
>
> **A PIO receives an RTI application and after collecting the required information, he finds that it pertains to wrong decisions taken by him with involvement of other staff. Disclosure may cause disciplinary and punitive action against him & colleagues. Non-disclosure or partial disclosure may save him. He is honest & duty-bound but the decision was wrong. What advice would you give him? Justify logically.**

(a) Facts and stakeholders: a Public Information Officer (PIO) finds that the information sought would expose wrong decisions taken by him and his colleagues. Stakeholders: the PIO, his colleagues, the applicant, the department and the public.

(b) Ethical issues

- **Conflict of interest:** the PIO decides a request about his own conduct.
- **Self-protection vs duty** of transparency under law.
- **Loyalty to colleagues vs public interest.**
- **Honesty:** an honest error becomes dishonesty if it is hidden.

(c) Options

1. **Deny or give partial information:** may help now, but no exemption in Section 8 protects officers from embarrassment. Under Section 20, refusing without reasonable cause or knowingly giving incomplete or misleading information attracts a penalty of Rs 250 a day (up to Rs 25,000) and a recommendation for disciplinary action. Appeals may expose the truth anyway, turning a mistake into misconduct.
2. **Delay the reply:** breaches the 30-day limit of Section 7, with the same risks.
3. **Disclose fully and own the error:** legally correct and ethically right; the risk of action for the original decision remains.

(d) My advice: option 3, handled wisely

- Give complete and accurate information within the time limit.
- Because of the conflict of interest, inform his superior in writing and request that another officer or the senior officer oversee the reply.
- Report the wrong decisions to the competent authority himself, explain that they were bona fide errors without corrupt motive, and propose corrective steps.
- An honest error of judgment is generally treated more leniently than concealment, and voluntary admission is a strong mitigating factor.
- Encourage colleagues to cooperate; a truth admitted is easier to defend than a cover-up discovered.

(e) Values upheld: integrity, honesty, transparency, accountability, rule of law and moral courage. Gandhi compared confession of error to a broom that leaves the surface cleaner.

Conclusion: The RTI Act exists so that such errors come to light and systems improve. An honest officer protects his honesty best by disclosing.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> RTI Act 2005: Section 7 (30 days; 48 hours for life and liberty) · Section 8 (exemptions) · Section 8(2) (public interest override) · Section 20 (penalty Rs 250 per day, up to Rs 25,000).

2019

2019 · Q1 · Ethics and its role in human life

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q1 · 8 marks
>
> **What is ethics? Explain its role in human life.**

Ethics (from the Greek *ethos*, character) is the branch of philosophy that studies right and wrong, good and bad, and duty in human conduct. It has three branches: **normative ethics** (what we ought to do), **meta-ethics** (the meaning of moral terms) and **applied ethics** (issues such as euthanasia, business or public service).

Role in human life

1. **Guides conduct:** it gives standards for choosing right over wrong, especially in dilemmas.
2. **Builds character:** virtues such as honesty and courage become habits (Aristotle).
3. **Gives meaning:** Aristotle linked ethics to *eudaimonia* (flourishing); Indian thought places *dharma* first among the four *purusharthas*.
4. **Social harmony:** trust and cooperation rest on shared ethics; without order, said Hobbes, life would be "nasty, brutish and short".
5. **Base of law and governance:** law codifies minimum ethics, and ethics guides where law is silent.
6. **Professional life:** codes of ethics for doctors, judges and civil servants protect the public.
7. **Inner peace:** a clear conscience frees one from guilt.

Conclusion: Ethics turns knowledge and power into a force for good. Gandhi counted "knowledge without character" and "science without humanity" among the social sins.

2019 · Q2 · Strengthening moral values and character building

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q2 · 8 marks
>
> **What is the process of strengthening the moral values? Whether strengthening of moral values help in character building? Discuss.**

Moral values are beliefs about right conduct, such as honesty, compassion and fairness. They are learned, so they can be strengthened.

Process of strengthening

1. **Socialisation:** family, school and peers model and reward good conduct; children learn by imitation.
2. **Role models and stories:** lives of Gandhi or Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Panchatantra and the epics.
3. **Practice and habit:** Aristotle said we become just by doing just acts.
4. **Reflection:** self-examination (*swadhyaya*) and discussion of dilemmas raise moral reasoning (Kohlberg's stages).
5. **Reinforcement:** praise and recognition, with fair consequences for wrongdoing.
6. **Value education:** the Kothari Commission (1964–66) stressed moral education.
7. **Good company and service:** *satsang*, meditation and community service.

Does it help character building? Yes. Character is the stable pattern of a person's values and habits, so firm values produce consistent conduct under temptation. Swami Vivekananda called for "man-making" education for this reason.

But knowing is not doing: weakness of will and a corrupt environment can defeat values. Values need supportive institutions.

Conclusion: Strong moral values are the raw material of character; practice and environment shape it.

2019 · Q3 · Short notes: duties of a public servant; RTI and public interest

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q3 · 8 marks
>
> **Write short notes on: A) Ethical responsibilities of public servant. B) Public interest and the right to information.**

A) Ethical responsibilities of a public servant

A public servant holds power in trust for the people. His duties include:

- **Integrity and honesty** in money, advice and conduct.
- **Impartiality and political neutrality** towards all citizens.
- **Accountability** to the law, superiors, courts and the public.
- **Responsiveness and compassion**, especially towards weaker sections.
- **Avoiding conflict of interest** and misuse of official information.
- **Upholding the Constitution** and the rule of law, even under pressure.

These are reflected in the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 and the UP Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1956.

B) Public interest and the right to information

The RTI Act, 2005 makes information a citizen's right, because an informed public is the heart of democracy.

- **Section 4:** public authorities must proactively disclose key information.
- **Section 8(1):** limited exemptions, such as national security and personal information.
- **Section 8(1)(j):** personal information may be disclosed when a larger public interest justifies it.
- **Section 8(2):** even exempt information may be disclosed if the public interest outweighs the harm.

Thus **public interest** is the test for both disclosure and secrecy.

2019 · Q4 · Universal religion and its elements

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q4 · 8 marks
>
> **What is universal religion? Discuss its major elements.**

Universal religion is the idea that a common spiritual and moral core lies beneath all faiths and unites humanity beyond rituals, dogmas and sects. The Rigveda's "*Ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti*" (Truth is one; the wise call it by many names) expresses it. At the Chicago Parliament of Religions (1893), Swami Vivekananda said that Hindus do not merely tolerate but accept all religions as true.

Major elements

1. **One ultimate reality** behind many names and forms.
2. **Divinity in every being:** serving humans is serving God (the Ramakrishna–Vivekananda ideal of serving *jiva* as *Shiva*).
3. **Shared moral core:** truth, non-violence, love, compassion and self-control.
4. **Acceptance, not mere tolerance:** Ramakrishna's "as many faiths, so many paths".
5. **Harmony of paths:** Vivekananda wanted room for reason, devotion, meditation and work (*jnana, bhakti, raja* and *karma* yoga).

6. **Humanism:** Tagore's "Religion of Man" and Gandhi's *Sarva Dharma Sambhava*.

UP tradition: Kabir of Varanasi rejected the walls between Hindu and Muslim; Akbar's *Sulh-i-kul* grew from the Ibadat Khana debates at Fatehpur Sikri.

Conclusion: A universal religion of ethics and humanity is the best answer to bigotry and supports the constitutional value of fraternity.

2019 · Q5 · Non-Cooperation Movement: a philosophical view

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q5 · 8 marks
>
> **Consider the non-cooperation movement of Gandhi from the philosophical point of view.**

The **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22)**, launched after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and over the Khilafat issue, was also the application of a moral philosophy.

Philosophical foundations

1. **Non-cooperation with evil is a duty:** at his 1922 trial Gandhi said it is as much a duty as cooperation with good. Unjust rule rests on the people's cooperation; withdrawing it is a moral act (influenced by Thoreau and Tolstoy).
2. **Satyagraha and ahimsa:** resistance through truth-force and self-suffering, aiming to convert the opponent, not to defeat him.
3. **Purity of means:** when violence at **Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur, February 1922)** killed policemen, Gandhi called off the movement.
4. **Swaraj as self-rule:** boycott of foreign cloth, titles, courts and councils was also inner discipline and self-reliance (Swadeshi).
5. **Constructive work:** khadi, Hindu–Muslim unity, removal of untouchability and national institutions such as **Kashi Vidyapith (Varanasi)** and **Jamia Millia (founded at Aligarh)**.
6. **Moral awakening:** ordinary Indians lost their fear of the Raj.

Critique: the sudden withdrawal demoralised many, and the Khilafat link mixed religion with politics.

Conclusion: The movement showed that civil resistance grounded in truth and non-violence is a legitimate moral force.

2019 · Q6 · Democratic vs bureaucratic attitude

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q6 · 8 marks · also asked in 2022 (Q1)
>
> **Differentiate between democratic attitude and bureaucratic attitude of public servants.**

A **democratic attitude** sees the citizen as the master and the official as a servant. A **bureaucratic attitude** puts rules, hierarchy and procedure first.

Basis	Democratic attitude	Bureaucratic attitude
Focus	Citizens and outcomes	Rules and procedure
View of citizen	Partner, the real "master"	Applicant or "file number"
Decision style	Participative, consultative	Top-down, hierarchical
Accountability	To the people (RTI, social audit)	Upwards, to superiors
Flexibility	Adapts methods to needs	Rigid and risk-averse
Openness	Transparent	Secretive
Behaviour	Empathy, courtesy, responsiveness	Impersonal, status-conscious
Example	Grievance camps held in villages	"Come back tomorrow" red tape

Note: Max Weber's bureaucracy also has merits: impartiality, predictability and rule of law. The ideal is a blend, rule-based but citizen-friendly, as the 2nd ARC's report on citizen-centric administration urges.

Conclusion: Public servants should keep the discipline of bureaucracy and the spirit of democracy.

2019 · Q7 · Persuasion and public protest

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q7 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain the merits and demerits of persuasion in relation to public protest.**

Persuasion means changing people's views or actions through dialogue, reasoning and appeal instead of force. Peaceful protest is a democratic right under Article 19(1)(a) and (b).

Merits

- **Avoids violence:** prevents the injuries, deaths and damage that force brings.
- **Respects rights and dignity:** protesters are treated as citizens, not enemies.
- **Solves root causes:** dialogue brings out real grievances and lasting solutions.
- **Builds trust** in, and legitimacy of, the administration.
- **Example:** in 2020 the Supreme Court sent interlocutors to talk with the Shaheen Bagh protesters before ruling that public roads cannot be blocked indefinitely.

Demerits

- **Slow:** traffic, trade and services suffer meanwhile.
- **May fail** with violent, adamant or politically motivated groups.
- **May look like weakness** and encourage pressure tactics.
- **Risk of manipulation:** false promises or co-opting leaders.
- **Unsuitable** when life or property faces an immediate threat; the law then permits dispersal.

Conclusion: Persuasion should come first and force last, used lawfully and in proportion. Timely dialogue and fair redressal stop protests from turning violent.

2019 · Q8 · Transparency, accountability and courage of conviction

QUESTION 2019 · Q8 · 8 marks

Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil services: A) Transparency B) Accountability C) Courage of conviction

A) Transparency is openness in decisions, rules and use of resources, so that citizens can see what the government does and why.

- **Relevance:** it reduces corruption and arbitrariness and builds trust. Tools: the RTI Act, 2005 (Section 4 proactive disclosure), e-tendering, GeM and citizen charters.

B) Accountability is answerability for one's actions and their results, with consequences.

- **Relevance:** power without answerability breeds abuse. Mechanisms: the legislature, the CAG, courts, the Lokayukta, social audits (MGNREGA) and departmental inquiries.

C) Courage of conviction is the moral strength to act on one's principles despite pressure, threats or personal cost.

- **Relevance:** without it, honest officers bow to political or criminal pressure. S. Manjunath of Indian Oil was murdered in Lakhimpur Kheri (UP) in 2005 for sealing a pump selling adulterated fuel; T.N. Seshan enforced the model code of conduct firmly.
- **Caution:** conviction must rest on law and facts, not on ego.

Examination: the three reinforce one another. Transparency shows what is done, accountability makes officers answer for it, and courage makes them do the right thing.

Conclusion: Together they make the civil service trustworthy.

2019 · Q9 · Sexual violence against women: innovative measures

QUESTION 2019 · Q9 · 8 marks

We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences are increasing. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace.

Despite the Criminal Law (Amendment) Acts of 2013 and 2018, the POCSO Act, 2012 and the workplace sexual harassment law of 2013, reported sexual crimes keep rising. NCRB's *Crime in India* reports place UP among the states with the most crimes against women. Laws alone cannot change mindsets.

Innovative measures

1. **Education for respect:** gender-sensitivity and consent lessons in schools that address boys, not only girls.
2. **Safe public spaces:** lighting, CCTV and safety audits by women through mobile apps; Lucknow is among the Nirbhaya Fund's Safe City projects.
3. **Technology:** panic buttons in phones, GPS on public transport, the 112 emergency number and crime-hotspot mapping.
4. **Policing:** more women police, women help desks in every police station, UP's 1090 Women Power Line, and bystander training.
5. **Swift justice:** fast-track special courts, forensic evidence kits and the national sex-offender registry (2018).
6. **Victim support:** One Stop Centres (Sakhi), compensation and counselling.
7. **Community and media:** village women's committees and responsible portrayal of women.

Conclusion: Changing attitudes, not just laws, will make women's safety a shared responsibility (SDG 5).

2019 · Q10 · Ethical conduct vs unfair means

QUESTION 2019 · Q10 · 8 marks · Case study

You are an honest and responsible civil servant. You often observe the following:

- A) There is a general perception that adhering to ethical conduct may face difficulties to yourself and cause problem for the family, whereas unfair practices may help to reach the career goals.
- B) When the number of people adopting unfair means is large, a small minority having [inclination towards ethical means makes no difference.]

[Discuss the above] statements with their merits and demerits.

NOTE

The printed English is cut after "a small minority having". The Hindi version says that a small minority following ethical means makes no difference. The demand is taken as "Discuss the above statements with their merits and demerits", as the surviving words show.

Issue and stakeholders: integrity versus career self-interest, affecting the officer, his family, colleagues and citizens who depend on clean administration.

Statement A: ethics brings hardship, unfair means bring success

- **Merit:** honest officers do face frequent transfers, slow promotions and hostility (Ashok Khemka's many transfers in Haryana), while some corrupt officers seem to prosper.
- **Demerit:** such gains are short-lived and risky; vigilance cases, disgrace and guilt follow. Ethical conduct brings self-respect, public trust and peace of mind, and Gandhi taught that impure means corrupt the end.

Statement B: a small ethical minority makes no difference

- **Merit:** one honest person cannot change a corrupt system alone, and peer pressure is strong.
- **Demerit:** history disproves it. Moral change always begins with a few: Gandhi, whistle-blowers such as Satyendra Dubey, and officers who clean up offices. One honest link breaks a chain of corruption and inspires others.

My view: both statements are rationalisations. An honest civil servant should stay firm, use lawful channels (vigilance, RTI, the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014) and build alliances with like-minded colleagues. Integrity is a duty, not a career strategy.

Values: integrity, moral courage and perseverance.

2019 · Q11 · Religious bigotry and democratic progress

QUESTION 2019 · Q11 · 12 marks

"Religious bigotry has always been an obstacle for progress in any democratic country." Discuss.

Religious bigotry is intolerance of, and hostility towards, people of other faiths, joined to the belief that one's own faith alone is true. Democracy rests on liberty, equality and fraternity, so bigotry strikes at its roots.

How bigotry obstructs progress

1. **Weakens secularism and fraternity:** Articles 14, 15 and 25–28 lose meaning; in *S.R. Bommai* (1994) the Supreme Court held secularism part of the basic structure.
2. **Violence and insecurity:** riots such as Muzaffarnagar (2013) cost lives, displace families and leave lasting distrust.
3. **Polarised politics:** voting on identity instead of performance, hate speech and fake news.
4. **Economic loss:** curfews, lost investment and tourism, and resources diverted to security.
5. **Blocks reform and science:** it resists gender justice and rational thinking, against the scientific temper of Article 51A(h).
6. **Global evidence:** religious extremism has stunted democracy and growth in countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Is it "always" so? Religion itself is not the problem. Bhakti and Sufi saints like Kabir, Ashoka's Rock Edict XII on respect for all sects, Akbar's *Sulh-i-kul* at Fatehpur Sikri and Gandhi's *Sarva Dharma Sambhava* show that faith can unite. Only bigotry divides. The peaceful acceptance of the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict (November 2019) showed democratic maturity.

Way forward

- Inter-faith dialogue and value education.
- Firm, even-handed action against hate speech and rumour-mongering.
- Responsible media and social-media platforms.
- Promoting harmony as a fundamental duty under Article 51A(e).

Conclusion: Tolerance is the oxygen of democracy. A developed India and a prosperous UP need communal harmony as their foundation.

2019 · Q12 · Karl Marx's ideas and contemporary public services

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q12 · 12 marks
>
> **Examine the role of social and political ideas of Karl Marx in the field of contemporary public services.**

Karl Marx (1818–1883) saw history as **class struggle** between those who own the means of production and those who work. His key ideas are historical materialism, surplus value (exploitation of labour), alienation of workers, the State as an instrument of the ruling class, and a classless society in which the State withers away: "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs".

Influence on contemporary public services

1. **Welfare state:** concern for workers shaped minimum wages, social security, labour laws and the word "socialist" added to the Preamble by the 42nd Amendment (1976).
2. **Directive Principles:** Article 39(b) and (c) on distributing resources and preventing concentration of wealth; Article 43 on a living wage.
3. **Land reforms:** the UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 ended landlord exploitation.
4. **Need-based schemes:** MGNREGA, the public distribution system and free health care.
5. **Critique of bureaucracy:** Marx saw officials as serving the dominant class, a warning that public servants must serve the poor, not the powerful.
6. **Alienation at work:** modern personnel policy stresses meaningful, participative work.

UP's socialist thinkers, Acharya Narendra Dev and Ram Manohar Lohia, adapted these ideas to democratic and non-violent Indian conditions.

Limits

- Violent revolution and the "dictatorship of the proletariat" conflict with democracy and the rule of law.
- Command economies such as the Soviet Union suppressed liberty and efficiency.
- Public services need neutrality, merit and efficiency, not class partisanship.

Conclusion: Marx's concern for equity and the dignity of labour remains relevant, but within constitutional democracy and through peaceful, Gandhian means.

2019 · Q13 · Gita's Nishkam Karmayoga against depression and suicide

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q13 · 12 marks
>
> **How far Gita's Niskam Karmayoga can be helpful in preventing the increasing events of depression and suicide? Discuss.**

NCRB's reports on *Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India* record more than a lakh suicides every year, many among students, farmers and young workers. Common triggers are exam and career pressure, failure, debt, loneliness and family conflict.

Nishkam Karmayoga is the Gita's teaching of action without attachment to its fruits: "*Karmanye vadhikaraste ma phaleshu kadachana*" (2.47), you have a right to action, never to its fruits.

How it can help

1. **Less anxiety about results:** attention moves from marks, rank or profit to sincere effort, so failure stops being a verdict on one's worth.
2. **Equanimity (*samatvam*, 2.48):** treating success and failure alike builds emotional resilience.
3. **The *sthitaprajna* ideal:** a person of steady wisdom is not shaken by sorrow or desire.
4. **Purpose and duty (*svadharma*):** a sense of meaning counters hopelessness.
5. **A model of counselling:** the Gita opens with Arjuna's despair (*Arjuna Vishada Yoga*), and Krishna guides him through patient dialogue, not blame.
6. **Mastery of the mind:** practice (*abhyasa*) and detachment (*vairagya*) (6.35), supported by yoga and meditation.

How far? The limits

- Clinical depression is an illness; it needs medical care, not only philosophy.
- Misread, detachment can become passivity or bottled-up feelings.
- Social causes such as unemployment, debt and harassment need policy action.

Way forward: combine Gita-based value education and yoga in schools with counselling, helplines and the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, whose Section 115 presumes that a person who attempts suicide is under severe stress and needs care, not punishment.

Conclusion: Nishkam Karmayoga is a strong tool for prevention and resilience, but it works best alongside professional mental-health care.

2019 · Q14 · Seven principles of public life

QUESTION 2019 · Q14 · 12 marks

What are the seven principles of public life? Are they codes of conduct for civil servants? Evaluate.

The **Nolan Committee** (Committee on Standards in Public Life, UK, 1995) set out seven principles for all holders of public office:

1. **Selflessness:** act solely in the public interest.
2. **Integrity:** accept no obligation that may improperly influence official work; seek no gain for self, family or friends.
3. **Objectivity:** decide impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence.
4. **Accountability:** answer for decisions and accept scrutiny.
5. **Openness:** act openly; withhold information only for clear and lawful reasons.
6. **Honesty:** be truthful.
7. **Leadership:** show these principles in one's own conduct and challenge poor behaviour.

Are they a code of conduct?

- **A code of ethics rather than a code of conduct:** they are broad values that guide judgment. A code of conduct lists specific, enforceable rules, such as the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and the UP Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1956, on gifts, property returns and political activity.
- **Not directly enforceable:** a lapse in "leadership" or "selflessness" carries no fixed penalty unless a rule is broken.
- **But they underpin codes:** the UK's civil service and ministerial codes build on them. In India, the 2nd ARC's 4th Report (*Ethics in Governance*, 2007) drew on them, and the 2014 amendment to the AIS Conduct Rules added similar values, such as integrity, decisions on merit, impartiality and the public interest.

Evaluation: The seven principles are the spirit and conduct rules are the letter. Rules without principles produce mechanical compliance; principles without rules lack teeth.

Conclusion: India needs both, as the 2nd ARC proposed: a code of ethics, a code of conduct and an independent mechanism to enforce them.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Nolan principles (1995): Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, Leadership (mnemonic "SIO-AOHL").

2019 · Q15 · PCS interview vs a heart-attack victim

QUESTION 2019 · Q15 · 12 marks · Case study

You are trying to become a P.C.S. officer and after clearing various stages now you are eligible for the personal interview. While going to appear for the interview, you saw that an elderly man is going somewhere with his granddaughter. Suddenly he gets a heart attack in front of you. The granddaughter of the elderly man comes pleading for help. What will you do? Discuss in detail.

(a) Facts and stakeholders: on the way to my PCS interview, the last step of years of preparation, an elderly man collapses with a heart attack and his granddaughter begs me for help. Stakeholders: the man, whose life is at risk; the frightened child; his family; I and my family; and the Commission.

(b) Ethical issues

- **Saving a life vs my career goal.**
- **Compassion vs self-interest:** helping may make me late or make me miss the interview.
- **Bystander effect:** the temptation to assume someone else will help.
- **A test of character:** the empathy, courage and judgment the interview looks for are being tested here, in real life.

(c) Options

1. **Ignore him and go to the interview:** saves the career but is a moral failure. The first minutes after a heart attack are critical, and a person who walks past a dying man is unfit to be a public servant.
2. **Stay with him the whole day and skip the interview:** humane, but may be unnecessary once others can take over.
3. **Give immediate help, hand over responsibly, then try to reach the interview:** balances both duties.

(d) My course of action: option 3, with life as the first priority

- Call the 108 ambulance (or 112) and ask bystanders to help.
- Make him lie down, loosen tight clothing and, if he becomes unresponsive and stops breathing normally, give chest compressions as the helpline guides.
- If the ambulance is delayed, take him to the nearest hospital, comfort the granddaughter and inform the family or police.
- Once he is in safe hands, rush to the venue, tell the Commission the true reason for the delay and request consideration.
- If I still miss the interview, I will accept it calmly. There will be another attempt; a lost life cannot be restored.

(e) Values upheld: compassion, sanctity of life, presence of mind, courage, honesty (no exaggeration of the reason) and service before self, the very values a PCS officer must carry.

Conclusion: The real interview of a civil servant happens on the road, not only in the board room.

2019 · Q16 · Poverty, greed and the causes of corruption

QUESTION 2019 · Q16 · 12 marks

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 main causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. The belief that poverty causes it is only half true.

Need vs greed

- **Need-based (petty) corruption:** a low-paid clerk or constable takes small bribes to meet family needs. Poverty, low pay and insecurity play a part here.
- **Greed-based (grand) corruption:** the rich and powerful commit far bigger frauds, for example the Satyam accounting fraud (2009), the fodder scam in Bihar, in which senior politicians were convicted, the PNB fraud exposed in 2018, in which jeweller Nirav Modi is the main accused, and the misuse of NRHM funds in UP investigated by the CBI. None of those involved was poor.

So greed, opportunity and impunity explain corruption better than poverty. Kautilya observed that it is as hard for an official not to taste public money as for the tongue not to taste honey placed on it.

Main causes

1. **Moral:** greed, consumerism and a decline of values such as contentment and honesty.
2. **Economic:** low salaries at lower levels; huge gains from licences, contracts and land.
3. **Administrative:** monopoly and wide discretion with weak accountability. Robert Klitgaard's formula: Corruption = Monopoly + Discretion − Accountability. Complex procedures create "speed money".
4. **Political:** costly elections, opaque funding and the nexus of politicians, officials and business.
5. **Legal:** slow trials, low conviction rates and weak protection for whistle-blowers.
6. **Social:** tolerance of corruption, gift culture, pressure to favour kin and caste, and respect for wealth whatever its source.

Remedies: value education, e-governance and DBT to cut discretion, Lokpal and Lokayukta, fast courts, transparent political funding and social disapproval of the corrupt.

Conclusion: Corruption is less a problem of poverty than of character and systems. Ethics and strong institutions together can tackle both need and greed.

2019 · Q17 · Empathy in public services

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q17 · 12 marks
>
> **Is there any role of empathy in public services? Explain your views with suitable example.**

Empathy is the ability to understand and share another person's feelings from his point of view, "standing in his shoes". It differs from sympathy, which is pity felt from a distance. A Hindi proverb says that only one whose own feet have cracked knows another's pain.

Role in public services

1. **Citizen-centred design:** officers who understand the hardship of the poor design simpler forms, doorstep services and local-language communication.
2. **Better grievance redressal:** patient listening reduces anger and builds trust; public hearings at tehsil and district level work only when officers really listen.
3. **Inclusion of the vulnerable:** women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, SCs and STs, and transgender persons need sensitive handling (Article 46).
4. **Conflict resolution:** understanding the fears of protesters helps settle land, labour and communal disputes peacefully.
5. **Disasters and health crises:** relief that respects dignity, with food, shelter and counselling, not just numbers.
6. **Team leadership:** understanding subordinates' problems raises morale.

Examples

- Armstrong Pame (IAS) felt the isolation of remote villagers and built the "People's Road" in Manipur with public donations.
- *Operation Sulaimani* in Kozhikode gave free meals to the hungry through coupons, protecting their dignity.
- Gandhi's talisman asks an official to recall the poorest person before any decision.

Limits: empathy must not become favouritism or emotional decision-making; it should work within the law and impartiality, and officers need support against burnout.

Conclusion: Empathy turns administration from a rule-bound machine into a humane service, the essence of "citizen first" governance.

2019 · Q18 · Utility of emotional intelligence in administration

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q18 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the utility of emotional Intelligence in administration.**

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to perceive, understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others (Salovey and Mayer, 1990; Goleman, 1995). Goleman's five components are self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills.

Utility in administration

1. **Decisions under stress:** a calm officer decides wisely during riots, floods or law-and-order crises instead of panicking.
2. **Handling pressure:** self-regulation helps resist political pressure, criticism and provocation without anger.
3. **Public dealing:** empathy and courtesy in grievance hearings make citizens feel respected, even when the answer is "no".
4. **Leadership and teamwork:** reading subordinates' moods and needs builds morale; EI leaders motivate rather than command.
5. **Conflict resolution and negotiation:** in land acquisition, labour disputes or protests, understanding emotions helps find common ground.
6. **Crisis communication:** calming public fear and countering rumours, for example during epidemics.
7. **Ethical conduct:** self-awareness helps officers notice their own biases, temptations and conflicts of interest.
8. **Personal well-being:** EI prevents burnout and supports work–life balance.

Example: the smooth conduct of the Prayagraj Kumbh 2019, with many departments and huge crowds, needed coordination, patience and calm communication, which are all EI skills.

Limits: EI without integrity can become manipulation; it supports, but does not replace, rules and professional skill.

Conclusion: IQ may get an officer into the service, but EI decides how well he serves. Training institutions, including the Uttar Pradesh Academy of Administration and Management in Lucknow, should make EI training central.

2019 · Q19 · Factors shaping attitudes towards social problems

> **QUESTION** 2019 · Q19 · 12 marks · also asked in 2021 (Q18)
>
> **What factors influence the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? Support your answer with examples.**

An attitude towards a social problem, such as dowry, caste discrimination, child marriage, open defecation or pollution, is a person's learned evaluation of it and readiness to act on it.

Factors

1. **Family and early socialisation:** children absorb their parents' views; a home that practises caste discrimination or son preference passes it on.
2. **Education:** schooling and scientific temper weaken superstition and prejudice; educated parents are less likely to marry off daughters early.

3. **Religion, caste and culture:** customs may justify a practice or, as reformers showed, oppose it (Raja Ram Mohan Roy against sati).
4. **Peers and reference groups:** young people adopt their group's attitude to drugs, dowry or harassment.
5. **Personal experience:** a family that loses a member in a road accident takes road safety seriously; drought-hit farmers come to value water conservation.
6. **Mass and social media:** the film *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*, set in UP, spread awareness of sanitation, while fake news can spread hatred.
7. **Economic interest:** those who gain from a practice, such as child or bonded labour, resist change.
8. **Law and policy:** laws reshape norms over time, for example the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and the 2019 law against instant triple talaq.
9. **Role models and leaders:** Gandhi on untouchability; local leaders and celebrities in Swachh Bharat and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
10. **Contact with other groups:** Allport's contact hypothesis holds that working together reduces prejudice.

Conclusion: Attitudes towards social problems grow from many interacting sources. Lasting change therefore needs education, law, persuasion and role models working together, a key lesson for reformers and administrators.

2019 · Q20 · Meenu's case: the attitude–behaviour gap

QUESTION 2019 · Q20 · 12 marks · Case study

Meenu keeps telling her friends that she is fond of social service. Her friends notice that she, however, does not participate in any social welfare activities. One of her friends' father is associated with a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and he frequently organises social welfare activities such as free distribution of clothes and medicines to the poor segments of the society. Meenu's friend asked her many times to contribute some time for that NGO but Meenu showed no interest. What probable explanations can be given for Meenu's conduct? Justify psychologically.

(a) Facts and stakeholders: Meenu says she loves social service but never takes part, even when invited to the welfare drives of a friend's father's NGO. Stakeholders: Meenu, her friends, the NGO and the poor it serves.

(b) The core issue is the **attitude–behaviour gap**: a stated attitude that does not appear in action. Richard LaPiere's 1934 study showed it: most hotels and restaurants that had served a Chinese couple later said, in a survey, that they would refuse Chinese guests.

(c) Probable explanations, justified psychologically

1. **Weak or shallow attitude:** her liking may be only cognitive ("social service is good"), without strong feeling or commitment. Weak attitudes predict behaviour poorly.
2. **Impression management:** she may express the attitude to look good among friends (Erving Goffman; social desirability).
3. **Theory of Planned Behaviour (Icek Ajzen):** behaviour depends on attitude plus **subjective norms** (her family may discourage her) and **perceived behavioural control** (lack of time, money or confidence).
4. **General vs specific attitude:** a general liking for "social service" does not predict this specific act (distributing clothes with this NGO). Attitudes predict best when both are specific.
5. **Competing priorities:** studies, career or leisure may rank higher.
6. **Personality:** shyness, introversion or discomfort with crowds and poverty.
7. **Distrust or different preference:** she may doubt the NGO or prefer another form of service, such as teaching.
8. **Cognitive dissonance (Leon Festinger):** she may reduce the discomfort with excuses ("I will join later") instead of changing her behaviour.

(d) How to bridge the gap

- Friends should talk to her without ridicule and find out her real constraint.
- Offer a small, specific and convenient task first (the *foot-in-the-door* technique).
- Let her choose a form of service that suits her skills; a positive experience will turn a verbal attitude into a real one.

(e) Values involved: integrity (consistency of word and deed), sincerity, empathy and social responsibility.

Conclusion: Meenu need not be judged a hypocrite. Her case shows that an attitude guides behaviour only when it is strong, specific and supported by the situation.

2020

2020 · Q1 · Family, society and schools in value formation

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Discuss the role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

Values are lasting beliefs about what is good and worth pursuing, such as honesty, respect and justice. They are not inborn but learnt through **socialisation**, in which three agencies work together.

1. Family: the first school

- Children learn by **imitation**: parents' conduct teaches more than their advice (Albert Bandura's social learning theory).
- Stories, festivals and daily routines teach sharing, care for elders and self-discipline. Gandhi traced his love of vows and fasting to his mother Putlibai.

2. Society: the wider classroom

- Peer groups, religion, neighbourhood, media and role models approve some conduct and shame other conduct.
- The *Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb* of Awadh teaches pluralism, while normalised dowry or caste prejudice teaches the opposite. Society can strengthen or undo what the home teaches.

3. Educational institutions: the planned influence

- Teachers act as role models; assemblies, NSS, NCC and sports build discipline, teamwork and fair play.
- NEP 2020 stresses ethical reasoning and constitutional values; science teaching builds scientific temper (Article 51A(h)).

Challenges: nuclear families with little time, screen addiction and marks-centred schooling.

Conclusion: values take root when home, community and school send the same message. Such citizens are the human capital that *Viksit Bharat @2047* needs.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Primary socialisation (family) · secondary (school, peers) · tertiary (media, workplace) · Bandura: learning by observation · NEP 2020 · Article 51A(h).

2020 · Q2 · RTI and transparency in governance

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Discuss the role of 'Right to Information' for transparency in governance.

The **Right to Information Act, 2005** (in force from 12 October 2005) turned the "right to know", which the Supreme Court had read into Article 19(1)(a) in *State of U.P. v. Raj Narain* (1975), into a working legal right.

How RTI promotes transparency

- **Proactive disclosure:** Section 4 requires public authorities to publish their functions, budgets, norms and decisions.
- **Time-bound access:** information within 30 days, and within 48 hours where life or liberty is involved.
- **Exposing corruption:** the MKSS's public hearings in Rajasthan exposed fake muster rolls; RTI now powers social audits of MGNREGA and ration records.
- **Accountability:** Information Commissions, including the UP State Information Commission, hear appeals and can fine a defaulting PIO ₹250 a day, up to ₹25,000.
- **Empowering the poor:** a citizen can track a pending pension or ration-card file, which reduces "speed money".

Limits: pendency in the commissions, weak suo motu disclosure, attacks on activists, and the RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019, which lets the Centre fix commissioners' tenure and pay, raising doubts about their autonomy.

Conclusion: as Justice Louis Brandeis put it, sunlight is the best disinfectant. Strong commissions, digitised records and protection for activists will keep RTI a pillar of accountable institutions (SDG 16).

2020 · Q3 · Prosecution sanction: shield or safeguard?

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

"The requirement of government sanction for prosecuting the dishonest officials is a protective shield for corruption." Examine the statement.

Prior sanction is needed to prosecute a public servant under **Section 197 CrPC** (now Section 218 of the BNSS, 2023) for acts done in official duty, and under **Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988**. The 2018 amendment added **Section 17A**, which requires prior approval even to inquire into an official decision.

Why the safeguard exists

- It shields honest officers from frivolous or vindictive complaints.
- It allows bold decisions and avoids "policy paralysis".

Why it is called a shield for corruption

- **Delay:** requests lie pending for months as evidence fades.
- **Conflict of interest:** the sanctioning authority is often the same department or political executive.
- **Selective use:** refused for favourites, granted against inconvenient officers.
- **Section 17A** extends cover to the investigation stage.

Checks: *Vineet Narain* (1997) struck down the "Single Directive"; *Subramanian Swamy v. Director, CBI* (2014) struck down Section 6A of the DSPE Act; the 2018 amendment asks for a decision within three months (extendable by one); trap arrests need no approval.

Conclusion: sanction shields honest decisions and becomes a shield for corruption only when delayed or misused. Deemed sanction after the time limit, reasons for refusal and independent sanctioning (Lokpal, Lokayukta) would restore the balance.

2020 · Q4 · Impartiality and commitment

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Discuss the following in the context of civil services. (A) Impartiality (B) Commitment

(A) Impartiality means deciding on merit and law alone, without favour or prejudice based on caste, religion, gender, region or party. It flows from Articles 14–16, and the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, as amended in 2014, ask officers to act with fairness and impartiality and to stay politically neutral.

- **Why it matters:** equal treatment builds trust in a diverse state such as Uttar Pradesh, where caste and communal pressures are strong.
- **In practice:** neutral conduct of elections (T.N. Seshan's enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct), merit-based selection of beneficiaries and even-handed policing during communal tension.

(B) Commitment is dedication to constitutional values, public welfare and one's duty, beyond routine compliance.

- **Commitment to what?** The 1970s debate on a "committed bureaucracy" settled that it must be to the Constitution and the people, not to a party or leader.
- **In practice:** E. Sreedharan's delivery of the Delhi Metro ahead of schedule; frontline officers who served through COVID-19.

How they relate: impartiality without commitment becomes indifference; commitment without impartiality becomes partisanship. A civil servant should be **neutral but not passive**.

Conclusion: together they keep the civil service a steel frame of fairness and service.

2020 · Q5 · Case study: bribe-taker let off with a warning

QUESTION 2020 · Q5 · 8 marks · Case study

An employee was taking a bribe in his office. His officer caught him red-handed. The officer knows that if he is dismissed from his job, his old parents will become homeless and destitute. Therefore, the officer left him with a warning only. Imagine that you are the same officer. What will you do in these situations? Discuss in detail.

Stakeholders: the employee, his dependent parents, the citizen who paid, me (the officer), the department and public trust.

Dilemma: compassion for the family versus the duty to uphold the law. A mere warning is *misplaced compassion*: it hides an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, makes me complicit and tells other staff that corruption is safe.

Option	Merit	Demerit
Warn and forgive	Family protected	Illegal; rewards corruption
Dismiss on the spot	Looks firm	Arbitrary; no due process (Article 311)
Report and follow due process	Lawful, fair	Family may suffer

My course of action

1. Record the facts, keep the money as evidence and report to the vigilance cell or disciplinary authority; get the citizen's work done on merit.
2. Suspend the employee pending a fair inquiry; the competent authority decides a proportionate penalty.
3. Show compassion within the law: subsistence allowance during suspension, help for the parents to get old-age pension and other welfare benefits, and counselling.

Values: integrity, rule of law and impartiality. By Kant's test, if every officer forgave bribery for family reasons, the law would collapse; compassion must work within duty, not against it.

2020 · Q6 · Applying emotional intelligence in administration

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? Explain.

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to perceive, understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others. The idea came from Salovey and Mayer (1990) and was popularised by Daniel Goleman (1995) through five components. I would apply each in administration:

1. **Self-awareness:** notice my own anger, fatigue or bias before deciding, and postpone a decision taken in irritation.
2. **Self-regulation:** stay calm before an angry crowd or a pressuring politician; respond firmly but without insult.
3. **Motivation:** keep working for long-term goals despite transfers or lack of praise, and lift the morale of staff.
4. **Empathy:** at tehsil grievance days and on UP's IGRS (Jansunwai) portal, listen patiently to widows, the disabled and the poor, and look beyond the form to the need.
5. **Social skills:** negotiate with protesting farmers or traders, coordinate departments during the Kumbh or floods, give credit to the team and communicate clearly with the media.

Example: during the 2020 lockdown, officers who combined firmness with empathy for migrant workers won far better compliance than those who relied on force alone.

Conclusion: EI turns rules into humane and effective administration. It must rest on integrity; otherwise it becomes manipulation.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Goleman's five: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, social skills · Salovey and Mayer (1990).

2020 · Q7 · Public servant and aptitude for civil services

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

What do you understand by the term 'Public Servant'? What kind of aptitude is considered important for the civil services? Explain.

Public servant: a person who holds a public office, performs public duties, is paid from public funds and is answerable to the people. Section 21 of the IPC (now in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023) and Section 2(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 define it broadly: government employees, judges, staff of local and public-sector bodies, and anyone authorised to perform a public duty. Ethically, a public servant is a **trustee** of public power.

Aptitude is the natural or acquired capacity to learn and perform a task well. Important aptitudes for the civil services:

1. **Analytical and decision-making ability:** read data, weigh options and decide under uncertainty.
2. **Leadership and management:** plan, coordinate departments and handle crises such as floods or the Kumbh.
3. **Communication and persuasion:** explain policies to citizens, media and elected representatives.
4. **Emotional and interpersonal skills:** empathy, stress tolerance and team-building.
5. **Moral aptitude:** the ability to see the ethical side of a choice and the courage to act on it.
6. **Adaptability:** learning new technology and laws.

Conclusion: aptitude must be joined with a service-minded attitude, because ability without values can be misused.

2020 · Q8 · Tolerance vs compassion; attitude vs aptitude

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Differentiate between the following. (A) Tolerance and Compassion (B) Attitude and Aptitude (C)

NOTE

The English text ends with a stray "(C)" and no third pair. The Hindi version has only two pairs, so two are answered.

(A) Tolerance and compassion

Basis	Tolerance	Compassion
Meaning	Accepting beliefs, practices or views unlike one's own, without hostility	Feeling another's suffering with a wish to relieve it
Nature	Mostly restraint	Active; moves one to help
Concerned with	Diversity and dissent	Suffering and need
Example	Allowing a peaceful protest against one's own order	Arranging food and shelter for flood victims

(B) Attitude and aptitude

Basis	Attitude	Aptitude
Meaning	Learned tendency to evaluate a person, object or idea favourably or unfavourably	Natural or acquired potential to learn and perform a task
Make-up	Cognitive, affective and behavioural parts	Abilities such as reasoning, numerical or verbal skill
Question	*Will* one do it?	*Can* one do it?
Change	Changes with experience and persuasion	Fairly stable; sharpened by training
Example	Pro-poor outlook of an officer	Skill in data analysis

Conclusion: tolerance avoids harm while compassion does good; aptitude decides what one can do, attitude what one will do. A civil servant needs all four.

2020 · Q9 · Tolerance and compassion towards weaker sections

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

How do the values of tolerance and compassion get manifested in public service towards the weaker sections? Explain with suitable examples.

Weaker sections include Scheduled Castes and Tribes, women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, minorities and the poor. Article 46 directs the State to promote their interests and protect them from injustice; tolerance and compassion turn this directive into daily conduct.

Tolerance shows itself as

- **Patience:** explaining procedures to an illiterate applicant instead of rejecting a form for small errors.
- **Respect for diversity:** handling forest-rights claims of tribes such as the Tharu of UP's Terai with regard for their customs.
- **Acceptance of dissent:** letting marginalised groups protest peacefully, and listening to them.
- **Non-discrimination:** no caste or religious bias in ration, housing or policing.

Compassion shows itself as

- **Outreach:** camps for disability certificates and pensions; doorstep ration for the very old.
- **Humane enforcement:** rehabilitation before eviction; relaxed rules during disasters.
- **Examples:** community kitchens and transport for migrant workers in the 2020 lockdown; IAS officer Armstrong Pame's crowd-funded "People's Road" in remote Manipur; women help desks in UP police stations under Mission Shakti.

Conclusion: Gandhi's talisman, recalling the poorest person before every decision, is the best test of both values.

2020 · Q10 · Persuasive communication and attitude change

QUESTION 2020 · 8 marks

Explain the importance of persuasive communication in attitudinal change.

Persuasion is the use of communication, not force, to change beliefs, attitudes or behaviour. Carl Hovland's Yale studies showed that its effect depends on the **source** (credibility, likeability), the **message** (rational or emotional, one- or two-sided), the **audience** and the **channel**. Petty and Cacioppo's *Elaboration Likelihood Model* adds that change through reasoning (the central route) lasts longer than change through cues such as celebrities (the peripheral route).

Why it matters

1. **Lasting change:** coercion brings only compliance; persuasion leads to internalisation.
2. **Democratic and low-cost:** it respects autonomy and needs less policing.
3. **Social reform:** Gandhi used moral persuasion against untouchability; Swachh Bharat changed attitudes to open defecation.
4. **Public health:** in western UP, resistance to polio drops was overcome by enlisting religious leaders and local mobilisers; India was certified polio-free in 2014.
5. **Administration:** officers persuade villagers to give land for roads or to accept vaccination.

Conditions for success: a credible messenger, local language, empathy, repetition and two-way dialogue.

Conclusion: persuasion must stay truthful; manipulation and propaganda destroy the trust on which attitude change depends.

2020 · Q11 · Probity and its philosophical basis

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks

What is the probity? Explain clearly the philosophical basis of probity in governance.

Probity (Latin *probitas*, uprightness) means strict adherence to integrity, honesty and fairness in public life. It is wider than the absence of bribery: it covers fair procedures, avoidance of conflict of interest and prudent use of public money. The Second ARC's fourth report, *Ethics in Governance* (2007), treats it as the base of good governance.

Philosophical basis

1. Indian thought

- **Rajadharma:** the ruler is bound by dharma. Kautilya held that the king's happiness lies in the happiness of his subjects, and listed some forty ways in which officials embezzle, with checks against them.
- **Bhagavad Gita:** *nishkama karma* (duty without greed for its fruits) and *lokasangraha* (work for the welfare of all).
- **Gandhi:** purity of ends and means, trusteeship of power and wealth, and the warning against "politics without principles", one of his seven social sins.

2. Western thought

- **Plato:** guardians were to hold no private property, so that private gain could not corrupt public duty.
- **Aristotle:** virtue ethics; good governance needs officials of good character.
- **Kant:** act from duty and never treat people merely as means, so office cannot be used for self.
- **Locke:** power is held in trust for the people; a breach of trust destroys legitimacy.
- **Utilitarians and Rawls:** public resources must serve the greatest good and be shared fairly.

3. Constitutional morality: the oath in the Third Schedule binds ministers to act "without fear or favour, affection or ill-will".

From philosophy to practice: conduct rules, declaration of assets, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, the UP Lokayukta, RTI, e-procurement on GeM and the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014.

Conclusion: probity is the moral capital of the State. Rooted in personal character and backed by institutions, it builds the public trust that *Viksit Bharat @2047* needs.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Probity = integrity + fair process + no conflict of interest · 2nd ARC 4th report "Ethics in Governance" (2007) · Kautilya: 40 ways of embezzlement · Locke: government as a trust.

2020 · Q12 · Five priority principles of a code of conduct

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **Which of the five principles of code of conduct will be given priority by you and why? Explain.**

> **NOTE**
> The English wording is unclear. The Hindi asks which **five** principles of a code of conduct you would give priority to, and why, so the answer chooses five and justifies the order.

A **code of conduct** is a set of enforceable rules on how officials must behave, such as the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 and the UP Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1956. Its value base is often drawn from the UK **Nolan Committee** (1995): selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. I would give priority to five:

1. **Integrity:** honesty in thought and action; no bribes or undue gifts, and declaration of any conflict of interest. It comes first because every other value collapses without it.
2. **Selflessness (public interest):** decisions solely in the public interest, never for self, family or friends. Gandhi's talisman is the test.
3. **Impartiality and political neutrality:** merit-based decisions and neutral conduct during elections, communal tension or caste conflict, real pressures in UP.
4. **Accountability with transparency:** reasoned written orders, open records, and answerability to courts, the legislature and citizens through RTI and social audits.
5. **Responsiveness and empathy towards weaker sections:** courteous, time-bound service and special care for the poor, women and the disabled (Article 46).

Why this order: the first two govern the officer's inner motives, the third his dealings with citizens, the fourth his procedures and the fifth the quality of delivery, so together they cover the whole cycle of public action. Where they clash, integrity and the law prevail, and empathy works within the law.

Example: an officer allotting PM Awas houses would refuse "recommendations" (integrity, impartiality), publish the list of beneficiaries (transparency) and help an illiterate widow complete her papers (empathy).

Conclusion: a code of conduct sets the minimum; character turns it into a living ethic. These five principles build the trust on which citizen-centric governance rests.

2020 · Q13 · Gita's Anasakti Yoga and civil servants

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **What is Gita's 'Anasakta Yoga'? What message does it provide to civil servants? Explain.**

Anasakti Yoga is the yoga of non-attached action taught in the Bhagavad Gita. Its core verse (2.47) says that one has a right to action alone, never to its fruits, and should not be attached to inaction either. Gandhi called his Gujarati rendering of the Gita *Anasaktiyoga* and wrote its introduction at Kausani in 1929.

Main ideas

- **Duty (svadharma):** do one's allotted work with full effort.
- **Detachment from results:** act without craving for reward or fear of loss.
- **Equanimity:** "*samatvam yoga uchyate*", evenness of mind in success and failure is yoga (2.48).
- **Sthitaprajna:** the person of steady wisdom, unmoved by desire, fear and anger.
- **Lokasangraha:** work for the welfare of the world, offered as *yajna*.

Message to civil servants

1. **Duty before reward:** serve with the same sincerity in a "minor" posting as in a prized one; do not chase postings or praise.
2. **Integrity:** freedom from greed removes the motive for corruption.
3. **Impartiality:** no attachment to kin, caste or party; decide on merit.
4. **Courage and calm:** stay steady under political pressure, frequent transfers or media criticism, and take bold, lawful decisions.
5. **Mental health:** less anxiety about outcomes means less stress and burnout.
6. **Service as worship:** public welfare, especially of the poorest, becomes the purpose of work.

A caution: *anasakti* is detachment from **personal gain**, not indifference to results for people. Civil servants remain accountable for outcomes, and the Gita itself rejects inaction.

Conclusion: non-attached but committed action gives the ideal of a selfless and fearless civil servant, and it complements modern codes of conduct.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Gita 2.47 (right to action, not to fruits) · 2.48 (samatvam yoga uchyate) · 3.20 (lokasangraha) · Gandhi's *Anasaktiyoga*, introduction written at Kausani (1929).

2020 · Q14 · Kant's duty for duty's sake

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
> **What is Kant's doctrine of 'duty for duty's sake'? What is the role of this principle in civil services? Discuss.**

Immanuel Kant (1724–1804), in the *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785), held that the only thing good without qualification is a **good will**. An act has moral worth only when it is done **from duty**, out of respect for the moral law, and not from inclination, fear or expected benefit. In his example, a shopkeeper who does not cheat a child only to protect his business acts *in accordance with* duty but not *from* duty.

The test of duty: the categorical imperative

- **Universal law:** act only on a maxim that you could will to become a universal law.
- **Humanity:** treat every person always as an end, never merely as a means.

- **Autonomy:** a rational person gives this law to himself; it is not imposed from outside.

Unlike hypothetical imperatives ("if you want X, do Y"), moral duties bind unconditionally.

Role in civil services

1. **Rule of law without exceptions:** if I cannot will that every officer favours relatives, I must not do so either.
2. **Human dignity:** no custodial torture, fake encounters or treating citizens as mere files and targets (Article 21).
3. **Integrity when unobserved:** honesty from conviction, not from fear of vigilance.
4. **Impartiality and consistency:** like cases are treated alike.
5. **Courage of conviction:** refusing illegal orders even at the cost of a transfer.
6. **Duty over career:** working sincerely in an unglamorous posting.

Limits: Kant's rigour can be inflexible (he would not lie even to a murderer looking for his victim), gives little help when duties conflict and ignores consequences, which public policy cannot ignore. It should be balanced with compassion and concern for outcomes.

Conclusion: like the Gita's *nishkama karma*, duty for duty's sake gives the civil servant a firm moral spine; tempered with empathy, it produces ethical governance.

2020 · Q15 · Case study: Dev Anand and the pensioner's cheques

QUESTION 2020 · Q15 · 12 marks · Case study

Dev Anand is working as Under Secretary in the Pension Department. One day, his friend Guru Dutta, an S.B.I. P.O., narrates the following incident:

1. For the last two years, a retired government employee Mr. Ashok Kumar is giving 30% of his monthly pension to Mrs. Bindu Chopra every month through a cheque.
2. I found that Mrs. Chopra happens to be the wife of Mr. Prem Chopra, a Section Officer in the pension office under you.
3. I feel something is fishy; may be this is part of a bribe scam, where a senior citizen is forced to pay money to clear his pension files from Prem Chopra and to submit bribes in his wife's account.

Dev Anand visits Mr. Ashok Kumar's home and finds that he is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, unable to give coherent answers. Frustrated, Dev Anand directly questions Prem Chopra, but Prem Chopra says, "Mr. Ashok Kumar was a friend of my father. He has no relatives and children, and my wife Bindu has been taking care of him like a daughter since a long time. Therefore Mr. Ashok Kumar gives us money out of goodwill, and so we can send our son to an expensive I.I.T. coaching at Kota, Rajasthan. Besides, this is a personal family matter and none of your damn business."

Do you think that Dev Anand has made a blunder or is he merely performing an ethical duty? Answer logically.

(a) Facts and stakeholders: Dev Anand (Under Secretary); Prem Chopra (a Section Officer under him) and his wife Bindu; Ashok Kumar, a retired employee with Alzheimer's and no family; Guru Dutta, the bank officer who passed on account details; the department and pensioners at large.

(b) Ethical issues

- **Possible extortion:** a pensioner has paid 30% of his pension for two years to the wife of an official who handles pension files.
- **Conflict of interest even if there is no bribe:** conduct rules bar a government servant from letting a family member accept gifts from a person with official dealings with him, beyond small limits, without sanction.
- **Possible elder financial abuse:** can a man with Alzheimer's give free consent?
- **Breach of confidentiality:** Guru Dutta disclosed a customer's account, and Dev Anand acted on it.
- **Due process and privacy:** suspicion is not proof, and the care may be genuine.

(c) Blunder or duty?

- **Duty in intent:** a superior must act on a reasonable suspicion of corruption in his office and of exploitation of a vulnerable senior citizen; ignoring it would be a failure of duty. Prem Chopra's "none of your business" is wrong, because the pensioner is a client of his own office.
- **Flawed in method:** acting on leaked bank data, a private home visit and an angry confrontation can tip off a guilty official, taint evidence and humiliate an innocent one.

(d) What he should do now

1. Examine Ashok Kumar's pension file: delays, pending claims and who handled it.
2. Remove Prem Chopra from that file and seek a written explanation and declaration of the payments.
3. Refer the matter to the vigilance officer for a discreet, fair inquiry based on lawfully obtained records.
4. Protect Ashok Kumar: involve the district social welfare officer, use the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, and seek a medical assessment, a legal guardian and safeguards on his bank account.
5. If the payments prove voluntary, close the matter on record and ensure proper declarations.

(e) Values: integrity, protection of the vulnerable, objectivity, due process, confidentiality and fairness to the accused.

Conclusion: Dev Anand was performing an ethical duty, not committing a blunder; but he must turn suspicion into a lawful and impartial procedure.

2020 · Q16 · Controlling anger

QUESTION 2020 · 12 marks

Anger is a harmful negative emotion, it is injurious to both the personal life and the work life. How can it be controlled? Explain.

Anger is a strong emotional response to a perceived wrong, threat or frustration. The Gita (2.62–63) traces a chain from desire to anger, from anger to delusion and loss of judgement, and finally to ruin.

Why it is harmful

- **Personal life:** stress and high blood pressure, broken relationships and regret.
- **Work life:** hasty decisions, rudeness to citizens and staff, a hostile office, loss of trust and even misconduct or legal liability. Goleman calls the moment when emotion overrides reason an "amygdala hijack".

How it can be controlled

1. **Self-awareness:** know your triggers and the early signs, such as a raised voice or tight muscles.
2. **Pause before acting:** count to ten, breathe deeply (pranayama), step away, and delay replies and decisions until calm.
3. **Reappraisal and empathy:** ask why the other person behaves so; an abusive complainant may be desperate, not wicked.

4. **Assertive, not aggressive, communication:** state the problem calmly and address the issue, not the person.
5. **Healthy routine:** yoga, meditation, exercise and enough sleep lower the base level of stress.
6. **Moral and philosophical support:** the Gita's *sthitaprajna*, the Jain virtue of *kshama* (forgiveness), and Aristotle's advice to be angry only with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time and in the right way.
7. **Organisational support:** EI training, counselling, reasonable workloads and fair grievance systems.

Channelling anger: anger at injustice can be constructive when turned into lawful action. Gandhi spoke of conserving his anger and transmuting it into energy for satyagraha.

Example: an SDM facing an abusive crowd who listens first, acknowledges the grievance and then firmly explains the law usually defuses the situation.

Conclusion: anger cannot be abolished, but it can be managed and redirected. Emotional self-regulation is a core competence of an ethical administrator.

2020 · Q17 · Bribe-givers and bribe-takers

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **"It is said that government servants take bribe because people offer bribe to them. If people stop offering bribe, the problem of bribe will be solved." What is your opinion about the statement? Examine critically.**

Bribery has a **supply side** (the giver) and a **demand side** (the taker). The statement puts the blame on the supply side. It is partly true but oversimplified.

Where the statement is right

- **Collusive bribes:** businesses and individuals offer bribes to evade tax, win contracts, jump queues or escape penalties; here the giver is an equal partner.
- **Social acceptance:** "speed money" and the *chalta hai* attitude keep corruption normal.
- **The law agrees:** the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 made giving a bribe a distinct offence (Section 8), sparing only those forced to pay who report it within seven days.
- **Citizen power:** citizens who refuse and report, leading to trap cases by bodies such as UP's Anti-Corruption Organisation, break the chain.

Where it is wrong

- **Harassment bribes:** most poor citizens pay for what is already their right, such as a pension, a land mutation or a certificate, because the official can delay it. Economist Kaushik Basu (2011) even proposed making the giving of such bribes legal, so that givers would report them.
- **Power imbalance:** Robert Klitgaard's formula, $Corruption = Monopoly + Discretion - Accountability$, places the root in the system.
- **Systemic causes:** complex procedures, delays, weak enforcement, low conviction rates and political funding.
- Refusing alone often means denial of service, which the poor cannot afford.

What works

1. **Less discretion and contact:** DBT, online land records (UP's Bhulekh), e-District services and faceless tax assessment.
2. **Time-bound services:** the UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011.
3. **Certain, quick punishment:** faster trials and protection for whistle-blowers.
4. **Civic ethics:** citizens who refuse to pay, backed by helplines and social audits.

Conclusion: it takes two to make a bribe, but the greater duty lies with the State, which holds the power. Supply and demand must be tackled together.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> PC Act Section 8 (bribe-giving, 2018) · 7-day reporting proviso · Klitgaard: C = M + D − A · Kaushik Basu (2011): harassment bribes · UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011.

2020 · Q18 · Foundational values for civil servants

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Present in brief the necessary foundational values for the civil servants.**

Foundational values are the core ethical principles that should guide every civil servant. They come from the Constitution, the conduct rules, the UK's Nolan principles and India's own traditions. Civil Services Day (21 April) recalls Sardar Patel's address to probationers in 1947, which asked them to serve the common people in a spirit of service.

Value	Meaning	In practice
Integrity	Honesty, and consistency between values and actions	Refusing gifts; declaring conflicts of interest
Impartiality and non-partisanship	Merit-based decisions; no favour to party, caste or religion	Neutral conduct of elections
Objectivity	Decisions based on evidence, free of bias	Selecting beneficiaries from verified data
Dedication to public service	Commitment beyond the call of duty	Officers who served through COVID-19
Empathy	Understanding the citizen's situation and feelings	Patient hearing at grievance days
Tolerance and compassion towards weaker sections	Respect for diversity; active help to those who suffer	Disability camps; doorstep pensions
Accountability and transparency	Answerability for decisions; openness	Reasoned orders; proactive RTI disclosure
Courage of conviction	Standing by the right decision under pressure	Refusing an illegal order

How they work together: integrity is the root; impartiality and objectivity govern decisions; empathy and compassion humanise them; accountability keeps them in check; courage protects them under pressure. The All India Services (Conduct) Rules were amended in 2014 to write many of these values into the rules themselves.

Conclusion: these values make the civil service trusted rather than feared. Training such as Mission Karmayogi, fair appraisal and ethical leadership should nurture them for a citizen-centric *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2020 · Q19 · Social influence, persuasion and COVID-19

> **QUESTION** 2020 · 12 marks
>
> **Social influence and persuasion contributed in controlling the spread of the Corona Virus in India. Discuss.**

Social influence is the change in a person's beliefs or behaviour caused by others; **persuasion** is its deliberate use through communication. Herbert Kelman described three levels: compliance, identification and internalisation. Before vaccines arrived, behaviour change (masks, distancing, hand-washing, home isolation) was the main defence against COVID-19, and India used all three levels.

How they helped

1. **Credible sources:** daily briefings by the Health Ministry and ICMR, and the Prime Minister's addresses, gave authority and clarity.
2. **Collective rituals:** the *Janata Curfew* of 22 March 2020, clapping for health workers and the lighting of lamps on 5 April built solidarity and made distancing a shared norm (identification).
3. **Simple, repeated messages:** slogans such as "*Do gaz ki doori, mask hai zaroori*", caller-tune messages and celebrity appeals reached every phone.
4. **Trusted local messengers:** ASHA and Anganwadi workers, religious leaders urging prayer at home, and village monitoring committees (*nigrani samitis*) in UP that watched over the home quarantine of returning migrants.
5. **Social norms and peer pressure:** resident welfare associations, shopkeepers and families made masks the done thing.
6. **Technology:** the Aarogya Setu app, and PIB Fact Check against rumours.

The same tools later helped counter vaccine hesitancy after the drive began on 16 January 2021.

Limits

- Stigma against patients and even doctors, and floods of misinformation.
- Fatigue and mixed signals from large gatherings weakened the message over time.
- Persuasion needed the backing of law: the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Conclusion: COVID-19 showed that behaviour change is a public-health tool. As the *Economic Survey 2018–19* argued about "nudges", persuasion combined with law and services works better than coercion alone.

2020 · Q20 · Case study: prohibition and personal choice

> **QUESTION** 2020 · Q20 · 12 marks · Case study
>
> **You are a civil servant posted in a State where elections were held recently. To ban the sale of alcohol was the main promise in the election manifesto of the newly elected Chief Minister. To fulfil this promise, the Chief Minister has ordered a total ban on sale and purchase of alcohol in the State. Whether the government should interfere in the matter which is considered by many to be a matter of personal choice? Comment logically.**

(a) Facts and stakeholders: the elected government and its mandate; drinkers and their families, especially women; workers and traders in the liquor trade; the State exchequer; police and excise staff; and me, the civil servant who must implement the order.

(b) The ethical question: individual liberty versus the State's duty to protect health and welfare (paternalism).

Arguments for intervention

- **Constitutional direction:** Article 47 asks the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of intoxicating drinks injurious to health, except for medicinal purposes.
- **Harm to others:** J.S. Mill's *harm principle* allows the State to act when conduct harms others; alcohol is linked to domestic violence, road accidents, debt and poverty.
- **Addiction reduces autonomy:** an addict's "choice" is not fully free.
- **Mandate and women's demand:** Bihar's prohibition of 2016 followed demands from rural women; Gujarat has had prohibition since 1960.
- **Courts:** the Supreme Court has held that there is no fundamental right to trade in liquor (*Khoday Distilleries*, 1995).

Arguments against

- **Liberty and privacy:** an adult's private choice is protected by the spirit of Article 21 (*Puttaswamy*, 2017).
- **Practical failure:** total bans breed bootlegging, hooch tragedies, corruption and a pile of cases in police stations and courts.
- **Revenue and livelihoods:** excise is a major source of State revenue, and workers lose jobs.

(c) Judgement: the government *may* intervene, because the harm is social and the Constitution supports it; but a sudden total ban is a blunt tool. Phased restriction, de-addiction and awareness usually achieve more.

(d) My role as a civil servant

1. Implement the lawful policy faithfully and neutrally, while giving frank written advice on its risks.
2. Prepare: de-addiction centres, rehabilitation of liquor workers, border checks against smuggling and testing of seized liquor to prevent hooch deaths.
3. Enforce humanely, without harassing the poor, and act strictly against organised bootleggers and corrupt staff.
4. Run awareness campaigns with women's self-help groups and monitor the results with data.

(e) Values: rule of law, political neutrality, public welfare, compassion and evidence-based advice.

2021

2021 · Q1 · Individual morality and public decisions

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 8 marks
>
> **Does individual morality have a bearing effect on the decision of public life?**

Individual morality is a person's own sense of right and wrong, formed by upbringing, conscience and belief. Public decisions are taken by individuals, so it inevitably shapes them.

Yes, it has a strong bearing

- **Integrity is indivisible:** Gandhi held that a man cannot do right in one department of life while doing wrong in another. One who cheats in private is likely to cheat in office.
- **Resisting temptation and pressure:** personal honesty, not rules alone, makes an officer refuse a bribe or an illegal order.
- **Moral leadership:** Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned as Railway Minister in 1956, owning moral responsibility for a train accident.
- **Prejudice:** personal biases of caste, religion or gender can creep into decisions.

But it has limits

- Public decisions must follow law and **constitutional morality**, not private belief. An officer who personally dislikes inter-caste marriage must still protect such couples.
- Institutions, collective decisions and checks reduce the weight of one person's morality.
- Private choices that do not touch public duty belong to the zone of privacy.

Conclusion: individual morality is the foundation of ethical public life, but it must be aligned with constitutional values, so that conscience strengthens the rule of law instead of replacing it.

2021 · Q2 · Gandhi's essential virtues

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

What are the essential virtues which are responsible for an ideal human ethical behaviour according to Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.

For Gandhi, ethics was the basis of all life, private and public. He set out the virtues in his **eleven ashram vows** (*ekadash vrat*), resting on two pillars.

The two pillars

- **Satya (truth):** "Truth is God"; truth in thought, word and deed.
- **Ahimsa (non-violence):** not merely not harming, but active love, even for the opponent.

Virtues of self-discipline

- **Brahmacharya** (control of the senses), **asvada** (control of the palate), **asteya** (non-stealing) and **aparigraha** (non-possession): take only what one needs.
- **Sharirashram (bread labour):** everyone should do physical work for a living.
- **Abhaya (fearlessness):** without it, truth and non-violence are impossible.

Social virtues

- **Sarva dharma samabhava:** equal respect for all religions.
- **Swadeshi:** service of one's neighbourhood and local economy.
- **Removal of untouchability:** equal human dignity.

Guiding principles: purity of ends and means, trusteeship, and avoidance of the **seven social sins**, such as wealth without work and politics without principles.

Conclusion: these virtues give public servants a model of honesty, simplicity, courage and service of the last person (the *talisman*). Gandhi lived each of them, showing that ideal conduct is possible.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Eleven vows: satya, ahimsa, brahmacharya, asvada, asteya, aparigraha, abhaya, untouchability removal, bread labour, sarva dharma samabhava, swadeshi · Seven social sins (Young India, 1925).

2021 · Q3 · Preventing corruption in public life

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency and obstruction in national development. Give suggestions for prevention of corruption in public life in the context of the statement given.

Corruption, the misuse of public office for private gain, drains public money, slows administration and erodes trust. India's score on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index has hovered around 40 out of 100 in recent years. Prevention must work on several fronts.

1. Legal and institutional

- Enforce the Prevention of Corruption Act (amended 2018), the Benami law and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- Make the Lokpal (functional since 2019) and the UP Lokayukta effective; fast-track corruption trials.

2. Administrative reform

- Cut discretion and face-to-face contact: Direct Benefit Transfer, GeM e-procurement, e-office, UP's e-District and *Nivesh Mitra* single-window portal.
- Time-bound delivery under the UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011.

3. Transparency and participation

- Proactive RTI disclosure, social audits, citizen charters and grievance portals.
- Protection for whistle-blowers (Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014).

4. Political reform: transparent party funding and decriminalisation of politics.

5. Ethical base: value-based training, rewards for honest officers, leadership by example and citizens who refuse to pay bribes.

Conclusion: corruption shrinks as discretion and impunity shrink and values grow. Zero tolerance is essential for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2021 · Q4 · Ethical governance and probity in public life

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Describe the relevance of the following in the context of civil services: (a) Ethical governance (b) Probity in public life.

(a) Ethical governance means using public power according to moral principles: rule of law, accountability, transparency, fairness, participation and responsiveness. Kautilya's ideal of *yogakshema*, the welfare and security of the people, expresses the same goal.

Relevance

- **Legitimacy and trust:** citizens cooperate willingly when they see fairness.
- **Inclusive development:** benefits reach the last person without leakage.
- **Better decisions:** ethical scrutiny prevents arbitrary or harmful policies.
- **Citizen-centric service:** courtesy, time-bound delivery and grievance redress.

(b) Probity in public life is strict integrity and uprightness: honesty, avoidance of conflict of interest and careful use of public money.

Relevance

- **Protects public resources:** every rupee lost to corruption is lost to schools and hospitals.
- **Moral authority:** an upright officer can enforce rules without being compromised.
- **Institutional tools:** declaration of assets, disclosure of conflicts of interest, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas, vigilance and RTI.
- **Role models:** officers such as E. Sreedharan show that probity and efficiency go together.

Conclusion: ethical governance is the goal and probity the personal quality that makes it possible. Both serve SDG 16 (accountable institutions) and *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2021 · Q5 · Case study: "teach them a lesson"

QUESTION 2021 · Q5 · 8 marks · Case study

A peaceful protest was being carried out by a group of milk traders. The Superintendent of Police instructs the police officials to prevent the group from committing any type of violence. He, however, tells them to 'teach them a lesson', if situation warrants. A police official on duty indulges into an argument with a protestor and beats him up. When inquired about his action, he says that he was told to teach them a lesson by the Superintendent of Police. Give your comment on ethical behaviour of both the Superintendent of Police and the Police Official in the light of above mentioned incident.

Peaceful assembly is a fundamental right (Article 19(1)(b)); police may use only the minimum force needed to prevent violence.

Superintendent of Police

- **Right:** directing officials to prevent violence was his duty.
- **Wrong:** "teach them a lesson" is a vague, loaded order that hints at extra-legal punishment, against the rule of law and proportionate force.
- **Leadership failure:** as commander, he is morally responsible for how his words are read.

Police official

- **Wrong:** he beat a peaceful protester after a personal argument. No violence had occurred, so even by his own reading force was not "warranted". It shows loss of self-control, abuse of power and violation of dignity (Article 21).
- **"Orders" are no defence:** a public servant must obey only lawful orders (the Nuremberg principle).

Way forward

- Inquiry and disciplinary or criminal action against the official; accountability of the SP.
- Medical care, apology and compensation for the victim.
- Clear crowd-control SOPs, EI training, and Police Complaints Authorities (*Prakash Singh*, 2006).

Values: rule of law, restraint, accountability and respect for dissent.

2021 · Q6 · Attitude in history; attitude and aptitude

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Define attitude in historical perspective and discuss the relationship between aptitude and attitude.

Attitude in historical perspective

- The word comes, through French and Italian, from the Late Latin *aptitudo* (fitness), the same root as "aptitude". It first meant the **posture** of a figure in painting or sculpture, and later a posture of the mind.
- Thomas and Znaniecki (1918) brought it into social psychology; Thurstone (1928) showed it could be measured. Gordon Allport (1935) called it the most indispensable concept of social psychology: a mental and neural state of readiness, organised through experience, that directs a person's responses.
- Today, Eagly and Chaiken (1993) define it as a tendency to evaluate something with some degree of favour or disfavour, with cognitive, affective and behavioural parts.

Relationship between aptitude and attitude

- **Different:** aptitude is the *ability* to learn or do a task; attitude is the *willingness* and outlook towards it.
- **Complementary:** a capable officer with a negative attitude may misuse his skill; a well-meaning but unskilled one fails to deliver.
- **Mutual influence:** a positive attitude helps develop aptitude, and success built on aptitude strengthens the attitude.

Conclusion: civil services need both: the aptitude to solve problems and the attitude of service to solve them for people.

2021 · Q7 · Empathy and the weaker sections

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Define empathy and discuss the role of empathy in solving problems of weaker section.

Empathy is the ability to understand and share another person's feelings and situation, to "stand in their shoes". Psychologists distinguish *cognitive* empathy (understanding), *emotional* empathy (feeling with) and *compassionate* empathy (being moved to help). Sympathy is feeling *for* someone; empathy is feeling *with* them.

Role in solving problems of weaker sections

1. **Finding the real need:** an empathetic officer sees *why* a tribal family avoids the hospital (distance, language, fear), not just *that* it does.
2. **Better policy design:** ramps, sign language and accessible websites under the *Accessible India Campaign* come from seeing the world as persons with disabilities do.
3. **Grievance redress:** patient listening restores dignity to a widow seeking her pension.
4. **Last-mile delivery:** outreach camps and doorstep services for groups such as the Musahar community of eastern UP.
5. **Trust:** marginalised people cooperate with an administration that understands them.
6. **Humane enforcement:** rehabilitation before eviction; sensitivity towards survivors of sexual violence.

A caution: empathy must go with impartiality, so that it helps the needy without favouritism.

Conclusion: empathy turns welfare schemes into real relief; it is the essence of Gandhi's talisman.

2021 · Q8 · Importance of emotional intelligence in administration

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

"Emotional intelligence is very important in effective administrative practices". Throw light on this statement.

Emotional intelligence (EI), popularised by Daniel Goleman (1995), is the ability to recognise and manage one's own emotions and to understand and influence those of others. Administration affects people and works under pressure, so EI matters as much as intellect.

Why EI is important

1. **Sound decisions under stress:** a calm officer balances reason and emotion during riots, floods or crowd surges at the Kumbh.
2. **Leadership and motivation:** an officer who understands his staff can lift morale and get results from a demoralised office.
3. **Citizen interface:** empathy and courtesy make grievance redress humane and build trust.
4. **Conflict resolution:** with protesters, unions, elected representatives and other departments.
5. **Ethical conduct:** self-regulation helps resist anger, greed and pressure, and prevents abuse of power.
6. **Managing change:** reforms such as e-office succeed when leaders address staff fears.

Example: an officer who meets agitated farmers, listens first and then explains the compensation rules usually ends a *dharna* that force would only prolong.

A caution: EI without integrity can become manipulation; it must serve public ends.

Conclusion: intellect helps an officer understand rules; EI helps him apply them wisely. Mission Karmayogi rightly stresses such behavioural competencies.

2021 · Q9 · Fostering tolerance and compassion

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

How can tolerance and compassion be fostered among civil servants? Give your opinion.

Tolerance is respect for differences of belief, culture and opinion; **compassion** is feeling for others' suffering with a desire to relieve it. Both can be learnt, and the State should cultivate them deliberately.

1. Recruitment: test values through situational questions, the ethics paper and the interview.

2. Training

- Foundation courses at LBSNAA (Mussoorie) and the UP Academy of Administration and Management (Lucknow); LBSNAA's village visit shows officers poverty first-hand.
- Modules on gender, disability, caste and minorities, with role plays and case studies.
- **Mission Karmayogi** (2020) builds behavioural competencies through continuous learning.

3. Field exposure: early postings in backward blocks and aspirational districts, and work alongside NGOs and self-help groups.

4. Institutional design

- Citizen feedback and multi-source (360-degree) appraisal that reward courtesy.
- Recognition, such as the PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration, and mentoring by role models.
- Grievance systems that make insensitive behaviour visible.

5. Personal practice: reflection, meditation and reading the lives of reformers; applying Gandhi's talisman before decisions.

Conclusion: in my opinion, these values grow less from lectures than from exposure, example and incentives. A compassionate officer makes the State humane for the weakest.

2021 · Q10 · Objectivity vs dedication; structure vs functions of attitude

QUESTION 2021 · 8 marks

Differentiate between: (a) Objectivity and dedication (b) Structure and functions of attitudes

(a) Objectivity and dedication

Basis	Objectivity	Dedication
Meaning	Deciding on facts, evidence and merit, free of personal bias	Deep commitment to duty and public service, beyond routine
Nature	Cognitive: *how* a decision is made	Motivational: *how much* effort and care one gives
If absent	Bias and favouritism	Apathy and file-pushing
Example	Selecting beneficiaries from verified data	Working round the clock during floods

(b) Structure and functions of attitudes

Basis	Structure	Functions
Meaning	What an attitude is made of	What an attitude does for the person
Content	ABC model: **affective** (feelings), **behavioural** (tendency to act), **cognitive** (beliefs); also strength and direction	Daniel Katz (1960): **knowledge** (makes sense of the world), **utilitarian** (gains rewards, avoids punishment), **ego-defensive** (protects self-image), **value-expressive** (expresses core values)
Example	Belief that bribery hurts the poor, anger at it, refusing to pay	The same attitude expresses one's values and protects self-respect
Use	Changing one part, say beliefs, can shift the whole	Persuasion works best when it fits the function an attitude serves

Conclusion: objectivity and dedication together make a fair and committed officer; structure tells what an attitude is, function why it is held.

2021 · Q11 · Traditional and modern values

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

What are the traditional values in Indian society? How does it differ from modern values? Explain.

Values are enduring beliefs about what is desirable. Indian society carries a long tradition of values, while the reform movements, the freedom struggle and the Constitution added modern ones.

Traditional values

- **Dharma and duty:** stress on obligations to family, community and society.
- **Family and community:** the joint family, respect for elders and collective identity.
- **Spirituality and restraint:** contentment, non-violence, renunciation and reverence for nature (rivers such as the Ganga, trees such as the peepal).
- **Tolerance and hospitality:** *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*, *atithi devo bhava*, and composite cultures such as the *Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb*.
- **Hierarchy:** status by birth (caste) and patriarchy, the negative side of tradition.

Modern values

- Individual liberty and rights; equality and social justice (Articles 14–17).
- Rationality and scientific temper (Article 51A(h)); secularism and democracy.
- Merit and achieved status; gender equality; rule of law and human rights.
- Materialism and consumerism, the negative side of modernity.

How they differ

Basis	Traditional	Modern
Source of authority	Scripture, custom, elders	Reason, law, Constitution
Unit	Family and community	Individual
Status	Ascribed (by birth)	Achieved (by merit)
Emphasis	Duties	Rights
Attitude to change	Continuity	Change and progress

Not opposites: Yogendra Singh's *Modernization of Indian Tradition* (1973) and M.N. Srinivas's work on Westernisation show that India blends the two. Traditional compassion supports modern welfare, and reverence for nature supports sustainability. In Uttar Pradesh, joint families in villages and nuclear families in Noida or Lucknow show both at once.

Conclusion: the goal is a synthesis: keep the humane core of tradition (duty, compassion, tolerance), reject its hierarchies, and adopt modern equality and reason without its excesses. The Constitution itself is such a synthesis.

2021 · Q12 · Private-sector perversions and three options of ethical life

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

What are the ethical perversions of private sector? Describe the three options of ethical life.

NOTE

"Three options of ethical life" is taken to mean the three main approaches to living ethically: consequences, duty and virtue. Some read it as an employee's three choices when facing wrongdoing (exit, voice or loyalty); these are covered at the end.

The private sector creates wealth, jobs and innovation, but when profit becomes the only goal, its ethics is distorted.

Ethical perversions of the private sector

1. **Fraud and false accounts:** the Satyam accounting fraud (2009); bank frauds such as the PNB case (2018).
2. **Bribery and crony capitalism:** buying licences, contracts and favourable policies.
3. **Exploitation of labour:** unsafe workplaces, unpaid overtime, misuse of contract labour, unequal pay for women and sexual harassment.
4. **Harm to consumers:** adulteration, misleading advertisements and misuse of personal data.
5. **Environmental damage:** pollution and unsafe plants, as in the Bhopal gas tragedy (1984).
6. **Tax evasion, insider trading and cartels** that cheat the public and honest competitors.

Three options of ethical life

1. **Consequence-based (utilitarian) ethics:** an act is right if it produces the greatest good of the greatest number (Bentham, Mill). For a firm, this means weighing the effect on all stakeholders, not only shareholders; corporate social responsibility under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 reflects it.
2. **Duty-based (deontological) ethics:** some duties bind regardless of profit, and people must never be used merely as means (Kant). For a firm: honest accounts, legal compliance and respect for rights even when costly.
3. **Virtue ethics:** be a person, and an organisation, of good character (Aristotle). For a firm: an ethical culture led from the top, as in the Tata group, which is majority-owned by charitable trusts, an idea close to Gandhi's trusteeship.

Choosing among them: a mature business uses all three: virtue builds the culture, duty sets the limits and consequences guide choices within them. An employee who meets wrongdoing has the practical choices of exit (leaving), voice (raising it, even whistle-blowing) or loyalty (staying silent); ethics usually demands voice.

Conclusion: regulation (SEBI, CCI, labour laws), ethical culture and stakeholder capitalism can turn "profit at any cost" into "profit with principles".

2021 · Q13 · Work culture and quality service delivery

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

Is change in work-culture necessary for providing quality service delivery in present administrative structure? Answer with arguments.

Work culture is the shared set of attitudes, habits and practices that shape how an organisation works. Much of Indian administration remains hierarchical, rule-bound and slow, so citizens meet red tape instead of service.

Problems in the present work culture

- **Process over results:** Robert Merton called it "goal displacement"; files move but problems remain.
- **Rigid hierarchy and silos:** little delegation and poor coordination between departments.
- **Risk aversion:** fear of audit and vigilance makes officers avoid decisions.
- **Indiscipline:** absenteeism, poor punctuality and weak performance appraisal.
- **Low citizen orientation:** discourtesy, delays and the need for "contacts".

Why change is necessary

1. **Rising expectations:** digital, aspirational citizens expect time-bound, online and courteous service.

2. **From rules to results:** the Second ARC's reports on personnel administration (10th) and citizen-centric administration (12th) call for outcome-based working.
3. **Technology:** e-office, UP's IGRS and CM Helpline 1076 work only if staff adopt them.
4. **Complex problems:** health, climate change and urbanisation need teamwork across departments.
5. **Accountability:** performance-linked appraisal and citizen feedback.

How to change it

- Leadership by example; delegation; protection for decisions taken in good faith.
- Capacity building through *Mission Karmayogi*, which moves from "rule-based" to "role-based" working.
- Service standards: the Sevottam model, citizen charters and the UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011.
- Rewards for good performers and action against chronic non-performers.

A caveat: culture change cannot replace structural reform. Vacancies, frequent transfers and political interference also need correction, and procedures should not be abandoned, because rules protect against arbitrariness.

Conclusion: yes, change in work culture is necessary; a structure is only as good as the culture that runs it. A responsive, results-oriented culture is the key to "minimum government, maximum governance" and *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2021 · Q14 · Judicial control over public administration

> **QUESTION** 2021 · 12 marks
>
> **Is judicial control necessary in Public Administration? Explain the various possible forms of judicial control over the Public Administration.**

Judicial control is the power of the courts to examine whether administrative action is lawful, fair and within jurisdiction. It rests on the rule of law, and judicial review under Articles 32 and 226 is part of the basic structure (*L. Chandra Kumar*, 1997).

Why it is necessary

1. **Growth of discretion:** the welfare State gives officials vast power over licences, land, benefits and policing.
2. **Protection of rights:** citizens need a remedy against arbitrary action; *Maneka Gandhi* (1978) required every procedure to be fair, just and reasonable.
3. **Limits of other controls:** legislative and executive controls are often weak or partisan.
4. **Good governance:** courts enforce natural justice, reasoned orders and constitutional limits.

Forms of judicial control

1. **Judicial review** on grounds of illegality, irrationality and procedural impropriety (the *GCHQ* case, 1985), and proportionality.
2. **Writs** under Articles 32 and 226: habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto.
3. **Statutory appeals and revisions** against administrative orders.
4. **Compensation:** suits for damages against the government (Article 300), and public-law compensation through writs, as for a custodial death in *Nilabati Behera* (1993).
5. **Public interest litigation:** relaxed locus standi (*S.P. Gupta*, 1981) lets courts act for the voiceless, as in the *Vishaka* guidelines (1997).
6. **Contempt jurisdiction** to enforce compliance, and **criminal prosecution** of officials who break the law.
7. **Oversight of tribunals:** the Central Administrative Tribunal and the UP State Public Services Tribunal remain subject to High Court review.

Limits: delay, cost, lack of technical expertise and the risk of judicial overreach into policy.

Conclusion: judicial control is necessary as the last guardian of citizens' rights, but courts should show restraint in policy matters so that the separation of powers is respected.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> Five writs · GCHQ grounds: illegality, irrationality, procedural impropriety · Maneka Gandhi (1978) · Nilabati Behera (1993) · S.P. Gupta (1981) · L. Chandra Kumar (1997).

2021 · Q15 · Case study: Ram Murti and the orphan boy

> **QUESTION** 2021 · Q15 · 12 marks · Case study
>
> **Ram Murti is a Government servant and lives with his old aged parents in Indore. One day during a field-visit he meets an 11 year old orphan boy. He was in a miserable condition and homeless, with no one to take care of him. Ram Murti brings the boy to home and proposes him that if he takes care of his aged parents, he will give him daily wage according to his needs and will arrange for his education too. Evaluate Ram Murti's conduct from ethical perspective.**

(a) Facts and stakeholders: Ram Murti, a government servant; his aged parents, who need care; an 11-year-old homeless orphan; and society and the State, which are responsible for children without families.

(b) The positive side: Ram Murti showed compassion; he took a destitute child off the street and offered shelter, money and education.

(c) Ethical and legal problems

1. **Child labour:** caring for two old people is work. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, as amended in 2016, bans employing children below 14 in any occupation; the main exception is helping one's own family after school hours. Conduct rules also forbid government servants to employ children below 14 (for example, Rule 22A of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964).
2. **Conditional compassion:** help is offered as a bargain, care in exchange for wages, which uses the child as a **means** to his family's comfort (against Kant's principle of humanity).
3. **Education is a right, not a reward:** Article 21A and the RTE Act, 2009 guarantee free education from 6 to 14, and Article 39(e)–(f) protects the tender age of children.
4. **Bypassing the law on care:** under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, an orphan without a guardian is a "child in need of care and protection" and must be brought before the Child Welfare Committee, which decides on institutional care, foster care or adoption.
5. **Power imbalance:** a child cannot give valid consent, and domestic work exposes him to exploitation. As a public servant, Ram Murti also sets a wrong example.

(d) Options

- **Continue the arrangement:** meets his parents' need, but is illegal and exploitative.
- **Leave the boy:** avoids trouble, but is callous.

- **Hand over to the system and stay involved:** call Childline (1098), present the boy before the Child Welfare Committee, get him into school, and, if Ram Murti wishes, apply to be a foster parent, raising him as a family member without any work obligation.

(e) Evaluation and right course: the intention was good, but the means were wrong. Ram Murti should choose the third option, sponsor the boy's education if he can, and hire an adult caregiver or use senior-citizen services for his parents.

Values: compassion without exploitation, child rights, rule of law and integrity.

2021 · Q16 · Moral and political attitudes today

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

What do you understand by moral and political attitude of human? How will you justify these in the present political scenario?

Moral attitude is a person's evaluative orientation towards right and wrong, based on values and conscience: attitudes towards honesty, justice, violence, corruption or the dignity of others. **Political attitude** is the orientation towards political objects such as the State, parties, leaders, ideologies and policies, and towards one's own role as a citizen (participation, trust, tolerance of opponents). It is formed by political socialisation; Almond and Verba's *The Civic Culture* (1963) classified political cultures as parochial, subject and participant.

How they are linked: moral attitudes shape political ones. A person who values equality supports social justice; one who values honesty rejects corrupt candidates.

Why they are needed in the present political scenario

1. **Criminalisation and money power:** over 40% of the Lok Sabha members elected in 2019 declared criminal cases (ADR). Moral attitudes in voters and parties are the remedy.
2. **Polarisation and hate speech:** identity politics of caste and religion, visible in many states including UP, needs tolerance and respect for dissent.
3. **Misinformation:** social media spreads fake news; citizens need a critical, truth-seeking attitude.
4. **Opportunism:** defections still weaken the anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule); "politics without principles" was one of Gandhi's seven social sins.
5. **Positive signs:** a turnout of about 67% in 2019, the rising participation of women voters, NOTA (2013) and the Supreme Court's directions (2018, 2020) to publicise candidates' criminal records show a participant culture growing.

How to justify and strengthen them

- **Constitutional morality:** Ambedkar warned that it "is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated."
- Civic and ethical education, internal democracy in parties, transparent funding, and voters who choose on performance and integrity.

Conclusion: a moral political attitude is not idealism but the condition of a healthy democracy. When citizens and leaders join ethics with politics, democracy delivers good governance.

2021 · Q17 · Roots of gender-related negative attitudes

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

Discuss the root causes of gender related negative attitude. Why is it so rigid?

Gender-related negative attitudes are prejudices and stereotypes that treat women (and gender minorities) as inferior or tie them to fixed roles. India ranked 140th of 156 countries in the WEF *Global Gender Gap Report 2021*, and Uttar Pradesh's sex ratio was 912 females per 1,000 males in Census 2011.

Root causes

1. **Patriarchy and patrilineal kinship:** property, lineage and last rites pass through sons, so a son is seen as old-age security and a daughter as *paraya dhan*.
2. **Socialisation:** girls get chores and boys get freedom; "boys don't cry" is learnt early.
3. **Customs:** dowry, purdah, and notions of purity and family "honour" control women's bodies and choices.
4. **Economic dependence:** unpaid care work, low female labour-force participation and little ownership of land.
5. **Media:** advertisements and films that objectify women or show them only as homemakers.
6. **Low representation:** few women in legislatures, police and senior jobs.

Why it is so rigid

- **Early internalisation:** learnt before the age of reason, it becomes part of identity and implicit bias.
- **Social sanction:** deviation is punished by gossip, ostracism, khap diktats and even honour crimes (*Shakti Vahini*, 2018).
- **Vested interests:** men gain power, property and unpaid labour from the status quo.
- **Religious legitimacy:** custom is seen as sacred.
- **Women's own acceptance:** many women enforce the same norms on daughters and daughters-in-law.
- **Confirmation bias:** people notice only examples that fit stereotypes.

Breaking the rigidity

- **Laws:** the PCPNDT Act (1994), the Dowry Prohibition Act (1961), the POSH Act (2013), and equal coparcenary rights for daughters (2005).
- **Schemes:** *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (2015), UP's *Kanya Sumangala Yojana* and *Mission Shakti*.
- **Society:** gender-sensitive curricula, men as partners in change, and economic empowerment through self-help groups.

Conclusion: attitudes made in the family and community must be unmade there too. Gender equality (SDG 5) is essential for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2021 · Q18 · Attitude towards social problems (repeat of 2019)

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

Discuss the factors which influence the formation of individual's attitude towards social problems with the help of suitable examples.

NOTE

Same question as **2019 · Q19** (the factors that form a person's attitude towards social problems, with examples). See the model answer under 2019.

2021 · Q19 · Objectivity and dedication: the need of the hour

QUESTION 2021 · 12 marks

'Today objectivity and dedication is the need of the hour in civil services'. Justify the statement.

Objectivity means taking decisions on facts, evidence and merit, free from personal bias, emotion or pressure. **Dedication** means deep commitment to duty and public service, with effort beyond the minimum. Both are foundational values of the civil service.

Why objectivity is the need of the hour

1. **A polarised society:** caste, religious and political divisions demand decisions that are seen to be fair, especially in a sensitive state such as UP.
2. **Data-driven governance:** DBT and SECC-based targeting need objective selection of beneficiaries, not "recommendations".
3. **Pressure and lobbying:** political interference and lobbying can be resisted only with reasoned, evidence-based decisions.
4. **Misinformation:** officers must act on verified facts, not on social-media outrage.
5. **Judicial scrutiny and RTI:** objective, reasoned orders survive review.

Why dedication is the need of the hour

1. **Complex challenges:** pandemics, floods and heatwaves need officers who go beyond office hours; many frontline workers gave their lives during COVID-19.
2. **Last-mile delivery:** schemes succeed only with field follow-up, as in the Aspirational Districts Programme (2018), which includes eight districts of UP, such as Shravasti and Bahraich.
3. **Rising expectations:** citizens want time-bound results, not excuses.
4. **Development goals:** *Viksit Bharat @2047* and UP's aim of a USD 1 trillion economy need mission-mode work.

Why both together: objectivity without dedication becomes cold, rule-bound indifference; dedication without objectivity becomes zeal that can turn partisan or arbitrary. The ideal officer is fair in judgement and tireless in action.

How to foster them: stable tenure and civil services boards (*T.S.R. Subramanian*, 2013), merit-based postings, fair appraisal, Mission Karmayogi and recognition of good work.

Conclusion: the statement is justified. In an age of complexity and polarisation, objectivity earns citizens' trust and dedication delivers results.

2021 · Q20 · Case study: Rajeev's death and bystander apathy

QUESTION 2021 · Q20 · 12 marks · Case study

Rajeev was a migrant labour. One day when he was going on the road by his bicycle, a car pushed his bicycle. Rajeev dragged the driver out of car and began abusing him. The driver took out a knife and after stabbing him three-four times he fled away from the spot. Onlookers delayed rushing Rajeev to hospital and due to excessive bleeding, he died. If you were in place of Rajeev, what would you have done for driver's irresponsible driving? Often people show indifferent or passive attitude towards such road accidents and accident victims. Discuss its causes and suggest the remedies.

(a) Facts and stakeholders: Rajeev, a migrant labourer, who died; the driver, who drove carelessly and then stabbed him; the onlookers; Rajeev's family; the police and hospitals; and society.

(b) What I would have done in Rajeev's place

- **Control my anger:** check myself for injury and move to safety. Dragging the driver out and abusing him turned a traffic incident into a fatal fight; being wronged does not justify aggression.
- **Record evidence:** note the car's number, take photographs and ask bystanders to stay as witnesses.
- **Use the law:** call the police on 112 and report the rash driving (Section 279 of the IPC, now covered by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita); get medical help and claim compensation through insurance or the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal.
- Nothing justifies the driver's knife attack; it is murder and must be prosecuted.

(c) Why people are indifferent to accident victims

1. **Fear of legal hassles:** police questioning and repeated court visits.
2. **Bystander effect:** in a crowd, responsibility is diffused, as Darley and Latané showed after the Kitty Genovese case (1964).
3. **Fear of violence** from the attacker, or of being blamed.
4. **No first-aid skills**, and fear of making things worse.
5. **Social distance:** a poor migrant is seen as an "outsider".
6. **Desensitisation:** many film the scene on phones instead of helping.
7. **Hospital reluctance** to treat "police cases", although the Supreme Court in *Parmanand Katara* (1989) made immediate treatment a duty.

(d) Remedies

- **Legal protection:** the *SaveLIFE Foundation* judgment (2016) and Section 134A of the Motor Vehicles Act (added in 2019) protect Good Samaritans from harassment; they need wide publicity.
- **Incentives:** rewards for those who take victims to hospital within the "golden hour".
- **Capacity:** first-aid training in schools, colleges and driving-licence tests; prompt 108 ambulances and the UP 112 emergency service.
- **Enforcement:** strict action against rash driving and road rage; CCTV on roads.
- **Civic education** that stresses empathy, courage and the duty to help.

(e) Values: self-control, empathy, civic responsibility and the rule of law.

Conclusion: a society is judged by how it treats a stranger bleeding on the road. Law can remove fear, but only empathy makes people act.

2022

2022 · Q1 · Democratic vs bureaucratic attitude (repeat)

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

Differentiate between democratic attitude and bureaucratic attitude of public servants.

NOTE

Same question as "2019 · Q6 · Democratic vs bureaucratic attitude" in the 2019 paper above. See the model answer there.

2022 · Q2 · Persuasion in public protest

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

Explain the role of persuasion in relation to public protest with proper argument.

Persuasion is changing someone's attitude or behaviour through communication (reason, emotion and credibility) without force. Peaceful protest is a democratic right under **Article 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b)** (to assemble peaceably and without arms), subject to reasonable restrictions.

Role of persuasion

- **For protesters:** Gandhian *satyagraha* tried to win over the opponent's conscience through truth and self-suffering, not to defeat him (Champaran 1917, Dandi March 1930). The 2011 anti-corruption movement persuaded public opinion and helped bring the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**.
- **Keeps protest non-violent:** after the violence at **Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur, February 1922)** Gandhi withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement, because moral ends need moral means.
- **For the administration:** dialogue with delegations, accepting memoranda and explaining limits defuses tension better than *lathis*; force is the last resort.
- **Lasting change:** persuasion produces *internalisation*; coercion only produces temporary *compliance* (Kelman).
- **What works:** a credible messenger (*ethos*), emotional connection (*pathos*) and sound argument (*logos*), as Aristotle taught.

Conclusion: persuasion turns a protest from confrontation into a conversation, which strengthens democracy.

2022 · Q3 · Impartiality and weaker sections

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

Define impartiality and discuss the role of impartiality in solving problems of weaker section.

Impartiality means taking decisions on the basis of law, evidence and merit, without favour or prejudice of caste, religion, gender, class or political loyalty. It is a foundational value of the civil service.

Role in solving problems of weaker sections

- **Fair access to welfare:** impartial selection of beneficiaries for ration cards (NFSA, 2013), PM Awas Yojana or pensions stops elite capture and middlemen.
- **Equal protection of law (Article 14):** impartial registration of FIRs and investigation under the **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** builds trust among Dalits and tribals.
- **Not indifference:** the Constitution itself allows special provisions (**Articles 15(4), 16(4) and 46**). An impartial officer applies them evenly to every eligible person. In Rawls' terms, inequalities are justified only when they help the least advantaged.
- **Builds faith in the state:** when dominant groups cannot capture land *pattas* or MGNREGA work, the poor use courts and grievance portals instead of local strongmen.

UP example: Direct Benefit Transfer of scholarships and pensions into Aadhaar-linked bank accounts reduces discretion and leakage.

Conclusion: impartiality joined with empathy turns equality before law into real social justice (*Antyodaya*).

2022 · Q4 · Emotional intelligence and its dimensions

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

What do you understand by emotional intelligence? Discuss its dimensions.

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to recognise, understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others, and to use them to guide thinking and behaviour. The idea was developed by **Peter Salovey and John Mayer (1990)** and popularised by **Daniel Goleman** in *Emotional Intelligence* (1995).

Goleman's five dimensions

1. **Self-awareness:** knowing one's moods, strengths and weaknesses. An officer who knows he is angry avoids hasty orders.
2. **Self-regulation:** controlling impulses and staying calm under pressure, for example during a communal flare-up.
3. **Motivation:** an inner drive to achieve goals for their own sake, with optimism and resilience after setbacks.
4. **Empathy:** sensing the feelings and needs of others, such as a flood victim or a grieving family.
5. **Social skills:** communication, conflict resolution, teamwork and leadership.

Salovey and Mayer describe four abilities: **perceiving, using, understanding and managing** emotions.

Why it matters: IQ tells an officer *what* to do; EI helps him do it *with* people, reducing stress and improving public dealing.

Conclusion: EI can be learned through reflection, feedback and training, which is why behavioural competencies are part of **Mission Karmayogi**.

2022 · Q5 · Dedication and accountability

QUESTION 2022 · 8 marks

Describe the relevance of the following in the context of civil servants. (a) Dedication (b) Accountability.

(a) Dedication is a deep, steady commitment to duty and to the public good, beyond the minimum the rules demand. It reflects the Gita's *nishkama karma*, work without attachment to reward.

- It sustains service in hard conditions, as health workers and ASHAs showed during COVID-19.
- It keeps long-term projects on track: **E. Sreedharan** led the Konkan Railway and the Delhi Metro, whose first phase finished ahead of schedule.
- It motivates teams and fights the "*chalta hai*" attitude.

(b) Accountability is the obligation to answer for one's decisions and results and to accept the consequences.

- It prevents misuse of power and discretion.
- **Mechanisms:** ministerial responsibility (**Articles 75(3), 164(2)**), CAG audit, RTI Act 2005, social audit in MGNREGA, the **UP Lokayukta** and the **UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011**, which fixes time limits for services and penalises defaulting officers.
- **Example:** Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned as Railway Minister after the Ariyalur rail accident (1956).

Link: dedication without accountability can become arbitrary; accountability without dedication becomes mere compliance. Together they create a responsive administration.

2022 · Q6 · Administration as a moral act

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **"Administration is a moral act and administrator is a moral agent." Explicate this statement.**

The idea is associated with **Paul H. Appleby** (*Morality and Administration in Democratic Government*, 1952). Administration is not mere technical execution: every decision allocates scarce resources and affects people's lives and dignity, so it carries moral weight.

Why administration is a moral act

- **Discretion:** deciding whom to serve first, how to read a rule, or whether to evict, involves value choices.
- **Public trust:** power is held in trust for the people; misuse is a moral wrong, not just a legal one.
- **Means matter:** Gandhi insisted on pure means; a forced eviction without rehabilitation may be efficient but is unjust.
- **Impact on rights:** police action, land acquisition and rationing touch the right to life with dignity (Article 21).

Why the administrator is a moral agent

- He is responsible for his own choices and cannot hide behind "orders". Hannah Arendt's study of Eichmann showed the *banality of evil* in thoughtless obedience.
- He must balance law, compassion and efficiency.
- Kautilya held that the king's happiness lies in the happiness of his subjects.

Conclusion: rules are the skeleton of administration and morality is its soul. An officer must be both competent and conscientious.

2022 · Q7 · Public institutions and people's rights

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Do you accept that public institutions are successful in preservation of the rights of people?**

Public institutions (courts, commissions, the Election Commission, police and local bodies) turn constitutional rights into reality. Their record is **largely positive but uneven**.

Successes

- **Judiciary:** Articles 32 and 226 and public interest litigation expanded rights, for example *Vishaka* (1997) on workplace harassment and *K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017) on privacy.
- **Rights-based laws:** RTI (2005), MGNREGA (2005), RTE (2009) and NFSA (2013) are delivered through public institutions.
- **Watchdogs:** the NHRC (Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993), the **UP State Human Rights Commission**, NCW and NCSC, and Lok Adalats under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- **Election Commission:** free and fair elections even in UP, the state with the largest electorate.

Shortfalls

- Huge judicial pendency; the **Allahabad High Court** has one of the largest backlogs in India.
- Custodial violence and slow police response for the poor.
- Commissions are mostly recommendatory and understaffed.
- Low awareness and corruption limit access.

Judgement: I accept that they are *partly* successful: rights have widened, but access is unequal. Police reforms (*Prakash Singh*, 2006), judicial vacancies and e-courts are the way forward.

2022 · Q8 · Voice of conscience

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **What do you understand by 'voice of conscience'? How does it help in performing the duty of civil servants?**

Conscience is the inner moral sense that judges one's own actions as right or wrong. Gandhi called it his *inner voice*; Kant spoke of "the moral law within me"; Joseph Butler saw conscience as the supreme guide of conduct. Article 25 protects freedom of conscience.

How it helps civil servants

- **Guide in grey areas:** where rules are silent or vague, conscience helps use discretion humanely.
- **Resisting temptation and pressure:** it gives strength to refuse bribes or illegal orders. **S. Manjunath**, an Indian Oil officer, was killed in **Lakhimpur Kheri (2005)** for acting against petrol adulteration.
- **Self-accountability:** it keeps an officer honest even when no one is watching; this is integrity.
- **Principled dissent:** it prompts an officer to record dissent in writing or use the **Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014**, rather than stay silent.
- **Inner peace:** a clear conscience reduces stress and guilt.

Caution: conscience must be informed by the Constitution, law and reason. An untrained conscience can carry personal bias, so it should work as a *constitutional conscience*.

Conclusion: rules tell an officer what he must do; conscience tells him what he ought to do.

2022 · Q9 · Suspicion about an officer's integrity

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the circumstances which create suspicion about an officer's integrity?**

Integrity is consistency between values, words and actions: honesty and incorruptibility. For public servants appearance also matters ("Caesar's wife must be above suspicion"), because trust depends on it.

Circumstances that create suspicion

1. **Disproportionate assets:** wealth or lifestyle beyond known income, or *benami* property.
2. **Non-disclosure:** not filing annual property returns under the conduct rules, or hiding gifts.
3. **Conflict of interest:** dealing with firms of relatives, or joining a firm he regulated soon after retirement.
4. **Close links with contractors, middlemen or brokers,** and frequent private hospitality.
5. **Pattern in discretion:** repeated favours to the same party, tailor-made tender conditions, or files that stall and then suddenly move ("speed money").
6. **Avoiding transparency:** oral orders, missing records, resisting RTI or e-tendering.
7. **Lobbying for "lucrative" postings,** and repeated complaints or adverse vigilance reports.
8. **Double standards** between public statements and private conduct.

Safeguards: e-office, e-tendering, asset declarations, rotation of sensitive posts and vigilance by the CVC and the UP Vigilance Establishment.

Conclusion: an officer must avoid not only wrongdoing but also the appearance of it.

2022 · Q10 · Code of ethics vs code of conduct; tolerance vs compassion

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 8 marks
>
> **Differentiate between (a) Code of ethics and code of conduct (b) Tolerance and compassion.**

(a) Code of ethics and code of conduct

Code of ethics	Code of conduct
Broad values and principles: integrity, impartiality, public interest	Specific rules of behaviour derived from those values
Aspirational: what an officer *ought* to be	Prescriptive: what he *must* or *must not* do
Usually not legally enforceable	Enforceable, with penalties
Example: Nolan principles; 2nd ARC's proposed public service values	Example: CCS (Conduct) Rules 1964, AIS (Conduct) Rules 1968, UP Government Servants' Conduct Rules 1956

(b) Tolerance and compassion

Tolerance	Compassion
Accepting and respecting beliefs and ways of life one may not share	Feeling another's suffering together with the wish to relieve it
Largely passive: restraint, non-interference	Active: help and care
Prevents conflict in a plural society	Promotes welfare of the suffering
Example: allowing a peaceful protest whose views the officer dislikes	Example: personally ensuring relief for flood-hit families

Conclusion: ethics gives the spirit and conduct rules give the form; tolerance keeps peace and compassion adds care.

2022 · Q11 · Aptitude vs interest

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **How aptitude is different from interest? "If one has the interest to become civil servant but does not have aptitude for it then will he/she be successful as a civil servant?" Discuss.**

Aptitude is a natural or acquired capacity to learn and perform a particular kind of work well. **Interest** is a liking or preference for an activity, which supplies motivation.

Basis	Aptitude	Interest
Nature	Ability, potential ("can I do it?")	Inclination, liking ("do I want to do it?")
Basis	Cognitive and personality traits	Emotional and motivational
Stability	Fairly stable; grows with practice	Can change with exposure and age
Measurement	Aptitude tests (e.g. CSAT)	Interest inventories, interviews

Can interest alone make a successful civil servant?

Arguments that it cannot:

- Civil service demands specific aptitudes: decision-making under uncertainty, problem-solving, communication, emotional stability, leadership and integrity.
- Without them, interest turns into frustration, and wrong decisions in a riot or disaster harm the public.
- Interest may come from wrong motives such as power, status or job security; then it is even harmful.

Arguments that it can, partly:

- Aptitude is not fixed. Training (LBSNAA, the **UP Academy of Administration and Management, Lucknow**), mentoring and experience develop it.
- Genuine interest sustains the effort needed to build skills; many officers grow into their roles through deliberate practice.
- Interest in public service often comes with values such as dedication and empathy, which matter as much as raw ability.

Judgement: interest is necessary but not sufficient. Success needs the triad of **aptitude (can do), attitude (will do rightly) and interest (wants to do)**. A candidate with interest but weak aptitude should honestly assess himself and work on his gaps; otherwise another field may suit him better.

Conclusion: recruitment tests aptitude and integrity, and Mission Karmayogi's continuous learning helps convert interest into competence.

2022 · Q12 · Tolerance as a supreme value

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **"Tolerance is supreme fundamental value." Discuss this statement in context of civil servant.**

Tolerance is the willingness to accept and respect beliefs, practices and opinions that differ from one's own. In a society as diverse as India, and in UP with its many faiths, castes and dialects, it is the base on which other public values stand.

Why tolerance is fundamental

- **Constitution:** the Preamble's secularism and fraternity, **Articles 25–28** and the duty to promote harmony (**Article 51A(e)**).
- **Indian tradition:** Ashoka's **Rock Edict XII** urged respect for all sects; Akbar's *sulh-i-kul*; **Kabir**, who died at Maghar in UP, rejected sectarian walls; Swami Vivekananda told the Chicago Parliament (1893) that India believes not only in universal toleration but accepts all religions as true.

Tolerance in a civil servant's work

1. **Impartial service to all communities:** even-handed policing of festivals and processions, such as the Kanwar Yatra and Muharram in UP.
2. **Tolerance of criticism and dissent:** accepting RTI queries, media scrutiny and peaceful protest without vindictiveness.
3. **Within the team:** patience with colleagues of different backgrounds and with juniors' honest mistakes.
4. **With citizens:** listening calmly to angry or illiterate complainants.
5. **Policy:** respecting cultural practices while designing schemes, for example in tribal areas of Sonbhadra.

Limits: tolerance is not tolerance of injustice. Corruption, hate speech, violence and untouchability demand *zero tolerance*. Karl Popper's *paradox of tolerance* warns that unlimited tolerance of the intolerant destroys tolerance itself.

Is it "supreme"? It is supreme in the sense of being *foundational*: justice, compassion and cooperation can work only in a peaceful plural society. But it must work together with justice and courage, not replace them.

Conclusion: a tolerant officer keeps the *Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb* alive and builds the social harmony that *Viksit Bharat @2047* needs.

2022 · Q13 · Social influence and persuasion for behavioural change

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **What do you understand by social influence? How social influence and persuasion can bring out behavioural change?**

Social influence is the change in a person's attitudes, beliefs or behaviour caused by the real or imagined presence of others. Its forms are **conformity** (Asch's line experiments), **compliance** (agreeing to a request) and **obedience** to authority (Milgram). Herbert Kelman described three levels: *compliance, identification* and *internalisation*. **Persuasion** is a deliberate message meant to change attitudes.

How they bring behavioural change

1. **Social norms:** people copy what they see others do. *Swachh Bharat Mission* (2014) used community pressure and pride to make villages open-defecation free.
2. **Credible messengers:** in UP's polio campaign, local religious leaders persuaded hesitant families in western districts to vaccinate their children.
3. **Framing and appeal:** the *Give It Up* campaign (2015) appealed to patriotism, and over one crore households gave up their LPG subsidy.
4. **Role models and identification:** *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (2015) used local champions and celebrated daughters to change attitudes to girls.
5. **Group participation:** women's self-help groups under the UP State Rural Livelihood Mission have spread savings, hygiene and nutrition habits through peer learning.
6. **Nudges:** small design changes, reminders and defaults (Thaler and Sunstein; Economic Survey 2018–19 chapter on behavioural economics) steer choices without force.

Persuasion routes: the *Elaboration Likelihood Model* (Petty and Cacioppo) says arguments processed through the **central route** produce lasting change, while the **peripheral route** (celebrity, emotion) produces quicker but shorter change. Good campaigns use both.

Ethical limits: influence must not become manipulation, propaganda or fake news. It should respect autonomy and truth.

Conclusion: when compliance is turned into internalisation, behaviour change lasts. Ethical social influence is a low-cost tool for public health, sanitation and gender justice.

2022 · Q14 · Compassion towards weaker sections

> **QUESTION** 2022 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the basic requirements of compassion? What is the need of compassion towards weaker section in civil service?**

Compassion (*karuna*, *daya*) is sensitivity to another's suffering together with a commitment to relieve it. Buddhism counts *karuna* among the four *brahmaviharas*, with loving-kindness, sympathetic joy and equanimity.

Basic requirements of compassion

1. **Attention:** noticing suffering instead of ignoring it.
2. **Empathy:** understanding what the other person feels.
3. **Non-judgement:** not blaming the poor for their poverty.
4. **Will to act:** feeling must lead to effort; sympathy alone is not enough.
5. **Emotional balance:** equanimity to avoid burnout or pity.
6. **Wisdom:** help that empowers and avoids dependency.

Why civil servants need compassion towards weaker sections

- **Constitutional mandate: Article 46** asks the state to promote the interests of weaker sections, and **Article 38** to secure social justice.
- **Barriers that rules do not see:** the poor lack documents, information and confidence. Gandhi's *talisman* asks officers to recall the face of the poorest before acting.
- **Humane discretion:** a widow's pension should not stop over a spelling error in a document.
- **Trust and take-up:** compassionate officers increase the use of welfare schemes.
- **Crises:** during the 2020 return of migrant workers, and through the **UP Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana (2021)** for children orphaned by COVID-19, compassion turned into policy.
- **Against apathy:** it counters red tape and the "file mindset".

Caution: compassion must work within law and fairness; it should not become favouritism.

Conclusion: compassion gives a human face to governance and helps fulfil the promise of *Antyodaya* and SDG 1 and SDG 10.

2022 · Q15 · Persuasion to control a crowd

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Crowd is a temporary group which immediately collect at one place in situation of accident or protest or demonstration. Probability of this crowd becoming violent is always possible. Many times this crowd creates unnecessary situation of violence. Through which persuasion method the crowd may be controlled and satisfied? Explain.

Gustave Le Bon (*The Crowd*, 1895) explained that **anonymity, emotional contagion and suggestibility** make a crowd act on impulse. Force often inflames it; persuasion calms it and addresses its grievance.

Persuasion methods

1. **Early, clear communication:** loudspeaker announcements, simple instructions and calm tone in the first minutes, before anger peaks.
2. **Credible messengers:** local elders, religious or community leaders, teachers or the victim's family can speak to the crowd in its own idiom.
3. **Listening and acknowledging:** let representatives meet the DM or SP, accept a memorandum and give time-bound, concrete assurances (registering an FIR, medical help, ex gratia relief in an accident).
4. **Fact against rumour:** share verified information quickly and monitor social media for rumours.
5. **Empathy in body language:** officers in front without weapons, offering water and first aid, lower the sense of threat.
6. **Dividing and redirecting:** draw leaders into dialogue, open safe exit routes and give the crowd a lawful way to express itself.
7. **Graduated response:** warnings and prohibitory orders (**Section 144 CrPC**, now Section 163 BNSS) before any force; minimum force only as a last resort. In *Re: Ramlila Maidan Incident* (2012) the Supreme Court criticised police action against a sleeping crowd.

Planning and UP example: the **Prayagraj Kumbh 2019** used an Integrated Command and Control Centre, public announcements, volunteers and crowd-flow planning to manage huge gatherings. NDMA's guide on managing crowds at mass gatherings (2014) stresses such planning.

Ethical basis: persuasion respects citizens' dignity and right to protest (Article 19), and follows Gandhi's idea of winning hearts, not crushing bodies.

Conclusion: a crowd is satisfied when it is heard. Persuasion first and force last is both effective and ethical.

2022 · Q16 · RTI and the meaning of accountability

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

"The Right to Information Act is not only about citizen's empowerment but it essentially redefines the concept of accountability." Discuss.

The **Right to Information Act, 2005** gives every citizen the right to obtain information held by public authorities. It empowers citizens, but its deeper effect is on accountability. Before 2005, accountability ran **upwards**, to superiors and the legislature. RTI made it run **outwards and directly** to every citizen, on demand.

How RTI redefines accountability

1. **From institutional to personal:** any citizen can question any file without giving reasons (**Section 6(2)**).
2. **Built-in transparency: Section 4(1)(b)** requires proactive disclosure of functions, budgets and decision norms.
3. **Time-bound and personal liability:** replies within **30 days** (48 hours where life or liberty is involved). The information commission can fine a defaulting PIO **Rs 250 a day, up to Rs 25,000** (Section 20).
4. **Reason-giving culture:** officers record reasons and follow rules because their files may be read.
5. **Exposure of wrongdoing:** RTI applications helped expose the Adarsh Housing Society scam and irregularities in ration and MGNREGA records.
6. **Wide reach:** bodies substantially financed by government are covered. In 2019 the Supreme Court held that even the office of the Chief Justice of India is a public authority under the Act.
7. **Social audit:** the MKSS movement in Rajasthan, the root of RTI, joined information with public hearings (*jan sunwai*).

Challenges: pendency in information commissions, attacks on RTI activists, weak proactive disclosure, and the **2019 amendment**, which let the Centre fix commissioners' tenure and salary, raising concerns about independence. The UP State Information Commission also faces backlogs.

Conclusion: in Justice Louis Brandeis' words, sunlight is the best disinfectant. Strong commissions, digital filing and protection for RTI users will make accountability real.

2022 · Q17 · Ethical issues in corporate governance

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Explain with suitable examples the ethical issues in corporate governance.

Corporate governance is the system of rules, practices and processes by which a company is directed and controlled, balancing the interests of shareholders, management, employees, customers, lenders and society.

Ethical issues, with examples

1. **Accounting fraud:** in **Satyam (2009)** the chairman confessed to inflating profits and cash for years.
2. **Conflict of interest and related-party deals:** the **ICICI Bank–Videocon** loan case, over an alleged conflict of interest, led to the CEO's exit in 2018.
3. **Weak boards:** "independent" directors who do not question management; the **IL&FS** default (2018) exposed board failure.
4. **Misuse of customers' money:** the **Amrapali group** in Noida diverted homebuyers' money; in 2019 the Supreme Court ordered NBCC to complete its projects.
5. **Insider trading and market manipulation,** which cheat small investors.
6. **Neglect of safety and environment:** the **Bhopal gas tragedy (1984)** at Union Carbide's plant remains the worst example.
7. **Misleading advertising and unsafe products,** now checked by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
8. **Token CSR and greenwashing:** spending to meet the law rather than to help communities.
9. **Excessive executive pay and labour exploitation,** including unsafe contract work.

Safeguards: Companies Act 2013 (independent directors, audit committees, vigil mechanism, CSR under **Section 135**), SEBI's Listing Regulations 2015, the **Kotak Committee (2017)** and Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting.

Ethical frameworks: Gandhi's **trusteeship** and his warning against *commerce without morality*; stakeholder theory, which says a firm owes duties to all affected groups.

Conclusion: good governance is good business: it lowers the cost of capital and builds trust. As UP seeks investment for a USD 1 trillion economy, ethical corporate conduct protects both investors and citizens.

2022 · Q18 · Preventing corruption in society

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

What steps should be taken according to you to prevent corruption in society? Explain.

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. In society it has two sides: those who demand bribes and those who offer them, often out of the "*chalta hai*" habit. Kautilya noted that, as one cannot tell when a fish in water drinks it, it is hard to detect officials misappropriating money, so prevention needs many layers.

Steps to prevent corruption

1. **Values from family and school:** moral education, honest role models and discussion of real dilemmas. Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam believed the father, the mother and the teacher can make a nation corruption-free.
2. **Strong laws, swiftly enforced:** the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, amended in 2018 to punish bribe-giving; the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013; the UP Lokayukta; the Benami Transactions law and PMLA. Quick trials and confiscation of illegal assets deter more than long cases.
3. **Technology to reduce discretion:** DBT and JAM, e-tendering, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), online land records (UP *Bhulekh*) and faceless tax assessment.
4. **Administrative reform:** simple rules, citizen charters, time-bound services under the **UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011**, rotation of sensitive posts and e-office.
5. **Transparency and voice:** RTI, social audit, a free media and protection under the Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2014.
6. **Clean politics:** transparent party funding and enforcement of expenditure limits.
7. **Ethical business:** compliance programmes, vigil mechanisms and refusal to pay bribes.
8. **Citizen action:** refusing to pay or accept bribes, reporting demands, and campaigns such as the CVC's Vigilance Awareness Week.
9. **Fair service conditions:** adequate pay, merit-based promotion and capacity-building under Mission Karmayogi.

Conclusion: law can punish corruption, but only values and systems can prevent it. A society-wide effort fits **SDG 16.5** (reduce corruption and bribery) and Gandhi's warning against *wealth without work*.

2022 · Q19 · Buddha's Eightfold Path

QUESTION 2022 · 12 marks

Explain the eightfold path given by Buddha for the purification of conduct.

In his first sermon at **Sarnath** (*Dharmachakra Pravartana*), the Buddha taught the Four Noble Truths: suffering exists, it has a cause (craving), it can end, and there is a path to end it. That path is the **Ashtangika Marga (Eightfold Path)**, the **Middle Path** between indulgence and harsh self-torture. Its eight steps fall into three groups.

1. Prajna (wisdom)

- **Right View:** understanding the Four Noble Truths, impermanence and the law of cause and effect.
- **Right Resolve (Intention):** commitment to renunciation, goodwill and non-harming.

2. Sila (ethical conduct)

- **Right Speech:** no lying, slander, harsh words or idle gossip.
- **Right Action:** no killing, stealing or sexual misconduct.
- **Right Livelihood:** earning honestly, avoiding trades that harm others, such as weapons, living beings, meat, intoxicants and poison.

3. Samadhi (mental discipline)

- **Right Effort:** preventing and removing unwholesome thoughts and cultivating wholesome ones.
- **Right Mindfulness:** constant awareness of body, feelings and mind.
- **Right Concentration:** a calm, focused mind through meditation.

How it purifies conduct: *sila* cleans outward behaviour, *samadhi* disciplines the mind that drives behaviour, and *prajna* removes the ignorance at the root of craving. Together they lead to *nirvana*. The path is practical and does not depend on rituals or caste.

Relevance today: right speech means courtesy to citizens; right livelihood means no bribes; mindfulness helps manage stress; right effort means continuous self-improvement. Vipassana meditation is used in some prisons and training programmes.

UP connection: Sarnath (first sermon), **Kushinagar** (*mahaparinirvana*), Shravasti and Kaushambi make UP the heart of the Buddhist circuit.

Conclusion: the Eightfold Path is a complete code of personal ethics whose emphasis on moderation and mindfulness suits modern public life.

2022 · Q20 · Sanjeev's truth and the mob

QUESTION 2022 · Q20 · 12 marks · Case study

Sanjeev is an idealist. He believes that "truth is the greatest virtue and should never be compromised". One day he witnessed a person running away from a mob equipped with sticks and stones. He watches him hiding in a particular spot. The mob asked Sanjeev whether he saw the thief? Sanjeev tells the truth pointing towards the spot, where he saw the person hiding. The mob gets hold of the person and beats him till death. In light of above circumstance, comment on the conduct of Sanjeev.

(a) Facts and stakeholders: Sanjeev, who values truth absolutely; the fleeing man, only *alleged* to be a thief; an armed mob; the police; and society, which suffers when mob justice spreads.

(b) Ethical issues

- **Truth versus the right to life:** Sanjeev kept one value and sacrificed a greater one.
- **Rigid rule versus practical wisdom:** Kant held that one must not lie even to a murderer at the door; most ethicists reject such rigidity when life is at stake.
- **Mob justice versus rule of law:** even a real thief is entitled to due process (Article 21).
- **Complicity:** by pointing out the spot, Sanjeev became a means to the killing.

(c) Options

Option	Merit	Demerit
Tell the truth (what he did)	Keeps his principle	Leads to a death; moral complicity
Lie or misdirect the mob	Saves a life	Breaks his principle of truth
Stay silent, delay and call **112**	Protects life without a lie; brings in the law	Personal risk from an angry mob
Speak to the mob: "Theft is for the police; no one may kill"	Upholds law and life	May not calm a violent crowd alone

(d) Comment and the right course: Sanjeev's intention was good but his conduct was **ethically wrong**. Truth is a means to the welfare of beings, not an end that overrides life. The Mahabharata holds that what is most beneficial to beings is truth, and tells of the ascetic **Kaushika**, who revealed hiding travellers to robbers and was condemned for it. Gandhi saw truth and *ahimsa* as inseparable. In Max Weber's terms, Sanjeev followed an *ethic of conviction* and ignored the *ethic of responsibility* for consequences. He should have refused to point out the man, called the police, reasoned with the mob, and later given true testimony before the law, where truth serves justice.

(e) Values involved: reverence for life, rule of law, compassion, moral courage and practical wisdom (*phronesis*). The Supreme Court's guidelines against lynching in *Tehseen Poonawalla* (2018) reflect the same priority.

Conclusion: truth must be spoken in the service of justice and life; truth that helps a lynch mob is a failure of wisdom.

2023

2023 · Q1 · Moral insight

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What do you understand by Moral insight? How does it help in Moral situation of civil servants?**

Moral insight is the ability to see clearly the ethical side of a situation: who will be affected, which values are at stake and what is right, beyond the surface facts and the letter of the rules. It grows from reflection, experience and conscience, and is close to Aristotle's *phronesis* (practical wisdom) and the Indian idea of *viveka* (discernment).

How it helps civil servants

1. **Recognising hidden ethical issues:** a routine demolition file may hide the displacement of poor families.
2. **Resolving dilemmas:** balancing law and compassion, or loyalty to superiors and duty to the public.
3. **Seeing long-term effects:** foreseeing the harm of a short-cut that meets a target today.
4. **Resisting rationalisation:** seeing through excuses like "everyone does it" or "it is only a small gift".
5. **Taking moral responsibility:** Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned as Railway Minister after the Ariyalur accident (1956) though he was not personally at fault.

Developing it: reflection on case studies, mentoring by upright seniors, feedback, meditation and training under Mission Karmayogi.

Conclusion: moral insight lets an officer act rightly where rules run out, which is where most real dilemmas lie.

2023 · Q2 · Spirit of service and courage of conviction

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service. i. Spirit of service ii. Courage of firm conviction.**

(i) Spirit of service is the attitude of placing public welfare above self-interest and seeing office as a means to serve, not to rule. Swami Vivekananda urged service of the poor as worship of *Daridra Narayana*.

- It makes officers accessible and humane, especially to the poor (*Antyodaya*).
- It sustains effort in crises; health workers and district teams in UP worked through COVID-19 and floods in the eastern districts.
- It weakens corruption, because the job is seen as a duty, not a source of gain.

(ii) Courage of conviction is the moral courage to act on well-founded beliefs and stand by the right decision despite pressure, threats or unpopularity.

- It enables frank advice to ministers and refusal of illegal orders.
- **Examples: T.N. Seshan** (CEC, 1990–96) enforced the model code of conduct firmly; **S. Manjunath** was killed in **Lakhimpur Kheri (2005)** for acting against petrol adulteration; **Satyendra Dubey**, who exposed corruption in highway contracts, was murdered in 2003.
- **Caution:** conviction must rest on law and evidence, not on ego or prejudice.

Conclusion: service gives the civil servant his purpose and courage protects it; together they make the "steel frame" a people's frame.

2023 · Q3 · Family, society and values

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **"A child learns values by what he observes around him". Discuss the role of family and society in the formation of values in the light of this statement.**

Values are lasting beliefs about what is good and desirable. Children learn them less from sermons than from **observation and imitation**, as Albert Bandura's social learning theory (the *Bobo doll* experiments) showed.

Role of the family (primary socialisation)

- **Role models:** children copy how parents speak the truth, treat elders, women and domestic workers.
- **Stories and practices:** Gandhi was shaped by his mother Putlibai's fasts and by the plays on Shravana and Harishchandra.
- **Affection with discipline:** a secure home builds empathy and self-control.
- **Gender values:** equal treatment of sons and daughters at home shapes later attitudes.

Role of society (secondary socialisation)

- **School and teachers:** civic sense, discipline and constitutional values; NEP 2020 stresses ethical and constitutional values.
- **Peer group:** cooperation and fair play, or deviant habits.
- **Religion and community:** *seva* and community kitchens teach sharing.
- **Media and public life:** if a child sees bribes paid openly, he learns that corruption is normal.

Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam held that the father, the mother and the teacher can make a nation of beautiful minds.

Conclusion: the family is the first school of values, but society must offer a consistent example, or home values fade.

2023 · Q4 · International ethics in globalisation

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

"In the era of Globalization International ethics is the need of hour for ensuring peace and stability among the nations". Explain critically.

International ethics is the set of moral principles that should guide relations among states: peace, justice, human rights, respect for sovereignty and care of the global commons.

Why it is needed

- **Interdependence:** the Russia–Ukraine war (2022) disrupted food, fuel and fertiliser supplies worldwide.
- **Shared problems:** climate change, pandemics, terrorism and cyber crime need cooperation, as in the UNFCCC's principle of *common but differentiated responsibilities* and the Paris Agreement (2015).
- **Humanitarian norms:** the UDHR (1948), the Geneva Conventions and the *Responsibility to Protect* (2005).
- **Indian vision:** *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, Panchsheel (1954), *Vaccine Maitri* (2021) and India's G20 theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future" (2023).

Critical view

- **Realism:** thinkers from Thucydides to Morgenthau argue that states act on power and national interest; ethics is often rhetoric.
- **Double standards:** the veto of the five permanent members and selective interventions, such as Iraq (2003).
- **No enforcement:** international law depends on consent.
- **Vaccine nationalism** in COVID-19 and slow climate finance by rich nations.

Conclusion: international ethics is necessary but not enough by itself. It must be backed by reformed institutions such as the UN Security Council and by enlightened self-interest.

2023 · Q5 · Information sharing and transparency

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

"Concealment of Information impedes public access and involvement". In the light of this statement discuss the importance of information sharing and transparency in Government.

Secrecy, a legacy of the colonial **Official Secrets Act, 1923**, keeps citizens away from decisions that affect them. In ***State of U.P. v. Raj Narain* (1975)** the Supreme Court held that the people's right to know flows from free speech under Article 19(1)(a).

Importance of information sharing and transparency

1. **Participation:** informed citizens take part in gram sabhas, MGNREGA social audits and consultations on draft laws (Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy, 2014).
2. **Accountability and anti-corruption:** the **RTI Act, 2005** and proactive disclosure under Section 4 expose leakages.
3. **Trust:** decisions taken openly are accepted even when unpopular.
4. **Better policy:** open data (National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy, 2012) lets researchers and citizens give feedback.
5. **Efficient delivery:** online tracking of complaints on UP's **Jansunwai (IGRS) portal**, e-tendering and GeM reduce delay and discretion.
6. **Empowering the weak:** people who know their entitlements cannot easily be cheated.

Limits: national security, privacy and cabinet deliberations need protection (Section 8 of the RTI Act), so the rule should be *disclosure as default, secrecy as exception*.

Conclusion: transparency turns citizens from subjects into partners, the basis of good governance.

2023 · Q6 · Components of attitude and its formation

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Describe various components of attitude and discuss factors that influence attitude formation.

An **attitude** is a learned and fairly stable evaluation (positive or negative) of a person, object, idea or event.

Components (the ABC model)

- **Affective:** feelings, for example disgust at open garbage.
- **Behavioural (conative):** the tendency to act, for example joining a cleanliness drive.
- **Cognitive:** beliefs and knowledge, for example that dirt spreads disease.

Factors influencing attitude formation

1. **Family:** the earliest source of religious, political and social attitudes.
2. **Peer and reference groups:** the wish to belong makes people adopt group views.
3. **Education:** teachers, curriculum and exposure to reasoning.
4. **Personal experience:** direct experience, good or bad, creates strong attitudes (classical conditioning).
5. **Rewards and observation:** behaviour that is praised is repeated (operant and social learning).
6. **Media and social media:** framing and repeated exposure shape opinions.
7. **Culture, religion and caste norms.**
8. **Personal needs:** Daniel Katz described the utilitarian, knowledge, ego-defensive and value-expressive functions of attitudes.

Example: attitudes towards girls' education in UP are changing through incentives such as the **Kanya Sumangala Yojana (2019)** and visible role models.

Conclusion: because attitudes are learned, they can be changed through education, persuasion and experience.

2023 · Q7 · Two key attributes of a public servant

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Discuss any two important attributes which you consider important for public servant. Justify your answer.

Among the many values a public servant needs, I consider **integrity** and **empathy** the most important.

1. Integrity: consistency between values, words and actions; honesty, incorruptibility and intellectual honesty in giving advice.

- **Justification:** public power is held in trust. Without integrity, ability and knowledge are misused, and every other virtue loses meaning.
- It earns public trust and shields the officer from pressure.
- **Example:** officers who refuse illegal orders, record reasons and declare assets honestly set the tone for whole departments.

2. Empathy: the ability to understand the feelings and situation of others.

- **Justification:** governance in India is largely about the poor and vulnerable. Empathy makes rules humane and helps an officer see a problem from the citizen's side.
- It improves grievance redressal and the design of schemes, in line with Gandhi's *talisman* of recalling the poorest person.
- **Example:** a DM who personally visits flood-hit villages notices needs that no report shows.

Why these two: integrity ensures that things are done *rightly*; empathy ensures that the *right things* are done for people. Other values largely flow from them.

Conclusion: an officer with both is trusted by the government and loved by the public.

2023 · Q8 · Fostering liberality and objectivity

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **How can liberality and objectivity be fostered among civil servants? Give your suggestion.**

Liberality means an open, broad and generous mind that respects different views and is willing to change its opinion. **Objectivity** means deciding on facts, evidence and merit, free from personal bias.

Suggestions

1. **Training:** case-based ethics modules at LBSNAA and the UP Academy of Administration and Management, and online courses on the iGOT Karmayogi platform.
2. **Wide exposure:** postings in different regions, field stays in villages and dialogue with civil society break narrow views.
3. **Evidence-based tools:** data dashboards, checklists and *speaking orders* that record reasons.
4. **Institutional checks:** committees rather than single officers for recruitment and purchase, e-tendering, recusal in conflicts of interest, and rotation of sensitive posts.
5. **Awareness of bias:** training on cognitive biases such as confirmation bias, and inviting a "devil's advocate" view before big decisions.
6. **Appraisal and leadership:** reward fairness and openness in performance appraisal; seniors must model them.
7. **Personal habits:** reading, reflection and meditation build calm, balanced judgement.

Conclusion: objectivity keeps decisions fair and liberality keeps them humane; both can be built through training, systems and example.

2023 · Q9 · Emotional intelligence in good governance

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain the role of emotional intelligence for good governance and administration.**

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others. Daniel Goleman lists self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills.

Role in good governance

1. **Calm decisions under pressure:** self-regulation helps an officer think clearly during riots, stampedes or disasters.
2. **Citizen-centric service:** empathy improves grievance handling; an aggrieved citizen wants to be heard as much as helped.
3. **Team leadership:** motivating large teams across departments, as in the Prayagraj Kumbh 2019, needs social skills more than orders.
4. **Conflict resolution:** negotiating with protesters, unions or land-losers through dialogue.
5. **Ethical strength:** self-awareness helps an officer notice and resist temptation, anger and bias.
6. **Inclusive policy:** understanding the fears of marginalised groups improves scheme design.
7. **Stress management:** it prevents burnout and keeps morale high.

Conclusion: EI is the "soft skill" that makes hard governance work. Building it through training and feedback, as Mission Karmayogi aims to do, makes administration more humane and effective.

2023 · Q10 · Social influence in public administration

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What is the role of social influence in public administration? Elucidate with examples.**

Social influence is the change in a person's attitudes or behaviour caused by others, through conformity, compliance, identification or obedience.

Role in public administration

1. **Behaviour change for public goals:** *Swachh Bharat Mission* (2014) used community pride and peer pressure to end open defecation.
2. **Trusted messengers:** in UP's polio campaign, religious leaders persuaded hesitant families to vaccinate their children.
3. **Social norms and appeals:** under *Give It Up* (2015) more than one crore households gave up their LPG subsidy after seeing others do so.
4. **Role models:** *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (2015) used local champions to change attitudes towards girls.
5. **Nudges:** reminders and default options raise vaccination and tax compliance (Economic Survey 2018–19).
6. **Within the organisation:** an honest work culture spreads integrity, while a corrupt one pulls new officers in; *groupthink* can suppress dissent.

Negative side: pressure groups, caste networks, political interference and rumours on social media can distort decisions and disturb public order.

Conclusion: social influence is a powerful, low-cost tool when used ethically and transparently; administrators must also guard against its misuse.

2023 · Q11 · Ethical governance

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What do you understand by Ethical Governance? Elucidate with example.

NOTE

The sheet prints 8 marks here, which gives 2023 eleven 8-mark and nine 12-mark questions (196 marks). UPPCS GS papers normally have ten of each (200 marks), so this may have been a 12-mark question. If so, add one example under each element.

Ethical governance is the use of public authority guided by moral values (integrity, transparency, accountability, fairness and the public interest) and not merely by legality. The **2nd Administrative Reforms Commission's fourth report, *Ethics in Governance* (2007)**, treats ethics as central to good governance.

Elements, with examples

1. **Rule of law and constitutional morality:** decisions within the Constitution, applied equally to all.
2. **Transparency:** RTI, proactive disclosure and e-tendering.
3. **Accountability:** the Lokpal, the UP Lokayukta, CAG audit and social audit.
4. **Citizen-centricity:** citizen charters and the *Sevottam* model; in UP, the **Jansunwai (IGRS) portal** and **CM Helpline 1076** track complaints until they are resolved.
5. **Integrity:** codes of conduct, asset declarations and refusal of gifts.
6. **Fairness and inclusion:** Direct Benefit Transfer sends benefits straight to bank accounts and cuts out middlemen.

Example: Lal Bahadur Shastri's resignation after the Ariyalur rail accident (1956) remains a model of moral responsibility.

Thinkers: Kautilya placed the king's happiness in the happiness of his subjects; Gandhi's *Ram Rajya* stood for justice for the last person.

Conclusion: ethical governance builds public trust, which is the real capital of a state.

2023 · Q12 · Public welfare and foresight in policy

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

"While formulating public policies a civil servant must solely focus on the public welfare and while implementing those policies he must have a foresight to infer possible unexpected consequences". Do you agree with this statement? Give arguments and justifications for your answer.

NOTE

The sheet's English says "safely focus"; the Hindi version says "only", so "solely" is meant.

I **largely agree**. Public policy is legitimate only when it serves the people, and it succeeds only when its side-effects are foreseen.

Part 1: welfare as the focus of policy-making

- **Constitutional mandate:** Article 38 asks the state to promote the welfare of the people and social justice.
- **Ethical basis:** Kautilya placed the king's good in the good of his subjects; Bentham sought the greatest happiness; Rawls asked that policies benefit the least advantaged; Gandhi's *talisman* asks whether a step helps the poorest.
- **Guards against capture:** a sole focus on welfare keeps out vested interests, personal gain and narrow populism.

Part 2: foresight in implementation Robert K. Merton wrote of the *unanticipated consequences of purposive social action* (1936). Examples:

- **Demonetisation (2016)** aimed at black money but caused a cash crunch for the informal economy.
- After illegal slaughter-houses were closed in **UP (2017)**, stray cattle damaged crops, and the state had to expand cow shelters and support farmers who looked after them.
- Bans on single-use plastic hurt small vendors when cheap alternatives were not ready.
- Prohibition of liquor in some states has been followed by hooch tragedies.

Tools of foresight: regulatory impact assessment, pilot projects, stakeholder consultation, sunset clauses, social audits, real-time dashboards and course correction.

Qualifications:

- "Welfare" must be defined *with* people, not paternalistically.
- It must be balanced with fiscal prudence, rights and sustainability for future generations.
- Foresight is needed at the formulation stage too, not only during implementation.

Conclusion: good intentions make policy right, and foresight makes it work. Together they reflect Max Weber's *ethic of responsibility* and are essential for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2023 · Q13 · Bhagavad Gita as an ethical guide

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Can Bhagavadgita be an ethical guide for civil servants? Comment.

The **Bhagavad Gita** opens in a moral crisis: Arjuna, torn between duty and attachment, is guided by Krishna. Civil servants face similar dilemmas, so its teachings, read as universal ethics rather than dogma, can guide them. Gandhi called the Gita his "mother"; Tilak's *Gita Rahasya* read it as a call to selfless action.

Teachings relevant to civil servants

1. **Nishkama karma (2.47):** you have a right to your work, not to its fruits. Officers should do their duty without greed for reward or fear of transfer.
2. **Samatva (2.48) and the *sthitaprajna*:** equanimity in success and failure, praise and blame, helps in crises and under political pressure.
3. **Equal vision (5.18):** the wise look upon all beings with an equal eye; this is the root of impartiality and non-discrimination.
4. **Lokasangraha (3.20):** working for the welfare of the world, that is, the public interest above self.
5. **Leadership by example (3.21):** whatever a great person does, others follow. Senior officers set the culture.
6. **Svadharma:** doing one's own duty well, even when it is hard.
7. **Divine qualities (Chapter 16):** fearlessness, truthfulness, non-violence, compassion, absence of greed and humility form a ready code of ethics.

Limitations and cautions

- India is a secular state; the Constitution, not any scripture, is the civil servant's primary guide.
- The Gita can be misread to justify violence or blind obedience; Gandhi read the battle as the inner war between good and evil.

- Modern issues such as conflict of interest and data privacy need specific rules.

Comment: the Gita is a valuable *complementary* guide; its message of selfless duty, equanimity and welfare of all fits integrity, impartiality and dedication.

Conclusion: read with the Constitution as the rulebook, the Gita offers an inner compass for the "karmayogi" civil servant that Mission Karmayogi aims to build.

2023 · Q14 · Human action in ethics

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

What is meant by Human Action in Ethics? Discuss the determinants and consequences of ethics in Human Action.

In ethics, a **human action** is an act done **knowingly, freely and deliberately** by a person; only such acts are judged morally. Aristotle (*Nicomachean Ethics*, Book III) and Thomas Aquinas distinguish them from **acts of man**, such as breathing or reflexes, which are involuntary and carry no praise or blame.

Elements of a human action: knowledge (awareness of what one is doing), freedom of will, and consent.

Determinants of the morality of a human action

1. **The act itself (object):** some acts, such as helping the injured, are good in themselves; others, such as theft, are wrong.
2. **Intention or motive:** Kant held that only a good will is good without qualification; the Gita too judges action by its motive.
3. **Circumstances:** who, when, where and how. Taking a bribe to clear a bridge design is graver than a petty favour.
4. **Consequences:** utilitarians such as Bentham and Mill judge acts by their results.
5. **Factors that reduce responsibility:** ignorance, fear, passion, force and habit lessen voluntariness, which is why law recognises duress and insanity.

Consequences of ethics in human action

- **Responsibility and accountability:** a voluntary act brings praise, blame or legal liability.
- **Character formation:** repeated good acts become virtues, as Aristotle taught.
- **Law of karma:** Indian thought holds that every action bears fruit; the Gita teaches selfless action.
- **Social trust:** ethical action builds cooperation and social capital; unethical action breeds suspicion and corruption.
- **Inner life:** self-respect and peace, or guilt.

Example: an engineer who knowingly passes a weak bridge for money is fully culpable; one misled by a forged test report is far less so.

Conclusion: ethics studies voluntary action because only there do knowledge and freedom make a person responsible. For a civil servant, every file signed is such a human action.

2023 · Q15 · Rajeev's choice: interview or a life

QUESTION 2023 · Q15 · 12 marks · Case study

Rajeev is an idealist. He believes that, "Service to humanity is service to God". One day he was going for an interview for government Job. He saw a severely injured person lying on the road who was asking for help. No one came forward to help. Rajeev took the injured person to the hospital and saved his life. But due to this reason, he lost the opportunity to get a government Job. Comment on Rajeev's decision in the light of above circumstance.

(a) Facts and stakeholders: Rajeev, an idealist on his way to a government job interview; a severely injured person; passive bystanders; Rajeev's family, who depend on his career; the recruiting body; and society.

(b) Ethical issues

- **Self-interest versus altruism:** a secure career against a stranger's life.
- **Duty to rescue:** in the *golden hour* after an accident, quick help decides survival.
- **Bystander apathy:** people hesitate from fear of police and courts, or assume someone else will help (the *bystander effect*).
- **Rigid procedures:** recruitment rules with no room for genuine emergencies.

(c) Options

Option	Merit	Demerit
Ignore him and attend the interview	Career secured	A life may be lost; betrays his own belief
Call 108 or 112 and leave	Saves time for the interview	Help may arrive late; the injured is left alone
Take him to hospital (Rajeev's choice)	A life is saved	Loss of the job opportunity
Take him to hospital and inform the board with proof	Life saved; a chance of rescheduling	Depends on the board's discretion

(d) Comment on Rajeev's decision: Rajeev acted **rightly**. The right to life (Article 21) outweighs any personal gain.

- **Utilitarian view:** a life saved is far greater good than one lost interview.
- **Kant:** beneficence is a duty, and Rajeev treated the injured person as an end in himself.
- **Indian thought:** Swami Vivekananda's ideal of serving God in man, and the Gita's *lokasangraha*.

He showed the very qualities a public servant needs: empathy, courage, selflessness and decisiveness when others froze. He could also have called an ambulance on the way and given the recruiting body hospital records with a request for rescheduling.

Law and policy: the Supreme Court upheld Good Samaritan guidelines in *Save Life Foundation v. Union of India* (2016), and **Section 134A** of the Motor Vehicles Act (added in 2019) protects helpers from harassment. MoRTH's Good Samaritan award scheme (2021) rewards them.

(e) Values upheld: compassion, empathy, selflessness, moral courage and respect for life.

Conclusion: a job can come again; a life cannot. Recruiting agencies should allow for such genuine emergencies, and society should honour such Good Samaritans.

2023 · Q16 · Principles of public life

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

What are the major principles of public life? Discuss with suitable examples.

The **Nolan Committee** on Standards in Public Life (UK, 1995) set out seven principles for holders of public office. They are widely accepted in India too, and the 2nd ARC's report *Ethics in Governance* (2007) discusses them.

The seven principles, with examples

1. **Selflessness:** act solely in the public interest. **E. Sreedharan** built the Konkan Railway and the Delhi Metro with a public-first, no-favours approach.
2. **Integrity:** avoid any financial or other obligation that could influence official work. Conduct rules limit gifts and require officers to report them.
3. **Objectivity:** decide on merit and evidence. Merit-based recruitment by the UPSC and UPPSC, and e-tendering in purchases, apply this.
4. **Accountability:** submit to scrutiny. **Lal Bahadur Shastri** resigned as Railway Minister after the Ariyalur rail accident (1956); CAG audits and the Lokpal enforce answerability.
5. **Openness:** act transparently and give reasons. The **RTI Act, 2005** and proactive disclosure under Section 4 put this into law.
6. **Honesty:** be truthful. After *Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms* (2002), election candidates must disclose assets and criminal records; officers file annual property returns.
7. **Leadership:** practise these principles and challenge poor conduct. **T.N. Seshan** (CEC, 1990–96) made the model code of conduct a reality.

Indian additions: the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity; Gandhian simplicity and non-violence; *constitutional morality*, which Dr B.R. Ambedkar stressed; and the Gita's *nishkama karma*.

UP context: the UP Lokayukta, the UP Government Servants' Conduct Rules and online grievance tracking on the Jansunwai portal apply these principles locally.

Conclusion: these principles turn power into trust. Embedding them through codes, training and leadership is essential for clean, citizen-centric governance.

2023 · Q17 · Social media and public opinion

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Now a days social media is used to influence public opinion either in positive or in negative way. Being a civil servant, how will you solve this issue?**

Social media has made every citizen a publisher. It spreads awareness, but also rumours and hate that can turn violent within hours; a fake video shared on social media is widely reported to have inflamed tensions before the **Muzaffarnagar riots (2013)**.

Positive uses: awareness campaigns (COVID-19 vaccination), grievance redress on official handles, disaster alerts and wider citizen participation. **Negative uses:** misinformation, deepfakes, communal provocation, trolling and paid propaganda.

As a civil servant, I would:

1. **Monitor and warn early:** use the district's social media cell and police cyber cell to track trending rumours, especially before festivals and elections.
2. **Fact-check fast and communicate:** issue verified clarifications on official handles within the hour, work with fact-checkers such as PIB Fact Check, and keep regular communication so that official sources are trusted.
3. **Use the law, carefully:** act under the IT Act, 2000 and the IT Rules, 2021 (takedown through platform grievance officers), and under penal laws on hate speech and incitement. At the same time, respect *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* (2015), which struck down Section 66A, so that criticism of government is not punished.
4. **Engage communities:** involve peace committees, religious leaders, teachers and trusted local influencers to spread positive messages.
5. **Build digital literacy:** cyber-awareness drives in schools and colleges.
6. **Use it positively:** publicise schemes and answer complaints openly, as UP Police does on its handles.
7. **Model good conduct:** stay politically neutral and courteous online, as the conduct rules require.

Ethical balance: free speech under Article 19(1)(a) is the rule, and restrictions for public order under Article 19(2) are the exception. Action must be legal, proportionate and impartial.

Conclusion: the answer to bad speech is more good speech, backed by firm and fair law. A transparent, responsive administration is the best antidote to misinformation.

2023 · Q18 · Integrity and knowledge

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and terrible". What do you understand by this statement? Discuss.**

The statement, adapted from **Samuel Johnson**, says that **integrity** (honesty and moral consistency) and **knowledge** (competence and understanding) need each other. Integrity gives direction; knowledge gives the power to act. Either alone fails.

Integrity without knowledge is weak

- An honest but uninformed officer may approve a faulty project report, fail to detect fraud, or design a scheme that does not reach the poor. Good intentions do not ensure good results.
- He can be misled by clever subordinates or contractors.
- An honest doctor with outdated knowledge can still harm patients.

Knowledge without integrity is dangerous

- Expertise in the wrong hands becomes a tool of fraud: the **Harshad Mehta securities scam (1992)** and the **Satyam accounting fraud (2009)** were the work of skilled people.
- Cyber criminals and those who exploit legal loopholes are highly knowledgeable.
- Science without ethics produced weapons of mass destruction and unethical medical experiments.
- Gandhi listed *knowledge without character* and *science without humanity* among the seven social sins (*Young India*, 1925).
- An officer who knows every loophole is the most effective corrupt officer.

Synthesis

- Plato's philosopher-king joined wisdom with virtue; Socrates held that virtue is a kind of knowledge.
- The Gita joins *jnana* (knowledge) with *karma* (action) done without selfishness.
- In civil service terms, **competence plus character** is the goal. Mission Karmayogi builds skills; codes of conduct, training and leadership build values.

UP angle: as UP expands digital governance and infrastructure for a USD 1 trillion economy, both technical skill and honesty are needed to prevent leakages.

Conclusion: knowledge is the engine and integrity the steering. A civil servant must have both, so that power is used wisely and rightly.

2023 · Q19 · Non-performance of duty as corruption

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

"Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a type of corruption". Do you agree with this statement? Explain logically.

Corruption is commonly defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. In a wider ethical sense it is any betrayal of public trust. Wilful non-performance of duty (absenteeism, needless delay, indifference, or sitting on files) is **passive corruption**, so I **largely agree**.

Arguments in favour

1. **Breach of trust:** drawing a salary paid from taxes without working is a misuse of public money.
2. **Linked to bribery:** deliberate delay is often used to extract "speed money". **Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** (as amended in 2018) covers taking an undue advantage to perform a public duty improperly *or to forbear from performing it*.
3. **Denial of rights:** an absent teacher denies children their right to education; an absent doctor at a primary health centre can cost lives.
4. **Breach of conduct rules:** the AIS (Conduct) Rules, 1968 and service rules require *absolute integrity and devotion to duty*. The **UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011** penalises officers who fail to deliver notified services on time.
5. **Moral view:** the Gita's *svadharma* and Gandhi's idea that work is worship treat neglect of duty as a moral failing.

Counter-arguments

- Lack of staff or funds, overload, unclear rules and honest mistakes also cause delay.
- In law, corruption needs dishonest intent or undue advantage; branding all inefficiency as corruption breeds fear and "playing safe".

Judgement: wilful or motivated non-performance is corruption, ethically and often legally. Non-performance due to systemic constraints calls for reform and training rather than punishment.

Remedies: time-bound services, e-office file tracking, social audit and performance-linked appraisal.

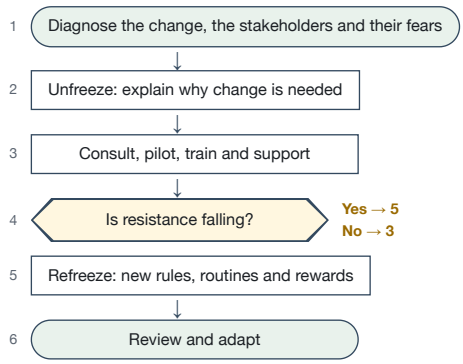
Conclusion: a public servant who does not do his duty fails the citizen as surely as one who takes a bribe. Accountability for inaction is essential for good governance.

2023 · Q20 · Overcoming resistance to change

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Describe the strategies that civil servants can employ to overcome resistance to change and effectively persuade stakeholders to support new policies and initiatives.

Reforms meet resistance from fear of the unknown, loss of power or income, habit, distrust, poor communication, vested interests or lack of skills. Kurt Lewin's model (*unfreeze, change, refreeze*) and John Kotter's eight steps show how to manage it.



Strategies

1. **Create urgency and a shared vision:** explain the problem with data and real stories, and show what will improve.
2. **Map and involve stakeholders early:** consult staff, unions, panchayats and citizens; co-designing a policy turns opponents into owners.
3. **Persuade through credible voices:** in UP's polio campaign, religious leaders and local mobilisers overcame vaccine hesitancy. Use the central route of reasoned argument as well as emotional appeal.
4. **Pilot and show quick wins:** visible early success convinces sceptics before scale-up.
5. **Build capacity:** training, helplines and hand-holding, as during the GST rollout (2017) and the shift to e-office.
6. **Address losses with empathy:** fair compensation, rehabilitation and grievance redress for those who lose out.
7. **Incentives and recognition:** reward early adopters and champions, as the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration do.
8. **Lead by example:** when seniors adopt a new system first, juniors follow.
9. **Institutionalise:** take feedback, fix flaws and embed the change in rules, SOPs and budgets so that it outlasts one officer.

UP example: the **Nivesh Mitra** single-window portal brought many separate investor approvals onto one online platform with time limits and online tracking.

Conclusion: change succeeds when people feel it is done *with* them, not *to* them. Ethical persuasion, empathy and patience are as important as authority.

2024

2024 · Q1 · Moral code of conduct and work culture

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Examine the role of the following in the context of civil service. A) Moral code of conduct B) Work culture

A civil servant holds public power in trust. A **moral code of conduct** turns ethical values into standards of behaviour. **Work culture** is the shared set of habits, attitudes and norms that decides how an office actually works.

A) Moral code of conduct

- **Guides discretion:** it converts integrity, impartiality and honesty into clear dos and don'ts. Examples are the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 and the UP Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1956.
- **Prevents conflict of interest:** rules on gifts, asset declarations and political neutrality.
- **Builds public trust:** citizens trust an administration whose conduct is fair and predictable.
- **Basis of accountability:** a breach can be identified and punished.

B) Work culture

- **Turns rules into results:** punctuality, teamwork and a citizen-first attitude decide the quality of service delivery.
- **Encourages ownership and innovation** in place of red tape and "file-pushing".
- **Socialises new entrants:** where honesty is the norm, deviance becomes costly.
- **Reform:** *Mission Karmayogi* (2020) seeks a shift from rule-based to role-based, competency-driven work.

Conclusion: A code tells officials what is right; a healthy work culture makes doing right a daily habit. Good governance needs both.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> AIS (Conduct) Rules 1968 · CCS (Conduct) Rules 1964 · UP Govt Servants' Conduct Rules 1956 · 2nd ARC 4th Report "Ethics in Governance" (2007) · Mission Karmayogi (2020).

2024 · Q2 · Swami Vivekananda and moral values

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **How far the views of Swami Vivekananda are successful in developing the core ideals and values of morality in human behaviours? Discuss.**

Swami Vivekananda (1863–1902), disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, taught a **practical Vedanta**: since every being is divine, serving people is the highest worship.

Core moral ideas

- **Divinity of man:** "Each soul is potentially divine". This grounds human dignity and equality and rejects untouchability.
- **Service as worship:** serving the poor (*Daridra Narayana*) is serving God.
- **Strength and fearlessness:** self-confidence is the root of moral courage.
- **Man-making education:** education is "the manifestation of the perfection already in man"; character matters more than information.
- **Universal tolerance:** his Chicago address (1893) preached acceptance of all faiths.

Where they succeeded

- The **Ramakrishna Mission** (1897) runs schools, hospitals and disaster relief, an institutional model of selfless service.
- He inspired nationalists such as Subhas Chandra Bose; 12 January is observed as **National Youth Day**.
- Seva, character-building and harmony shape value education and civil service training.

Limits

- Caste discrimination, communal tension and consumerism show that his ideals are admired more than practised.
- Ideals become behaviour only through family, schools, role models and institutions.

Conclusion: Vivekananda gave India a lasting moral vocabulary of service, strength and tolerance. Its success depends on living these values, not merely celebrating them.

2024 · Q3 · Skills to build public commitment to the rule of law

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Discuss the various skills by which a public servant may enhance public commitment to the rules of law.**

The **rule of law** means that no one is above the law and that law applies equally to all (A.V. Dicey; Article 14). People obey law more out of a sense of its fairness than out of fear, so the public servant's skills matter.

Skills

1. **Leading by example:** officials who obey rules themselves (no VIP exemptions) give the law moral authority.
2. **Communication and persuasion:** explaining the purpose of a rule (helmets, child marriage, stubble burning) in simple local language.
3. **Impartial and consistent enforcement:** the same rule for rich and poor; selective action kills respect for law.
4. **Procedural fairness and empathy:** listening to people, giving reasons for decisions and treating them with dignity.
5. **Facilitation:** legal-awareness camps and Lok Adalats with District Legal Services Authorities, and easy online services, so compliance is simple.
6. **Conflict resolution:** peace committees before festivals, mediation and community policing.
7. **Use of technology:** e-challans, CCTV and quick response through UP 112 reduce discretion and delay.

Conclusion: When law is clear, fair and equally applied, citizens follow it by conviction. Ambedkar called this spirit **constitutional morality**.

2024 · Q4 · Code of ethics and code of conduct

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Explain the difference between code of ethics and code of conduct and elucidate their behavioural impact and applications by appropriate examples.**

Both guide professional behaviour, but at different levels: one states values, the other prescribes actions.

Basis	Code of ethics	Code of conduct
Nature	Broad values and principles	Specific rules of behaviour
Approach	Aspirational; guides judgement	Prescriptive; compliance-based
Enforcement	Conscience, peer pressure	Disciplinary or legal penalties
Example	Nolan Committee's seven principles of public life	AIS (Conduct) Rules, 1968

Behavioural impact

- **Code of ethics:** values are internalised and guide officials in grey areas where no rule exists. A doctor's oath to put the patient first is an example.
- **Code of conduct:** makes behaviour predictable and deters misconduct, e.g. rules on accepting gifts, or the Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct.
- **Limits:** rules alone produce minimum compliance and loophole-seeking; values alone stay vague.

Applications

- **Civil service:** the UP Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1956 regulate gifts, property and political activity.
- **Corporates:** ethics codes with whistle-blower policies.
- **Legislators:** ethics committees of Parliament.

Conclusion: The code of ethics is the spirit and the code of conduct the letter. The 2nd ARC's report on *Ethics in Governance* (2007) recommended a code of ethics in addition to the conduct rules.

2024 · Q5 · Effectiveness of the RTI Act

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **How far the act of 'Right to Information' is effective in deciding the transparency in governance?**

The **Right to Information Act, 2005** gives effect to the citizen's right to know, which the Supreme Court read into Article 19(1)(a) in *State of UP v. Raj Narain* (1975).

Where it has worked

- **Empowered citizens:** ordinary people use it to trace ration, pension and MGNREGA dues.
- **Exposed wrongdoing:** RTI applications helped uncover scams such as the Adarsh Housing Society case.
- **Time-bound and enforceable:** reply within 30 days (48 hours for life and liberty), with penalties on defaulting officers.
- **Proactive disclosure** under Section 4 and a deterrent effect on arbitrary decisions.

Limits

- Large pendency and vacancies in Information Commissions.
- Poor record-keeping and weak suo motu disclosure.
- Attacks on RTI activists; the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 has not been operationalised.
- The **2019 amendment** let the Centre fix the tenure and salaries of commissioners, which critics see as weakening independence.
- The DPDP Act, 2023 widened the personal-information exemption in Section 8(1)(j).

Conclusion: The 2nd ARC called RTI the "master key to good governance". It has made governance more open, but its full effect needs independent commissions, digitised records and protection for users.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> RTI Act 2005 · Raj Narain (1975) · Sec 4 (suo motu), Sec 7 (30 days/48 hours), Sec 8 (exemptions), Sec 20 (penalty) · 2019 amendment · DPDP Act 2023.

2024 · Q6 · Emotional intelligence in disasters and at the workplace

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **What is the role of emotional intelligence in establishing harmony at disaster management and workplace?**

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to recognise, understand and manage one's own emotions and those of others (Salovey and Mayer, 1990). Daniel Goleman (1995) lists self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills.

In disaster management

- **Self-regulation:** calm decisions under pressure, without panic or anger.
- **Empathy:** dignified relief, psychological first aid and attention to women, children and the elderly.
- **Social skills:** credible messages that stop rumours, and smooth coordination of NDRF, SDRF, police, health staff and NGOs.
- **Motivation:** keeps rescue teams going in long operations, as in crowd management at large melas in Prayagraj.
- Odisha's mass evacuations before cyclones Phailin (2013) and Fani (2019) worked because officials won people's trust.

At the workplace

- **Conflict resolution:** handles friction among staff of different backgrounds.
- **Empathetic leadership:** reduces stress and burnout and raises morale.
- **Constructive feedback** and fair handling of grievances and gender issues.
- **Teamwork:** builds trust, so information and effort flow freely.

Conclusion: EI turns authority into leadership and crisis into cooperation. It deserves a central place in civil service training such as *Mission Karmayogi*.

2024 · Q7 · Unanticipated consequences in policy planning

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Why the evaluation of unanticipated consequences is important in public policy planning? Answer with appropriate arguments.**

Sociologist **Robert K. Merton (1936)** showed that purposive social action often produces consequences nobody intended. Because policies act on complex societies, foresight is part of ethical governance.

Why the evaluation matters

1. **Protects the vulnerable:** hidden costs usually fall on the poor.
2. **Saves resources:** early correction is cheaper than reversing a failed policy.
3. **Sustains trust:** visible harm erodes legitimacy.
4. **Ethics of responsibility:** Max Weber held that a decision-maker answers for foreseeable results, not only good intentions.
5. **Inter-generational justice:** environmental and fiscal effects reach future generations.

Examples

- The **Green Revolution** brought food security, but also groundwater depletion, soil degradation and stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and western UP.
- Free or flat-rate farm power encouraged over-extraction of groundwater.
- Stricter curbs on the cattle trade in UP left stray cattle damaging crops, so cow-shelter schemes had to follow.

Tools: regulatory impact assessment, pilot projects, stakeholder consultation, social audits, feedback loops and sunset clauses.

Conclusion: Good intentions are not enough. Anticipating side-effects makes policy just, efficient and durable.

2024 · Q8 · Empathy and a civil servant's attitude

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **What is the role of empathy in shaping the attitude of a civil servant? How it can enhance their interaction with the public?**

Empathy is the ability to understand another person's feelings and situation from their point of view, "standing in their shoes". Sympathy feels *for* a person; empathy feels *with* them.

Role in shaping attitude

- **Cognitive:** the officer sees ground realities behind the file, which corrects prejudice.
- **Affective:** care replaces indifference or arrogance.
- **Behavioural:** the officer becomes patient, proactive and helpful.
- It puts **Gandhi's talisman** into practice: recall the face of the poorest before deciding.

How it improves interaction with the public

- **Active listening:** people feel heard, so trust and cooperation grow.
- **Respectful, simple communication** in the citizen's own language.
- **Tailored solutions:** doorstep services for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- **Defuses conflict:** protests and grievances are handled without escalation.
- **Better feedback** from citizens improves policy design.

Examples: Armstrong Pame built a 100-km "People's Road" in Manipur with community support (2012). UP's *Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana* (2021) supported children orphaned by COVID-19.

Caution: empathy must stay impartial and never become favouritism.

Conclusion: Empathy turns a ruler into a servant of the people.

2024 · Q9 · Tolerance and compassion for weaker sections

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Explain your suggestions to promote the tolerance and compassion among civil servants to serve better to weaker sections.**

Tolerance is respect for people of different castes, faiths, cultures and views. **Compassion** is empathy joined with the will to relieve suffering (the Buddha's *karuna*). Article 46 directs the State to promote the interests of the weaker sections.

Suggestions

1. **Value-based selection and training:** case-based ethics modules, and field immersion in villages, slums and shelters during induction and *Mission Karmayogi* courses.
2. **Exposure postings:** early service in backward areas, such as the aspirational districts Shravasti and Sonbhadra in UP.
3. **Sensitisation on rights laws:** SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
4. **Citizen feedback in appraisal:** grievance data from UP's IGRS (Jansunwai) portal and CM Helpline 1076, and social audits, should count in performance reviews.
5. **Role models and recognition:** awards and public praise for compassionate service.
6. **Accountability:** prompt action against discrimination or insensitivity.
7. **Well-being support:** counselling and reasonable workloads to prevent compassion fatigue.

Conclusion: Compassion grows when systems reward it. Officers who serve the last person first fulfil Gandhi's talisman and the idea of *Antyodaya*.

2024 · Q10 · Professionalism with a diverse public

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Public servants often work with the public from diverse backgrounds and with different viewpoints. How do you ensure that their needs will be met while maintaining professionalism?**

Professionalism means competence, impartiality, ethical conduct and service orientation. Citizens differ by caste, religion, language, gender, disability, region and political view, and each deserves equal service.

How I would ensure it

1. **Impartial, rule-based decisions:** the same standards for all; personal beliefs stay outside the office.
2. **Active listening and respectful communication:** in the local language (Hindi, Awadhi, Bhojpuri in UP) and in accessible formats.
3. **Needs assessment:** use disaggregated data to identify the special needs of women, the elderly, persons with disabilities and minorities.
4. **Inclusive service design:** single-window and doorstep delivery, with offline options for those on the wrong side of the digital divide.
5. **Consultation:** ward committees and public hearings; where views conflict, decide openly and record the reasons.
6. **Clear standards:** citizen charters, the Sevottam model and time-bound services under the UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011.
7. **Professional boundaries:** empathy without favouritism; no gifts or partisanship.
8. **Feedback and grievance redressal** to correct gaps quickly.

Conclusion: Diversity is met by fairness, not uniformity. Equal respect with tailored service builds trust in the administration.

2024 · Q11 · Moral bases to fight corruption

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Discuss the moral bases to deal with the challenges of corruption prevailing in the present society.**

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. India has the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (amended 2018), the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and, in the state, the UP Lokayukta. Yet corruption persists, because laws cannot work without moral foundations.

Challenges today

- Social acceptance of "speed money" and gifts; the belief that "everyone does it".
- Consumerism and greed; the politician–business–criminal nexus.
- Slow trials and low conviction rates; new forms in procurement and cyberspace.

Moral bases

1. **Virtue ethics:** honesty, self-restraint and courage as traits of character (Aristotle). Gandhi warned that the earth has enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed.
2. **Indian traditions:** the *Ishavasya Upanishad*'s "do not covet anyone's wealth", and the Jain vows of *asteya* (non-stealing) and *aparigraha* (non-possession).
3. **Duty ethics (Kant):** bribery uses people as mere means and cannot be made a universal rule.
4. **Consequences:** corruption hurts the poor most, through leaking rations, poor roads and denied services.
5. **Public office as a trust:** Gandhi's trusteeship. Kautilya listed forty ways of embezzlement and prescribed strict checks.
6. **Justice and constitutional morality:** corruption breaks fairness and equal opportunity, the promise of the Preamble.

Putting these bases into practice

- Value education at home and school, and role models such as Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- Social sanction against the corrupt and honour for honest officials.
- Systems that support morality: e-governance, DBT, e-tendering, whistle-blower protection and quick punishment.

Conclusion: Laws punish corruption; morals prevent it. The inner check of conscience and the outer check of institutions together can build a corruption-free *Viksit Bharat*.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> PC Act 1988 (amended 2018) · Lokpal Act 2013 · UP Lokayukta Act 1975 · Santhanam Committee (1962–64) led to the CVC · 2nd ARC 4th Report (2007).

2024 · Q12 · Civil service values and personal–public balance

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **What should be the nature of civil service values for a public administrator? How can he create a balance between these values in his personal and public life? Explain.**

Civil service values are the enduring principles that guide an administrator in using public power. The Nolan Committee (UK, 1995) summed them up as selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Nature of these values

- **Constitutional:** rooted in justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and the rule of law.
- **Ethical:** integrity, honesty, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity.
- **Service-oriented:** dedication to public service; empathy, tolerance and compassion for the weaker sections.
- **Accountable:** transparency and answerability to citizens, the legislature and the courts.
- **Professional:** competence, efficiency and courage of conviction.
- **Enduring yet adaptive:** stable at the core, but applied to new contexts such as digital governance.

Balancing them in personal and public life

1. **Integrity as wholeness:** the same honesty at home and in office; double standards erode both.
2. **Conflict of interest:** declare assets and step aside from decisions involving relatives or personal interests.
3. **Family pressure:** refuse favours, jobs or contracts for kin; nepotism is the commonest leak from private life into public duty.
4. **Personal beliefs:** religious or political views are private; decisions must stay neutral, especially during elections.
5. **Private conduct:** private life is free, but it should not bring disrepute to the office.
6. **Well-being:** time for health and family prevents burnout, which harms public service too.

Example: Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned as Railway Minister after the Ariyalur rail accident (1956) and lived simply. His private frugality matched his public probity.

Conclusion: Values are not uniforms worn only in office. An administrator who lives them in both spheres earns the trust that good governance needs.

2024 · Q13 · Work performance and karma

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **What is the moral basis of the work performance in the system of governance? Discuss in the light of result contingent and result non-contingent karma.**

Work performance in governance is a moral matter because the official holds public power in trust and is paid by citizens. Its moral bases are **duty** (*dharma*, or Kant's duty for duty's sake), **accountability** to the Constitution and the people, **public welfare** as the aim, and **excellence**, which the Gita calls *yogah karmasu kaushalam* (yoga is skill in action).

Result-contingent (*sakama*) karma is action driven by its fruits: reward, promotion, recognition or fear of punishment.

- **Merits:** clear targets, measurable outcomes and motivation; examples are performance-linked incentives and city rankings such as Swachh Survekshan.
- **Demerits:** target-chasing, data fudging and neglect of what is not measured. When personal gain becomes the goal, the door to corruption opens, and failure brings stress and frustration.

Result non-contingent (*nishkama*) karma is action done as duty, without attachment to its fruits (Bhagavad Gita 2.47: "your right is to action alone, never to its fruits").

- **Merits:** intrinsic motivation and equanimity in success and failure. It resists inducements and political pressure and supports impartiality and integrity.
- **Demerits if misread:** indifference to results, fatalism and weak accountability.

Synthesis

- *Nishkama* means detachment from **personal** fruits, not from **public** outcomes. The Gita asks for work aimed at *lokasangraha*, the welfare of the world.
- So the ideal officer is outcome-focused for citizens and indifferent to personal reward. India's Outcome Budget (since 2005–06) measures results, while ethics training builds duty-consciousness.
- Example: E. Sreedharan's Konkan Railway and Delhi Metro combined a sense of duty with outstanding delivery.

Conclusion: Governance needs *nishkama* motivation with result-oriented methods: selfless in intent, effective in action.

2024 · Q14 · Moral transparency of means or effectiveness of results

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

In the process of policy making by public administrators whether the priority should be given to the moral transparency or the effectiveness of consequences/results? Elucidate.

The question restates the old debate between **means and ends**: deontology judges an act by its process and principles, consequentialism by its results.

Case for the effectiveness of results

- **Utilitarianism** (Bentham, Mill): a policy is good if it maximises welfare.
- Citizens need outcomes such as jobs, health and roads; long procedures often hurt the poor most.
- Emergencies such as COVID-19 demand speed.

Case for the moral transparency of means

- **Gandhi:** means and ends are inseparable; in *Hind Swaraj* he likened the means to a seed and the end to a tree.
- **Kant:** people must be treated as ends, never merely as means.
- **Legitimacy:** an open, consultative process wins consent, which makes results durable.
- **Prevents abuse:** the forced sterilisation drives of the Emergency (1975–77) pursued a "good" end by coercion, caused great suffering and set back family planning for years.
- **Rule of law:** RTI, reasoned orders and consultation keep power accountable.

Reconciling the two

- Moral transparency should be the **non-negotiable frame**, and effectiveness should be maximised within it.
- Often the two reinforce each other. Direct Benefit Transfer through JAM is both transparent and efficient. Social impact assessment under the land acquisition law of 2013 and the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy (2014) improve both fairness and acceptance.
- Weber's ideal combines the ethic of conviction with the ethic of responsibility.
- Transparency must not become an excuse for delay; timelines and outcome monitoring keep it purposeful.

Conclusion: Priority belongs to morally transparent means, because results won by unfair means are neither just nor lasting. A good administrator then works hard to make those fair means effective.

2024 · Q15 · Poor toilets for girl students in a college

QUESTION 2024 · Q15 · 12 marks · Case study

You are a city commissioner. There is a reputed college in your city, which has the maximum number of girl students. The conditions of the toilets/washrooms in this college is very poor and pathetic due to which the girl students have to face many mental, physical and hygiene related problems every day. The college administration is not paying any attention to these basic facilities of the girl students. As a city commissioner, what steps will you take to improve this basic facility of the girl students and against the indifference of the college administration?

(a) Facts and stakeholders: girl students (the main sufferers), their parents, the college management and principal, the municipal corporation under me, the Higher Education Department, the affiliating university and civil society.

(b) Ethical issues

- Denial of **dignity, privacy and health**, which are part of the right to life (Article 21), and of gender justice. Poor toilets also hit menstrual hygiene, attendance and even continuation of studies.
- **Institutional apathy** and lack of accountability of the college.
- **My dilemma:** the college is not directly under my control, yet I have a moral and public-health duty to act. I must also choose between punishment and cooperation, and between speed and due process.

(c) Options

Option	Merit	Demerit
Treat it as outside my jurisdiction and forward a letter	Procedurally safe	Indifference; suffering continues
Immediate penalty or sealing	Strong signal	May be contested; nothing gets built
Corporation builds facilities inside the campus	Fast	Legal and financial limits; rewards negligence
Inspection, dialogue, time-bound plan, interim help and escalation	Lawful, quick and lasting	Needs close follow-up

(d) Course of action (the fourth option)

1. Inspect personally with a woman officer and the health officer, and hear the students in confidence.
2. Meet the principal and management and obtain a **written, time-bound plan**: repair, running water, lighting, regular cleaning, sanitary-pad vending machines and incinerators.
3. **Interim relief:** mobile toilets near the campus and extra sanitation workers from the corporation.
4. **Resources:** Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 convergence, CSR and alumni funds, and technical help from corporation engineers.

5. **If they still do not act:** a notice under the sanitation powers of the UP Municipal Corporation Act, 1959, and a report to the university and the Higher Education Department, so that affiliation and grants depend on compliance.
6. **Institutionalise:** a student committee and helpline, monthly checks, and a city-wide audit of girls' toilets in all colleges and schools.

(e) Values upheld: empathy, gender sensitivity, dignity, accountability, rule of law, proactive responsiveness and cooperative governance.

Conclusion: A clean, safe toilet is a right, not a favour. Firm, empathetic action advances SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 6 (sanitation).

2024 · Q16 · Society and political attitudes

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Critically evaluate the role of society in shaping and internationalizing political attitudes.

NOTE

Both the English and the Hindi versions say "internationalizing". The usual pairing in attitude theory is "shaping and internalizing" (political socialisation), so the answer covers internalisation and also how political attitudes spread across borders.

Political attitudes are relatively stable beliefs, feelings and tendencies towards political objects such as the government, parties, leaders, democracy and public issues. They are learnt through **political socialisation**, which society carries out.

How society shapes them

1. **Family:** the first agent. Party loyalty, ideology and caste identity are often inherited.
2. **School and college:** civic values, constitutional ideals, mock parliaments, NSS and NCC.
3. **Caste, community and religion:** shape voting and identity politics, as seen in UP.
4. **Media and social media:** set the agenda and frame issues.
5. **Movements and civil society:** the JP movement (1974–75) and India Against Corruption (2011) shaped attitudes towards authority and corruption. Farmers' bodies such as the Bharatiya Kisan Union in western UP do the same.
6. **Occupation and class:** economic interests colour views on policy.

How they are internalised: Herbert Kelman described three stages. People first **comply** for reward, then **identify** with admired groups, and finally **internalise** the values as their own.

How they are internationalised: global media, the diaspora and worldwide campaigns carry attitudes across borders. Human-rights norms and the youth climate strikes that began in 2018 shaped young Indians' views, while foreign disinformation can distort them.

Critical evaluation

- **Positive:** society spreads democratic participation; women's rising turnout and a vibrant panchayat culture after the 73rd Amendment are examples.
- **Negative:** it also transmits casteism, communalism, gender stereotypes and blind loyalty. Social-media echo chambers deepen polarisation and spread fake news.
- **Limits:** individuals are not passive. Education, personal experience and performance-based voting can override inherited attitudes. The Constitution and laws also reshape society.

Conclusion: Society is the main workshop of political attitudes. Civic education, media literacy and constitutional values must steer it so that citizens become informed, tolerant and rational.

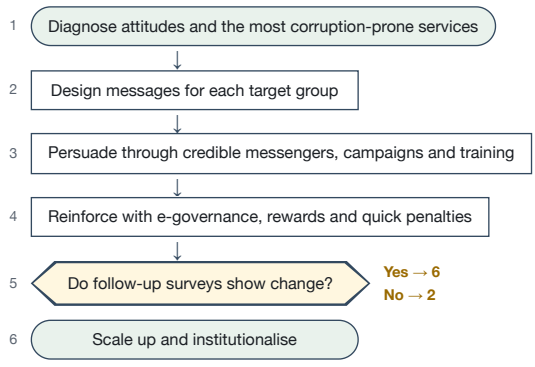
2024 · Q17 · Attitude change for a corruption-free India

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

As an administrator, develop an intervention programme for attitude change in "corruption free India".

Corruption survives on attitudes such as "everyone does it", "paying is quicker" and "nothing will change". Laws like the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Lokpal Act need an attitude shift in all three parts of attitude: **cognitive** (beliefs), **affective** (feelings) and **behavioural** (actions).

Intervention programme



1. **Diagnosis:** surveys of citizens and staff; mapping of corruption-prone services such as land records, licences and police stations.
2. **Target groups**
   - **Students and youth:** integrity clubs, debates during the CVC's Vigilance Awareness Week, stories of honest role models.
   - **Citizens:** "don't pay, report" campaigns, a helpline and the Integrity Pledge.
   - **Officials:** ethics modules in *Mission Karmayogi*, case discussions, recognition of honest officers.
   - **Business:** integrity pacts in procurement.
3. **Persuasion techniques**
   - **Credible sources** (Hovland): respected officers, teachers and local icons carry the message.
   - **Two routes** (elaboration likelihood model): facts and data for thinkers, stories and emotion for others.
   - **Cognitive dissonance:** show people the gap between their values and bribe-paying.

- **Nudges:** displayed fees, digital receipts and online-by-default services.

4. **Structural reinforcement:** remove opportunities through online land records (UP Bhulekh), DBT, faceless and time-bound services and whistle-blower protection. Quick, visible punishment shows that the new norm is real.
5. **Monitoring:** repeat surveys, grievance data and social audits, with course correction.

Conclusion: Attitudes change slowly. Steady persuasion, combined with systems that make honesty easy and corruption risky, can turn "corruption-free India" from a slogan into a social norm.

2024 · Q18 · Ethics in private and public relations

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the key difference between ethics in private relations (family, friendships) and public relations (business, politics)? Explain.**

Private relations (family, friendship) rest on love, care and loyalty. **Public relations** (business, politics) rest on contracts, rules and public trust. Many virtues are common to both, but their emphasis differs.

Basis	Private relations	Public relations
Foundation	Love, care, personal trust	Contract, law, public trust
Partiality	Natural and accepted	Impartiality is mandatory
Norms	Informal: custom and emotion	Formal codes, laws, regulators
Accountability	To family and conscience	To shareholders, voters, courts
Openness	Privacy is valued	Transparency is expected
Sanctions	Social and emotional	Legal, market and electoral
Main theory	Ethics of care (Carol Gilligan)	Ethics of justice (Rawls)

Business ethics: honesty with customers, fair competition, no insider trading or cartels, and social responsibility (CSR under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013).

Political ethics: power is a trust; leaders must avoid conflicts of interest, give reasons for their acts and serve all citizens equally (Nolan's principles of public life).

Where the two collide: when private loyalty enters public life it becomes nepotism, favouritism and crony capitalism. An example is an officer who hires relatives or a minister who awards contracts to friends. The reverse is also harmful: cold, rule-bound behaviour inside the family.

Common ground: truthfulness, promise-keeping and respect matter in both spheres. Gandhi held that "life is one indivisible whole": a person cannot do right in one department of life while doing wrong in another. Private character therefore predicts public conduct.

Conclusion: Care should guide private life and fairness public life. The ethical person keeps the two apart where needed, without becoming two different people.

2024 · Q19 · Attitude–behaviour gap

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **"A person's real behaviour may be contrary to the person's attitude towards specific subject." Do you agree with this statement? Answer with suitable argument.**

An **attitude** is a learnt tendency to evaluate an object favourably or unfavourably. It has cognitive, affective and behavioural parts. Behaviour, however, does not always follow attitude, so I **agree** with the statement, within limits.

Arguments for the gap

1. **Classic evidence:** in **LaPiere's study (1934)** a Chinese couple was served at almost every hotel and restaurant they visited in the USA. Yet when later asked by letter, most of the places that replied said they would not accept Chinese guests.
2. **Social norms and pressure:** a person who opposes dowry may still give it under family pressure; someone who values cleanliness may litter where everyone litters.
3. **Situational constraints:** Ajzen's **theory of planned behaviour** (1991) shows that behaviour depends on attitude, subjective norms and perceived control. A supporter of public transport may drive because buses are unreliable.
4. **Self-interest:** an official who condemns corruption may take a bribe when the risk is low.
5. **Conformity and obedience:** the Asch and Milgram experiments showed that people act against their own judgement under group or authority pressure.
6. **Weak or mixed attitudes:** attitudes that are ambivalent or not personally relevant predict little.

When attitudes do predict behaviour

- When they are strong, specific and formed by direct experience.
- When outside pressure is low and the person is self-aware.
- Behaviour also changes attitudes: Festinger's **cognitive dissonance** theory (1957) shows people adjust beliefs to justify what they have done.

Lessons for administration

- Awareness campaigns alone fail. Swachh Bharat combined toilet construction with behaviour-change communication and community pressure.
- Integrity training must be backed by systems and leadership that reward ethical behaviour.

Conclusion: Attitude is a strong but not sufficient cause of behaviour. Closing the gap needs strong values together with an environment that makes acting on them easy.

2024 · Q20 · Youth-led environmental movement

> **QUESTION** 2024 · Q20 · 12 marks · Case study
>
> **"An environmental movement led by youths gains popularity through social media, rallies and collaboration with influencers and scientists… government to propose changes in the policy." What will be your stand to cope with the situation as a civil servant?**

> **NOTE**
> The sheet prints only an abridged version of this case. The answer assumes that a peaceful, youth-led campaign for stronger environmental protection has grown large, and that its pressure has led the government to propose policy changes, which the civil servant must handle.

(a) Facts and stakeholders: youth activists, scientists, influencers, the government, industries and workers whose livelihoods may be affected, farmers, the media, the general public and future generations.

(b) Ethical issues

- The right to protest peacefully (Article 19(1)(a) and (b)) versus public order.
- Environmental protection (Articles 21, 48A and 51A(g)) versus development and livelihoods.
- Scientific evidence versus emotional campaigns and misinformation on social media.
- My personal sympathy versus the duty of **political neutrality**; intergenerational justice.

(c) Options

1. **Suppress or ignore the movement:** keeps the status quo, but it is undemocratic, violates rights and alienates youth.
2. **Openly back every demand:** popular, but it breaches neutrality and ignores costs to workers and industry.
3. **Neutral, facilitative and evidence-based engagement:** respects rights and science and lets the elected government decide on balanced advice. Its only demerit is that it takes time.

(d) My stand: the third option

- **Law and order:** permit peaceful rallies at designated places, protect participants and act impartially against any violence.
- **Dialogue:** a structured forum with youth leaders, scientists, industry, unions and affected communities.
- **Evidence:** an expert review of the scientific claims; correct misinformation with verified data.
- **Frank advice:** a note to the government with options, costs, timelines and a just transition for affected workers.
- **Faithful implementation** of whatever lawful policy the government adopts.
- **Channel the energy:** eco-clubs, mass tree planting, pollution watch and *Mission LiFE* (2022), so protesters become partners.
- **Transparency:** regular public updates on progress.

(e) Values upheld: neutrality, objectivity, democratic responsiveness, rule of law, courage to advise honestly, and sustainable development.

Conclusion: From the Chipko movement (1973, in the Chamoli district of undivided UP) to today's climate campaigns, people's movements have improved environmental policy. A civil servant should neither fear nor follow them blindly, but turn their energy into sound policy for SDG 13.

UPPCS Mains · General Studies Paper 5

Uttar Pradesh Special (I) · 2023–2024 · 40 questions

2023 · UP Polity & Governance

2023 · Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Critically examine the process of appointment of the Advocate General and his functions in Uttar Pradesh.

The Advocate General is the State's highest law officer, the counterpart of the Attorney General of India, under **Article 165**.

Appointment

- Appointed by the **Governor** on the advice of the Council of Ministers (in practice, the Chief Minister's choice).
- Must be qualified to be a **High Court judge**: an Indian citizen with 10 years in a judicial office or 10 years as an advocate of a High Court.
- No fixed tenure: holds office **during the pleasure of the Governor**, who also fixes the remuneration.

Functions

- Advises the State Government on legal matters and performs legal duties given by the Governor.
- Represents the State in the **Allahabad High Court** and its Lucknow Bench.
- May speak in both Houses of the State Legislature and their committees, but cannot vote (**Article 177**).

Critical view

- The pleasure tenure makes the post political; the incumbent usually resigns when the government changes.
- Selection is not transparent.
- The State is the biggest litigant before a High Court with a huge backlog, so the office is overburdened.

Conclusion: A fixed tenure and transparent selection would make the office a stronger guardian of the rule of law.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Art. 165 (appointment, pleasure of Governor) · Art. 177 (right to speak, no vote) · Art. 194(4) (privileges) · qualified as an HC judge.

2023 · Role of the Chief Secretary

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Examine the role of the Chief Secretary in the administration of Uttar Pradesh.

The Chief Secretary is the senior-most civil servant of the State and the administrative head of the State Secretariat. In UP the post is held by a senior IAS officer chosen by the Chief Minister. The post is not created by the Constitution; it rests on the Rules of Business and convention.

Roles

1. **Principal adviser to the Chief Minister** on policy and on the administrative and legal effects of decisions.
2. **Secretary to the Cabinet:** prepares the agenda of Cabinet meetings, keeps the minutes and follows up decisions.
3. **Chief coordinator:** chairs inter-departmental and high-level committees and settles disputes between departments. In UP this covers big ventures such as expressways, investor summits and the Mahakumbh.
4. **Head of the civil service:** advises on postings, transfers and discipline of senior officers, and guides Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates through regular reviews and video conferences.
5. **Crisis manager:** chairs the **State Executive Committee** under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and oversees the response to floods, epidemics (as in COVID-19) and law-and-order crises.
6. **Link with the Centre:** the main channel to the Union Government and the Cabinet Secretary; takes part in national conferences of Chief Secretaries.
7. **Monitoring and reform:** tracks flagship schemes and district performance through dashboards, and drives e-governance and ease-of-doing-business reforms.
8. **During President's Rule:** becomes the chief adviser to the Governor.

Limitations

- Overload of routine files and committees leaves little time for strategic work.
- Short tenures and selection at the CM's discretion can weaken independence.
- A generalist heads many specialised departments.

Conclusion: The Chief Secretary is the linchpin of State administration. A minimum fixed tenure, delegation of routine work and a focus on outcomes would help UP move towards its goal of a USD 1 trillion economy.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Head of Secretariat and civil service · Secretary to the Cabinet · chairs State Executive Committee (DM Act, 2005, s. 20) · link with Cabinet Secretary.

2023 · e-District project of UP

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Throw light on the e-District Project of Uttar Pradesh government. Is it a good initiative in the direction of E-governance in Uttar Pradesh? Examine.

e-District is a State **Mission Mode Project** under the **National e-Governance Plan (NeGP, 2006)**. It delivers the high-volume citizen services of the district administration electronically and close to the citizen. UP was among the pilot States and later extended it to all 75 districts.

Main features in UP

- **Services:** income, caste and domicile certificates; birth and death certificates; old-age, widow and divyang pensions; ration-card services; land records (khatauni); grievance redress.
- **Delivery:** online, and through **Jan Seva Kendras** (Common Service Centres) in villages and towns.
- **Process:** online application, SMS tracking, a digital signature by the competent officer and online verification of certificates.
- **Legal backing:** the **UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011** fixes time limits for notified services.
- **Roots:** earlier UP experiments such as **Lokvani** (Sitapur, 2004) for online grievances.

Why it is a good initiative

1. **Convenience:** fewer trips to tehsil and block offices, saving time and money.
2. **Transparency:** fewer middlemen and less petty bribery; every application leaves a digital trail.
3. **Accountability:** pending cases are visible to senior officers, and time limits apply.
4. **Rural livelihoods:** Jan Seva Kendras give local entrepreneurs, including women, an income.
5. **Data for governance:** digital certificates are reused for scholarships, admissions and DBT.

Limits

- **Digital divide:** poor connectivity and low digital literacy, especially among women and the elderly.
- Overcharging by some kendra operators and cases of forged certificates.
- **Manual back end:** field verification by the lekhpal and kanungo still causes delays.
- Concerns over cyber-security and data privacy.

Conclusion: e-District is a sound step towards citizen-centric e-governance in UP. Linking it with DigiLocker and mobile apps, and making field verification faster, would realise "minimum government, maximum governance".

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

NeGP 2006 · State MMP · Jan Seva Kendra (CSC) · UP Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam 2011 · Lokvani, Sitapur (2004).

2023 · UP Health Policy 2018 and healthcare efforts

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Examine state government's efforts, initiatives and policy directions in the medical and healthcare sphere with reference to Uttar Pradesh Health Policy 2018.

Uttar Pradesh carries a large share of India's disease burden. Its Health Policy of 2018 follows the **National Health Policy, 2017**: universal access to good-quality care at an affordable cost, with stress on primary and preventive care.

Policy directions

- Strengthen primary care, turning sub-centres and PHCs into Health and Wellness Centres (now *Ayushman Arogya Mandirs*).
- Cut maternal and infant deaths and bring down fertility (UP's TFR was 2.4 in NFHS-5, 2019–21).
- Reduce out-of-pocket spending through financial protection.
- Expand medical education and health human resources.
- Use technology and partnerships with the private sector, and integrate AYUSH.

Efforts and initiatives

1. **Insurance:** Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, plus the State's **Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan**, giving a ₹5 lakh cover to families left out of PM-JAY.
2. **Medical education:** the goal of "one district, one medical college"; new autonomous State medical colleges; AIIMS at Gorakhpur and Rae Bareli.
3. **Communicable diseases:** the **Dastak** and communicable-disease control campaigns sharply cut deaths from Japanese Encephalitis and AES in eastern UP.
4. **Mother and child:** free institutional delivery, 102 and 108 ambulances, Mission Indradhanush and Mission Parivar Vikas for high-fertility districts.
5. **Digital health:** e-Sanjeevani teleconsultation and ABHA health IDs.
6. **After COVID-19:** oxygen plants, ICU and paediatric beds, and public-health labs under PM-ABHIM.

Gaps

- Shortage of specialists in CHCs and of doctors in rural areas.
- Low public spending per person and high out-of-pocket costs.
- Faculty and quality problems in new medical colleges; Bundelkhand and eastern UP lag behind.

Conclusion: The direction is right: primary care, insurance and medical education. Steady funding and more trained staff are now needed to meet the SDG-3 targets.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

NHP 2017 alignment · Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan (₹5 lakh) · Dastak (JE/AES) · one district one medical college · AIIMS Gorakhpur, Rae Bareli.

2023 · UP Data Centre Policy 2021

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What are the key objectives of the Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy-2021? Discuss.

The **UP Data Centre Policy, 2021** aims to make the State a data-centre hub of India. It rides on Digital India, rising data use and the push to store Indians' data within the country.

Key objectives

1. **Investment:** attract about ₹20,000 crore into data centres.
2. **Capacity:** build about 250 MW of data-centre capacity.
3. **Parks:** develop three private data-centre parks.
4. **Jobs and skills:** create direct and indirect employment for IT professionals and technicians.
5. **Digital economy:** support cloud services, AI, fintech, start-ups and secure storage of government data.

Incentives offered

- Capital and interest subsidies, and stamp-duty exemption.
- Land at concessional rates.
- Uninterrupted power through dual-grid supply, open access to (green) power and electricity-duty exemption.
- Single-window clearance through Nivesh Mitra.

Progress: a cluster has grown in Noida and Greater Noida. Yotta's D1 at Greater Noida (2022) is the first hyperscale data centre of north India.

Challenges: heavy demand for power and water, the need for renewable energy, cyber-security and skilled staff.

Conclusion: The policy can make UP a digital-infrastructure leader, supporting its goal of a USD 1 trillion economy.

> **NOTE**
> The policy's targets have been revised since 2021; check the latest figures before the exam.

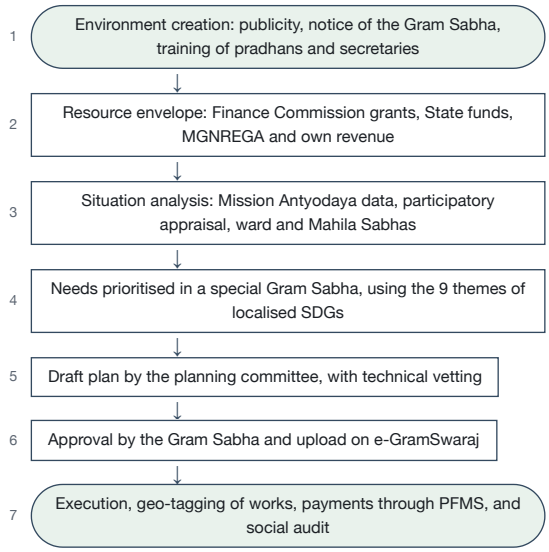
2023 · Panchayati Raj & Rural Power Structure

2023 · Stages of Gram Panchayat Development Plan

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **Describe the major stages in the formulation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) in Uttar Pradesh.**

Under **Article 243G**, panchayats prepare plans for economic development and social justice. Since 2015, when Finance Commission grants began to flow directly to gram panchayats, every gram panchayat in UP prepares an annual **GPDP**, mainly during the **People's Plan Campaign** (*Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas*) from 2 October.

Major stages



UP-specific features

- The gram panchayat's **Niyojan evam Vikas Samiti** (planning and development committee), chaired by the pradhan, drafts the plan.
- Panchayat Sahayaks help with data entry and records.
- Gram panchayat plans feed into block and district plans.

Conclusion: Participatory, data-based GPDPs make panchayats real units of self-government, but better training and active Gram Sabhas are needed.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 243G · People's Plan Campaign from 2 Oct · Mission Antyodaya · 9 LSDG themes · e-GramSwaraj · PFMS.

2023 · Caste, power and access in rural UP

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **How do caste hierarchies and power structure affect access to resources and opportunities in rural Uttar Pradesh? Discuss.**

Caste still shapes rural life in Uttar Pradesh. Scheduled Castes form about **20.7%** of the State's population (Census 2011), the largest SC population of any State. Land, local power and social networks remain concentrated with landed upper castes and "dominant castes", a term coined by M.N. Srinivas.

How caste affects access

1. **Land and water:** despite Zamindari abolition, landholding is skewed; most Dalits are marginal farmers or landless labourers. Gram Sabha land given on *patta* to the landless is often not handed over in practice.
2. **Credit and markets:** without land as collateral, lower castes depend on moneylenders. Dominant groups often control cooperatives and local trade.
3. **Education:** discrimination in schools and early dropout, especially of Dalit girls; first-generation learners get little support at home.
4. **Employment:** caste-linked work such as leather work and manual scavenging persists. Non-farm jobs often come through caste networks.
5. **Welfare schemes:** elite capture of beneficiary lists for houses, ration cards and pensions.
6. **Political power:** reserved panchayat posts sometimes become proxies for powerful families ("pradhan pati" or dummy candidates). Gram Sabha meetings are dominated by the influential.
7. **Justice and safety:** atrocities and social boycott deter assertion; poor access to police. UP records some of the highest numbers of crimes against SCs in NCRB data.

Signs of change

- Land reforms, reservation in panchayats (73rd Amendment), the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, MGNREGA and DBT reduce dependence on local patrons.
- Dalit and OBC political assertion, seen in the rise of the BSP and the SP, has given lower castes a voice.
- Migration, education and mobile phones weaken old hierarchies.

Conclusion: Caste still filters access in rural UP, though less rigidly than before. Secure land titles, good schooling and transparent digital delivery can make opportunity independent of birth, in line with SDG-10.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> SC share 20.7% (Census 2011) · dominant caste (M.N. Srinivas) · elite capture · pradhan pati · PoA Act 1989.

2023 · Security & Law-Order Enforcement

2023 · Security challenges in UP's border areas

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **Explain the security challenges in the border areas of Uttar Pradesh.**

Uttar Pradesh shares an **open border with Nepal** along seven districts: Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar and Maharajganj. It is guarded by the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**. The State also borders eight other States and Delhi.

On the Nepal border

- **Open border:** the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty allows free movement, so checks are hard.
- **Smuggling:** narcotics (charas, smack), fake currency, arms and gold, and goods such as fertiliser.
- **Human trafficking**, especially of women and children.
- **Terror and crime:** transit for terror modules and hide-outs for criminals escaping Indian law; hawala funding.
- **Wildlife crime** in border forests such as Dudhwa, Katarniaghat and Sohagibarwa.
- Rivers shifting course damage border pillars and lead to encroachment.

On inter-state borders

- Smuggling of liquor and cattle, and illegal sand mining.
- The old Left-wing extremism belt of Sonbhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli, now largely controlled.
- Gangs exploit different police jurisdictions, as in the Chambal ravines.

Response: SSB posts, the Integrated Check Post at Rupaidiha, joint patrols and intelligence sharing with Nepal.

Conclusion: Technology (CCTV, drones), border-village development and India–Nepal cooperation can keep the open border a bridge, not a gap.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 7 Nepal-border districts · SSB · 1950 Treaty · FICN, narcotics, trafficking · LWE legacy: Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Chandauli.

2023 · UP Police STF and organised crime

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Describe the role of Uttar Pradesh Police 'Special Task Force' in the prevention of the organized crime.**

The **Special Task Force (STF)** of UP Police was set up on **4 May 1998**. Its first task was to track down the gangster Shri Prakash Shukla, who was killed in an encounter in September 1998. It is an elite, intelligence-driven unit headed by an Additional Director General of Police, with its headquarters in Lucknow and field units across the State.

Role in preventing organised crime

1. **Intelligence:** gathers technical and human intelligence on gangs, mafias, contract killers and inter-state gangs.
2. **Action against gangsters:** hunts wanted criminals carrying rewards. Major cases include the hunt for Vikas Dubey (2020) and action against the Atiq Ahmed gang (2023).
3. **Exam and recruitment fraud:** breaks "solver gangs" and paper-leak networks in recruitment and entrance examinations.
4. **Economic and cyber crime:** fake call centres, online fraud, counterfeit currency and fake degrees.
5. **Illegal arms, drugs and wildlife:** raids illegal arms factories, drug supply chains and the trade in tiger and pangolin parts.
6. **Support role:** shares inputs with the ATS, NIA, ED and other States, and helps district police in sensitive cases.
7. **Legal tools:** uses the **UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986**, including the attachment of illegally earned property, and the National Security Act.

Concerns

- Encounter killings raise questions of due process. The Supreme Court's guidelines in **PUCL v. State of Maharashtra (2014)** require an FIR, an independent investigation and a magisterial inquiry in every such case.
- The focus is often on arrests rather than conviction; forensic capacity and witness protection are weak.
- Organised crime is becoming cyber-enabled and inter-state.

Way forward: cyber and forensic labs, financial investigation to seize criminal assets, better prosecution and witness protection, and strict compliance with court guidelines.

Conclusion: The STF is UP's sharpest tool against organised crime. Its credibility rests on professional, lawful action that leads to convictions.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> STF: 4 May 1998 · Shri Prakash Shukla · UP Gangsters Act 1986 · PUCL v. State of Maharashtra (2014) encounter guidelines.

2023 · Social Sector: Education & Health

2023 · Operation Kayakalp and model schools

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

How much has the 'Operation Kayakalp' been significant in the efforts of converting the primary and upper primary schools into model schools? Analyse.

Operation Kayakalp was launched by UP's Basic Education Department in 2018 to give council (Basic Shiksha Parishad) schools basic facilities. It works through convergence: Finance Commission grants with gram panchayats, MGNREGA and other funds, with pradhans and School Management Committees as partners.

Coverage: about 19 parameters, such as separate toilets for girls and boys, drinking water, hand-washing units, electricity, tiled floors, boundary walls, ramps, furniture and kitchen sheds.

Significance

1. **Infrastructure:** most schools now meet basic norms, narrowing the gap with private schools.
2. **Access:** toilets and water help keep girls in school; enrolment in council schools rose after 2017.
3. **Community ownership:** pradhans and SMCs took responsibility for school upkeep.
4. **Base for quality:** it paved the way for **Mission Prerna** (foundational learning under NIPUN Bharat), smart classes and model schools such as the Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Composite Vidyalayas.

Limits

- Buildings alone do not raise learning; teacher shortages and low learning levels (ASER) remain.
- Construction quality and maintenance vary across districts.
- It depends heavily on panchayat funds.

Conclusion: Kayakalp was the necessary first step. Real model schools also need trained teachers and a focus on learning, as NEP 2020 envisions.

2023 · First AYUSH University of UP

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Discuss the nature and objectives of the first Ayush University established in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh's first AYUSH university is the **Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University** at **Gorakhpur**. President Ram Nath Kovind laid its foundation stone on 28 August 2021. It is named after Guru Gorakhnath, the Nath yogi linked with the Hatha Yoga tradition.

Nature

1. **State university:** set up by the State Government exclusively for AYUSH systems such as Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani and Homoeopathy.
2. **Affiliating body:** AYUSH colleges of the State, government and private, are affiliated to it instead of being spread over many general universities.
3. **Teaching and research university:** its own campus with academic departments, a hospital and research facilities.
4. **Works within national norms:** curricula and standards follow the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine and the National Commission for Homoeopathy.

Objectives

- **Uniform standards:** a common syllabus, examinations and academic calendar for AYUSH courses in UP.
- **Research:** evidence-based study of traditional medicine and medicinal plants, and its integration with modern medicine.
- **Health care:** AYUSH treatment and wellness services for eastern UP and the nearby regions.
- **Medicinal plants:** promote their cultivation and processing, for example in the Terai and Vindhya regions, raising farm incomes.
- **Skills and jobs:** trained AYUSH doctors, pharmacists, yoga instructors and therapists.
- **Wellness tourism:** builds on yoga and the Gorakhnath tradition of Gorakhpur.

Challenges: shortage of faculty, uneven quality of private colleges, limited research funding and the need for scientific validation of AYUSH remedies.

Conclusion: The university can make UP a hub of AYUSH education and research. It supports the National AYUSH Mission and preventive health under SDG-3.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University, Gorakhpur · foundation stone 28 Aug 2021 (President Kovind) · affiliating + teaching · NCISM, NCH.

2023 · UP Politics & Society

2023 · Regional parties in UP politics

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

Discuss the nature of regional parties in Uttar Pradesh. Throw light on their importance in the politics of state.

Since Congress dominance ended in 1989, regional parties have shaped UP politics: the **Samajwadi Party** (Mulayam Singh Yadav, 1992), the **Bahujan Samaj Party** (Kanshi Ram, 1984) and smaller ones such as the RLD, Apna Dal, the SBSP and the Nishad Party.

Nature

- **Caste-based support:** the SP among OBCs (especially Yadavs) and Muslims; the BSP among Dalits; smaller parties among single castes, such as Kurmis (Apna Dal) and Rajbhars (SBSP).
- **Social-justice ideology:** rooted in Lohia's socialism, Mandal politics and the Bahujan movement.
- **Leader-centred**, often family-run.
- **Regional pockets:** the RLD in western UP; the SBSP in eastern UP.
- **Flexible alliances** with national parties.

Importance

1. Gave Dalits and backward classes power: Mayawati became UP's first Dalit Chief Minister in 1995.
2. Formed majority governments: the BSP in 2007 and the SP in 2012.
3. Key to coalitions at the Centre, since UP elects 80 Lok Sabha members. In 2024 the SP won 37 seats, the most of any party in UP.
4. Small caste parties swing close contests.

Limits: caste polarisation, dynastic control and identity placed above governance.

Conclusion: Regional parties have deepened democracy in UP; their future lies in joining social justice with development.

2023 · Culture / Tourism / Heritage

2023 · Tourism potential of Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Highlight the greater possibilities of tourism in Uttar Pradesh.**

Uttar Pradesh combines faith, history and nature, and it ranked first among States in domestic tourist visits in 2022 (India Tourism Statistics). Its potential is still larger.

Possibilities

1. **Spiritual tourism:** Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Mathura–Vrindavan, Prayagraj (Kumbh), Chitrakoot, Vindhyachal and Naimisharanya.
2. **Buddhist circuit:** Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kaushambi, Sankisa and Piprahwa, for pilgrims from East and South-East Asia.
3. **Heritage:** three UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri), Lucknow's Nawabi monuments, and the forts of Jhansi, Kalinjar and Chunar.
4. **Eco-tourism:** Dudhwa National Park, the Pilibhit and Ranipur tiger reserves, Katarniaghat and the National Chambal Sanctuary.
5. **Culture and crafts:** Lathmar Holi, Deepotsav, Dev Deepawali, rural homestays and ODOP crafts such as Banarasi silk and chikankari.
6. **New segments:** conferences and exhibitions (Greater Noida), film tourism, wellness and Ganga river cruises.

Enablers: expressways, new airports (Kushinagar, Ayodhya) and the UP Tourism Policy, 2022.

Constraints: crowding, sanitation, safety, untrained guides and few foreign tourists beyond Agra.

Conclusion: Well-linked circuits and trained local workers can make tourism a major source of jobs and of the USD 1 trillion goal.

2023 · Architecture of Agra's monuments

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Discuss the architectural features of the monuments of Agra.**

Agra, the Mughal capital under Akbar and Shah Jahan, holds three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Its monuments trace the growth of Mughal architecture, a blend of Persian, Timurid and Indian traditions.

Main monuments

- **Agra Fort (begun by Akbar, 1565):** red sandstone walls; Jahangiri Mahal with Hindu-style brackets and jharokhas; Shah Jahan's white-marble Diwan-i-Khas, Musamman Burj and Moti Masjid.
- **Fatehpur Sikri (1570s):** the red sandstone capital; the lofty **Buland Darwaza**; the pillared, five-storeyed **Panch Mahal**; beam-and-bracket (trabeate) style; Salim Chishti's white-marble tomb with serpentine brackets and jaalis.
- **Akbar's Tomb, Sikandra:** completed by Jahangir; tiered and without a main dome.
- **Itimad-ud-Daula's Tomb (1622–28):** built by Nur Jahan; an early white-marble tomb with fine **pietra dura** inlay, the "Baby Taj".
- **Taj Mahal (1632–53):** white Makrana marble, a double dome, four minarets, a **charbagh** garden, inlay work, Quranic calligraphy and perfect symmetry on the Yamuna bank.

Common features: charbagh gardens, symmetry, arches, domes, chhatris and jaali screens. Red sandstone gave way to white marble under Shah Jahan.

Conclusion: Agra's monuments mark the peak of Indo-Islamic architecture and anchor UP's heritage tourism.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> UNESCO: Taj Mahal and Agra Fort (1983), Fatehpur Sikri (1986) · pietra dura = parchin kari · Ustad Ahmad Lahauri (Taj).

2023 · Ancient & Religious Heritage

2023 · Harappan sites in Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Identify the sites related to Harappan Civilization in Uttar Pradesh.**

Uttar Pradesh lies at the **eastern edge** of the Harappan world. Its sites, in the upper Ganga–Yamuna Doab, belong mostly to the **Late Harappan** phase, after the decline of the great Indus cities.

Main sites

1. **Alamgirpur (Meerut district), on the Hindon:** the easternmost Harappan site, excavated by Y.D. Sharma (1958–59); Harappan pottery, beads and terracotta objects.
2. **Hulas (Saharanpur):** a Late Harappan settlement with evidence of farming of several crops.
3. **Sanauli (Baghpat):** a large burial site. The ASI's 2018 excavation found chariots, coffins, swords and helmets of about 2000 BCE, showing a warrior elite of the Late Harappan period.
4. **Mandi (Muzaffarnagar):** a hoard of Harappan-style ornaments.
5. **Bargaon and Ambkheri (Saharanpur):** Late Harappan pottery.

Significance

- Shows the eastward movement of Harappan people into the Doab.
- Shows overlap with the Ochre Coloured Pottery and Copper Hoard cultures.
- Links the Indus cities with the later Ganga-valley cultures.

Conclusion: Though small, UP's sites fill a key gap between the Indus and Ganga civilisations, and Sanauli shows that more discoveries are likely.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Alamgirpur = easternmost (Hindon, Meerut) · Sanauli chariots (2018) · Hulas, Bargaon, Ambkheri (Saharanpur) · Mandi (Muzaffarnagar).

2023 · UP and the spread of Buddhism

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Uttar Pradesh has an important place in the propagation of Buddhism. Explain.**

Many of the holiest places of Buddhism lie in Uttar Pradesh. Of the four great pilgrimage places named by the Buddha (Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, Sarnath and Kushinagar), two are in UP.

Places from the Buddha's life

- **Sarnath:** the first sermon (*Dharmachakra Pravartana*) to five ascetics; the **Sangha** was born here.
- **Shravasti:** the capital of Kosala. The Buddha spent many rainy seasons at the Jetavana monastery, gifted by the merchant Anathapindika; King Prasenajit was a follower.
- **Kaushambi:** the capital of Vatsa, with the Ghositarama monastery.
- **Sankisa (Farrukhabad):** believed to be where he descended from heaven.
- **Kushinagar:** the Mallas' town, where he attained Mahaparinirvana; his relics were divided into eight shares.
- **Piprahwa (Siddharthnagar):** a relic casket found in 1898; linked with Kapilavastu of the Shakyas.

Spread under rulers

1. **Ashoka:** pillars and stupas at Sarnath; its Lion Capital is India's national emblem.
2. **Kushanas:** the **Mathura school** made some of the earliest Buddha images; Kanishka patronised Buddhism.
3. **Guptas:** the **Sarnath school** produced the serene preaching Buddha; the Dhamek Stupa.
4. **Harsha:** held a great assembly at Kannauj (643 CE) in honour of Hiuen Tsang. Chinese pilgrims Fa-Hien and Hiuen Tsang described UP's Buddhist sites.

Modern revival

- Anagarika Dharmapala's Maha Bodhi Society built the Mulagandhakuti Vihara at Sarnath (1931).
- The Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies at Sarnath.
- Ambedkarite Buddhism among Dalits of UP.
- The Buddhist Circuit and Kushinagar International Airport (2021) draw pilgrims from abroad.

Conclusion: From the first sermon to the Mahaparinirvana, UP was the cradle from which Buddhism spread across Asia. Today it is at the heart of India's Buddhist tourism and cultural diplomacy.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Sarnath (first sermon), Kushinagar (Mahaparinirvana), Shravasti (Jetavana), Kaushambi (Ghositarama), Sankisa, Piprahwa (1898) · Mathura and Sarnath schools.

2023 · Freedom Movement: UP Contribution

2023 · UP in the Non-Cooperation Movement

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
> **Discuss the role of Uttar Pradesh during the Non-cooperation Movement.**

The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22) found one of its strongest bases in the United Provinces, where it merged with the Khilafat agitation and peasant unrest.

Role of UP

1. **Leaders:** Motilal Nehru gave up his legal practice; Jawaharlal Nehru entered mass politics through the Awadh peasant movement.
2. **Khilafat link:** the Ali brothers, Maulana Abdul Bari of Firangi Mahal (Lucknow) and Hasrat Mohani built Hindu–Muslim unity.
3. **Boycott and national education:** foreign cloth, councils, courts and the Prince of Wales's visit (1921) were boycotted. **Kashi Vidyapith** (1921) and **Jamia Millia Islamia** (Aligarh, 1920) were founded.
4. **Peasants:** the **Awadh Kisan Sabha** (1920) of Baba Ramchandra and the **Eka movement** (Hardoi, Bahraich, Sitapur) brought villagers in, though they sometimes went beyond Congress limits.
5. **Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur), 4 February 1922:** a crowd burnt a police station, killing 22 policemen. Gandhi withdrew the movement by the Bardoli resolution (12 February 1922).

Assessment: UP showed the movement's mass character, urban and rural, Hindu and Muslim. It also exposed its tensions: violence and the clash between peasants and landlords.

Conclusion: UP's experience trained a generation of leaders and prepared the ground for later mass movements.

2023 · Baba Ramchandra as a peasant leader

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Analyse the achievements of Baba Ramchandra as a Peasant Leader.**

Baba Ramchandra was a Maharashtrian who had worked as an indentured labourer in Fiji. He settled in Awadh as a sadhu, and by reciting the *Ramcharitmanas* he became the most popular leader of Awadh's peasants in 1920–21.

Background: after 1857 the British made the taluqdars their allies. Tenants faced high rents, illegal cesses (*nazrana*), forced labour (*begar*) and eviction (*bedakhli*).

Achievements

1. **Mass mobilisation:** he used religious idiom, such as couplets of Tulsidas and the greeting "Sita-Ram", to unite peasants of all castes in Pratapgarh, Rae Bareli, Sultanpur and Faizabad.
2. **Organisation:** he helped form the **Awadh Kisan Sabha** at Pratapgarh in October 1920, with Jawaharlal Nehru, Gauri Shankar Mishra and others. Village sabhas spread rapidly.
3. **Linking peasants and nationalism:** he took Jawaharlal Nehru to the villages of Pratapgarh in June 1920, Nehru's "discovery" of rural India, and tied the kisan struggle to Non-Cooperation.
4. **Peaceful methods:** peasants vowed not to pay illegal cesses or do *begar*; oppressive landlords faced social boycott (*naai-dhobi band*); disputes went to village panchayats.
5. **Mass rallies:** such as the large kisan gathering at Ayodhya in December 1920.
6. **Pressure on government:** the **Oudh Rent (Amendment) Act, 1921** followed, a limited concession to tenants.
7. **Self-respect:** low-caste tenants gained confidence to resist humiliation.

Limitations

- From January 1921 the movement turned violent in places, as in the clashes in Rae Bareli and Faizabad. The Congress, keen to avoid class conflict, distanced itself.
- Ramchandra was arrested, the Sabha weakened, and the more radical **Eka movement** took its place.
- The 1921 Act gave little real relief.

Conclusion: Baba Ramchandra turned scattered peasant grievances into an organised movement. He gave the national struggle a rural mass base in UP and inspired later kisan sabhas.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Fiji girmitiya · Awadh Kisan Sabha, Pratapgarh (Oct 1920) · Nehru's village visit (June 1920) · Oudh Rent (Amendment) Act 1921 · Eka movement.

2023 · UP's warriors in the Revolt of 1857

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Throw light on the contributions of the warriors of Uttar Pradesh in the Freedom Struggle of 1857.**

The Revolt of 1857 began at **Meerut on 10 May 1857**, and most of its main centres lay in present-day Uttar Pradesh. The annexation of **Awadh (1856)** had angered the sepoys, many of whom came from Awadh, as well as taluqdars, peasants and artisans.

Major warriors

- **Mangal Pandey** (from Ballia): his attack on British officers at Barrackpore (29 March 1857) was the first spark.
- **Meerut:** Kotwal **Dhan Singh Gurjar** is remembered for siding with the sepoys, and **Kadam Singh** led the villagers.
- **Lucknow: Begum Hazrat Mahal** declared her son Birjis Qadr the ruler and led the rebels during the siege of the Residency. **Uda Devi Pasi** fought at Sikandar Bagh. **Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah** of Faizabad was one of the most determined leaders.
- **Kanpur: Nana Saheb** (adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II), his general **Tantya Tope** and adviser **Azimullah Khan**.
- **Jhansi: Rani Lakshmibai**, who died fighting near Gwalior in June 1858, and **Jhalkari Bai**.
- **Bareilly: Khan Bahadur Khan** set up a government in Rohilkhand.
- **Allahabad: Maulvi Liaqat Ali**.
- **Awadh's chiefs: Rana Beni Madho Singh** (Rae Bareli) and **Raja Devi Bakhsh Singh** (Gonda).

Nature of their contribution

1. **Broad social base:** sepoys, rulers, peasants, women and Dalits such as Uda Devi.
2. **Hindu–Muslim unity** under the symbolic leadership of Bahadur Shah Zafar.
3. **Long resistance:** Awadh held out until 1858–59.
4. **Guerrilla warfare**, notably by Tantya Tope.

Limitations: no common plan, poor arms and local aims; many princes and some landlords stayed loyal to the British.

Conclusion: UP's warriors made 1857 a people's war. V.D. Savarkar later called it the First War of Independence, and their courage inspired later nationalists.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Meerut 10 May · Lucknow: Hazrat Mahal, Uda Devi · Kanpur: Nana Saheb, Tantya Tope · Jhansi: Lakshmibai · Bareilly: Khan Bahadur Khan · Allahabad: Liaqat Ali.

2023 · Land Reforms in UP

2023 · Stages of land reforms and the landless

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the various stages of land reforms in Uttar Pradesh. How landless agricultural labourers were benefited from the land reforms?**

Before Independence, most of UP was under **zamindari** (Agra province) and **taluqdari** (Awadh). Tenants suffered high rents, illegal cesses and eviction. Land reforms after 1947 aimed to give "land to the tiller".

Stages

1. **Tenancy protection (before 1947):** the Oudh Rent Acts and the **UP Tenancy Act, 1939** of the Congress ministry gave tenants more security.
2. **Zamindari abolition:** the committee headed by G.B. Pant (report 1948) led to the **UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950**, in force from **1 July 1952**. Intermediaries were removed; cultivators became **bhumidhars**, **sirdars** or **asamis**; common land vested in the Gaon Sabha.
3. **Consolidation of holdings:** the **UP Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953** (*chakbandi*) joined scattered plots.
4. **Ceiling:** the **UP Imposition of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1960**, made stricter in the 1970s; surplus land went to the landless.
5. **Bhoodan–Gramdan:** Vinoba Bhave's movement, backed by the UP Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1952; **Mangroth (Hamirpur)** became the first Gramdan village.

6. **Modern phase:** the **UP Revenue Code, 2006** (in force from 2016) unified land laws; land records were computerised (Bhulekh), and village homes got ownership records (*gharauni*) under SVAMITVA.

Benefits to landless labourers

- **Pattas** of Gaon Sabha land, with priority to landless SC/ST labourers.
- Ceiling-surplus and Bhoodan land.
- **House sites** in the village *abadi*, later backed by housing schemes.
- The end of *begar* and feudal dues, which raised their bargaining power and dignity.

Limits

- Zamindars kept their *sir* and *khudkasht* land, and many used benami transfers.
- Many pattas stayed on paper; dominant groups kept possession, and the land given was often poor.
- Holdings remain tiny, and landlessness among Dalits persists.

Conclusion: Land reforms ended feudalism in UP and gave many landless families land and dignity, but the work is unfinished. Real possession of allotted land, clear titles and fair leasing are the next steps.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> ZALR Act 1950 (in force 1 July 1952) · Pant committee · bhumidhar, sirdar, asami · Consolidation Act 1953 · Ceiling Act 1960 · Revenue Code 2006.

2024 · Ancient & Medieval Cultural-Historical Significance of UP

2024 · Cultural significance of ancient Prayagraj

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Describe the cultural significance of 'Prayagraj' in ancient India.**

Ancient **Prayag** stands at the **Triveni Sangam**, the meeting point of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the unseen Saraswati. It has long been called *Tirtharaja*, the king of pilgrimage places.

Cultural significance

1. **Sacred centre:** the Mahabharata and the Puranas praise a bath at Prayag. Tradition links the name to a sacrifice (*yajna*) of Brahma and reveres the undying banyan, **Akshayavat**.
2. **Ramayana links:** Rama, Sita and Lakshmana stayed at the ashram of sage **Bharadwaja**, a famous seat of learning. Nearby **Shringverpur** was the seat of Nishadraj Guha.
3. **Kumbh tradition:** the bathing festival grew into the Kumbh Mela, now on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2017).
4. **Historical records:** the **Allahabad Pillar** bears Ashoka's edicts and **Samudragupta's Prayag Prashasti**, composed by Harishena, a key source on the Guptas.
5. **Harsha and Hiuen Tsang:** Harsha held a great assembly at Prayag every five years, giving away his wealth, as Hiuen Tsang recorded in the 7th century.
6. **Nearby centres:** Kaushambi, the capital of Vatsa, and **Pratishthanpur (Jhusi)**, the legendary capital of the Lunar dynasty.

Conclusion: Faith, learning and royal patronage made Prayag a living centre of Indian culture, as the Mahakumbh still shows.

2024 · Republics of UP in the sixth century BC

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Write about the major republics located in Uttar Pradesh and their political system in the 6th century B.C.**

In the sixth century BCE, northern India had monarchies and republics called **gana-sanghas**. Several republics lay in present eastern UP, along the Himalayan foothills.

Major republics

- **Shakyas of Kapilavastu** (Siddharthnagar and the Nepal Tarai): the Buddha's clan.
- **Koliyas of Ramagrama:** neighbours of the Shakyas across the Rohini river.
- **Mallas of Kushinara and Pava** (Kushinagar region): one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas, where the Buddha died.
- **Moriyas of Pippalivana** (Gorakhpur region), whom tradition links with Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Bhaggas of Sumsumaragiri** (Mirzapur region).

Political system

1. **Clan oligarchy:** power lay with the heads of Kshatriya families, each called *raja*, not with one king.
2. **Assembly:** decisions were taken after debate in a hall (*santhagara*), like the Shakyas' hall at Kapilavastu.
3. **Elected chief and officials** for justice, finance and war.
4. **Procedure:** a quorum, voting with wooden tickets (*shalaka*) and majority rule, practices later used in the Buddhist Sangha.
5. **Limits:** slaves and labourers (*dasa-karmakara*) had no voice.

Decline: internal feuds; Kosala destroyed the Shakyas, and Magadha absorbed the rest.

Conclusion: These republics show an early Indian tradition of collective decision-making.

2024 · Causes of the rise of towns in ancient UP

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **Discuss the causes for the rise of the towns in ancient Uttar Pradesh.**

The Ganga plain saw India's **second urbanisation** from about the 6th century BCE, roughly a thousand years after the Harappan cities declined. In present UP, towns such as Kashi, Shravasti, Saketa (Ayodhya), Kaushambi, Mathura, Ahichchhatra, Kampilya and Hastinapur grew up.

Causes

1. **Iron technology:** iron axes cleared the thick forests of the Doab and eastern UP, and iron ploughshares broke the heavy alluvial soil. Painted Grey Ware sites such as Hastinapur and Ahichchhatra show early iron use.
2. **Agricultural surplus:** fertile soil, good rainfall and paddy transplanting produced a surplus that could feed non-farmers: rulers, priests, artisans and traders.
3. **Rise of states:** Mahajanapadas such as Kashi, Kosala, Vatsa, Panchala and Shurasena needed capitals, forts and centres of administration. Taxes gathered wealth in these towns.
4. **Trade and routes:** the Ganga and Yamuna served as waterways, and the great northern route (*Uttarapatha*) linked Taxila with the eastern Ganga plain through towns of UP.
5. **Money and crafts:** punch-marked coins, guilds (*shrenis*) and craft specialisation, such as the textiles of Kashi. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) is the hallmark pottery of this urban phase.
6. **Religion:** Buddhism and Jainism, backed by merchants, favoured trade. Varanasi and Shravasti also drew pilgrims and scholars.
7. **Writing and administration:** Brahmi script was in use by Ashoka's time, helping records and trade.

Archaeological evidence: ramparts at Kaushambi and Rajghat (Varanasi), NBPW pottery and coin hoards.

Later growth: Mathura flourished under the Kushanas, and Kannauj became Harsha's imperial capital.

Conclusion: Iron, surplus, states and trade together turned the villages of the Ganga plain into towns, laying the base of classical Indian civilisation.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Second urbanisation (c. 600 BCE) · PGW → NBPW · iron, surplus, mahajanapadas, coins, guilds, Uttarapatha · Kaushambi ramparts.

2024 · Modern History & National Movement — UP Contribution

2024 · British policy towards Awadh's taluqdars after 1857

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **What was the policy of the British Government towards the Taluqdars of Awadh after the Revolt of 1857?**

Awadh was annexed in 1856. The **summary settlement of 1856** took many villages from the taluqdars and settled revenue directly with village proprietors. Hurt in status and income, many taluqdars joined the Revolt of 1857.

Policy after 1857

1. **Confiscation, then reversal:** Lord Canning's **Oudh Proclamation (March 1858)** confiscated land in Awadh except that of a few loyal landholders. But estates were soon restored to taluqdars who submitted.
2. **Sanads for loyalty:** they received *sanads* recognising them as owners, on condition of loyalty and good conduct.
3. **Legal security:** the **Oudh Estates Act, 1869** defined taluqdars and their rights, with inheritance by primogeniture so estates would not break up.
4. **Partners of the Raj:** they got titles, honorary magistracies and seats in councils. Their **British Indian Association of Oudh** became a loyal voice, and they funded Canning College, Lucknow.
5. **Tenants ignored:** the Oudh Rent Act, 1868 gave tenants very little protection.

Result: the taluqdars became "pillars of the Raj". Peasant anger later burst out in the Awadh Kisan Sabha and Eka movements (1920–22).

Conclusion: The policy turned rebels into allies, but at the cost of Awadh's peasants.

2024 · Role of UP in the Freedom Movement

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **Critically analyse the role of Uttar Pradesh in the Indian Freedom Movement.**

Uttar Pradesh (then the United Provinces) was a central arena of India's freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947, though its record also had weaknesses.

Contribution

1. **1857:** Meerut, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi and Bareilly were the main centres of the revolt.
2. **Congress leadership:** the Lucknow session (1916) brought the Lucknow Pact; the Kanpur session (1925) was led by Sarojini Naidu, and the Lucknow session (1936) by Nehru. UP gave Madan Mohan Malaviya, Motilal and Jawaharlal Nehru, G.B. Pant, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Purushottam Das Tandon and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, and the socialists Acharya Narendra Dev and Ram Manohar Lohia.
3. **Mass movements:** Non-Cooperation (Kashi Vidyapith; Chauri Chaura, 1922); a no-rent campaign during Civil Disobedience; and in Quit India, a parallel government in **Ballia** under Chittu Pandey (1942).
4. **Peasants:** the Awadh Kisan Sabha and the Eka movement linked villagers with nationalism.
5. **Revolutionaries:** the Hindustan Republican Association's **Kakori Train Action (9 August 1925)**, for which Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Roshan Singh were hanged. **Chandra Shekhar Azad** died fighting in Alfred Park, Allahabad (1931).
6. **Women:** Begum Hazrat Mahal, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Sucheta Kripalani and Kamala Nehru.
7. **Press and institutions:** Anand Bhawan as a Congress hub; BHU; papers such as *Pratap* (Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi), *Aaj* and *The Leader*.

Critical analysis

- **Communal divide:** the Aligarh movement and, later, the Muslim League drew strong support from UP's Muslim elite. The League's appeal grew after 1937, which fed the Pakistan demand.
- **Class tension:** the Congress hesitated to back peasants against zamindars and taluqdars, many of whom stayed loyal to the British.
- **Narrow leadership:** the top leaders were mostly urban and upper-caste; Dalit and backward-class assertion came later.

Conclusion: Despite these limits, UP gave the movement a vast mass base and many national leaders, and it shaped the leadership of free India, including its first Prime Minister.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Lucknow Pact 1916 · Chauri Chaura 1922 · Kakori 9 Aug 1925 · Azad, Alfred Park 1931 · Ballia parallel government 1942 (Chittu Pandey).

2024 · Health, Social Sector & Welfare in UP

2024 · Strengthening health infrastructure in UP

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Critically explain the efforts of the State Government towards strengthening the health infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh has India's largest population, and its health system has long lacked facilities and staff. Since 2017 the State has expanded health infrastructure on several fronts.

Efforts

- **Medical education:** "one district, one medical college"; AIIMS at Gorakhpur and Rae Bareli; the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, Lucknow.
- **Primary care:** *Ayushman Arogya Mandirs* (Health and Wellness Centres) at sub-centres and PHCs.
- **Critical care after COVID-19:** oxygen plants, ICU and paediatric beds, critical-care blocks and public-health labs under PM-ABHIM.
- **Emergency transport:** 108 and 102 ambulance services.
- **Financial protection:** PM-JAY and the State's Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan.
- **Digital health:** e-Sanjeevani teleconsultation and ABHA IDs.

Critical view

- **Staff gaps:** a large shortfall of specialists at CHCs; new medical colleges lack faculty.
- **Uneven spread:** Bundelkhand and eastern UP lag; some buildings and equipment lie idle.
- **Low spending** and high out-of-pocket costs.
- NITI Aayog's Health Index (2019–20) ranked UP last among larger States in overall performance, though first in year-on-year improvement.

Conclusion: Buildings have grown quickly. The next task is staff, quality and upkeep, so that UP can meet SDG-3.

2024 · Failure and future of public schooling in UP

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Write a note on 'Failure and future of public schooling education' in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh runs one of the largest public school systems in the world: the Basic Shiksha Parishad alone manages more than a lakh primary and upper primary schools. For decades these schools were seen as failing, but recent reforms give some hope.

Why public schooling failed

1. **Poor learning:** ASER surveys show that a large share of Class 5 children cannot read a Class 2 text.
2. **Teacher problems:** vacancies, absenteeism and non-teaching duties such as election and survey work. Recruitment disputes also hurt: the Supreme Court (2017) upheld the cancellation of the absorption of Shiksha Mitras as teachers, and the 69,000 assistant-teacher recruitment has been tied up in court.
3. **Infrastructure gaps** (until recently): no toilets, water or electricity in many schools.
4. **Flight to private schools:** even poor parents moved to low-fee private schools, leaving government schools to the poorest.
5. **Weak accountability:** in 2015 the Allahabad High Court (Justice Sudhir Agarwal) noted this neglect and directed that children of public servants and elected representatives should study in council schools. The order stayed largely on paper.
6. **Secondary stage:** too few government secondary schools, and high dropout of girls after Class 8.

Signs of a better future

- **Operation Kayakalp:** basic facilities in most schools.
- **Mission Prerna** and **NIPUN Bharat:** foundational reading and numeracy by Class 3.
- **DBT of ₹1,200** per child for uniform, shoes, bag and stationery.
- Smart classes, ICT labs, **PM SHRI** schools and the Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya and Model Composite schools.
- Pre-primary classes with anganwadis, as NEP 2020 suggests.

Way forward: recruit and train teachers, free them from non-teaching work, track learning outcomes, and empower School Management Committees.

Conclusion: For crores of poor children, public schools are the only option. Making them schools of choice is essential for UP's human capital and for Viksit Bharat @2047.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

ASER learning gap · Shiksha Mitra judgment (SC, 2017) · Allahabad HC 2015 (Justice Sudhir Agarwal) · Kayakalp, Prerna, NIPUN, PM SHRI.

2024 · Food security challenges in UP

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Examine the challenges of food security in Uttar Pradesh.

Food security means that all people at all times have enough safe and nutritious food, which covers **availability, access, utilisation and stability** (FAO). UP is India's largest wheat producer and has the most beneficiaries under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**, about 15 crore people. Yet hunger and malnutrition persist.

Challenges

1. **Availability**
   - Small holdings: the average is about 0.73 hectare (Agriculture Census 2015–16).
   - Falling groundwater in western UP, floods in the east (Ghaghra, Rapti) and droughts in Bundelkhand.
   - Heatwaves and erratic rain that cut wheat and paddy yields.
   - Crop damage by stray cattle; low productivity in eastern UP; poor storage and post-harvest losses.
2. **Access**
   - Low incomes and seasonal unemployment. Even so, NITI Aayog's MPI (2023) estimates that 3.43 crore people in UP left multidimensional poverty between 2015–16 and 2019–21.

- Rising food prices; ration-card exclusion errors; migrant workers.

3. **Utilisation (nutrition)**
   - NFHS-5 (2019–21): about 40% of children under five are stunted, and anaemia is widespread among children and women.
   - Diets low in pulses, milk, fruit and vegetables; poor sanitation and unsafe water.
4. **Stability:** price shocks, crop failures and shocks like COVID-19.
5. **Delivery:** leakages and poor grain quality in places; weak anganwadis; uneven quality of mid-day meals.

Measures in place: free grain under NFSA and PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana; ePoS at fair-price shops and One Nation One Ration Card; fortified rice; PM POSHAN; take-home ration made by women's SHGs; millet promotion; irrigation such as the Saryu Nahar project.

Way forward: diversify into pulses, oilseeds and millets; climate-resilient seeds; better storage; nutrition-sensitive farming; women's education and clean water and sanitation.

Conclusion: UP has moved from food shortage to surplus. The challenge now is nutrition security for every household, in line with SDG-2 (Zero Hunger).

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> 4 pillars: availability, access, utilisation, stability · NFSA ~15 crore beneficiaries · NFHS-5 stunting ~40% · MPI: 3.43 crore out of poverty.

2024 · UP Constitution & Political System

2024 · Consolidated Fund vs Contingency Fund of UP

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Distinguish between the Consolidated Fund and the Contingency Fund of the State of Uttar Pradesh.**

The Constitution provides each State with a Consolidated Fund and a Public Account (Article 266) and a Contingency Fund (Article 267).

Basis	Consolidated Fund of UP	Contingency Fund of UP
Source	Article 266(1)	Article 267(2), set up by the UP Contingency Fund Act, 1950
Contents	All revenues, loans raised and loan repayments received by the State	A fixed sum set by State law
Nature	The State's main account	An imprest (advance) account
Control	The Legislature: money is withdrawn only under an Appropriation Act	Placed at the disposal of the Governor
Purpose	All regular expenditure	Urgent, unforeseen expenditure awaiting the Legislature's approval
Procedure	Voted grants, plus charged items (Article 202) that are not voted	The advance is later approved, usually by a supplementary grant, and the Fund is refilled

Charged expenditure on the Consolidated Fund includes the Governor's emoluments, the salaries of High Court judges and debt charges.

The **Public Account** (Article 266(2)) holds money such as provident funds and deposits, for which the government acts as a banker.

Conclusion: The Consolidated Fund secures legislative control over public money. The Contingency Fund gives flexibility in emergencies such as floods without giving up that control.

2024 · Utility of UP Legislative Council

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **"If a Second Chamber dissents from the first, it is mischievous; if it agrees, it is superfluous." In the light of this famous statement, discuss the utility of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council.**

The statement is attributed to the French thinker **Abbé Sieyès**. UP is one of the six States with a bicameral legislature. Its **Vidhan Parishad** has **100 members** (Article 171): 38 elected by MLAs, 36 by local authorities, 8 by graduates, 8 by teachers and 10 nominated by the Governor. It is a permanent House; one-third of its members retire every two years.

Limited powers

- It can delay an ordinary bill by up to three months, and one more month if the Assembly passes it again (Article 197); a money bill by only 14 days (Article 198). There is no joint sitting, and ministers answer only to the Assembly.
- Parliament can abolish it on an Assembly resolution (Article 169).

Utility: why it is not superfluous

1. **A second look:** it revises hasty bills and suggests amendments.
2. **Voice for special groups:** teachers, graduates and local bodies are represented.
3. **Expertise:** nominated members come from literature, science, art, the cooperative movement and social service.
4. **Continuity:** as a permanent House, it gives stability.
5. **Room for leaders:** able persons can serve as ministers without contesting Assembly polls. Chief Ministers Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav and Yogi Adityanath were members of the Council.

Why critics call it mischievous or superfluous

- It can only delay, not block.
- It can be a back door for defeated politicians, and nominations often follow party lines rather than merit.
- Cost and delay; the graduate and teacher seats look outdated.

Assessment: The Council cannot defeat the people's House, so it is not "mischievous". When it works as a revising chamber, it is not "superfluous" either.

Conclusion: The Council should be reformed, not abolished: nominating real experts and using its committees well would make it add deliberation and wider representation to State law-making.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> Art. 169 (creation/abolition), 171 (composition), 197–198 (delaying power) · 100 seats: 38 + 36 + 8 + 8 + 10.

2024 · UPPSC: role and challenges

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Discuss the role of Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission and explain the challenges before it for independent and impartial selection of public servants.

The **Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC)** was set up on **1 April 1937** at Allahabad (now Prayagraj). It is a constitutional body under **Articles 315–323**. Its chairman and members are appointed by the Governor for six years or until the age of 62 (Article 316). They can be removed only by the President (Article 317).

Role

1. **Recruitment:** holds examinations and interviews for State services, such as the PCS, PCS-J, RO/ARO, engineering and medical posts.
2. **Advice (Article 320):** on methods of recruitment, on promotions and transfers, and on disciplinary matters.
3. **Guardian of merit:** selection on merit, with reservation as the law provides.
4. **Accountability:** an annual report to the Governor, laid before the Legislature (Article 323).

Challenges to independent and impartial selection

1. **Appointment of members:** there are no clear criteria. In 2015 the Allahabad High Court quashed the appointment of chairman Anil Yadav, and allegations about recruitments made in 2012–17 led to a CBI inquiry.
2. **Paper leaks:** the RO/ARO preliminary examination of February 2024 was cancelled after a leak.
3. **Delays and litigation:** long recruitment cycles and frequent cases over answer keys.
4. **Format disputes:** in November 2024 candidates protested at Prayagraj against multi-shift exams with normalisation, and the Commission agreed to hold the PCS preliminary exam in a single day.
5. **Interview subjectivity**, organised cheating gangs and too few secure exam centres.

Steps taken: the **UP Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**, which began as an ordinance, provides for up to life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 crore.

Way forward: members chosen through a search committee; a fixed exam calendar like the UPSC's; secure computer-based tests; and published answer keys and marks.

Conclusion: A credible UPPSC is the foundation of good State administration. Restoring candidates' trust must be its first priority.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Est. 1 April 1937 · Arts 315–323 (316 appointment, 317 removal, 320 functions, 323 report) · RO/ARO 2024 cancelled · normalisation protest Nov 2024.

2024 · Judiciary & Law & Order in UP

2024 · Allahabad High Court: composition and jurisdiction

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

Discuss the composition and jurisdiction of the State High Court of Uttar Pradesh.

UP's High Court is the **High Court of Judicature at Allahabad**. It was set up in 1866 at Agra for the North-Western Provinces and moved to Allahabad in 1869. Its **Lucknow Bench** dates from 1948, when the Chief Court of Awadh was merged with it.

Composition

- A Chief Justice and other judges, appointed by the **President** after consulting the Chief Justice of India and the Governor (Article 217), through the **collegium**.
- A sanctioned strength of **160 judges**, the largest of any High Court in India.
- Judges serve until 62 and are removed only on an address by both Houses of Parliament, like Supreme Court judges.

Jurisdiction

1. **Original:** writs under **Article 226** for fundamental and other legal rights; election petitions.
2. **Appellate:** civil and criminal appeals from district and sessions courts; confirmation of death sentences.
3. **Supervisory:** over subordinate courts and tribunals (Article 227); control of the subordinate judiciary (Article 235).
4. **Court of record:** power to punish for contempt (Article 215).
5. **Judicial review** of State laws and executive action.

Issue: it has the largest pending caseload of any High Court, over 10 lakh cases.

Conclusion: Filling vacancies, e-courts and mediation can make justice faster.

NOTE

Pending cases and the number of working judges change every month; check the National Judicial Data Grid before the exam.

2024 · Challenges to efficient law and order in UP

QUESTION 2024 · 8 marks

What are the key challenges in ensuring an efficient law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh?

"Police" and "public order" are State subjects (List II). In Uttar Pradesh, home to about a sixth of India's people (Census 2011), keeping order is a huge task.

Key challenges

1. **Scale and staff:** a low police-to-population ratio, vacancies and overworked police stations; investigation is not separated from law-and-order duty.
2. **Crimes against women and SCs:** UP records some of the highest absolute numbers in NCRB data.
3. **Organised crime:** land, mining and liquor mafias, and links between politicians and criminals.
4. **Cyber crime:** fast-rising online fraud, sextortion and fake call centres.

5. **Communal and caste tension** around festivals, processions and elections.
6. **Land disputes:** a leading cause of violent crime in rural areas.
7. **Weak justice chain:** slow trials, limited forensics and hostile witnesses.
8. **Trust and accountability:** custodial deaths and allegations of fake encounters.

Steps taken: police commissionerates since 2020 (first in Lucknow and Gautam Buddh Nagar), UP-112 emergency response, Mission Shakti and cyber help desks.

Conclusion: Police reforms on the lines of *Prakash Singh v. Union of India* (2006), modern forensics and community policing can make law and order efficient and fair.

2024 · UP's arrangements against organised crime and terrorism

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Organised crime and terrorism are grave challenges to national security. What arrangements have been made in Uttar Pradesh to counter this? Explain.**

Organised crime and terrorism feed each other through arms, drugs, fake currency and hawala money. UP's size, its open border with Nepal and its many sensitive religious sites make it vulnerable. The State has built a layered response.

Specialised forces

1. **Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS):** formed in 2007 for intelligence-led action against terror modules, with commando units.
2. **Special Task Force (STF, 1998):** works against organised gangs, mafias and exam-fraud networks.
3. **UP Special Security Force (2020):** guards courts, metro systems, airports, religious places and industrial units.
4. **Other units:** the intelligence wing, the Economic Offences Wing, cyber-crime cells and district Special Operations Groups.

Legal tools

- The **UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986**, with attachment of crime-earned property.
- The National Security Act, 1980, and the UAPA, 1967.
- The UP Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, 2020.
- The UP Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, against paper-leak gangs.

Policing and technology

- Police commissionerates in big cities; CCTNS; CCTV networks under Safe City projects; UP-112.
- Drives against listed mafias at State and district levels, with seizure of illegal assets.
- A witness protection scheme, following the Supreme Court's *Mahender Chawla* judgment (2018).

Coordination

- With the NIA, the Intelligence Bureau's Multi-Agency Centre, the SSB on the Nepal border, and the police of other States and Nepal.

Results: the ATS broke up an Al-Qaeda-linked module in Lucknow (2021). The man who attacked security personnel at the Gorakhnath temple in 2022 was sentenced to death in 2023.

Concerns: encounters and demolitions raise rule-of-law questions; in November 2024 the Supreme Court laid down guidelines against punitive demolitions. Online radicalisation and crypto-financing are new threats.

Conclusion: UP's model combines special forces, strict laws and technology. Lasting success needs better intelligence, forensics and convictions, all within the bounds of the law.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> ATS 2007 · STF 1998 · UPSSF 2020 · Gangsters Act 1986 · Mahender Chawla (2018) witness protection · SC demolition guidelines (Nov 2024).

2024 · Civil Society & Local Governance

2024 · Problems of NGOs in Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Analyse the problems related to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Uttar Pradesh.**

NGOs, registered as societies, trusts or not-for-profit companies, work in UP on health, education, women's empowerment and disaster relief. Several problems hold them back.

Problems

1. **Credibility:** many NGOs exist only on paper, and some have been used to siphon government grants; accounts and audits are often weak.
2. **Funding:** reliance on government grants and CSR money, which goes mostly to big cities and NCR. The FCRA amendment of 2020 bars passing foreign funds to other NGOs and caps administrative costs at 20%.
3. **Regional imbalance:** most NGOs are in cities such as Lucknow and Noida; few work in Bundelkhand, Sonbhadra or the Terai.
4. **Capacity:** shortage of trained staff, technology and data.
5. **Red tape:** delays in renewals and grants; complex compliance.
6. **Mistrust:** some act as fronts for political or religious agendas, which breeds suspicion between NGOs and the State.
7. **Project dependence:** work stops when a project ends.

Way forward: registration on NITI Aayog's **NGO Darpan** portal, social audits and public disclosure, capacity building, and partnerships with SHGs and panchayats.

Conclusion: A transparent, well-regulated voluntary sector can be the State's strong partner in reaching the last mile.

2024 · Success stories of Panchayati Raj in UP

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **"Panchayati Raj System has long success stories in Uttar Pradesh." Corroborate with suitable examples.**

UP has one of India's oldest Panchayati Raj traditions. The **UP Panchayat Raj Act, 1947** created elected gram panchayats even before the Constitution came into force. The **Etawah Pilot Project (1948)** of Albert Mayer became a model for the Community Development Programme of 1952. After the **73rd Amendment (1992)**, the State has a three-tier system of nearly 58,000 gram panchayats, over 800 kshetra panchayats and 75 zila panchayats.

Success stories

1. **Deeper democracy:** regular elections by the State Election Commission. Reservation of one-third of seats and posts for women, and quotas for SCs, STs and OBCs, have brought lakhs of women and Dalits into local leadership.
2. **Sanitation:** panchayats led the drive that made villages open-defecation free under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The focus has now moved to ODF Plus, with solid and liquid waste management.
3. **Rural assets and jobs:** MGNREGA works such as ponds, roads and Amrit Sarovars are planned and executed by panchayats.
4. **Drinking water:** under the Jal Jeevan Mission, village water committees run schemes, and women test water quality with field kits.
5. **Services at the doorstep:** Panchayat Bhawans with Panchayat Sahayaks (appointed in 2021) and BC Sakhis, women from SHGs who provide banking services in villages.
6. **COVID-19:** village monitoring committees led by pradhans tracked returning migrants and supported quarantine and vaccination.
7. **Transparent planning:** GPDPs on e-GramSwaraj, payments through PFMS and social audits; panchayats help with *gharauni* property cards under SVAMITVA.

Persisting gaps

- Proxy rule by relatives of women pradhans ("pradhan pati").
- Weak transfer of the 29 subjects of the Eleventh Schedule, along with funds and staff.
- Little own-source revenue, elite capture and thin Gram Sabha attendance.

Conclusion: UP's journey from Etawah to e-GramSwaraj shows that panchayats can deliver. Full devolution of funds, functions and functionaries would complete the success story.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> UP Panchayat Raj Act 1947 · Etawah Pilot Project 1948 (Albert Mayer) · 73rd Amendment · Panchayat Sahayak (2021) · BC Sakhi · e-GramSwaraj.

2024 · Infrastructure & Urban Development

2024 · Inland Waterways Authority, water transport and tourism

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Discuss the role of 'Inland Waterways Authority' to boost the water transport and tourism in Uttar Pradesh.**

The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**, set up in 1986 under the IWAI Act, 1985, develops and regulates national waterways. Its headquarters are at **Noida** in UP. **National Waterway-1** (the Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly system from Haldia to Prayagraj, about 1,620 km) flows through the State.

Water transport

1. **Jal Marg Vikas Project** (World Bank-assisted), Haldia–Varanasi: deeper channels, navigation aids and river information systems for large barges.
2. **Multimodal terminal at Varanasi**, opened in November 2018, which handles container and bulk cargo.
3. **Cheaper, greener freight** for fertiliser, food grain and stone, linked with roads and rail.
4. **New waterways:** the National Waterways Act, 2016 declared more rivers of UP, such as the Ghaghra (NW-40) and the Yamuna (NW-110).

Tourism

- **MV Ganga Vilas**, the world's longest river cruise, set off from Varanasi in January 2023.
- Cruises and jetties at Varanasi's ghats and Prayagraj for pilgrims.
- *Arth Ganga*: livelihoods along the river.

Challenges: low water in the lean season, silting, and threats to river life such as the Gangetic dolphin.

Conclusion: Steady depth, more terminals and care for river ecology can make waterways a key part of UP's logistics and tourism.

> **NOTE**
> The question does not say whether it means the central authority (IWAI) or a State body. This answer takes it as IWAI, which runs the national waterways in UP.

2024 · Smart Cities and better living in UP

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **Discuss the role of 'Smart City' for better living conditions of the people of Uttar Pradesh.**

The **Smart Cities Mission** was launched in June 2015 for 100 cities. **Ten are in UP**: Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Aligarh, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur and Jhansi. The State also funds similar work in its other big cities.

Role in better living

1. **Safety:** Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) with CCTV, linked to UP-112 and traffic control; safer public spaces for women.
2. **Mobility:** smart roads, adaptive traffic signals, e-buses and multi-level parking.
3. **Basic services:** water supply, sewerage, solid-waste management, LED streetlights and smart meters.
4. **Social services:** smart classrooms in municipal schools and health centres.
5. **Public spaces and heritage:** parks, riverfronts and restored heritage sites.
6. **E-governance:** online property tax, payments and complaints.
7. **Crisis response:** ICCCs worked as COVID-19 war rooms.

Limits: area-based projects cover only part of each city; delays (the mission was extended to March 2025); special purpose vehicles sidelined elected city councils; waterlogging and slums persist.

Conclusion: Smart Cities have improved services and safety in UP. Lasting gains need city-wide planning, strong urban local bodies and citizen participation.

2024 · Art, Architecture & Culture in UP

2024 · Salient features of UP's architecture

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

What are the salient features of the architecture of Uttar Pradesh? Describe its key elements and styles.

The architecture of Uttar Pradesh spans more than two thousand years. It blends Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Islamic traditions with colonial and modern forms.

Main styles

1. **Mauryan and Buddhist:** polished Chunar sandstone pillars such as the Sarnath Lion Capital; stupas such as the Dhamek Stupa at Sarnath.
2. **Gupta temples:** the **Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh (Lalitpur)**, an early stone temple of the Nagara type, and the **Bhitargaon temple (Kanpur)**, one of the oldest surviving brick temples, decorated with terracotta panels.
3. **Forts:** Kalinjar (Banda), Chunar and Jhansi, built on hills for defence.
4. **Sharqi style (Jaunpur):** huge pylon-like gateways in place of minarets, as in the **Atala Masjid** (1408).
5. **Mughal:** Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, the Taj Mahal and Allahabad Fort, with red sandstone and white marble, domes, charbagh gardens, inlay work and jaalis.
6. **Braj temples:** the red sandstone **Govind Dev Temple, Vrindavan** (1590), built by Raja Man Singh.
7. **Nawabi (Awadhi):** Lucknow's **Bara Imambara** (1784), Rumi Darwaza and Chhota Imambara, using lakhori bricks, lime stucco, the fish emblem and huge vaulted halls.
8. **Colonial and Indo-Saracenic:** the Residency and La Martiniere (Lucknow), Muir College (Prayagraj) and Charbagh railway station.
9. **Ghats and homes:** Varanasi's stepped ghats; mud-brick village houses and the stone houses of Bundelkhand.
10. **Contemporary:** the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya in Nagara style (consecrated January 2024) and the Kashi Vishwanath Dham (2021).

Key elements

Tradition	Key elements
Buddhist	stupa, vihara, polished pillars
Hindu temple	garbhagriha, mandapa, Nagara shikhara, carved doorways
Indo-Islamic	arch, dome, minaret, pylon, calligraphy
Mughal	charbagh, pietra dura, chhatri, white marble
Nawabi	stucco, fish motif, lakhori brick, gilded domes

Conclusion: UP's architecture shows India's genius for synthesis. Its conservation, through ASI protection, heritage circuits and skilled craftsmen, is vital for both culture and tourism.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Deogarh Dashavatara · Bhitargaon brick temple · Atala Masjid, Jaunpur (1408) · Govind Dev, Vrindavan (1590) · Bara Imambara (1784) · Ram Mandir (2024).

2024 · Rural festivals of UP and their role

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Elucidate in detail the characteristics of major festivals and their socio-economic role in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh.

In rural Uttar Pradesh, festivals follow the farming calendar, the seasons and faith. Most come with melas (fairs), folk songs and dances.

Characteristics

1. **Tied to farming and seasons:** Holi at the rabi harvest, when new wheat and barley ears are roasted in the Holika fire; *Khichdi* (Makar Sankranti) with its fair at the Gorakhnath temple; Teej and Kajari in Sawan; Diwali after the kharif harvest.
2. **Folk arts:** Phag and Chaita at Holi, Kajari of Mirzapur, Alha and Birha songs, and Bundelkhand's Diwari dance. Village Ramlilas, part of a tradition listed by UNESCO in 2008, are staged at Dussehra.
3. **Community and harmony:** whole villages join in across castes and faiths, as at the *urs* of Dewa Sharif (Barabanki).
4. **Women-centred rituals:** Teej, Karva Chauth, and Chhath and Jivitputrika in eastern UP.
5. **Regional variety:** Lathmar Holi (Barsana, Nandgaon), the Kajli fair of Mahoba, Kartik Purnima fairs such as Garhmukteshwar, and the Devipatan fair (Balrampur).
6. **Nature worship:** of rivers, trees and the Sun (Chhath).

Socio-economic role

1. **Rural incomes:** demand for clothes, sweets, earthen lamps, idols and toys gives work to potters, artisans and small traders.
2. **Trade:** fairs such as the cattle fairs of **Bateshwar (Agra)** and **Dadri (Ballia)** are periodic rural markets.
3. **Social cohesion:** festivals bring communities together, ease quarrels and strengthen kinship; marriages are often fixed at fairs.
4. **Cultural continuity:** oral traditions, songs and crafts pass to the next generation.
5. **Space for women:** collective singing, rest and social networks.
6. **Tourism:** Lathmar Holi, Deepotsav (Ayodhya), Dev Deepawali (Varanasi) and the Kumbh bring visitors, jobs and sales of ODOP products.

Concerns: debt from lavish spending, pollution, crowd safety and occasional communal tension.

Conclusion: Rural festivals are both the cultural soul and an economic engine of UP's villages. Safe, green and inclusive celebration can raise their benefits.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Agrarian calendar · Kajari (Mirzapur), Alha, Diwari · Ramlila (UNESCO, 2008) · Bateshwar and Dadri cattle fairs · Lathmar Holi, Deepotsav, Dev Deepawali.

UPPCS Mains · General Studies Paper 6

Uttar Pradesh Special (II) · 2023–2024 · 40 questions

2023 · UP Agriculture / Rural & Food Sector

2023 · UP Agricultural Export Policy 2019

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

How does the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Export Policy 2019 strengthen the agricultural export activities in the State?

Uttar Pradesh is India's largest producer of foodgrains, sugarcane, potato and milk, yet its farm exports were small. The **UP Agricultural Export Policy 2019**, framed in line with the national Agriculture Export Policy 2018, aimed to **double the State's agricultural exports by 2024** and raise farmers' incomes.

How it strengthens exports

1. **Cluster approach:** FPOs that form export clusters get financial support, so that small farms can supply large, uniform lots.
2. **Transport support:** a freight subsidy on export consignments lowers the cost of reaching ports and airports.
3. **Infrastructure:** pack-houses, cold chains and residue-testing labs. The integrated pack-house at Karkhiyaon (Varanasi) helped Varanasi send fresh vegetables and Langda mango abroad by air.
4. **Focus products:** GI-tagged and ODOP items such as Kala Namak rice, Malihabadi Dashehari mango and Allahabadi Surkha guava are promoted with branding and buyer–seller meets.
5. **Institutions and skills:** a separate Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agricultural Foreign Trade guides exporters; farmers and exporters are trained in quality, packaging and phytosanitary standards.

Conclusion: by linking small farmers to global markets, the policy supports higher farm incomes and UP's goal of a USD 1 trillion economy.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

National Agriculture Export Policy 2018 · UP policy 2019 · target: double exports by 2024 · FPO clusters · Karkhiyaon pack-house, Varanasi.

2023 · UP Millets Revival Programme

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What are the main features of the Uttar Pradesh Millets Revival Programme?

Millets (*Shree Anna*), such as bajra, jowar, ragi (mandua), kodo, sawan and kutki, are hardy, nutritious and need little water. In 2023, the International Year of Millets declared by the UN on India's proposal, the State launched the **Uttar Pradesh Millets Revival Programme** (*Millets Punarodhar Karyakram*) to bring them back to fields and plates.

Main features

1. **Area and productivity:** more millet area in rain-fed tracts: Bundelkhand, the bajra belt of western UP, and the kodo–sawan areas of Sonbhadra and Mirzapur.
2. **Seeds:** free seed minikits and local seed production through farmers and FPOs.
3. **Assured market:** procurement of bajra and jowar at MSP.
4. **Value addition:** support for millet processing units and FPO enterprises making flour, biscuits and snacks.
5. **Consumption:** millets in ICDS take-home ration, mid-day meals (PM POSHAN) and hostels.
6. **Awareness:** farmer training, *Shree Anna* fairs and campaigns on their health value.

Benefits: better nutrition (iron, calcium, fibre), climate resilience and less pressure on groundwater.

Conclusion: the programme links nutrition security with climate-smart farming, in line with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

2023 · Facilities for horticulture development

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Discuss the major facilities offered by Government of Uttar Pradesh for development of horticulture in the State.

Uttar Pradesh is India's largest producer of potato and a leading producer of mango, vegetables and other horticultural crops. Horticulture earns more per hectare than cereals and suits small holdings. Through its **Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing**, the State offers these facilities:

1. **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):** subsidy for new fruit orchards, vegetables, flowers and spices, for high-density planting, and for rejuvenating old mango and guava orchards.
2. **Quality planting material:** government nurseries and **Indo-Israeli Centres of Excellence** (vegetables at Kannauj, fruits at Basti) supply healthy seedlings and demonstrate new techniques.
3. **Protected cultivation:** subsidy of about half the cost for polyhouses, shade-net houses, plastic mulching and low tunnels, for off-season, high-value crops.
4. **Micro-irrigation:** drip and sprinkler systems under PMKSY (*Per Drop More Crop*), with the highest subsidy for small and marginal farmers.
5. **Post-harvest and marketing:** credit-linked subsidy for pack-houses, cold storages, ripening chambers and reefer vans (UP already has India's largest cold-storage capacity, mostly for potato); export support and mango festivals.
6. **Food processing:** the UP Food Processing Industry Policy 2023, and PMFME, which gives micro units a 35% credit-linked subsidy of up to ₹10 lakh.
7. **Allied activities:** mushroom units, beekeeping (National Beekeeping and Honey Mission) and floriculture.
8. **Risk cover, training and research:** weather-based crop insurance for crops such as mango and banana; training through *Kisan Pathshala* and KVKs; research support from ICAR-CISH (Lucknow) and ICAR-IIVR (Varanasi).

Challenges: small and scattered farms, gaps in the cold chain for fruits and vegetables, price swings and middlemen.

Conclusion: with FPOs, cold chains and processing, horticulture can raise farm incomes and exports, a key pillar of UP's USD 1 trillion goal.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

MIDH · Indo-Israeli CoEs: Kannauj (vegetables), Basti (fruits) · PMKSY drip subsidy · PMFME 35% up to ₹10 lakh · CISH Lucknow, IIVR Varanasi.

2023 · Industry / Investment / ODOP

2023 · UP Defence Industrial Corridor

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What are the key features of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor?

The **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)** was announced in the Union Budget 2018-19 and launched at the UP Investors Summit in Lucknow in February 2018. It is one of India's two defence corridors; the other is in Tamil Nadu. Its aim is self-reliance in defence production (*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*).

Key features

1. **Six nodes:** Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi and Chitrakoot, linked by expressways.
2. **Nodal agency:** UPEIDA acquires land and builds common infrastructure in each node.
3. **Incentives:** the State's Aerospace and Defence Unit and Employment Promotion Policy (2018, since revised) offers concessional land, capital subsidy, stamp-duty exemption and support for MSME suppliers.
4. **Existing base:** ordnance factories at Kanpur, HAL units at Kanpur and Lucknow, and at Korwa (Amethi) HAL's avionics division and the Indo-Russian AK-203 rifle unit.
5. **Anchor projects:** the BrahMos integration and testing facility at Lucknow (opened in May 2025), Adani Defence's ammunition complex at Kanpur, and a Bharat Dynamics missile unit planned at Jhansi.
6. **Ecosystem:** skilling through ITIs and R&D links with IIT Kanpur.

Conclusion: the corridor can bring jobs to backward Bundelkhand, cut imports and raise defence exports.

2023 · ODOP skill development scheme

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What is the Skill Development Scheme under One District One Product Programme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh?

The **One District One Product (ODOP)** programme was launched on 24 January 2018 (UP Diwas). It promotes one traditional product in each district: brassware of Moradabad, glass of Firozabad, carpets of Bhadohi, chikankari of Lucknow, perfume of Kannauj, locks of Aligarh, and so on. Its **Skill Development and Toolkit Distribution Scheme** upgrades the artisans who make these products.

Main features

1. **Beneficiaries:** artisans and workers aged 18 or above who live in the district and work on its ODOP product.
2. **Training:** short (about 10-day) courses by master craftsmen and institutions in design, new techniques, quality, packaging, costing and online selling.
3. **Stipend:** a daily allowance during training, so that artisans do not lose their wages.
4. **Free modern toolkits:** given after training to raise output and quality.
5. **Implementation:** district committees select trainees; the District Industries and Enterprise Promotion Centres run the scheme under the Department of MSME and Export Promotion.
6. **Linkages:** trained artisans can then use the ODOP margin-money loan scheme, Common Facility Centres, marketing support and e-commerce platforms.

Conclusion: better skills and tools raise artisans' incomes, reduce distress migration and keep UP's crafts competitive.

2023 · Recent initiatives to attract investment

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

What recent initiatives has the Government of Uttar Pradesh undertaken to attract investment in the State?

To reach its goal of a **USD 1 trillion economy**, the UP government has worked to change the State's old "BIMARU" image and make it an investment destination.

Key initiatives

1. **Investor summits:** the UP Investors Summit, 2018 (MoUs of about ₹4.28 lakh crore) and the **Global Investors Summit, February 2023**, Lucknow (MoUs of about ₹33.5 lakh crore), preceded by roadshows in Indian cities and abroad. **Ground Breaking Ceremonies** (2018, 2019 and 2022) then started the projects.
2. **Policy framework:** the Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy 2022 lets investors choose their incentive: capital subsidy, front-end land subsidy or SGST reimbursement. Sector policies back it, for example Electronics Manufacturing (2020), Data Centre (2021), Warehousing and Logistics (2022), Electric Vehicles (2022), Solar Energy (2022), Textiles (2022) and Food Processing (2023).
3. **Ease of doing business:**
   - **Nivesh Mitra** single-window portal for approvals; **Nivesh Sarathi** portal to track MoUs.
   - **Invest UP** as the investment agency, with relationship managers for large investors.
   - UP ranked **2nd in the national Business Reform Action Plan ranking 2019**.
   - The MSME Facilitation Act 2020 lets units start without approvals for 1,000 days.
4. **Infrastructure:** expressways, the Noida International Airport (Jewar), the Defence Corridor, the Dedicated Freight Corridors meeting at Dadri, the multimodal terminal at Varanasi, and land banks with UPSIDA and YEIDA.
5. **Regional balance:** higher incentives for Purvanchal and Bundelkhand, and industrial nodes along the new expressways.
6. **Law and order:** a better perception of safety has raised investor confidence.

Later steps: Ground Breaking Ceremony-4 (February 2024) launched projects worth over ₹10 lakh crore. The Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) was set up near Jhansi in 2024.

Challenges: turning MoUs into actual projects, land acquisition, skilled labour and regional concentration in the NCR.

Conclusion: steady policy, fast approvals and skilled workers will decide whether pledges become factories and jobs.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

UPIS 2018: ₹4.28 lakh crore · GIS 2023: ₹33.5 lakh crore · Policy 2022 · Nivesh Mitra / Nivesh Sarathi · BRAP 2019: rank 2.

2023 · Minerals and industry in Bundelkhand

QUESTION 2023 · 12 marks

Analyse the importance of minerals in industrial development of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.

UP's Bundelkhand covers seven districts: Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda and Chitrakoot. It lies on the ancient **Bundelkhand granite–gneiss massif**. It is drought-prone and weak in agriculture, but rich in non-metallic minerals, which can be the base of its industrialisation.

Mineral base

Mineral	Main areas	Industrial use
Granite and building stone	Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba (Kabrai), Banda	Stone crushing (gitti), slabs, tiles, road and rail ballast
Pyrophyllite and diaspore	Jhansi, Lalitpur	Ceramics, refractories, fillers
Rock phosphate	Lalitpur	Phosphatic fertiliser
Silica (glass) sand	Banda–Chitrakoot belt	Glass and foundry
River sand and morrum	Ken and Betwa beds	Construction

Importance for industry

1. **Construction boom:** stone and sand supply the expressways, housing and urban projects of UP; Kabrai (Mahoba) is a major stone-crushing hub.
2. **Value-added units:** granite cutting and polishing, ceramics and refractories, fertiliser and glass units can be built near the mines.
3. **Revenue and local welfare:** royalties raise State income, and **District Mineral Foundation** funds (MMDR Amendment Act, 2015) pay for water, health and schools in mining areas.
4. **Non-farm jobs** in a region known for distress migration.
5. **Synergy:** Defence Corridor nodes at Jhansi and Chitrakoot, the Bundelkhand Expressway (2022), solar parks and BIDA near Jhansi.

Limits

- Most minerals leave as raw material, with little processing.
- Illegal sand mining harms the Ken and Betwa rivers and groundwater.
- Dust and silicosis among stone-crusher workers; scarred hills.
- Water scarcity limits water-intensive processing.

Conclusion: with scientific mining, mineral-based clusters, skills and land reclamation, minerals can make Bundelkhand an industrial region rather than a quarry for others.

2023 · Infrastructure & Connectivity

2023 · Lower Ganga Canal System

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What are the key features and significance of the Lower Ganga Canal System in Uttar Pradesh?

The **Lower Ganga Canal** takes off from the right bank of the Ganga at the **Narora headworks** in Bulandshahr district. Built by the British in the 1870s, it extended the Upper Ganga Canal system (Haridwar, 1854) into the lower Ganga–Yamuna Doab.

Key features

- **Perennial supply:** fed by the snow-fed Ganga, it irrigates in both rabi and kharif.
- **Network:** branches such as the Fatehgarh and Bewar branches, with thousands of kilometres of distributaries and minors.
- **Command area:** the central and lower Doab: Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Etah, Mainpuri, Farrukhabad, Etawah, Kanpur, Fatehpur and towards Prayagraj.

Significance

1. **Agriculture:** irrigates wheat, rice, sugarcane, maize and the potato belt of Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Mainpuri and Etawah.
2. **Famine protection:** it made the Doab far less vulnerable to drought and famine.
3. **Groundwater recharge** and drinking water for towns.
4. **Ecology:** the river stretch upstream of Narora (Brijghat–Narora) is a Ramsar site that holds Gangetic dolphins and gharials.

Problems: seepage has added to waterlogging and *usar* (sodic) patches in parts of Etawah, Mainpuri and Kanpur. Silting, tail-end shortages and old structures add to these problems.

Conclusion: canal lining, modernised gates, *warabandi* and water users' associations can restore its efficiency.

2023 · Benefits of Purvanchal Expressway

QUESTION 2023 · 8 marks

What are the major benefits of the Poorvanchal Expressway Project?

The **Purvanchal Expressway** is a 341 km, six-lane (expandable to eight) access-controlled road. It runs from Chandsarai (Lucknow) to Haidaria on NH-31 (Ghazipur). Built by UPEIDA, it was opened by the Prime Minister on **16 November 2021** at Sultanpur. It passes through nine districts: Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur.

Major benefits

1. **Connectivity:** with the Agra–Lucknow and Yamuna expressways, it gives a fast corridor from Delhi to eastern UP. The Gorakhpur Link Expressway joins it near Azamgarh.
2. **Industry:** industrial and logistics clusters along the route can support food processing and crafts such as Nizamabad black pottery (Azamgarh).

3. **Agriculture:** perishables reach big markets quickly, so farmers get better prices.
4. **Defence:** a 3.2 km airstrip near Sultanpur lets IAF fighters land in emergencies.
5. **Tourism:** easier access to Ayodhya and Varanasi.
6. **Regional equity:** new jobs can reduce the high poverty and out-migration of eastern UP.
7. **Efficiency:** shorter travel time, lower fuel use and fewer accidents.

Conclusion: if industrial nodes come up along it, the expressway can become a growth corridor for Purvanchal.

2023 · Infrastructure in UP Budget 2023-24

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **What provisions have been made in the budget of Uttar Pradesh for 2023-24 to improve its infrastructure?**

The **UP Budget 2023-24** was presented on 22 February 2023 by Finance Minister Suresh Khanna. At about **₹6.90 lakh crore**, it was the State's largest budget up to then. It linked infrastructure to the goal of a **USD 1 trillion economy**, because roads, power and logistics draw private investment and create jobs.

Main provisions

1. **Expressways:** funds to complete the **Ganga Expressway** (Meerut–Prayagraj, 594 km) and the Gorakhpur Link Expressway, for new link expressways, and for industrial corridors and land banks along existing expressways.
2. **Roads and bridges:** a large outlay for the Public Works Department to widen State highways and major district roads, and to build bridges, rail over-bridges and rural roads.
3. **Aviation:** the **Noida International Airport (Jewar)**, the Ayodhya airport, and smaller airports and airstrips under UDAN.
4. **Urban transport and cities:** metro rail in Kanpur and Agra, support for the Delhi–Meerut RRTS, the Varanasi ropeway, Smart Cities and AMRUT 2.0.
5. **Energy:** support for the power distribution companies, transmission lines, and solar parks in Bundelkhand under the Solar Energy Policy 2022.
6. **Water and irrigation:** the *Jal Jeevan Mission* (*Har Ghar Jal*), with priority to Bundelkhand and the Vindhya region; canal and flood-protection works.
7. **Industrial and digital infrastructure:** the Defence Corridor, logistics and warehousing parks, data centres, and land acquisition for industrial parks.
8. **Social infrastructure:** medical colleges (the aim of one medical college in every district), better school buildings under *Operation Kayakalp*, and residential schools.

Assessment: the budget raised capital spending and reached backward regions. Timely completion, maintenance and fiscal discipline will decide the outcomes.

Conclusion: infrastructure-led growth is the base for investment, jobs and *Viksit Uttar Pradesh @2047*.

> **NOTE**
>
> The budget speech gives the exact amount for each head; check two or three of them before the exam.

2023 · Social Welfare / Divyangjan

2023 · Schemes for Divyangjan

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the major schemes for Empowerment and Welfare of Divyaangjan in Uttar Pradesh?**

Uttar Pradesh has the **largest number of persons with disabilities in India**, about 41.6 lakh (Census 2011). In line with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, the State's **Department of Divyangjan Empowerment** runs these schemes:

1. **Divyang pension (maintenance grant):** ₹1,000 a month for needy persons with 40% or more disability, and a higher grant for those disabled by leprosy.
2. **Aids and appliances:** free tricycles, motorised tricycles, wheelchairs, hearing aids, artificial limbs and Braille kits.
3. **Cochlear implant:** free surgery for young children who are deaf.
4. **Education:**
   - pre- and post-matric scholarships;
   - special schools and *Bachpan* day-care centres;
   - Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University (Lucknow) and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang University (Chitrakoot).
5. **Livelihood:** loans and grants to set up or run shops, skill training, and 4% reservation in government jobs.
6. **Social support:** a grant on marriage when one or both partners are divyang, free travel in UPSRTC buses, and UDID cards.

Conclusion: better access to buildings and transport (*Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan*) and timely benefits through DBT can turn welfare into real empowerment.

2023 · Environment / Ecology / Climate / Resources

2023 · Problems of groundwater use

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **Mention the major problems and challenges associated with the utilization of the groundwater in Uttar Pradesh.**

Uttar Pradesh is the **largest user of groundwater in India**. Tube-wells irrigate about three-fourths of its irrigated area, and most drinking water also comes from aquifers.

Major problems and challenges

1. **Over-extraction:** water tables are falling in western UP (Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Baghpat), Agra–Mathura, and cities such as Lucknow, Kanpur and Prayagraj. The CGWB lists many blocks as over-exploited or critical.
2. **Water-hungry crops:** sugarcane and paddy, with cheap power for pumping.
3. **Poor quality:**
   - arsenic in the eastern belt (Ballia, Ghazipur, Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri);
   - fluoride in Unnao, Raebareli, Agra and Mathura;

- chromium near the tannery waste dumps at Rania (Kanpur Dehat).

4. **Bundelkhand:** hard-rock aquifers store little water, so wells dry up in summer.
5. **Less recharge:** concrete cities and encroached ponds.
6. **Weak regulation:** poor data and unregistered borewells; the UP Ground Water (Management and Regulation) Act, 2019 is still being enforced.

Way forward: *Atal Bhujal Yojana* (UP is one of seven States), *Amrit Sarovar*, farm ponds, rooftop harvesting, drip irrigation and crop diversification.

Conclusion: managing aquifers as a shared resource is key to water security and SDG 6.

2023 · Plastic waste management guidelines

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the major guidelines of Uttar Pradesh Government with reference to Plastic Waste Management?**

Uttar Pradesh regulates plastic waste under its own **UP Plastic and Other Non-biodegradable Garbage (Regulation of Use and Disposal) Act, 2000** (amended in 2018) and the Centre's **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016** (amended in 2021 and 2022).

Major guidelines

1. **Carry bags:** from **15 July 2018** UP banned the manufacture, sale, storage, transport and use of polythene carry bags. Nationally, carry bags thinner than 120 microns are banned from 31 December 2022.
2. **Disposable items:** plastic and thermocol cups, plates, glasses and spoons were banned in UP from 2 October 2018; the national ban on identified single-use plastics applies from 1 July 2022.
3. **Penalties:** fines that rise with the quantity seized, enforced with the UP Pollution Control Board.
4. **Segregation:** local bodies must segregate waste at source and run material recovery facilities.
5. **Extended Producer Responsibility:** producers and brand owners must collect and recycle their plastic (EPR Guidelines, 2022).
6. **Reuse:** plastic in road building and co-processing in cement kilns.
7. **Alternatives:** cloth and jute bags, *bartan banks* and plastic-free events.

Conclusion: strict enforcement and cheap alternatives can make UP plastic-free.

2023 · Vision Plan 2030 for terrestrial ecosystems

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 8 marks
>
> **What is the Vision Plan 2030 of Uttar Pradesh Government with reference to the terrestrial ecosystem in the State?**

> **NOTE**
>
> The question most likely refers to the State's Vision 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals. Its Goal 15 (Life on Land) deals with terrestrial ecosystems, and the answer is written on that basis.

Uttar Pradesh's **Vision 2030** document localises the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**, it aims to protect, restore and sustainably use land ecosystems, and to halt land degradation and the loss of biodiversity.

Main elements

1. **Green cover:** forest and tree cover is under 10% of the State's area, far below the national goal of one-third. The plan raises it through yearly mass plantation drives, agroforestry, and plantations along rivers, roads and expressways.
2. **Protected areas:** strengthen the tiger reserves (Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Amangarh, Ranipur), the sanctuaries and the wetlands, and protect species such as the tiger, swamp deer, rhino, gharial, dolphin and sarus crane.
3. **Land restoration:** reclaim *usar* (sodic) land, Yamuna–Chambal ravines and degraded Bundelkhand land, supporting India's goal of land-degradation neutrality by 2030.
4. **Biodiversity governance:** the UP State Biodiversity Board, Biodiversity Management Committees and People's Biodiversity Registers.
5. **Human–wildlife conflict and poaching:** rapid-response teams, quick compensation and vigilance along the open Nepal border.
6. **People's participation:** joint forest management, eco-development committees and ecotourism.

Conclusion: these steps support the Green India Mission and India's climate commitments.

2023 · Promotion of social forestry

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the key initiatives and strategies undertaken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to promote social-forestry in the State?**

Social forestry means raising trees on farms, village commons, wasteland and public land (roadsides, canal banks, railway lines) by and for the people. It meets their needs for fuel, fodder and small timber and eases pressure on forests. The National Commission on Agriculture (1976) popularised the idea. With forest and tree cover below 10% of its area, UP relies heavily on it.

Key initiatives

1. **Mega plantation drives:** every monsoon the Forest Department, with all departments, schools, panchayats and citizens, plants crores of saplings in a single campaign; *Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam* was added in 2024. Saplings are geo-tagged and their survival is checked.
2. **Thematic and community forests:** *Harishankari* (peepal, banyan and pakar), *Nakshatra Van*, *Navgrah Van*, *Panchvati* and memorial forests on village and urban land.
3. **Extension forestry:** strip plantations along expressways, highways, canals and railway lines, and along the Ganga banks under *Namami Gange*.
4. **Farm forestry and agroforestry:** farm-grown species such as poplar and eucalyptus are freed from felling and transit permits; the Sub-Mission on Agroforestry and forest nurseries supply good planting material.
5. **Urban forestry:** city forests under the *Nagar Van Yojana* and dense Miyawaki-style plantations.
6. **Convergence:** MGNREGA, CAMPA funds and the Green India Mission; women's SHGs run nurseries.

Strategies

- Native, multi-purpose species (fruit, fodder, timber) chosen to suit local needs.

- Usufruct rights and joint forest management, so that villagers protect the trees.
- Technology for monitoring, and awareness campaigns in schools.

Challenges: low survival in some drives, scarce land, eucalyptus monoculture, encroachment and weak care after planting.

Conclusion: if survival is tracked as closely as planting, social forestry can raise UP's green cover and farm incomes. It would also support India's carbon-sink target and SDG 15.

2023 · Bio-energy: initiatives and prospects

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Critically analyse the current initiatives and future prospects for bio-energy development in Uttar Pradesh.**

Bio-energy is energy from organic matter (crop residue, bagasse, molasses, dung, city waste) in the form of ethanol, compressed biogas (CBG), bio-coal or electricity. With India's largest sugarcane output and livestock population, UP has a natural advantage.

Current initiatives

1. **UP State Bioenergy Policy 2022:** incentives for CBG, bio-coal, bio-diesel and bio-ethanol plants that use farm waste: a capital subsidy linked to capacity, concessional land, and stamp-duty and electricity-duty exemptions. **UPNEDA** is the nodal agency.
2. **Ethanol:** sugar mills and distilleries make ethanol from molasses and cane juice. UP is one of the two largest producers, and it helped India reach 20% blending in petrol (E20) in 2025.
3. **Cogeneration:** sugar mills burn bagasse for power and sell the surplus to the grid.
4. **CBG and biogas:** under the Centre's SATAT scheme (2018), plants such as IndianOil's CBG plant at Dhuriyapar (Gorakhpur) use paddy straw, dung and press mud; GOBARdhan biogas units work at gaushalas and in villages.
5. **Residue management:** buying straw for bio-coal and CBG reduces stubble burning.

Future prospects

- Huge feedstock: straw, press mud, dung and city waste.
- Second-generation ethanol (PM JI-VAN Yojana) and sustainable aviation fuel.
- Extra farm income, rural jobs, carbon credits, and organic manure from biogas slurry.

Critical issues

- Collecting and storing scattered, seasonal residue is costly.
- Few CBG plants run at full capacity; buyers and prices for gas and slurry are uncertain.
- Ethanol from cane and grain competes for water and food.
- High capital costs, limited finance and poorly maintained small biogas units.

Judgement: the potential is large, but results so far are modest. FPO-based straw collection, assured purchase of output, cheap credit and a shift to waste-based fuels can make bio-energy a pillar of UP's clean-energy and farm-income goals.

2023 · Wildlife sanctuaries of the Tarai

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain the ecological importance of the Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh.**

The **Tarai** is a low, marshy belt of fine alluvium south of the Bhabar, along the Nepal border. It runs through Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur and Maharajganj. Its protected areas are among the richest ecosystems of the Gangetic plain:

- **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve:** Dudhwa National Park with the Kishanpur and Katarniaghat sanctuaries;
- **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**;
- the **Suhelwa** and **Sohagi Barwa** sanctuaries.

Ecological importance

1. **Rare habitat mosaic:** sal forests, tall wet grasslands (*phanta*), swamps, lakes (*taal*) and rivers. These *Tarai–Duar* grasslands survive in only a few places.
2. **Endangered species:**
   - tigers; swamp deer (*barasingha*, UP's State animal) in Dudhwa and Kishanpur;
   - the one-horned rhino, reintroduced in Dudhwa in 1984;
   - the Bengal florican and hispid hare;
   - gharials and Gangetic dolphins in the Girwa river of Katarniaghat.
3. **Landscape connectivity:** these areas form part of the **Terai Arc Landscape** shared with Nepal. Corridors link Katarniaghat with Bardia (the Khata corridor) and Pilibhit with Shuklaphanta, so tigers and elephants can move and breed across the border.
4. **Water and floods:** grasslands and swamps absorb the floods of the Sharda, Ghaghra and Rapti, recharge aquifers and keep streams flowing in the dry season.
5. **Carbon and climate:** dense sal forests store carbon and cool the local climate.
6. **People:** fodder, thatch grass and minor forest produce; the culture of the Tharu tribe; and ecotourism and homestays. Pilibhit won the global **TX2 award (2020)** for doubling its tigers.

Threats: conflict with people (tigers live in sugarcane fields next to forests), encroachment, poaching across the open border, invasive weeds and shifting rivers.

Conclusion: corridor protection, community-based ecotourism and quick compensation can keep the Tarai a living bridge between the Himalaya and the plains.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
>
> Dudhwa NP (1977), Tiger Reserve (1987) · Rhino reintroduction 1984 · Pilibhit TR (2014), TX2 award 2020 · Khata corridor (Katarniaghat–Bardia).

2023 · Missions in UP's climate action plan

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Present an account of the missions included in the State Action Plan on Climate Change in Uttar Pradesh.**

India's **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC, 2008)** has eight missions, and each State prepares a matching **State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC)**. Uttar Pradesh prepared its first SAPCC in 2014. The State faces floods in the east, drought in Bundelkhand, heat waves, cold waves, fog and lightning. Its plan follows the national missions and adds sectors of its own:

1. **Solar mission:** the UP Solar Energy Policy 2022 targets 22,000 MW in five years, through solar parks in Bundelkhand, rooftop solar, PM-KUSUM solar pumps and Ayodhya as a model solar city.
2. **Energy efficiency:** LED street lights and bulbs (UJALA), efficient pumps and the Energy Conservation Building Code.
3. **Sustainable habitat:** urban waste management, metros and e-buses, the UP EV Policy 2022, green buildings and city heat-action plans.
4. **Water mission:** the Ground Water Act 2019, *Atal Bhujal*, *Amrit Sarovar*, micro-irrigation, *Namami Gange* and rain-water harvesting.
5. **Green UP:** plantation drives, agroforestry, and protection of wetlands and wildlife areas to enlarge carbon sinks.
6. **Sustainable agriculture:** climate-resilient varieties (flood-tolerant rice, millets), natural farming, crop diversification, weather-based advisories and crop insurance.
7. **Strategic knowledge:** climate research with universities, IMD data and district vulnerability studies.
8. **Ecosystems:** UP has had no Himalayan area since 2000, so this mission matters for it through the rivers that rise there and through the fragile Tarai and Bundelkhand ecosystems.

State additions:

- **Health:** heat stroke and vector-borne diseases such as Japanese encephalitis and dengue.
- **Disaster management:** early warnings and heat-wave, flood and lightning action plans.

Gaps: limited funds, weak coordination and little district-level action.

Conclusion: with steady funding and local action plans, the SAPCC can make UP's growth low-carbon and climate-resilient, in line with India's net-zero goal for 2070.

2023 · Meteorology / Weather Services

2023 · Meteorological Centre, Lucknow

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **Outline the importance of the Meteorological Centre, Lucknow with reference to weather forecasts in Uttar Pradesh.**

The **Meteorological Centre, Lucknow** is the State office of the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It works under the Regional Meteorological Centre, New Delhi, and issues the official weather forecasts and warnings for all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Importance

1. **Daily forecasts and warnings:** district-wise forecasts for the next five days, with colour-coded, impact-based warnings (green, yellow, orange, red). They cover heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, heat waves, cold waves and dense fog.
2. **Nowcasting:** three-hour warnings of thunderstorms and lightning from Doppler weather radar and satellite data. These are vital because lightning is one of UP's biggest killers among natural disasters.
3. **Farm advisories:** under *Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa*, agro-met units at agricultural universities and KVKs issue advisories twice a week on sowing, irrigation, spraying and harvesting.
4. **Monsoon monitoring:** onset, progress and district rainfall statistics. These help the State decide on drought relief and settle crop-insurance claims.
5. **Disaster management:** timely inputs to the Relief Commissioner, the UP State Disaster Management Authority and district officials for floods, heat waves and storms.
6. **Transport and events:** fog warnings for trains, roads and flights, and special forecasts for big gatherings such as the Kumbh at Prayagraj.
7. **Observation and data:** a network of observatories, automatic weather stations and rain gauges; climate data for planners, engineers and researchers.
8. **Public outreach:** website, the *Mausam* and *Meghdoot* apps, SMS, press and TV bulletins, and the *Damini* lightning app.

Limits: too few stations for a State this large, last-mile communication gaps, and the difficulty of predicting very local storms.

Conclusion: a denser network, more radars and better last-mile alerts can make the Centre's forecasts save more lives and crops. This links to the Sendai Framework and *Mission Mausam*.

2023 · Science & Technology – Innovation (UP)

2023 · Innovation programmes of CST-UP

> **QUESTION** 2023 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the major objectives and target group in Innovation Promotion Programmes of the Council of Science and Technology in Uttar Pradesh?**

The **Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh (CST-UP)**, Lucknow, works under the State's Department of Science and Technology. Besides funding research, it runs programmes to promote innovation. These aim to turn ideas into useful products and to build a scientific temper in society.

Major objectives

1. **Find and nurture talent:** spot creative young minds early and give them guidance and money.
2. **From research to products:** support applied research, and help inventors protect their work through patents and other intellectual property.
3. **Solve local problems:** encourage low-cost technologies for farming, water, health, energy, waste and rural crafts suited to UP.
4. **Entrepreneurship:** link innovators with incubators, industry and the UP Startup Policy.
5. **Scientific temper:** popularise science through exhibitions, science clubs, lectures and National Science Day events, in Hindi and simple language.
6. **Recognition:** awards and fellowships that motivate scientists and young researchers.

Target groups

Group	Typical support
School students	science exhibitions, quizzes, science clubs, contests
College and university students	student projects, internships, hackathons
Young scientists and researchers	research projects, fellowships, awards, seminar and travel grants
Women scientists	special projects and awards
Grassroots innovators, artisans and farmers	scouting, documentation, help with patents
Startups and MSMEs	technology transfer, IPR advice, incubator links
Universities and institutions	grants for seminars, workshops and research facilities

Challenges: small budgets, few ideas reaching the market, and low awareness in rural areas and small towns.

Conclusion: stronger links with IIT Kanpur, IIT-BHU, the CSIR laboratories in Lucknow and industry can turn these programmes into a pipeline of startups. That would serve UP's goal of a knowledge-based USD 1 trillion economy.

2024 · UP Economy / MSMEs / Industry / Employment

2024 · Policies to promote MSMEs

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the policies and programmes of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to promote MSMEs?**

Uttar Pradesh has the **largest number of MSMEs in India**: about 90 lakh units, or 14% of the national total (NSS 73rd round, 2015-16).

Policies and programmes

1. **One District One Product (2018):** Common Facility Centres, margin-money loans, training, toolkits, marketing and GI tagging.
2. **MSME Promotion Policy 2022:** capital subsidy (highest in Purvanchal and Bundelkhand), stamp-duty exemption and support for MSME parks and flatted factories.
3. **MSME (Establishment and Operation) Facilitation Act, 2020:** a new unit can start on a self-declaration and needs no approvals for 1,000 days.
4. **Credit:** the *CM Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan* (2025) gives interest-free, collateral-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh to young entrepreneurs, besides PMEGP and MUDRA.
5. **Traditional artisans:** the *Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana* (2018) gives training and toolkits to carpenters, potters, tailors and blacksmiths.
6. **Market access:** the **UP International Trade Show** at Greater Noida (since 2023), export promotion, and onboarding on GeM and ONDC.
7. **Ease of business:** the *Nivesh Mitra* single window.

Conclusion: cheaper credit, technology and export links can make MSMEs UP's engine of jobs.

2024 · Infrastructure, diversification and regional equity

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Critically analyse the extent to which infrastructural development in Uttar Pradesh has contributed to economic diversification and regional equity.**

Uttar Pradesh now has the largest expressway network among the States, four international airports (Lucknow, Varanasi, Kushinagar, Ayodhya) with Jewar coming up, the junction of both Dedicated Freight Corridors at Dadri, and a waterway terminal at Varanasi. Most of this was built after 2017.

Contribution to diversification

- Electronics and mobile-phone manufacturing in Noida, plus data centres and planned semiconductor units near Jewar.
- Logistics and warehousing along the expressways and freight corridors.
- A tourism boom in Kashi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj (Mahakumbh 2025).
- Defence production and food processing.

Contribution to regional equity

- The Purvanchal and Bundelkhand expressways reach backward regions.
- New airports at Kushinagar and Ayodhya.
- The Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority near Jhansi.

Limits

- Investment is still concentrated in the NCR (Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ghaziabad) and Lucknow–Kanpur. Gautam Buddh Nagar's per capita income is many times that of Shravasti or Bahraich.
- Industrial nodes along the new expressways are slow to come up.
- Agriculture still employs the largest share of workers.
- UP's per capita income is only about half the national average.

Conclusion: infrastructure has started diversification, but equity needs industrial nodes, skills and power in backward districts.

2024 · Global Investors Summits: an evaluation

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Critically evaluate the achievements of global investor summits organized by the Uttar Pradesh Government.**

The UP government held the **UP Investors Summit (February 2018)** and the **Global Investors Summit (GIS, 10–12 February 2023)**, both in Lucknow and both opened by the Prime Minister. **Ground Breaking Ceremonies (GBCs)** followed to start the projects.

Achievements

1. **Scale of commitments:** MoUs of about ₹4.28 lakh crore in 2018 and about **₹33.5 lakh crore in 2023**, among the largest pledges ever made to an Indian State.
2. **Conversion into projects:**
   - **GBC-1 (2018)** and **GBC-2 (2019)** came first;

- **GBC-3 (June 2022)** launched about ₹80,000 crore of projects;
- **GBC-4 (February 2024)** launched projects worth over **₹10 lakh crore**, nearly a third of the 2023 pledges.

3. **Changed image and systems:**
   - roadshows in India and abroad;
   - a new policy set (the Industrial Investment Policy 2022 and sector policies);
   - the *Nivesh Mitra* single window and the *Nivesh Sarathi* portal to track MoUs;
   - relationship managers for large investors.
4. **New sectors:** data centres, electronics, semiconductors, renewable energy, green hydrogen, electric vehicles, logistics, food processing and tourism.
5. **Wider spread:** a sizeable share of the 2023 MoUs was for Purvanchal and Bundelkhand, though western UP still led.

Limitations

- MoUs are not binding. Much of the investment is still on paper, and the figures are official claims without an independent audit.
- Investment remains concentrated in the NCR and western UP.
- Big items such as solar parks, warehouses and real estate need much capital but create few jobs.
- Land acquisition, power supply, skilled labour and district-level approvals still delay projects.

Evaluation: the summits changed UP's image and built a large investment pipeline. Their real test is how many units start, how many jobs they create and how widely they spread.

Conclusion: independent tracking of MoUs, district-level facilitation and skilling linked to investors' needs can turn pledges into the jobs that UP's USD 1 trillion goal needs.

> **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**
> UPIS 2018: ₹4.28 lakh crore · GIS 2023: ₹33.5 lakh crore · GBC-3 (2022): ₹80,000 crore · GBC-4 (2024): over ₹10 lakh crore.

2024 · Public–private partnership and employability

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
> **What role does private-public partnership play in improving employability in Uttar Pradesh? How can this be strengthened to provide more job opportunities to the youth?**

Employability is the mix of skills, knowledge and attitude that makes a person fit for work. Uttar Pradesh has India's largest youth population, but many lack job-ready skills. A **public–private partnership (PPP)** combines the State's reach and funds with industry's knowledge of what skills are in demand.

Role of PPP in UP

1. **Training through private partners:** the **UP Skill Development Mission (2013)** trains youth through private training partners and links payment to placement.
2. **Modern ITIs:** about 150 government ITIs are being upgraded with **Tata Technologies**, with Industry 4.0 labs for CNC machining, robotics, electric vehicles and IoT.
3. **Apprenticeships:** the national apprenticeship scheme, with an extra State stipend under the *Mukhyamantri Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme*, gives on-the-job training in industry.
4. **Job matching:** *Rozgar Melas* and the *Sewayojan* (Rojgar Sangam) portal connect employers with job-seekers.
5. **Startups:** the UP Startup Policy 2020 supports incubators in universities with industry partners.
6. **Sector PPPs** in medical colleges, logistics parks, tourism and solar projects create jobs and training sites.

Gaps: courses that do not match industry needs, low placement and wages, dropouts, weak tracking of outcomes, few women, and jobs concentrated in the NCR.

How to strengthen it

- Let industry co-design courses and certify skills through sector skill councils; adopt a dual system (part classroom, part factory).
- Fund on outcomes (placement and retention), with third-party audits.
- Make district skill plans that link ODOP clusters and Global Investors Summit projects to the skills investors need.
- Expand apprenticeships in MSMEs, with incentives for firms that train.
- Teach digital, English and soft skills; provide hostels and safe transport for women trainees.
- Use PPPs in new sectors such as data centres, electronics and semiconductors.

Conclusion: a PPP judged by jobs, not by numbers trained, can turn UP's demographic dividend into growth for *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2024 · UP Agriculture / Rural Development

2024 · Benefits of commercialisation of agriculture

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
> **What are the benefits of commercialization of agriculture in Uttar Pradesh?**

Commercialisation of agriculture means farming mainly for the market, guided by price and demand, rather than for the family's own use. Uttar Pradesh has small farms and a huge home market of nearly 20 crore people (Census 2011), so it has much to gain.

Benefits

1. **Higher income:** high-value crops earn more per hectare than wheat and paddy. Examples are sugarcane (UP is India's largest producer), potato, vegetables, mentha (UP produces most of India's mint oil), mango, banana, guava and flowers.
2. **Diversification and less risk:** dairy (UP is India's largest milk producer), poultry, fisheries, mushrooms and beekeeping reduce dependence on one crop.
3. **Agro-industry and jobs:** sugar mills, distilleries, food processing, cold chains and packaging create rural non-farm jobs.
4. **Better technology:** market demand encourages better seeds, mechanisation, irrigation and grading.
5. **Exports:** Kala Namak rice, mango, potato and vegetables can earn foreign exchange.
6. **Bargaining power:** FPOs, contract farming and e-NAM link farmers directly to buyers.

Caution: price swings, input costs, monoculture and water stress call for MSP support, crop insurance and sustainable practices.

Conclusion: managed well, commercialisation can raise farm incomes and help UP towards its USD 1 trillion goal.

2024 · Viticulture: challenges and potential

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the challenges to promote viticulture in Uttar Pradesh and how can it support economic development of Uttar Pradesh?**

Viticulture is grape cultivation. Most of India's grapes come from Maharashtra; UP grows them only on a small scale.

Challenges

1. **Climate:** grapes need a dry, warm ripening period. In North India they ripen in May–June, so pre-monsoon rain and humidity cause berry cracking and fungal diseases; *loo* winds and winter frost add to the risk.
2. **Varieties:** only a few early varieties suit North India (Perlette, Beauty Seedless, IARI's Pusa varieties), and good planting material is scarce.
3. **High cost:** trellises, drip irrigation and skilled pruning are costly, and returns take two to three years.
4. **Research gap:** ICAR's grape research centre is at Pune; UP has few local trials.
5. **Post-harvest:** little cold storage or grading, short shelf life and strong competition from Maharashtra.

How it can support UP's economy

- High value per acre, and diversification away from water-heavy sugarcane and paddy.
- North Indian grapes reach the market in May–June, after Maharashtra's season, with Delhi NCR close by.
- Labour-intensive work creates rural jobs.
- Raisins, juice and wine create agro-industries.

Conclusion: suitable varieties, rain covers, FPO marketing and processing can make grapes a profitable niche crop.

2024 · Million Farmers School and natural farming mission

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **How "Million Farmers School Program" and "National Mission on Natural Farming Scheme" can become key elements in promoting the commercialization of agriculture in Uttar Pradesh? Give your suggestions.**

Commercial farming needs farmers who know market-oriented practices and produce that fetches a premium price. These two programmes can supply both.

The Million Farmers School (*Kisan Pathshala*) was launched by UP's Agriculture Department in 2017. In village-level classes, experts and progressive farmers train lakhs of farmers each season in soil health, seed treatment, integrated pest and nutrient management, natural farming, schemes and marketing.

The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) was approved by the Union Cabinet in **November 2024** as a stand-alone centrally sponsored scheme (outlay ₹2,481 crore).

- **Targets:** 7.5 lakh hectares in 15,000 clusters and 1 crore farmers.
- **Support:** 10,000 Bio-input Resource Centres and trained *Krishi Sakhis* as local guides.
- **Method:** farm-made, cow-based inputs (*Jeevamrit*, *Beejamrit*), mulching and mixed cropping, without chemicals.

How they can promote commercialisation

1. **Market knowledge:** farm schools can teach crop planning by demand, grading, packaging, forming FPOs and selling on e-NAM.
2. **Higher margins:** natural farming cuts spending on fertilisers and pesticides.
3. **Premium products:** chemical-free produce sells at higher prices; PGS-India certification builds trust, and UP's natural-farming belts in Bundelkhand and along the Ganga can be branded.
4. **New rural businesses:** Bio-input Resource Centres and local processing units.
5. **Scale:** clusters of about 50 hectares give buyers uniform lots.

Suggestions

- Add marketing and digital modules to *Kisan Pathshala*, with KVK demonstration farms.
- Offer quick, cheap certification and a State brand for natural produce, with space in *mandis* and *haats*.
- Buy natural produce for mid-day meals and hostels.
- Support farmers' incomes during the conversion years, when yields may dip.
- Link both programmes with ODOP, the Agricultural Export Policy and e-commerce.

Conclusion: trained farmers plus premium, low-cost produce can make UP's farming both commercial and sustainable, in line with SDG 2 and SDG 12.

2024 · Flower cultivation: problems and prospects

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Explain the problems and prospects for cultivation of flowers with reference to Uttar Pradesh.**

Floriculture is the growing of flowers for loose and cut flowers, perfumes, colours and seeds. It earns far more per hectare than cereals. Uttar Pradesh has a long tradition of it:

- rose in Kannauj (whose perfume has a GI tag) and Ghazipur;
- marigold around Varanasi, Lucknow and Prayagraj;
- tuberose, gladiolus and jasmine on a smaller scale.

Problems

1. **Perishability:** flowers wilt within hours, and there are few cold rooms, pre-cooling units or refrigerated vans.
2. **Weak markets:** few organised flower *mandis* and many middlemen; prices crash after festivals and the wedding season.
3. **Small, scattered farms:** small volumes, no grading and no brands.
4. **Inputs:** costly bulbs and planting material, pests and diseases, and little expert advice.
5. **Climate:** winter frost and summer heat call for polyhouses, which are expensive.
6. **Processing and exports:** few packing houses, little value addition, and competition from artificial flowers.

Prospects

1. **Huge local demand:** temples and festivals in Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura–Vrindavan and Prayagraj (Mahakumbh 2025), plus weddings and events.
2. **Perfume and aroma:** Kannauj *attar*, rose water and essential oils. CSIR-CIMAP and CSIR-NBRI in Lucknow, under CSIR's Floriculture Mission, provide varieties and training.
3. **Waste to value:** temple flowers can be turned into incense, compost and herbal *gulal*, as a Kanpur start-up has shown.
4. **Government support:** MIDH subsidy for polyhouses, drip irrigation and cold chains; PMFME for processing units; FPOs; ODOP (Kannauj perfume).
5. **Markets:** Delhi NCR is next door, and exports can go through the Noida International Airport.

Conclusion: flower *mandis* with cold rooms, quality planting material, FPOs and processing can make floriculture a high-income option for small farmers and women.

2024 · Agricultural value chain: challenges and S&T solutions

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the main challenges facing the production, distribution and marketing of agricultural products in Uttar Pradesh? How can they be addressed by utilising science and technology developments while ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth?**

Agriculture employs the largest share of Uttar Pradesh's workers. Farms are tiny: the average holding is well below the national 1.08 hectares (Agriculture Census 2015-16), and over 90% of UP's farmers are small or marginal.

Stage	Main challenges	Science and technology solutions
Production	tiny farms, falling groundwater, low soil carbon, floods in the east and drought in Bundelkhand, stray cattle, costly inputs	climate-resilient seeds (flood-tolerant Swarna Sub-1 rice, millets, biofortified wheat); soil-health cards; drip and solar pumps (PM-KUSUM); drones for spraying (*Namo Drone Didi*); custom hiring centres; zero tillage and direct-seeded rice
Distribution (storage and transport)	few cold chains except for potato, post-harvest losses, poor grading and packing	solar cold rooms, ripening chambers, better packaging, sensor-based warehouse monitoring, electronic warehouse receipts for loans
Marketing	distress sales, middlemen, price crashes, limited MSP procurement, delayed cane dues	e-NAM and ONDC, price-forecast and market-information apps, digital platforms for FPOs, *Agri Stack* (digital farmer ID), traceability for exports

Ensuring sustainable growth

- Natural farming, water budgeting, and residue use for compressed biogas instead of burning.
- Remote sensing (the Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Lucknow) for crop estimates, quick insurance claims and drought monitoring.

Ensuring inclusive growth

- FPOs and custom hiring centres give small farmers the scale to use technology.
- Women's SHGs and *Krishi Sakhis*, advisories in Hindi and local dialects, and digital literacy.
- Easy credit through Kisan Credit Cards and crop insurance.

Conclusion: if science reaches the smallest farmer through FPOs and digital public infrastructure, UP can raise farm incomes sustainably, in line with SDG 2 and *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

2024 · Science & Technology / Digital / Innovation

2024 · Technology for better weather forecasting

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Mention the technological advancement adopted by the Uttar Pradesh Government to improve weather forecasting.**

Accurate forecasts protect UP's people and crops from floods, drought, lightning and heat waves. Working with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the State has adopted these technologies:

1. **Dense automatic network:** under the Centre's **WINDS** programme, automatic weather stations at block level and automatic rain gauges at gram-panchayat level are being installed, giving real-time data for forecasts, crop insurance and relief.
2. **Doppler radars and satellites:** IMD's Doppler radars (including Lucknow's) and INSAT images support three-hour nowcasts of storms.
3. **Lightning alerts:** the *Damini* app, and location-based SMS alerts from the Relief Commissioner's office to people in the danger zone.
4. **Remote sensing and GIS:** the Remote Sensing Applications Centre, UP (Lucknow) maps floods, drought and crop condition.
5. **Agro-met advisories:** district agro-met units at KVKs, and the *Meghdoot* and *Mausam* apps.
6. **National support based in UP:** the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting at **Noida** runs high-resolution models on its *Arunika* supercomputer (2024); *Mission Mausam* (2024) will add radars and better models.

Conclusion: better data and last-mile alerts can cut deaths and crop losses, in line with the Sendai Framework.

2024 · Policies to promote S&T innovation

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the policies of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to promote innovations in science and technology?**

Uttar Pradesh wants to grow from a farm-and-factory economy into a knowledge economy. Its main policies for innovation are:

1. **UP Startup Policy 2020 (amended 2022):**
   - incubators across the State and Centres of Excellence in emerging technologies;
   - seed and sustenance support for start-ups, and reimbursement of patent costs;
   - a start-up fund run with SIDBI.
2. **Policies for advanced technology:** Electronics Manufacturing (2020), Data Centre (2021), IT and ITeS (2022), Electric Vehicles (2022), Semiconductor (2024) and Green Hydrogen (2024), with capital subsidies and R&D support.
3. **Research grants:** the Council of Science and Technology, UP funds research projects, young scientists, patent help and science popularisation.

4. **Institutions:**
   - innovation hubs and incubators at Abdul Kalam Technical University, IIT Kanpur and IIT-BHU;
   - the Biotech Park, Lucknow;
   - links with the CSIR laboratories in Lucknow (CDRI, NBRI, CIMAP, IITR).
5. **Technology in governance:** drones, AI and data analytics in farming, policing and services, and hackathons to find solutions.

Gaps: low R&D spending, few patents, and weak links between universities and industry.

Conclusion: steady funding, industry partnerships and incubators in smaller cities can make UP an innovation hub of North India.

2024 · UP's participation in Digital India

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Examine the participation of Uttar Pradesh Government in the "Digital India" national mission.**

Digital India was launched on 1 July 2015. It has three aims: digital infrastructure for every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment. Uttar Pradesh has taken part in all three.

1. **Infrastructure:** BharatNet optical fibre to gram panchayats, one of the largest networks of Common Service Centres in India, and the State Data Centre.
2. **e-Governance:**
   - e-District services such as certificates and pensions online;
   - grievances through IGRS–*Jansunwai* and the CM Helpline 1076;
   - online land records (*Bhulekh*) and property cards (*Gharauni*) under SVAMITVA;
   - e-Office and purchases on GeM.
3. **Welfare delivery:** DBT for pensions and scholarships; Aadhaar-based ePoS at ration shops and *One Nation One Ration Card*; *e-Sanjeevani* teleconsultation.
4. **Digital empowerment:** free tablets and smartphones for students under the *Swami Vivekanand Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana* (2021), and smart classrooms.
5. **Electronics manufacturing:** Noida–Greater Noida is a major hub for mobile phones, components and data centres.

Gaps: rural–urban and gender gaps in internet use, weak connectivity in remote villages, and rising cyber fraud.

Conclusion: UP is an active partner. Closing the digital divide and cyber security are the next tasks.

2024 · Scientific challenges to a trillion-dollar economy

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **What are the major scientific challenges for Uttar Pradesh in becoming a trillion dollar economy?**

To become a **USD 1 trillion economy**, Uttar Pradesh must multiply its output several times, which needs science and technology in every sector. The main challenges are:

1. **Weak research base:** low R&D spending, few patents, weak industry–university links, and talent leaving for other States.
2. **Farm technology:** low yields, falling groundwater and degraded soils call for climate-resilient seeds, precision farming and post-harvest technology.
3. **Energy:** reliable, clean power for industry, with more renewables and storage and less dependence on coal.
4. **Human capital:** weak science and mathematics learning in schools, and a shortage of skilled technicians and researchers.
5. **Health:** child stunting of about 40% (NFHS-5) and vector-borne diseases need research and cheap diagnostics, as the *Dastak* campaign against encephalitis in Gorakhpur showed.
6. **Environment:** air and river pollution, waste, and climate shocks such as floods and heat waves.
7. **Technology for MSMEs:** ODOP clusters use old machines and have weak quality control.

Conclusion: more R&D funding, Centres of Excellence, institutions such as IIT Kanpur, BHU and the CSIR laboratories, and start-ups can turn these challenges into growth.

2024 · Biotechnology R&D and the poor

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **What are the research and development achievements in biotechnology in Uttar Pradesh? How will it help to uplift the poor section of society?**

Biotechnology uses living organisms and their parts to make products for health, agriculture, industry and the environment. Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow especially, has one of India's densest clusters of life-science research institutions.

R&D achievements

1. **Health:**
   - **CSIR-CDRI** (Lucknow) developed **Centchroman** (*Saheli*), the world's first non-steroidal oral contraceptive, now in the national programme as *Chhaya*, as well as other drugs.
   - SGPGIMS and KGMU (Lucknow) work on genetic and molecular diagnosis.
   - **IVRI**, Izatnagar (Bareilly) develops animal vaccines and diagnostics.
2. **Crops:**
   - ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi: the *Kashi* series of vegetable varieties;
   - ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur: pulses;
   - ICAR-CISH, Lucknow: the mango hybrids *Ambika* and *Arunika*;
   - ICAR-IISR, Lucknow: sugarcane technologies;
   - IRRI's South Asia Regional Centre, Varanasi: stress-tolerant rice and speed breeding.
3. **Aromatic and medicinal plants: CSIR-CIMAP**'s high-yielding mint varieties made UP the leading producer of mentha oil. CSIR's Aroma Mission spreads lemongrass, khus and other aromatic crops.
4. **Plant and environmental science:** CSIR-NBRI (plant genomics, herbal products, flowers) and CSIR-IITR (toxicology, water-testing kits).
5. **Fish and livestock:** ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow (fish genetic resources) and ICAR-CIRG, Makhdoom (Mathura) for goat breeding.

6. **Incubation:** the Biotech Park, Lucknow supports start-ups.

How it helps the poor

- **Health:** cheaper medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, and low-cost family planning (*Chhaya*).
- **Farm incomes:** better seeds and flood-tolerant rice for eastern UP raise yields; biofortified crops fight hidden hunger.
- **Livelihoods:** aromatic crops grow on marginal land; mushrooms suit small farmers and women's SHGs.
- **Livestock:** vaccines and better breeds raise milk and goat incomes (the goat is the "poor man's cow").
- **Lower costs:** bio-fertilisers and bio-pesticides cut input costs.

Limits: a gap between laboratory and field, and low private investment.

Conclusion: a State biotech mission linking these institutions with farmers, FPOs and start-ups can turn research into inclusive growth.

2024 · UP Geography / Regions / Biodiversity / Ramsar

2024 · Ramsar sites of Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Identify the Ramsar sites of Uttar Pradesh and describe their features.**

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (1971). Uttar Pradesh has **10**, most of them shallow freshwater lakes and marshes of the Ganga plain.

Ramsar site (district)	Year	Main features
Upper Ganga River, Brijghat–Narora stretch (western UP)	2005	river stretch; Gangetic dolphin, gharial, turtles
Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Unnao)	2019	lake now named after Chandra Shekhar Azad; winter migrants
Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary (Gonda)	2019	pair of oxbow lakes
Saman Bird Sanctuary (Mainpuri)	2019	seasonal oxbow lake; wintering geese
Samaspur Bird Sanctuary (Raebareli)	2019	perennial lowland marsh
Sandi Bird Sanctuary (Hardoi)	2019	freshwater marsh
Sarsai Nawar Jheel (Etawah)	2019	home of the sarus crane, the State bird
Sur Sarovar, or Keetham Lake (Agra)	2020	man-made reservoir that supplies water to Agra
Bakhira Sanctuary (Sant Kabir Nagar)	2021	largest natural floodplain wetland of eastern UP
Haiderpur Wetland (Muzaffarnagar–Bijnor)	2021	formed by the Madhya Ganga Barrage (1984)

Common features

- winter homes for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway;
- recharge of groundwater and absorption of floods;
- habitat for threatened species;
- birdwatching tourism.

Threats: silting, water hyacinth, encroachment and farm run-off.

Conclusion: wetland management plans and community care can protect these sites.

> **NOTE**
>
> The list is as of 2024. New sites are added from time to time, so check the latest count before the exam.

2024 · Natural vegetation of Uttar Pradesh

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 8 marks
>
> **Describe the geographical distribution and characteristics of main types of natural vegetation found in Uttar Pradesh.**

Uttar Pradesh has little natural vegetation left: forest cover is only about 6% of its area (India State of Forest Report). Since Uttarakhand was separated in 2000, all its forests are tropical monsoon types. Their type follows rainfall, which decreases from the north-eastern Tarai to the south-west.

Type	Distribution	Characteristics and species
Tropical moist deciduous	Tarai–Bhabar belt: Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur, Maharajganj; Saharanpur–Bijnor foothills	tall, fairly dense; sal dominant, with shisham, haldu, jamun and bamboo; tall grasslands and swamps
Tropical dry deciduous	southern plateau (Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Chandauli) and scattered patches in the plains	trees shed leaves in the hot season; tendu, mahua, palash, khair, bel, bamboo
Tropical thorn and scrub	dry south-west: Agra, Mathura, the Yamuna–Chambal ravines, parts of Bundelkhand	short, thorny trees; babool, khair, ber, kareel; invasive *vilayati babool*
Riverine and wetland	river floodplains and lakes	kans and munj grass, jhau (tamarisk), aquatic plants

Sonbhadra has the largest forest area among UP's districts, while the densely farmed western and central plains have the least.

Conclusion: protecting these forests and extending trees outside forests is vital for biodiversity and climate resilience.

2024 · Wildlife sanctuaries and endangered species

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Describe the wildlife sanctuaries of Uttar Pradesh. Which of these sanctuaries are crucial for conservation of endangered species?**

Uttar Pradesh has **one national park (Dudhwa)**, **four tiger reserves** (Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Amangarh and Ranipur) and about 25 wildlife and bird sanctuaries. They fall into three broad groups.

Description

1. **Tarai sanctuaries:** Kishanpur (Lakhimpur Kheri), Katarniaghat (Bahraich), Suhelwa (Balrampur–Shravasti) and Sohagi Barwa (Maharajganj). They have sal forests, tall grasslands, swamps and rivers; the Pilibhit forests are now a tiger reserve.
2. **River and wetland sanctuaries:**
   - the **National Chambal Sanctuary** (Agra, Etawah; shared with MP and Rajasthan);
   - **Hastinapur** (Meerut, Bijnor and nearby districts) and **Okhla** (Gautam Buddh Nagar);
   - bird sanctuaries such as Nawabganj, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi, Lakh Bahosi (Kannauj), Patna (Etah), Parvati Arga, Bakhira and Surha Tal (Ballia).
3. **Plateau sanctuaries:** Ranipur (Chitrakoot, now a tiger reserve), Kaimoor (Mirzapur–Sonbhadra), Chandraprabha (Chandauli) and Mahavir Swami (Lalitpur). They have dry deciduous forest and rocky hills.

Sanctuaries crucial for endangered species

Protected area	Endangered species it protects
Dudhwa, Kishanpur and Katarniaghat	tiger, swamp deer (*barasingha*), one-horned rhino, Bengal florican, hispid hare; gharial and Gangetic dolphin in the Girwa
Pilibhit Tiger Reserve	tiger (numbers doubled; TX2 award, 2020), swamp deer
National Chambal Sanctuary	gharial (the largest wild population), red-crowned roof turtle, Gangetic dolphin, Indian skimmer
Hastinapur and the Upper Ganga	swamp deer, Gangetic dolphin, gharial, turtles
Wetland bird sanctuaries	sarus crane (State bird) and migratory waterbirds

Threats: conflict with people, poaching, encroachment, sand mining in rivers, pollution and weeds.

Conclusion: the Tarai reserves and the Chambal are UP's most vital refuges. Protecting corridors, rivers and wetlands, with local communities as partners, is key to SDG 15 and the Kunming–Montreal biodiversity targets.

2024 · Geographical regions of Uttar Pradesh

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Divide the geographical regions of Uttar Pradesh and explain their geographical, economic and cultural significance.

By relief and structure, Uttar Pradesh has three physiographic regions (four if the Bhabar and Tarai are counted separately):

1. the **Bhabar–Tarai belt** in the north;
2. the **Ganga plain** in the middle;
3. the **southern plateau** (Bundelkhand and the Vindhyan upland).

1. Bhabar–Tarai belt

- *Geography:* a narrow Bhabar of pebbles at the foot of the Shiwaliks (Saharanpur, Bijnor), where streams sink underground. South of it lies the marshy Tarai (Pilibhit to Maharajganj), with fine alluvium, a high water table, sal forests and tall grass.
- *Economy:* sugarcane and paddy, forests and wildlife tourism (Dudhwa, Pilibhit); frequent floods.
- *Culture:* the Tharu tribe; Buddhist sites at Shravasti and Piprahwa (Siddharthnagar); Devi Patan (Balrampur); close ties with Nepal.

2. Ganga plain (about three-fourths of the State)

- *Geography:* flat alluvium laid by the Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghra, Gomti and Rapti, with *khadar* (new floodplain), *bangar* (older uplands), doabs, *usar* patches and Yamuna–Chambal ravines. It has western, central and eastern parts.
- *Economy:* the food bowl of India (wheat, rice, sugarcane, potato, milk), dense population, and industrial cities such as Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow and Agra.
- *Culture:* a heartland of Indian civilisation (Kashi, Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Mathura–Vrindavan, Sarnath, Kushinagar); Braj, Awadhi and Bhojpuri dialects; Lucknow's Ganga–Jamuni *tehzeeb*.

3. Southern plateau

- *Geography:* Bundelkhand (Jhansi to Chitrakoot) on ancient granite–gneiss, and the Vindhyan–Kaimur sandstone upland (Mirzapur, Sonbhadra). The land is rocky, with low rainfall and red and black soils.
- *Economy:* minerals (granite, pyrophyllite, rock phosphate; coal and limestone in Sonbhadra); a power hub (Rihand, Obra, Anpara); pulses and millets; solar parks and Defence Corridor nodes.
- *Culture:* Bundeli traditions (the Alha–Udal ballads of Mahoba), Rani Lakshmibai's Jhansi, Kalinjar fort (Banda), the Gupta-era Dashavatara temple at Deogarh (Lalitpur), and Chitrakoot.

Conclusion: region-specific planning can reduce disparities: flood control and ecotourism in the Tarai, industry and food processing in the plain, and water conservation and mineral-based industry on the plateau.

2024 · Three ecozones: habitat, flora and fauna

QUESTION 2024 · 12 marks

Describe the habitat condition, flora and fauna of the three ecozones of Uttar Pradesh.

NOTE

The question does not name the three ecozones. The answer takes the usual ecological division of the State: the Tarai–Bhabar foothill zone, the Ganga plain, and the Vindhyan–Bundelkhand plateau.

Uttar Pradesh lies between the Himalayan foothills and the Peninsular plateau. Differences in relief, soil, water and rainfall create three distinct ecozones.

	Tarai–Bhabar zone	Ganga plain	Vindhyan–Bundelkhand plateau
Habitat	high rainfall, high water table, marshes, tall grasslands, lakes (*taal*), flood-prone rivers	flat, fertile alluvium, mostly farmed; rivers, oxbow lakes, *jheels*, ravines and *usar* patches	rocky, hilly and hard-rock land; low rainfall, hot summers, thin red and black soils
Flora	moist deciduous sal forest with shisham, khair, jamun, semal; elephant grass and cane	few natural forests; neem, peepal, banyan, mahua, babool, mango groves; kans, munj and aquatic plants	dry deciduous and thorn forest: tendu, mahua, palash, khair, bamboo, babool
Fauna	tiger, leopard, swamp deer, hog deer, rhino (Dudhwa), elephant (seasonal), Bengal florican, python	nilgai, jackal, blackbuck in patches; sarus crane and migratory waterbirds; Gangetic dolphin, gharial, turtles	leopard, sloth bear, chinkara, nilgai, wolf, hyena
Key protected areas	Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Katarniaghat, Suhelwa, Sohagi Barwa	Hastinapur, National Chambal Sanctuary, the Ramsar wetlands	Ranipur, Kaimoor, Chandraprabha, Mahavir Swami

Ecological significance

- The **Tarai** is the richest zone. It links with Nepal's protected areas through the Terai Arc Landscape.
- The **Ganga plain** has wetlands and rivers that support waterbirds and aquatic species, despite heavy farming.
- The **plateau** has hardy dry-land species. Its forests protect the watersheds of the Ken, Betwa and Son rivers.

Threats

- *Tarai:* human–wildlife conflict and encroachment.
- *Plain:* loss of wetlands and river pollution.
- *Plateau:* mining, soil erosion and drought.

Conclusion: zone-wise plans can conserve UP's biodiversity in line with SDG 15: corridors in the Tarai, wetland care in the plain, and watershed restoration on the plateau.

2024 · Governance / Welfare / Budget

2024 · Welfare schemes in UP Budget 2025-26

> **QUESTION** 2024 · 12 marks
>
> **Introduce the major welfare schemes in the Uttar Pradesh State Budget 2025-26.**

The **UP Budget 2025-26** was presented by Finance Minister Suresh Khanna on **20 February 2025**. At about **₹8.08 lakh crore**, it was the State's first budget above ₹8 lakh crore. Along with infrastructure, it continued and widened welfare schemes for women, youth, the poor, farmers and the elderly.

Major welfare schemes

1. **Women and girls:**
   - *Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana*: ₹25,000 in instalments from a girl's birth to her graduation;
   - *Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana* for poor families;
   - the new *Rani Laxmibai Scooty Yojana* for meritorious college girls;
   - two free LPG refills a year (Holi and Diwali) for *Ujjwala* families.
2. **Youth:**
   - *Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan*: interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh for new entrepreneurs;
   - free tablets and smartphones under the *Swami Vivekanand Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana*;
   - free coaching under the *Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana*.
3. **Social security:**
   - old-age, destitute-women and divyang pensions;
   - the *Zero Poverty* campaign to lift the poorest families in each gram panchayat;
   - the *Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana* for orphaned children.
4. **Health:** *Ayushman Bharat* and the State's *Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan* (cover of ₹5 lakh a year), free medicines, and new medical colleges.
5. **Housing and basic needs:** the PM Awas Yojana and the *Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana–Gramin*, free ration, and tap water under the *Jal Jeevan Mission*.
6. **Farmers and workers:** the *Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana* (accident cover for farmers), crop insurance, and *Atal Residential Schools* for children of construction workers.

Assessment: the schemes reach a wide base, and DBT reduces leakage. Still, they add to the fiscal burden, some intended beneficiaries are left out, and the quality of services varies.

Conclusion: better targeting, convergence and outcome tracking can make these schemes a ladder out of poverty, in line with SDG 1 and *Viksit Uttar Pradesh @2047*.

> **NOTE**
>
> The budget speech gives the exact amount for each scheme; check two or three of them before the exam.