



CIVILSDAILY IAS

SMASH MAINS'26

TAUGHT BY MENTORS OF **AIR 2, 22, 48** & MORE AT CIVILSDAILY

*A FOCUSED PROGRAM TO IMPROVE YOUR
GS MAINS SCORE FROM 300 TO 450+*

“Smash Mains takes you from a basic to an exceedingly advanced mindset in a very short time. My experience with Smash replicated what my mentors at CD did for me, helping me excel. I was involved with all stages of Smash notes, tests, model answers & X-Factor Sessions. Scoring 450+ needs a different mindset, and Smash helped me achieve that. If I could do it, I am sure this program can deliver for you, too.

- **ANIMESH PRADHAN, AIR 2**
Full Time Working Professional
FIRST ATTEMPT, UPSC 2023

473 & **133**
In GS In Essay

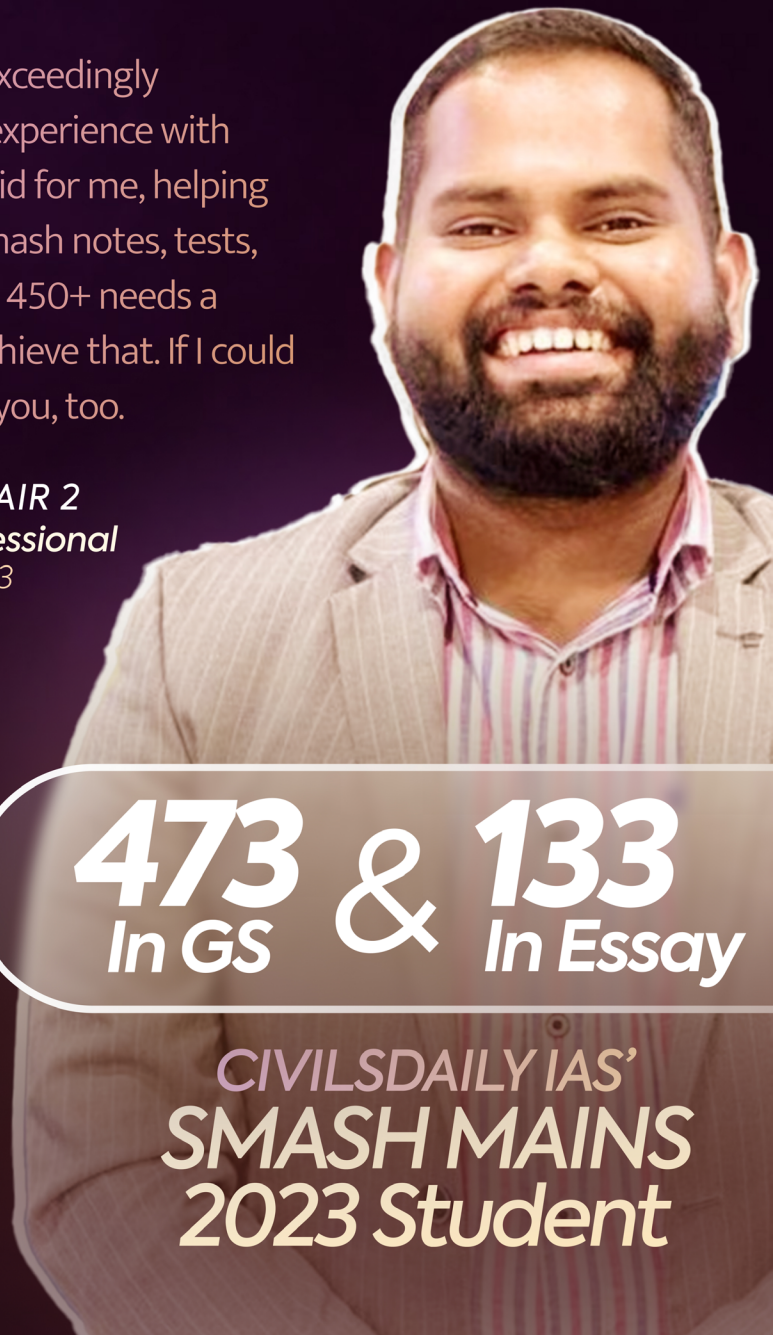
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CIVILSDAILY IAS'
SMASH MAINS
2023 Student



The Only Mains Program You Need To Score 450+ in GS.

Enrolled & Recommended by AIR 2 (First Attempt, 473 in GS Mains & 133 in Essay)

Firstly, let's understand

What exactly you need to score 450+ in GS Mains

- ✓ You need a holistic '**Assessment-based approach**' that covers the Mains Syllabus in a precise and time bound manner while leaving room for revision
- ✓ "**Thematic Classes by Rankers**" to know how they cracked those extra 20-50 marks overall, The X-Factor
- ✓ '**Comprehensive & concise notes**' on the most relevant micro themes based on PYQs trends and Ranker's recommendation
- ✓ A well-planned, practical '**Revision Strategy**' with Singular focus: to Score 450+ in GS Mains
- ✓ Understand the '**Theme & Demand**' of the Mains questions and have a ready reference bank of '**Intro-Body-Conclusion**' combinations to develop a muscle memory with repeated themes
- ✓ Last but not least, getting '**Sharp Feedback**' from your Mentors on each attempted FLT. Make all mistakes in your mocks. Smash Mains on D-Day!

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

Mentorship, Tests, Classes & Notes

1. 12 Sectionals and 12 FLTs For GS Mains (Evaluation, Model Answers and 1-1 Mentor Feedback)
2. 5 Essay Tests & Evaluation By A Dedicated Mentor
3. Concept Clarity Classes & Monthly Enrichment Sessions by Shubham Sir
4. 'X Factor' sessions by AIR 2, Animesh Pradhan, to get 50 marks edge [Recorded]
5. 'X Factor' Notes: PYQ Oriented Coverage, Quotes, Judgements, Data, Intro Conclusion Framework

What is SMASH MAINS 2025?

Smash is NOT your regular Mains Program. It is an ecosystem that takes care of your entire Mains preparation, from fine-tuning your strategy to rank Improvement. In its 2nd edition, 52/120 Smash Mains students cleared UPSC Mains. Out of these, 40 cleared for the very 1st time, and 20 students cleared for the 1st time in their last and 2nd last attempts.

Each scored above 400 in their GS Mains papers, and their improvement was above 80 marks. If you want an IAS, IPS, IFS rank, 400+ in your UPSC attempt, Smashing Mains is a must. If you want to make your rank Interview-proof, aim for nothing less than 450+



Source: The Hindu

Secondly, let's understand

Why you must rethink your Mains preparation

and how Smash Mains differs from all other Mains Programs.

Traditional methods, often limited to Answer Writing, can lead to a misconception that the crux of Mains prep is Mocks and model answers. However, this is merely 20% of the overall strategy. And when your target is 450+, the stakes are even higher. Here's a snapshot of how Smash takes the preparation to the next orbit:

- **Solved Mains PYQs?** Excellent. Now, sit with us and map out the UPSC syllabus on key Mains themes using PYQs to prioritize revision
- **Created Mains Revision Notes?** Awesome. Now, let's craft concise one-pagers per theme with updated examples and dimensions
- **Practiced Mocks?** Even better. Imagine an IAS Ranker advising how to gain those crucial extra 2 marks per question! Get the X-Factor in

If you still believe in old ways, then Smash isn't for you. But if you have tried old ways and realised their futility, apply for Smash Mains today.



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Animesh's command on answer writing grew month after month with each test. We did a detailed session discussing his evolution.

He didn't follow conventional wisdom. He knew precisely what to focus on, what was important and this is what he brings to the students of Smash Mains this year.

	SMASH MAINS	OTHERS	REF.	OUTCOME
1-1 Mentorship	Fault-finding. Ensuring you grow progressively.	None. Basic doubt-solving at best.	Link	Better understanding of your weak areas. Quicker growth.
Question Framing	In-house. PYQ Oriented. Brainstormed by the entire team to get the balance right.	Outsourced. Refurbished from Old TS	Link Link	Maximum hit-ratio in the UPSC Mains.
Answer Writing Framework	Theme Demand Approach. DAE oriented.	Basic and Outdated. Still suggesting PESTEL, SWOT, etc.	Link Link	Clear understanding of what gets you 1 mark extra
Answer Evaluation	Aggressive training of evaluators. 2nd review ensuring proper marking.	No common framework. Arbitrariness.	Link	Your score mimics actual exam score.
Model Answers	Appropriate content density IBC All points backed by data, report, examples	Casually worded. Syllabus re-hashed.		Master themes that can only be studied via Model answers
X-Factor Notes	PYQ oriented themes. Data Banks, Quotes Bank, Intro Conclusion frameworks. Topper Copies	Basic notes. Extension to monthly compilations	Link Link	Quality of your notes determine your marks

LAUNCH VIDEO

AIR-2 Animesh Pradhan joined this year's Smash Mains Program as Super Mentor. The same program that helped him get 473 marks in GS Mains & 133 in Essay.

You will get access to his recorded session



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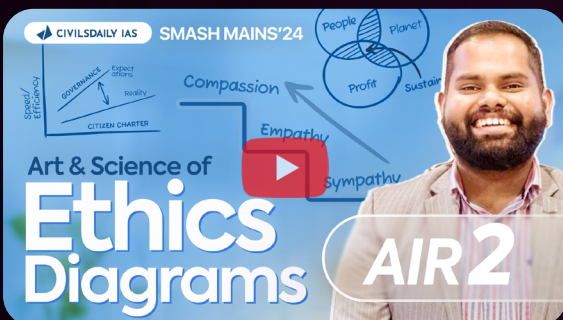
Watch Smash Mains Open Sessions by AIR 2 Animesh Pradhan



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What Makes Smash Mains Different Makes It Better -

6 PILLARS OF SMASH MAINS

Why Join **SMASH MAINS**

1. MENTORSHIP

Once you grasp the exam's demands, focus on developing your unique style instead of mimicking top scorers. Avoid getting lost in copying model answers or trying to improve independently.

1. Post-test mentor calls are crucial for prioritizing focus areas and planning improvements for future tests. Evaluation is at a question level and its very inadequate in suggesting next steps
2. The competition is fierce, with writing standards continually rising among top achievers like Anudeep in 2017, Ishita in 2022, and Animesh in 2023. To gauge how you measure up, rely on mentors who stay updated
3. Our Mentors understand your writing style and can guide you to enhance it effectively. We are best placed to direct you to valuable resources to gain those crucial extra marks per question

YOUR MENTORS



Arvind Sir



Nishith Sir



Shubham Sir



Samriddhi Ma'am



Swatantra Sir



Shikhar Sir

Why Join **SMASH MAINS**

2. QUESTION FRAMING

Most test series neglect the critical aspect of question framing, focusing primarily on your answer writing as the sole preparation strategy.

At Civilsdaily, we view each question as an opportunity to gain a competitive edge. We have a rock-solid frameworks in place that ensures our test series have a maximum hit-ratio with the exam.

We focus on the nuances of PYQs, carefully recognising emerging trends to frame relevant questions.

Questions from Repeating Themes

You have to realise, UPSC has favourites. Think for a minute. There are certain themes that are more important than others. Any examination will want to test its students on those themes instead of arbitrarily surprising them with random questions. Why will they waste a question?

If we talk about Art and Culture, we see these 7-8 themes. Most questions that you will see in our test series will be from these themes.

Themes	Questions
Sources of Indian History	Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture.
Kingdoms and their Highlights	How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? Kalmadewa Ray, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did these technological changes influence the Indian society?
Buddhism	Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. Early Buddhist Stupa art, while depicting life motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. Gandhara sculptures rivalled as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture.
Art forms	Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable reorientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss.
Bhakti and Sufi movement	Sufi and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu/Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss.
Civilizations and their Highlights	What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? The ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment.
Indian Philosophy	Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conserving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India.
Miscellaneous	Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fate to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss.

90% HIT RATIO REPEATED QUESTIONS

Since 2018 we have had excellent hit ratios.

Now we are even more precise.

Sr.	UPSC Question asked in Mains 2023 (GS 3)	SMASH MAINS Test Series Questions
1	Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard. (Answer in 150 words) 10	MSMEs sector is the growth engine of the Indian economy". In light of this statement, discuss the challenges faced by the MSME sector along with the steps taken by Government to address those challenges. (15 marks)
2	Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to the privacy of the individual in the use of AI in healthcare? (Answer in 150 words) 10	Artificial Intelligence (AI) generative models are unlocking the boundless imagination of machines, forging new frontiers in human-AI collaboration. Comment.
3	Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage. (Answer in 150 words) 10	India's ethanol production program has witnessed significant strides in the last five years. In this light, discuss how India's ethanol production program can help to achieve doubling farmers' income?
4	Dam failures are always catastrophic, especially on the downstream side, resulting in a colossal loss of life and property. Analyze the various causes of dam failures. Give two examples of large dam failures. (Answer in 150 words) 10	What are the issues concerning the major dams all over the country? Discuss the steps taken by the government to promote dam safety in the country. (10 marks)
5	Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions. (Answer in 250 words) 15	Analyse Critically whether the existing cropping patterns in different parts of India would need any change for better agriculture performance in the future. (10) (FLT 11)
6	The adoption of electric vehicles is rapidly growing worldwide. How do electric vehicles contribute to reducing carbon emissions and what are the key benefits they offer compared to traditional combustion engine vehicles? (Answer in 250 words)	Expediting the migration to electric mobility (E-vehicles) will not just benefit India environmentally but also economically and socially? Discuss (15 Marks) (MEP 05)
7	What is the main task of India's third moon mission that could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota. (Answer in 250 words) 15.	From Chandrayaan 2 to Artemis 1 mission, many lunar missions are being undertaken. While discussing their objectives, highlight how they can improve our understanding of the universe? (FLT 3)
8	Comment on the National Wetland Conservation Programme initiated by the Government of India and name a few India's wetlands of international importance included in the Ramsar Sites. (Answer in 250 words) 15	What are wetlands? Name some important wetlands in India. Discuss their role in ecological conservation in India and steps taken in their revival.
9	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one metre by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region? (Answer in 250 words) 15	As per the IPCC report, Despite all efforts the global sea level rise will not see its nadir point and will remain a continuous process. Analyse the reasons behind the phenomenon. Suggest measures to be taken to make the coastal region of India safer in the coming times?
10	What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats. (Answer in 250 words) 15	In ensuring the security of India, the paramilitary forces have played a vital role in almost all the critical matters of internal and border security. Analyze. (FLT 11)

Overall question distribution at the paper level

Over the years, UPSC has been consistent with the number of questions being asked from each subject/syllabus topic. We honor the same principle ensuring our paper mimics the actual paper.

See the blueprint for FLT1. Similar blueprints for exists for all our FLTs and sectional tests. With sectional tests we have even more room to play with.

Detailing, balancing

Finally the step around detailing. Ensuring all parts of the question are in-line with UPSC format. The theme demand, even if hidden is not vague. Each and every question is discussed internally and tweaked to match UPSC standards.

Blueprint for Smash Mains FLT 1

	TOPIC	SUBJECT
Q1	Temple Architecture-tell about impact on society, regional flavour	Art and Culture
Q2	Bhakti movement-saints,literature	
Q3	Indian philosophy and tradition	
Q4	Comparison and similarities of gandhi and other personalities	Modern History
Q5	Socio-religious reform	
Q6	Colonial Rule- Tribal oppression or decline of traditional industries or famines, Peasant Contribution, Workers Opposition	Post Independence
Q7	States reorganization, linguistic states, consolidation	
Q8	Anti-colonial struggles of southeast asia/ Africa/ Any Third World country	World History
Q9	Family and Kinship- joint or nuclear family	Society
Q10	Patriarchy and women	
Q11	Population and related issues	
Q12	Urbanization issues - Mass transporation, Flood, Pollution etc	
Q13	Regionalism	Geography
Q14	Caste system or caste identity	
Q15	ENSO - El Nino and La- Nina	
Q16	Landslides / Distribution of minerals	
Q17	World's mountain system/ islands	
Q18	Long coastline and ocean resources/ fresh water resources	
Q19	Any theory - continental drift/ sea floor spreading/ soil	
Q20	Geomorphic landform - Any erosional or depositional landform	

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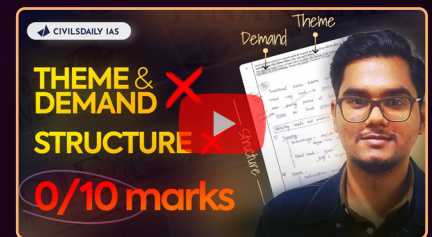
3. ANSWER WRITING FRAMEWORKS

Answer Writing has evolved over the ages. The era of using PESTLE, SWOT other frameworks is behind us. They can be used in the brainstorming phase to come up with ideas but not in answers as it is. Answers need to be as per demands of the question and not predefined frameworks.

Approximately 1% aspirants are gifted writers. Mentors help them understand the patterns that get rewarded by UPSC and make them practice. The process is relatively easier for them.

For the rest, if you don't have a scientific approach then you will be battling every question on a case-by-case basis. unable to understand how to extract more marks.

1. The single most important PRINCIPLE is to stay 100% aligned with the theme and demand of the question. If the question is specifically on performing arts, avoid stating a generic introduction on architecture, sculptures, etc. (you can do this but then you have to provide proper linkage and it is a more complicated thing to do)
2. Once you have deciphered the theme demand, then comes the structure. Ensure proper flow, coherent arguments
3. Introduction enrichments
4. Addressing demands in the body with proper articulation. The DAE approach makes all the difference. Dimension - Argument - Example. Makes your points very powerful.
5. Conclusion enrichments



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Take your introductions to the next level!			
Level	Principle	Example	Marks
Level-1 Okay Introduction	Definition-based introduction. Start by defining the terms mentioned. Issue -simply defining any keyword doesn't tell the context of the theme properly.	Corruption is a dishonest, fraudulent, or even a criminal act of an individual or organization, using entrusted authority or power to make a personal gain or other unethical or illegal benefits. Or, Values are the beliefs people have, especially about what is right and wrong and what is most important in life, that control their behavior.	0.5
Level-2 Good Introduction	Interlink the two keywords for theme based contextual introduction	Core values in the society are the beliefs held by its people, about what is right and wrong. It guides their conduct and its failure leads to corruption in the society.	1.0
Level-3 Toppers level Introduction	Theme based contextual argument with an example to substantiate	Core values in the society are the beliefs of people, especially about what is right and wrong. It guides human conduct and its leads to corruption in the society. For example- Chargeshoot of demand in competitive bidding for a contract may lead to allotment of contract to most corrupt contractor.	1.5

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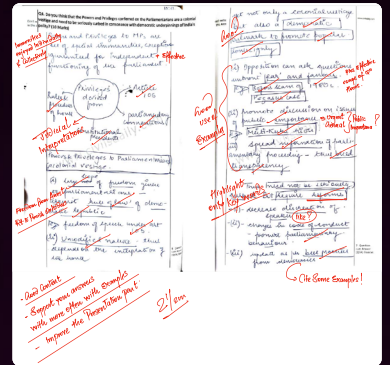
4. ANSWER EVALUATION

At Civildaily, we've prioritized rigorous Evaluation Training. Our evaluators are dedicated to critically analyzing whether a question's theme and demands are understood, assessing the adequacy of introduction, body, and conclusion, and providing constructive feedback for improvement.

We realise that most test series merely "check" rather than evaluate. Without a standardised framework of evaluation, same answer can fetch vastly different markings, from excellent to poor.

At Civildaily, regardless of your evaluator, your score remains consistent. Our structured approach reflects your true progress from test to test.

We go beyond simple mark allocation to ensure comprehensive enrichment.

Why Join **SMASH MAINS**

5. MODEL ANSWERS

Model Answers exceed basic question demands, encompassing broader themes and serving as enriched study aids.

We ensure optimal content density:

Clear Introduction, Body, Conclusion.

All points supported with data, reports, and examples.

Certain syllabus topics require practical application through targeted question attempts, as books or lectures may not suffice due to their nuanced nature. Mastering these topics involves practicing pinpointed questions, increasing chances of encountering similar ones in exams.

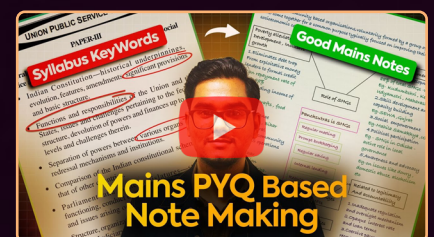
Why Join **SMASH MAINS**

6. X-FACTOR NOTES

There is a direct correlation between the notes you make and the marks you score in Mains. Hence, building your notes on top of the notes we give you becomes very important.

We know that there is no single book for GS mains papers, you have to take reference of various sources and incorporate in your notes at one single place.

Each keyword of the mains syllabus requires notes of at least 2-3 pages and that has to be prepared through the prism of PYQs. We provide you the guidance of note making, which will be more relevant for mains perspective.



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Veteran Aspirants Notes on SHGs Still Insufficient

VS

Notes on SHGs made by Smash Mains Students (PYQ Based)

SHG
Intro: A **self-governed, peer-controlled voluntary** Ass of people with similar S-E background who aspire to improve their living stds & address their

- According to **Economic Survey 2022-23**, India has around **12 million SHGs** and **88% have only women members**.

Importance of SHG's

- Poverty alleviation & Rural Dev** —
 - Financial inclusion**— Facilitates access to credit & Micro Finance to poor
 - Provide **Livelihood** (By vocational training, skill dev)— **Improved living standards**
 - Promotes savings & investments
 - Promotes **Entrepreneurship**—self-employment through setting of micro-enterprise
- Social Justice & Women empowerment**—
 - Financial independence through self-employment
 - Inculcates leadership skill—participate actively in gram sabha & elections
 - Act as PGs—**Prohibition of liquor in Bihar** bcz of pressure from women SHGs.
 - +ve externalities → Reduced MMR, increased literacy
- Governance**
 - Democratic Deepening & Grassroot empowerment**
 - Creation of **Social capital**
 - MoRD— 132 lakh+ **masks** were produced by 14.5 k SHGs during COVID 19

Case studies

- **Kudumbashree (Kerala)**—Skill training & poverty eradication of women
- **Sarathi Mahila Vikas Mandali (Gir region)** fighting social taboos by helping widows
- **TN used SHGs** to inculcate sanitation habits among people under SBM
- **Maryana** used for increasing sex ratio & BBSP
- **SHGs** like **SEWA**, **Lizsat** popular promotes entrepreneurial culture among women.
- **TN SHGs** (TN Women in April) by TN govt

Challenges for SHGs

- **Socio-cultural hurdles**—
 - Embedded Patriarchy, Caste Hierarchies
 - Illiteracy—Information asymmetry
 - Lack of financial literacy—Creates Mgt & Governance issues
- **Lack of proper training** regarding production tech, quality, packing, etc—No competitive adv.
- **Problems related to Raw Materials, Marketing**—lts of
 - Lack of linkages with marketing agencies

Got steps

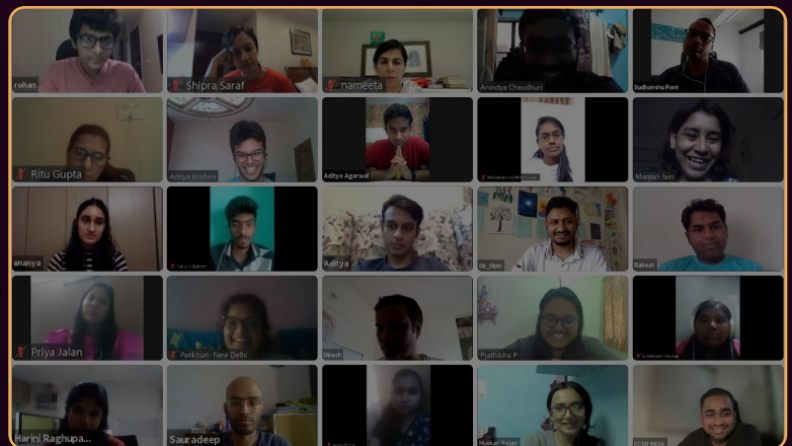
- **NABARD offers**—
 - SHG Bank Linkage Prog—For providing micro finance / Collateral free loans to SHGs.
 - By providing grant for training, capacity building, skill upgradation.
 - "Women SHGs Development Fund" (NABARD) with a corpus of 500 cr
 - e-shakti initiative— for Digitization of SHGs
 - **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh**—acts as a facilitating agency & provides loans to SHGs. MFP's
 - **Budget 2019-20**
 - Women SHGs interest subvention prog to be expanded to all districts
 - Women SHGs having a Jan than up to be allowed a mandate of 50000
 - **NRLM, DRY -NRLM**—TS promote self-employment in rural areas through formation & scaling of SHGs.
 - **Recent Reforms**—
 - Problems related to Raw Materials, Marketing—lts of
 - Lack of linkages with marketing agencies
 - Inadequate sales promotion
 - Issues of quality & Tough Competition
 - **2nd ARC**
 - Most of their activities are still based on primitive skills related mostly to primary sector enterprises—Poor value addition—No substantial increase in the income of group members
 - SHGs has led to definite social empowerment of poor but economic gains not adequate to bring a qualitative change in their life.



Monthly LIVE Value addition Sessions by Shubham Jatte Sir

ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

1. Access to live sessions to get specific subject knowledge, dimensions, and feedback on your Mains GS answers.
2. Monthly live value-added sessions designed to teach you the macro & micro themes of the complete GS Mains syllabus.
3. Access to Smash Mains Worksheet.



Hall of Fame: UPSC CSE 2024

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