



# SMASH PYQ 2026

## UPSC GENERAL STUDIES MAINS

# SMASH PYQ QUESTIONS

## GS-2 - 17 LECTURES

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Polity	Nature and Philosophy of constitution	<p><b>2021</b> - 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - "The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "Constitutional morality is the fulcrum which acts as an essential check upon the high functionaries and citizens alike..." In view of the above observation of the Supreme Court, explain the concept of constitutional morality and its application to ensure balance between judicial independence and judicial accountability in India. (15)</p>	4
	Salient Features - Preamble to Emergency	<p><b>2018</b> - Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Do you think that the constitution of India does not accept the principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balances'? Explain.(10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - "Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute." Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - "The Construction of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society". Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty. 15</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid 1990s. 15</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Right to privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21 of the constitution. Explain. In this reference discuss the law relating to D.N.A. testing of child in the womb to establish its paternity. (15)</p>	6

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Federalism	<p><b>2018</b> - Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain.(10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Indian constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position?(10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular state is being questioned by various States. However, the power of States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism? 15</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre-State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build the trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Examine the evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal federalism in India? (15)</p>	10
	Executive	<p><b>2019</b> - "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss.(15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the essential conditions for exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy." Elucidate. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel." Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations in this regard. (10)</p>	4

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Parliament	<p><b>2018</b> - Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - "Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power." In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power?(15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.(15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "Once a speaker, Always a speaker"! Do you think the practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b>- To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b>- Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Do Department -related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the role of the Vice –Presidents of India as the chairman of the Rajyasabha (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices. 10</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament? 15</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Indian Constitution has conferred the amending power on the ordinary legislative institutions with a few procedural hurdles. In view of this statement, examine the procedural and substantive limitations on the amending power of the Parliament to change the Constitution. (15)</p>	12

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Judiciary	<p><b>2018</b> - How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - "The Central Administration Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - "Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy". Comment. 10</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India. 10</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats And Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary ? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Discuss the evolution of collegium system in India. Critically examine the advantages and disadvantages of the system of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and that of the USA. (15)</p>	10
	Local Government	<p><b>2018</b> - Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources can the Panchayats look out for financing developmental projects? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self- government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment.(15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - The strength sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funs' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - To what extent, in your opinion, as the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots? (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - "The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially." Comment. 10</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at local level and bring out the pros and cons merging the rural local bodies with the urban local bodies. (10)</p>	6

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	Elections	<p><b>2018</b> - In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.(15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of peoples Act" Comment (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision ? Refer to the case laws. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to "one nation – one election" principle. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Discuss the 'corrupt practices' for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether the increase in the assets of the legislators and/or their associates, disproportionate to their known sources of income, would constitute 'undue influence' and consequently a corrupt practice. (10)</p>	8
	Constitutional and Statutory bodies	<p><b>2018</b> - Whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play." Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. (15)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "Recent amendments to the Right to information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons. (15)</p>	11

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		<p><b>2021</b> - Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions. 10</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety." Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures the Commission can initiate to tackle the issue. (15)</p>	
	Comparison of the Indian Constitution with Other Countries.	<p><b>2018</b> - Indian and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism?(10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - The judicial systems in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in the recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty. 10</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US constitution. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Compare and contrast the President's power to pardon in India and in the USA. Are there any limits to it in both the countries? What are 'preemptive pardons'? (10)</p>	8
Governance	Important aspects of governance	<p><b>2018</b> - The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What are the aims and objects of recently passed and enforced, The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/ State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act ? (15).</p> <p><b>2024</b> - The Citizens' charter has been a landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them. (15)</p>	3

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	e-Governance	<p><b>2018</b> - E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Implementation of information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects / Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors, and suggest measures for their effective implementation. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, couple with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - e-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features? 10</p> <p><b>2024</b> - e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - E-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine. (10)</p>	8
	Development Processes	<p><b>2018</b> - "Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate protection and prevention of degradation to environment." Comment with relevant illustrations. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost effective and remove many implementation blockages.' -Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - The need for cooperation among various service sector has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges bring the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of 'Collaboration' and 'team spirit'. In the light of statements above examine India's Development process. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this adequacy. 10</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution defeating the objectives of development." Critically evaluate. (15)</p>	8

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	Civil Society Organisations (NGO, Pressure Groups, Donor Organisations)	<p><b>2019</b> - What are the methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policy- makers in India and how effective are these methods? (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen. Discuss the challenges of this alternative model. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India. 15</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - What are environmental pressure groups? Discuss their role in raising awareness, influencing policies and advocating for environmental protection in India. (15)</p>	7
	Civil Services	<p><b>2020</b> - "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss. (10)</p>	2
Social Justice	<p>Government Policies and Interventions</p> <p>Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections</p>	<p><b>2019</b> - Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process – Discuss.(15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - "Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. 15</p>	4
	Women Empowerment	<p><b>2020</b> - "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of Self-Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and feminist movement has been patriarchal." Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Women's social capital complements in advancing empowerment and gender equity. Explain. (10)</p>	4

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	Health, Education, Human Resources.	<p><b>2018</b> - Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All' in India. Explain. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "Besides being a moral imperative of Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development." Analyze. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "‘Earn while you learn’ scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Skill development programs have succeed in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill and employment. 15</p> <p><b>2024</b> - In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level. (15)</p>	8
	Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger	<p><b>2018</b> - How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on Non- Food essential items squeezing their food – budget.- Elucidate.(10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyze the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one of the major causes of poverty. Discuss in the context of 'paradox of poverty'. (15)</p>	5
IR	India and its Neighborhood-Relations	<p><b>2022</b> - India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and/energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition? (15 )</p>	2

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	India and Global and Regional Powers	<p><b>2018</b> - “India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss. (10 )</p> <p><b>2018</b> - A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India’s joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - ‘The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.’ Comment.(10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - “What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India’s National self- esteem and ambitions” Explain with suitable examples.(15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - “If the last few decades were of Asia’s growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa’s.” In the light of this statement, examine India’s influence in Africa in recent years. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Critically analyse India’s evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - “Energy security constitutes the dominant kingpin of India’s foreign policy, and is linked with India’s overarching influence in Middle Eastern countries.” How would you integrate energy security with India’s foreign policy trajectories in the coming years? (15)</p>	10

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	Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements	<p><b>2018</b> - What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 pandemic. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. what importance does it hold for India. (15) 15</p> <p><b>2021</b> - The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC ? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two ? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation ? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - How will 12U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics? (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'. In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating problems. 10</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well in India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer. 15</p> <p><b>2023</b> - "Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos'. Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO(International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. 15</p> <p><b>2024</b> - 'Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.' Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs. Russo-Chinese alliance." Examine and critically evaluate the East-West policy confrontations in this regard. (15)</p>	14

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Global World Order	<p><b>2019</b> - "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order" Elaborate(15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain. (10) 10</p> <p><b>2024</b> - 'The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategically to counter China's political and economic dominance.' Explain this statement with examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism." Elucidate. (10)</p>	4
	Diaspora	<p><b>2020</b> - 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. 10</p>	2

## GS-3 - 21 LECTURES

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Economy	Issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.	<p><b>2018</b> - How are the principles followed by NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile planning commission in India?(15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP? (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment? (15)</p>	5
	Economic Growth and Macro-economic Stability	<p><b>2018</b> - How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shapes recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Economic growth in the recent past has been led by increase in labour activity." Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - What are the challenges before the Indian economy when the world is moving away from free trade and multilateralism to protectionism and bilateralism? How can these challenges be met? (10)</p>	5

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	<b>Inclusive Growth</b>	<p><b>2019</b> - It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Is inclusive growth possible under market economy ? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them ? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Examine the (pattern) and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent this has been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Distinguish between the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) with special reference to India. Why is the IHDI considered a better indicator of inclusive growth? (10)</p>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Government Budgeting</b>	<p><b>2018</b> - Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the goods and services tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in context of budget making during the post liberalization period. Clarify it. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Explain the rationale behind the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Distinguish between Capital Budget and Revenue Budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Explain how the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) can be used as a tool for assessing the fiscal performance of states in India. In what way would it encourage the states to adopt prudent and sustainable fiscal policies? (15) 15</p>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Monetary Policy</b>	<p><b>2024</b> - What are the causes of persistent high food inflation in India? Comment on the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the RBI to control this type of inflation. (10)</p>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Industrial Policy</b>	<p><b>2023</b> - 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. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Discuss the merits and demerits of the four 'Labour Codes' in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Discuss the rationale of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. What are its achievements? In what way can the functioning and outcomes of the scheme be improved? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - India aims to become a semiconductor manufacturing hub. What are the challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India? Mention the salient features of the India Semiconductor Mission. (15)</p>	<b>5</b>

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Infrastructure and Investment Models	<p><b>2020</b> - Explain the meaning of investment in an economy in terms of capital formation. Discuss the factors to be considered while designing a concession agreement between a public entity and a private entity. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth." Discuss in the light of India's experience. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructural projects? Examine the role of PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is the technology being employed for electronic toll collection on highways? What are its advantages and limitations? What are the proposed changes that will make this process seamless? Would this transition carry any potential hazards? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements. (15)</p>	5
	Energy	<p><b>2018</b> - "Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to the conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our Government for this purpose? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at World Leaders Summit of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, 2021. When was this idea first floated in the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Do you think India will meet 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030? Justify your answer. How will the shift of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables help achieve the above objective? Explain. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 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? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - The fusion energy programme in India has steadily evolved over the past few decades. Mention India's contributions to the international fusion energy project – International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). What will be the implications of the success of this project for the future of global energy? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - How can India achieve energy independence through clean technology by 2047? How can biotechnology play a crucial role in this endeavour? (10)</p>	8

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Agriculture	Cropping Pattern	<p><b>2018</b> - Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State? (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India? (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What is Integrated Farming System ? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India ? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Explain the factors influencing the decision of the farmers on the selection of high value crops in India. (10)</p>	9
	Farm Subsidy and Minimum Support Prices	<p><b>2018</b> - What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap? (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013 ? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India?(15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India ? How can it be made effective and transparent ? (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization(WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss. (15)</p>	6
	Agriculture Marketing and supply chains	<p><b>2018</b> - Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries? (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India ? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Elaborate the scope and significance of supply chain management of agricultural commodities in India. (10)</p>	4

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Agriculture Inputs	<p><b>2019</b> - Elaborate the impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively? (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security? (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis ? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What are the major challenges faced by the Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management. (15)</p>	6
	Agriculture Technology	<p><b>2019</b> - How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers? (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies? (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - What are the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - How does nanotechnology offer significant advancements in the field of agriculture? How can this technology help to uplift the socio-economic status of farmers? (15)</p>	5
	Food Processing	<p><b>2019</b> - Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the challenges and opportunities of food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Examine the scope of the food processing industries in India. Elaborate the measures taken by the government in the food processing industries for generating employment opportunities. (15)</p>	4
	Land Reforms	<p><b>2021</b> - How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers ? (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - State the objectives and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered as an effective reform under economic criteria. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate. (10)</p>	3

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Environment	Conservation Efforts	<p><b>2018</b> - What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006? (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 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. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What role do Environmental NGOs and activists play in influencing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) outcomes for major projects in India? Cite four examples with all important details. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - The world is facing an acute shortage of clean and safe freshwater. What are the alternative technologies which can solve this crisis? Briefly discuss any three such technologies citing their key merits and demerits. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Examine the factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India. What are the steps taken by the government to mitigate such depletion of groundwater? (15)</p>	8
	Pollution	<p><b>2018</b> - What are the impediments in disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment? (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the key features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the Government of India? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Describe the key points of the revised Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). How are these different from its last update in 2005? What changes in India's National Clean Air Programme are required to achieve these revised standards? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss in detail the photochemical smog emphasizing its formation, effects and mitigation. Explain the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Explain the causes and effects of coastal erosion in India. What are the available coastal management techniques for combating the hazard? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Industrial pollution of river water is a significant environmental issue in India. Discuss the various mitigation measures to deal with this problem and also the government's initiatives in this regard. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Seawater intrusion in the coastal aquifers is a major concern in India. What are the causes of seawater intrusion and the remedial measures to combat this hazard? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Mineral resources are fundamental to the country's economy and these are exploited by mining. Why is mining considered an environmental hazard? Explain the remedial measures required to reduce the environmental hazard due to mining. (15)</p>	10

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Climate Change	<p><b>2021</b> - Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss global warming and mention its effects on the global climate. Explain the control measures to bring down the level of greenhouse gases which cause global warming, in the light of the Kyoto Protocol, 1997. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 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? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - What is Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)? What is the potential role of CCUS in tackling climate change? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Write a review on India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement (2015) and mention how these have been further strengthened in COP26 (2021). In this direction, how has the first Nationally Determined Contribution intended by India been updated in 2022? (15)</p>	5
Disaster Management	Disaster Management Policy	<p><b>2018</b> - Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005'? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability with reference to disasters. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various elements of a resilience framework. Also mention the global targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). (15)</p>	4
	Disaster Specific	<p><b>2019</b> - Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in the case of landslides. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Discuss about the vulnerability of India to earthquake related hazards. Give examples including the salient features of major disasters caused by earthquakes in different parts of India during the last three decades. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Describe the various causes and the effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Explain the mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the context of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss two recent examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 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. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe? (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Flooding in urban areas is an emerging climate-induced disaster. Discuss the causes of this disaster. Mention the features of two such major floods in the last two decades in India. Describe the policies and frameworks in India that aim at tackling such floods. (15)</p>	7

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Internal Security	LWE and N-E insurgency	<p><b>2018</b> - Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade. (15)</p>	4
	Terrorism	<p><b>2019</b> - The banning of 'Jammāt-e-Islāmī' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize influence of OGWs. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Indian Government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Winning of 'Hearts and Minds' in terrorism affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror [NMFT]' Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain. (10)</p>	7

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Role of External State and Non-state Actors	<p><b>2018</b> - The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels. (10)</p>	5
	Cyber Security	<p><b>2018</b> - Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber-crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Discuss different types of cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What are the different elements of cyber security ? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem. (15)</p>	7

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Border Management and Security Forces	<p><b>2019</b> - Cross-Border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What are the maritime security challenges in India ? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - The use of unmanned aerial vehicles(UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 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. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Why is maritime security vital to protect India's sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward. (15)</p>	8
Science and Technology	IT, Defence and Space	<p><b>2019</b> - What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme? (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world? (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - The Nobel Prize in Physics of 2014 was jointly awarded to Akasaki, Amano and Nakamura for the invention of Blue LEDs in 1990s. How has this invention impacted the everyday life of human beings ? (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Launched on 25th December, 2021, James Webb Space Telescope has been much in the news since then. What are its unique features which make it superior to its predecessor Space Telescopes ? What are the key goals of this mission ? What potential benefits does it hold for the human race? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to privacy of the individual in the use of AI in the healthcare? (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What is the main task of India's third moon mission which could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the 'Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota. (15)</p>	6

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Nano-technology, Bio-technology and other	<p><b>2018</b> - Discuss the work of 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies? (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector? (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management of the pandemic. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology/? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer sections of the society? (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Each year a large amount of plant material, cellulose, is deposited on the surface of Planet Earth. What are the natural processes this cellulose undergoes before yielding carbon dioxide, water and other end products ? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What is the basic principle behind vaccine development? How do vaccines work? What approaches were adopted by the Indian vaccine manufacturers to produce COVID-19 vaccines ? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is the present world scenario of intellectual property rights with respect to life materials? Although, India is second in the world to file patents, still only a few have been commercialized. Explain the reasons behind this less commercialization. (10)</p>	10

## GS-4 - 14 LECTURES

Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Ethics and Human Interface	<p><b>2018</b> - With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them</p> <p><b>2022</b> - It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning?</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour." Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today's context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice." Examine the above statement with suitable examples.</p>	6

Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Constitutional morality	<p><b>2019</b> - What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality?</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law." Examine the significance of constitutional morality for public servant highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration.</p>	2
Values	<p><b>2018</b> - "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." – Warren Buffett</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "Integrity is a value that empowers the human being." Justify with suitable illustration.</p>	2
Applied Ethics	<p><b>2020</b> - Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony.</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement.</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values.' Discuss.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system.</p> <p><b>2025</b> - In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard.</p>	5
Environmental Ethics	<p><b>2018</b> - Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bond by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment?</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Keeping the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversies over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country.</p>	3
Ethics in IR	<p><b>2020</b> - "The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty." Examine this statement in the context of international relations.</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation." Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society.</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts?</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Carl von Clausewitz once said, "War is a diplomacy by other means." Critically analyse the above statement in the present context of contemporary geo-political conflict.</p>	5

Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Attitude	<p><b>2020</b> - "Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit." Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.</p> <p><b>2020</b> - A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person?</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the elopement of human How to build a suitable needed for a public servant?</p> <p><b>2022</b> - The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations.</p>	4
Emotional Intelligence	<p><b>2019</b> - "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you". Do you agree with this view? Discuss.</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss.</p> <p><b>2021</b> - In case of crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills – your EQ- not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view ? Give reasons in support of your answer.</p>	4
Aptitude and Foundational Values	<p><b>2021</b> - Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix.</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the /ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the pubic servants.</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered as indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations.</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations.</p>	4

Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Public/Civil Service Values	<p><b>2018</b> - State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance.</p> <p><b>2018</b> - What is mean by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?</p> <p><b>2018</b> - Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration.</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable exam</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.</p> <p><b>2019</b> - "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant.</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example.</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Write short notes on the following in 30 words each :</p> <p>(i) Constitutional morality</p> <p>(ii) Conflict of interest</p> <p>(iii) Probity in public life</p> <p>(iv) Challenges of digitalization</p> <p>(v) Devotion to duty</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level ?</p>	10
Procedure vs Substance	<p><b>2018</b> - "In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication". Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent." Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations.</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is no rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate.</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples.</p> <p><b>2025</b> - To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal?</p>	5

Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Probity in Governance	<p><b>2018</b> - What is mean by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest.</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance?</p>	6
Accountability measures	<p><b>2018</b> - "The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss.</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.</p> <p><b>2019</b> - There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss.</p> <p><b>2021</b> - An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate.</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Whistle blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle blower?</p> <p><b>2023</b> - "Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society?</p>	6
Conscience	<p><b>2019</b> - What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain?</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision making ? Discuss.</p>	2
e-Governance	<p><b>2021</b> - Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision making is debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example.</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What do you understand by term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to vulnerable section of society.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view.</p>	4

Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Code of Ethics	<p><b>2018</b> - Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - ‘The ‘Code of Conduct’ and ‘Code of Ethics’ are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. Suggest a suitable model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance.</p> <p><b>2025</b> - It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure value-based and compliance-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your work place?</p>	3
Corporate Governance	<p><b>2022</b> - In contemporary world, corporate sector’s contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate work mandated? Critically examine.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What do you understand by ‘moral integrity’ and ‘professional efficiency in the context of corporate governance in India ? Illustrate with suitable examples.</p>	2
Utilization of public funds	<p><b>2019</b> - Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications.</p> <p><b>2025</b> - India is an emerging economic power of the world as it has recently secured the status of fourth largest economy of the world as per IMF projection. However, it has been observed that in some sectors, allocated funds remain either under-utilised or misutilised. What specific measures would you recommend for ensuring accountability in this regard to stop leakages and gaining the status of third largest economy of the world in near future?</p>	2
Contributions of Moral Thinkers	<p><b>2018</b> - “The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded.” Abraham Lincoln</p> <p><b>2018</b> - “Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good.” – Tirukkural</p> <p><b>2019</b> - “An unexamined life is not worth living”. – Socrates</p> <p><b>2020</b> - “A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – Socrates</p> <p><b>2019</b> - “Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world” – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam</p> <p><b>2022</b> - “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” – Abdul Kalam.</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Life doesn’t make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, it is better for us all.” -Erik Erikson</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do.’-Potter Stewart .</p> <p><b>2023</b> - “To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Ones she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves.” – Jawaharlal Nehru</p>	24

Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	<p><b>2024</b> - "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." — Immanuel Kant</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." — Sardar Patel</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself." – Thiruvalluvar</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes." – William James</p> <p><b>2018</b> - "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." – Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p><b>2019</b> - "A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes." – M.K. Gandhi</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." – Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p><b>2023</b> - "The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." – Mahatma Gandhi</p> <p><b>2020</b> - "Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If not, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way." – Swami Vivekanand</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later.-Swami Vivekananda</p>	
	<p><b>2023</b> - Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle." – Swami Vivekanand.</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others." — Swami Vivekananda</p> <p><b>2025</b> - "The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." – Swami Vivekananda</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves." – Dalai Lama</p> <p><b>2022</b> - "Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it." Dalai Lama.</p>	
Contributions of Moral Thinkers	<p><b>2020</b> - What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss.</p> <p><b>2020</b> - What are the main factors responsible for gender inequality in India? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard.</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.</p> <p><b>2025</b> - What are the major teachings of Mahavir? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.</p>	4
Case Studies - 1		
Case Studies - 2		
Case Studies - 3		
Case Studies - 4		

# GS- 1 - 16 LECTURES

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Society	Salient features of Indian Society	<p><b>2019</b> - What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.(15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Do you think marriage as a sacrament in loosing its value in Modern India? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities. (15)</p>	6
	Caste	<p><b>2018</b> - "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi- cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Analyze the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static? (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss. (10)</p>	5
	Population and migration	<p><b>2019</b> - "Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate. (10)</p>	4

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Poverty and Developmental issues	<p><b>2018</b> - 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India? (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - In dealing with socio-economic Issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, under-privileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India – Comment. (15)</p>	8
	Tribals	<p><b>2021</b> - Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Given the diversities among the tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? (10)</p> <p><b>2025 - 2025</b> - Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion. (15)</p>	3
	Urbanisation	<p><b>2019</b> - How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development in India? (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - How does smart city in India, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice ? (10)</p>	5

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Effects of Globalization	<p><b>2018</b> - 'Globalisation is generally said to promote cultural homogenisation but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian society.' Elucidate.</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also?(15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Do you think that globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture ? Justify your answer. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - How do you account for the growing fast food industries given that there are increased health concerns in modern society? Illustrate your answer with the Indian experience. (15)</p>	11
	Role of Women and Women's Organization	<p><b>2018</b> - 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian Society. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation? (10)</p>	5

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.	<p><b>2018</b> - How the Indian concept of secularism different from the western model of secularism? Discuss. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. (15)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India? (15)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - 'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.' Argue by giving suitable illustrations. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. (15)</p>	8
Geography	Physical Geography - Climatology, oceanography	<p><b>2019</b> - How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological department. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in fishing industry of the world. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Why is the South-West monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered? (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico? (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - What are Tsunamis ? How and where are they formed ? What are their consequences ? Explain with examples. (10)</p>	11

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Geomorphology and Important Geophysical Phenomena	<p><b>2018</b> - Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Discuss how the changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins of the planet take place due to tectonic movements of the crustal masses. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum- Pacific Zone. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Why is India considered as a sub-continent? Elaborate your answer. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world? (10)</p>	8
	Economic Geography - Distribution of Key Natural Resources	<p><b>2018</b> - Why is India taking keen interest in the Arctic region? (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Explain briefly the ecological and economic benefits of solar energy generation in India with suitable examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Give a geographical explanation of the distribution of off-shore oil reserves of the world. How are they different from the on-shore occurrences of oil reserves? (15)</p>	6
	Indian Geography	<p><b>2020</b> - Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the natural resource potentials of 'Deccan trap'. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forests regions of India. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Discuss the distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin with special reference to land, soil and water resources. (15)</p>	6

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	<b>Economic Geography - Industries</b>	<p><b>2018</b> - Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisci-culture development in India. (15)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India? (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Discuss the factors for localisation of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India.(10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product(GDP) in percentage. Discuss.(10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - What are non-farm primary activities? How are these activities related to physiographic features in India? Discuss with suitable examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning? (15)</p>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Environmental Geography</b>	<p><b>2018</b> - What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem? (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism? (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - How are climate change and the sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations? Discuss with examples. (10)</p>	<b>8</b>

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Water	<p><b>2018</b> - "The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas? (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - what are the environmental implications of the reclamation of the water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India? (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India? (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources? (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - The groundwater potential of the Gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India? (15)</p>	7
Modern History	Consolidation of British Power British Policies	<p><b>2022</b> - Why did the armies of the British East India Company – mostly comprising of Indian soldiers – win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the Indian rulers? Give reasons. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? (15)</p>	3
	Social Reform Movements,	<p><b>2019</b> - Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity. (10)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. (10)</p>	2
	Personality Specific	<p><b>2018</b> - Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movements. (10)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Mahatma Joti Rao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. (15)</p>	4
	Section Specific	<p><b>2019</b> - The 1857 uprising was the culmination of the recurrent, big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate. (10)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. (15)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - To what extent did the role of the moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? (15)</p>	5

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
	Struggle movements (Gandhian, Moderate, revolutionary)	<p><b>2019</b> - Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results. (10)</p>	3
Art and Culture	Kingdom Specific	<p><b>2020</b> - Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? (15)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - "Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture". Comment. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate. (10)</p>	9
	Art Specific Bhakti and Sufi	<p><b>2018</b> - Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Comment (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travelers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (10)</p> <p><b>2018</b> - The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Highlight the Central Asian and Greco Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (10)</p> <p><b>2020</b> - Indian Philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. (15)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - How will you explain the medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism. (10)</p>	12

Subject	Micro-Theme	Questions	Total Qs.
Post Independence	Consolidation Process	<p><b>2021</b> - Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. (10)</p> <p><b>2022</b> - The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations. (15)</p>	3
World History	World History	<p><b>2018</b> - Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to their colonies? have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? (15)</p> <p><b>2019</b> - Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolutions. (15)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. (15)</p> <p><b>2021</b> - "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. (15)</p> <p><b>2023</b> - Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. (10)</p> <p><b>2024</b> - How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power? (15)</p>	6
	Miscellaneous	<p><b>2018</b> - Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation? (10)</p> <p><b>2025</b> - The ethos of civil service in India stand for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness – Elucidate. (10)</p>	2