



**UNLOCK IAS  
PRESENTS**



# **SHERLOCKING REVISION DOC**

**(GS1, MAINS  
CURRENT AFFAIRS)**



**Neil**  
**(Founder, Unlock IAS)**  
**HCS (2021, Rank 93)**



# Unlock IAS Presents Unlocking through 'Sherlocking'

'Sherlocking' inspired by the iconic character Sherlock Holmes, involves using **keen observation** and **logical deduction** to methodically solve complex as well as 'random' questions.

Focus is on developing the right thought process i.e.

**Cognition > Memory**



**AIR 14 (2023) on 'Sherlocking'**

Alpha-Beta-Gamma

Reply

My name is Shaurya Arora (AIR 14, CSE 2023). I stumbled upon Neil sir's Telegram group when it was just 1200 members strong.

I was unable to clear my first Prelims attempt in CSE 2022. A major change in strategy took place after I came across Neil sir's 2022 Prelims Sherlocking video on YouTube the next year and it taught me how to properly analyze PYQ's the right way and identify themes, patterns and Heuristics.

I really want to express my gratitude towards Neil sir's guidance; The Sherlocking 2022 YouTube videos really gave me the required tools and insights about using PYQ's, patterns/heuristics and confidence required for the exam. It totally changed my strategy of preparing for the prelims. Thank you very much sir!



**Neil**  
**(Founder, Unlock IAS)**  
**HCS (2021, Rank 93)**

Contact @helpdeskupsc on Telegram for all module-related queries

# 1. SALIENT FEATURES OF INDIAN SOCIETY

## 1.1. SURROGACY (REGULATION) AMENDMENT RULES, 2024

2024 Amendment to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 allows surrogacy using a donor gamete.

Benefits of this provision could be availed if District Medical Board certifies that either of the intending couples suffers from a medical condition necessitating the use of a donor gamete.

## 1.2. Child Marriage

### Lancet Global Health Report 2023:

1 in 5 girls and 1 in 6 boys are still married below the legal age of marriage.

Child marriage in girls declined from 49.4% in 1993 to 22.3% in 2021.

Sustainable Development Goal target 5.3 aims to end child marriage in girls by 2030.

## 1.3. Child Adoption

It is estimated that there are **29.6 million stranded**, orphaned and abandoned children in India. Just **3000- 4000 get adopted** annually.

**Reasons for low adoption rate:** Unregistered childcare institutions + **CARINGS system** inefficiencies (centralized system delays matching children with prospective parents) + High adoption disruption rates (due to inadequate counseling and preparedness) + Alternative legal routes (**HAMA** allows Hindus to adopt, while **JJ Act** applies to all religions but with different criteria) + Bias against older children and those with disabilities + Discriminatory rules (excludes homosexual, trans-couples, and single men from adopting girls)

## 1.4. Child Labour

**10.1 million child labourers** in India (Census 2011)

**Laws:** Child Labour Act 1986 + Commission for Child Rights Act 2005 + RTE Act 2009 + JJ Act 2015.

**Other Initiatives:** National Child Labour Project (NCLP), PENCIL Portal, ILO Conventions ratified.

**Global Measures:** UN Child Rights Declaration 1959 + UNCRC 1989 + SDG 8.7 (end child labour by 2025).

## 1.5 PVTGs

Initially recognized in 1973 as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) based on the **Dhebar Commission (1961), renamed as PVTGs in 2006.**

**75 PVTGs** across 18 states and the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The literacy rate among STs is just **59%** which is 73% among the general population. (Census 2011).

**PM JANMAN:** 11 critical interventions across 9 ministries + Focus on providing safe housing, clean drinking water, sanitation + Improved access to education, health, and nutrition for PVTG households + Elimination of Sickle Cell Disease, TB + 100% immunization coverage + Programs like PM Surakshit Matritva Yojana, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, and PM Poshan to enhance maternal and child health.

## 1.6 Transgenders

- **NALSA vs UoI (2014):** Legal recognition of transgender persons as 'Third Gender.'
- **K.S. Puttaswamy vs UoI (2017):** Recognition of the right to sexual orientation as an aspect of privacy.

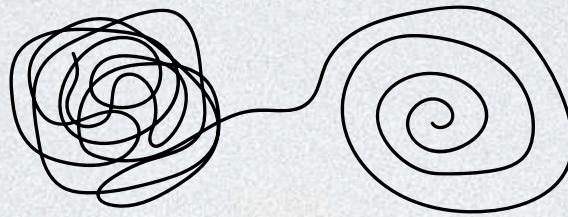
# Unlock IAS Presents

## Sherlocking Prelims Modules



- PYQs-centered module(s) (2011 onwards for GS, 2018 onwards for CSAT)
- Individual Modules available for – History, Geography, Environment, Science & Tech, Polity, Heuristics, CSAT
- Regular live doubt sessions for all modules.

**Done with basics but not able to clear Prelims/apply the knowledge?**



The Sherlocking Prelims Module(s) will help you **rewire your approach** – teaching you to **leverage common sense** and foundational knowledge



**AIR 14 (2023) on 'Sherlocking'**

“ I was unable to clear my first Prelims attempt in CSE 2022. A major change in strategy took place after I came across Neil sir's 2022 Prelims Sherlocking video on YouTube the next year and it taught me how to properly analyze PYQ's the right way and identify themes, patterns and Heuristics. ”



**AIR 230 (2023) on 'Sherlocking'**

Ricky Lohkar Pradhan

@neilcantbirdwahtch thanks a lot for the Sherlocking course. I really could not have cleared prelims if not for Sherlocking.

11:03 AM



**Neil**  
**(Founder, Unlock IAS)**  
**HCS (2021, Rank 93)**

Join [t.me/UPSCneil](https://t.me/UPSCneil) to get  
**FREE UPSC guidance** and  
get answers to your  
academic doubts!

**FREE!**

- **Navtej Singh Johar vs UOI (2018):** Decriminalization of homosexuality.
- **Deepika Singh vs CAT (2022):** Atypical families such as unmarried or queer relationships are entitled to equal protection under law (Article 14).

**National Council for Transgender Persons:** Established under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

**Garima Greh:** Shelter homes for transgender persons.

**National Portal for Transgender Persons:** To obtain a certificate of identity and identity card without physical interface.

Supreme Court (SC) in **Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty vs Union of India** case unanimously refused to accord legal recognition to marriages between persons of the same sex and left it for the legislature and executive to decide, citing them being matters of policy.

### 1.7. Elderly in India

Comprise around 10% of the population, approximately 104 million.

**Initiatives for Elderly Welfare: National Policy for Older Persons** (NPOP, framework for elderly rights and support) + **SAGE** (boosting the silver economy via senior-focused startups) + **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act** (2007, ensuring elderly care and financial support) + **SACRED** (portal for re-employment of skilled seniors) + **NSAP** (providing pension and social assistance for vulnerable elderly)

### 1.8. Persons with Disabilities

Recently, in the **Seema Girija Lal & Anr. Vs Union of India & Ors.** case the Supreme Court expressed disappointment at the inadequate

implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016 across states.

### 1.9. Suicides

India has the **highest number of suicides** globally (**1.71 lakh** people died by suicide in 2022).

Suicide rate among Indian women and girls is **twice the global average** (according to **Lancet**).

Suicide rate in India has increased to 12.4 per 1 Lakh, the highest rate ever recorded in the country.

### 1.10. Caste Census

**Arguments for Caste Census:** Constitutional mandate (Article 340) + Social justice (improve reservation policies) + Data-driven policymaking + Monitors diversity and representation + SC directive for backwardness review + Addresses caste-based privileges.

**Arguments against Caste Census:** Constitutional ambiguity (classes, not castes) + Data complexity (multiple castes/sub-castes) + Risk of political exploitation + Increased reservation demands + Potential to worsen inter-caste tensions.

## 2. EFFECT OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN SOCIETY

### 2.1. Live-in Relationships

**In news:** The recently introduced Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Act, 2024 mandates compulsory registration for all live-in relationships in the state, irrespective of residency with registrar.

**Lalita Toppo vs The State of Jharkhand (2018):** Applicability of Domestic Violence Act, 2005 with respect to the live-in-partner

**Indra Sarma v. VKV Sarma (2013):** Mutual live-in relationship is not an offense.

Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched "Science for Women- A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal -

It aims to create a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine).

### 3. ROLE OF WOMEN AND WOMEN ORGANIZATION

#### 3.1. Menstrual Leaves/Hygiene

Only 78% of women aged 15-24 years use hygienic menstrual protection (NFHS-5)

23 million girls drop out annually due to lack of proper facilities. (2014 report by an NGO)

#### 3.2. Women in Workforce

Women earn **77 cents for every dollar** men earn. Less than 20% of economies have mechanisms to enforce pay gap solutions. (World Bank)

**PLFS:** Women's workforce participation has increased from **23.3% (2017) to 37% (2022-23)**, but wage disparity remains, with men earning 82% of labor income.

Women constitute **only 13.76%** of the total entrepreneurs

**Importance of Women in Workforce:** Gender equality could boost GDP by 1.4%, improves decision-making, enhances social indicators (IMR, MMR), and helps India benefit from a demographic dividend.

#### 3.3. Women in STEM

Women make up 29.2% in STEM, despite being 49.3% in non-STEM jobs (**Global Gender Gap Report 2023**).

India leads with 42.6% women STEM graduates but only 27% in STEM jobs (**World Bank**)

#### SWATI PORTAL

#### 3.4. Women in Defence Forces

**Secretary, Ministry of Defence V. Babita Puniya & Ors. (2020):** SC directed government to grant PC and Command Appointments (Senior Grade) to women officers at par with male counterparts.

In 2007, India became the **first country to deploy an all-women contingent to a UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia.**

#### 3.5. Violence against Women

Crimes against women rose **4%** in 2022 as compared to 2021 (**NCRB**).

**Legal provisions:** Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, PreConception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, etc.

**Schemes:** Fast Track Special Courts, Nirbhaya Fund, One Stop Centres, Sexual Harassment electronic Box (She-Box), Mission Shakti- Sambal and Samarthya, etc.

**International Measures:** UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979), UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993).

#### 3.6. Care Economy/Purple Economy

Globally, 249 million women and 132 million men comprised care workforce (ILO).

#### 3.7. Women entrepreneurs in India



## Sherlocking Mains GS Module(s) (GS I-IV)

- **PYQ-centric Answering Writing Development Module**
- Learn how to use **UPSC CSE syllabus as a cheat sheet** to generate a lot of dimensions.
- **Discussion of every single PYQ from 2013-2023** – learn how to use basic information along with logical reasoning to write holistic answers in a limited time frame!
- Developing the art of answer writing through **2021-2023 'Model Answers'** (handwritten in UPSC sheets, within word limit, not copy pasted from Google).
- Continuous **handholding through live Sessions**/selected live evaluation from copies of enrolled students.

**Know the basics but not how to translate the knowledge into well-written answers?**



**The Sherlocking Mains Module(s) will help you **rewire your approach** – teaching you to **leverage common sense** and foundational knowledge**

**HMM24CK** Reply  
 Sir neilcantbirdwahtch

Your mains module helped me to optimise my mains preparation. Your techniques like how to contextualise conclusion helped me to write better answers.

I was struggling in dealing with case studies and hardly crossed 2.5 pages but now I am writing 3.5pages with ease.

One of the most important aspect of your mains module is your constant support through online sessions where you answered all my queries in detail.

You are my one stop solution for all my upsc related queries. Thank you so much sir. 😊

👍 4 🏆 2 🍌 1

← 3 19:15

**Sanket** Reply  
 Abhishek

This is interesting and I wanted to share... I saw the first video an... I cannot agree more. An addendum to supplement this.

I was wasting my time trying to study World History from my notes and it was so funny how I had made specific notes for IR in US, IR in Germany, IR in UK, IR in Japan and so forth.

I felt so foolish trying to memorise such intricate notes (definitely felt intellectual af while jotting em down back in time, admittedly so) and later realised Neil's Apple-Fruit analogy and laughed at myself (extends to revolution, decolonisation too)

99.99% common pointers that can help with an above average answer, ain't gonna be wasting any more time

I respect my history teacher from mainstream coaching but I am also high key pissed why he couldn't simplify our prep by just stating the obvious

Thank you Neil for simplifying the prep process in a rather effortless manner 🙏

❤️ 4 🍌 1 🏆 1

edited 15:56



**Neil**  
**(Founder, Unlock IAS)**  
**HCS (2021, Rank 93)**

Join [t.me/UPSCneil](https://t.me/UPSCneil) to get **FREE UPSC** guidance and get answers to your academic doubts! **FREE!**

**Interested? Contact @helpdeskupsc on Telegram for all module-related queries.**

- **Potential:** Over 30 million women-owned enterprises (NITI Aayog).
- **Impact:** Creation of 150-170 million jobs.
- **GDP Growth:** Increase by 1.5 percentage points with 50% women in the workforce (World Bank).

**Social Significance: Workforce Participation:** 19.2% of women vs. 70.1% of men (ILO) - 50.9% gap + **LFPR:** 41% for women vs. 60% for men (PLFS, 2023).

**Case Study:** Varuna Anand's "The Splendor of Kashmir" promotes Kashmiri shawls through online sales and exhibitions, expanding market reach.

**Self Help Group:** Phool Basan Yadav's Maa Bimaleshwari Janhit Karya Samiti empowers 200,000 poor women.

**Women Empowerment:** Usha Jha, known as 'Usha auntie' in Patna, supports women's entrepreneurial aspirations.

#### Initiatives Taken for Women Entrepreneurs

- **Mudra Yojana for Women:** Loans up to ₹10 lakh, no collateral, low interest, flexible repayment (Ministry of Finance).
- **PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM Vikas) Scheme:** Livelihood improvement for minorities, focusing on women, youth, and disabled (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- **Mahila Samridhi Yojana:** Microfinance with interest rebate (MoSJ)
- **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP):** Aggregator for information and services (NITI Aayog).
- **TREAD Scheme:** Loans for women through NGOs for non-farm activities.
- **STEP:** Skills and competencies for self-employment/entrepreneurship (MoWCD)
- **Stand-Up India:** Financing for SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs.

### 3.8. Women in local governance in India

India has one of the highest rates of women in local governance at over 44% (Global Gender Gap Report 2023).

### 3.9. Measures in India to Reduce Gender Gap

#### Code on Social Security 2020:

- Paid maternity leave: 26 weeks.
- Mandatory crèche facility in establishments with 50+ employees.
- Permitting women in night shifts with safety measures.

#### Code on Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions (OSH) 2020:

- Employment of women in aboveground and certain below ground mining roles.

#### Code on Wages 2019:

- No gender discrimination in establishments.

## 4. POPULATION AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

### 4.1. India – most populous country

India overtook China as the **world's most populous** country (UN estimate)

**Factors Driving Population Growth:** 3rd stage of demographic transition + Decreasing mortality (**IMR at 35.2 in 2019-21**) + Life expectancy (**69.7 years**) + High unintended pregnancies + Lack of female education.

**Benefits of Growing Population:** Economic growth (youthful workforce) + Urbanization + Innovation + High remittances (\$111B in 2022) + Higher global weightage (UNSC seat).

**Population Management Measures:** National Family Planning Program (launched in 1952 for family size reduction) + National Population Policy 2000 (focused on stabilization and reproductive health) + Mission Parivar Vikas (increased access to contraceptives in high fertility districts) + Postpartum contraceptive service (PPIUCD) (free intrauterine device for post-

delivery family planning) + Family Planning 2030 (targeting reduction in child marriage and early pregnancies).

#### 4.2. Migration

Marriage (81%) is the leading reasons for migration of women (PLFS).

3/4th of migrant women are unemployed. (PLFS)

**Initiatives for Internal Migrants:** National Policy for Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2007 (resettlement framework for displaced individuals) + One Nation One Ration Card (nationwide access to subsidized food) + Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 (free LPG connections for migrant families) + Ayushman Bharat (health insurance for low-income migrant workers).

### 5. URBANIZATION, THEIR PROBLEMS AND THEIR REMEDIES.

Urban population: 36% (World Bank, 2023)

Future projections on urbanization: 40% population by 2036 (World Bank)

Contribution to GDP: ~60% (NITI Aayog, 2022)

Urban slums constitute around 49% of urban population. (World Bank, 2020)

#### 5.1. URBAN POVERTY IN INDIA

**India Employment Report (IER) 2024 [ILO and Institute for Human Development (IHD)]**

- Urban Unemployment: Higher among young people (15–19) in urban areas compared to rural.
- Gender Gap: LFPR of young men (61.2%) was almost three times that of young women (21.7%) in 2022.
- Urban Poverty Decline: Decreased from 13.7% in 2012 to 12.55% in 2022.

**Reasons for prevalence of Urban Poverty:** Urban poverty is driven by rural-to-urban migration, exclusionary urbanization, regional disparity, inaccessibility to social security, and financial insecurity + Inadequate basic services + insufficient

Tier II and III city development+ high infrastructure costs + visible COVID-19 impact + informal employment issues

**Way forward:** Inclusive urbanization + Regionally distributed development. + Sustainable livelihoods and skill development + **Kudumbashree** (a women's community network) involved by Kerala in the implementation of the **National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)** + Portability of social security programmes

#### 5.2. SMART CITIES MISSION (SCM)

The Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs presented its report "Smart Cities Mission: An Evaluation".

**Progress highlighted -**

- **Central Funds:** 45 smart cities received 100% of central funds; only 28 received 100% of State/ULB funds.
- **Additional Funding:** Half of the cities couldn't undertake PPP projects; only six cities generated funds through loans.
- **Project Completion:** 80-100% work progress in 57 cities; Madurai is the only city to complete 100% of its projects.

**Recommendations:** Master plan for Greenfield Development + Governance structure of SPVs + In the next phase, thrust should be on tier 2 cities + Focus on pan-city projects + Strengthen ULBs

### 6. GEOGRAPHY PORTION (SALIENT FEATURES OF WORLD'S PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY; IMPORTANT GEOPHYSICAL PHENOMENA ETC)

#### 6.1. El-Nino - Monsoon Link

How El Niño Impacts Monsoon?

- Weakens Walker circulation.
- Shifts Jet Stream that influences weather systems and moisture transport.

- Weakens pressure gradient between Indian and Pacific Oceans, bringing changes in wind pattern.
- Increases atmospheric stability, inhibiting development of convective clouds.
- Other impacts: Affects marine fisheries, threatens food security, drought situations, and inflation

## 6.2. Triple Dip La-Nina

Rare event where **La Niña lasts three consecutive years**. Distinct in 2020-23 as it did not follow a strong El Niño.

Observed Impacts ◊ Peninsular India: Poor air quality due to higher northerly wind influx and slower surface winds. ◊ North India: Improved air quality due to weaker western disturbances and faster ventilation.

### Possible Explanations:

- ENSO interactions with Indian and Atlantic Oceans.
- Influence from North and South Pacific Oceans.
- Smoke from Australian bushfires (2019-2020).
- Changing conditions in tropical Pacific and atmosphere possibly due to climate change.





## Sherlocking Essay Module



Based on the process that helped me score **137, 133, 128 (2019, 2021, 2022)** in Essay Paper.

**Neil**  
(Founder, Unlock IAS)  
HCS (2021, Rank 93)

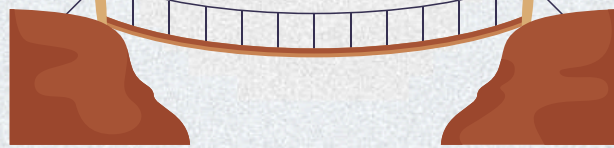
• Theory Classes covering an overall approach from **Basic to Advanced** -

- Topic Selection
- Structuring
- Presentation
- How to **Brainstorm using frame-works** and generate points even for 'vague' topics
- How to follow UPSC's directives
- How to think of impactful introductions, conclusions and sub-heading
- Time and space management

## Essay topics leaving you **blank?**



Your bridge from good to exceptional, from 80 to 120+ on the Essay Paper.



The Sherlocking Essay Module will help you **rewire your approach** – teaching you to leverage **common sense** and **GS knowledge base** to generate **brilliant content/points**

amit Reply  
#testimonial  
I opted for sherlocking essay module During the recently conducted mains and voila it helped me to score 116 in essay .. Thereafter, I decided to opt for Prelims and mains module.. I can personally vouch for [NeilCantBirdWatch](#) guidance especially in interview and various other stages of exam .. pls check out free videos of neil sir to make wise choices especially in Uncertain times of prelims around the corner .  
👍 🗣️ 🏆 🌍  
1 23:02

Husnain Khan Reply  
Forwarded from [Husnain Khan](#)  
Hello everyone  
My name is Hasnain khan  
I joined Neil sir course for Essay module,  
He simplified whole the Essay preparation by linking it with syllabus and reducing the stress by analyzing copies of topper and giving hints from that copy about how toppers used their basic knowledge to write Effective and to the point Essay,  
He taught how to remain stick to the topic  
And how to maintain flow in Essay  
The most impressive part of module is that he made the brainstorming part of Essay so easy and his videos I watched 3-4 times in my mains 2023, and inculcated the techniques like word vomit to brainstorm.  
Thank you soo much  
Neil sir for simplifying the path.  
🥰 ❤️  
🔥 🗣️ 🌍  
1 19:54

Join [t.me/UPSCneil](https://t.me/UPSCneil) to get FREE UPSC guidance and get answers to your academic doubts!

**FREE!**