

UPSC Mains GS-III — Previous Year Questions

255 Questions (2013–2025) • 82 Model Answers

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Economics

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. 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?

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. 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?

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Explain the factors influencing the decision of the farmers on the selection of high value crops in India.

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. Elaborate the scope and significance of supply chain management of agricultural commodities in India.

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. What is Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)? What is the potential role of CCUS in tackling climate change?

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. 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?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q11. 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?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q12. 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?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q13. Examine the factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India. What are the steps taken by the government to mitigate such depletion of groundwater?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q14. 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.

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q15. How does nanotechnology offer significant advancements in the field of agriculture? How can this technology help to uplift the socio-economic status of farmers?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q17. 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.

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q18. 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?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q19. 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.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent has this been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. 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.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. 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.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. 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?

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. 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.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. 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.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q11. 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?

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q12. What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q13. What are the major challenges faced by Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q14. Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q15. 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.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q16. What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe?

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. 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.

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. 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.

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage.

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. 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.

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q11. Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements.

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q12. Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment?

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q13. Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions.

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q14. 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.

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q15. 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?

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q17. 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.

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q18. 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?

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q19. 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.

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q20. Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1. Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructural projects? Examine the role of PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2. Is inclusive growth possible under market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3. What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent?

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India.

2022 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q8. "Economic growth in the recent past has been led by increase in labour productivity." Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity.

2022 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q12. 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.

2022 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India?

2022 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q14. What is Integrated Farming System? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India?

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1. Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015.

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. Distinguish between Capital Budget and Revenue Budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets.

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers?

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4. How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis?

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q12. "Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth." Discuss in the light of India's experience.

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. 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?

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q14. What are the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification?

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2. Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP?

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3. What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India?

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4. 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?

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies?

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. 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.

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q12. 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?

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. 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?

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q14. Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario.

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q16. 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?

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. 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.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. 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.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3. How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4. Elaborate the impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5. 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?

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q11. It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement.

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q12. The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in the context of budget making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it.

2019 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective?

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. "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.

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. 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.

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap?

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries?

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India.

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State?

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q11. How are the principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission in India?

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q12. How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India?

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q13. 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?

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q14. How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption.

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q16. With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy.

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1. Among several factors for India's potential growth, savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2. Account for the failure of manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports.

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Examine the development of Airports in India through joint ventures under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost-effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers?

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q11. One of the intended objectives of the Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energise and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective.

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q12. "Industrial growth rate has lagged-behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product (GDP) in the post-reform period." Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial-Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate?

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q13. What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyse and suggest measures for inclusive growth.

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q14. What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilise the yield of the crops in the system?

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers?

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q1. How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q2. Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q4. What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q7. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q8. What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q9. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q10. Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q11. Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q1. The nature of economic growth in India in recent times is often described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q2. Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q3. In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non-viable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q3. In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non-viable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q4. How can the 'Digital India' programme help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the Government taken in this regard?

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q5. In what way could replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q6. What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming these bottlenecks?

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q7. Craze for gold in Indians has led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of the Gold Monetization Scheme.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q8. "Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms." Discuss with logical arguments.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q9. To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment costs and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for the thermal power producers and the related industry?

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q10. There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports. Recognizing this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs requires augmentation. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of SEZs with respect to taxation, governing laws and administration.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q1. Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base?

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q2. "While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability." What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q3. There is also a point of view that Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) set up under the State Acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q4. "In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society." — All India Rural Credit Survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients?

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q5. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 has come into effect from 1st January, 2014. What are the key issues which would get addressed with the Act in place? What implications would it have on industrialization and agriculture in India?

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q6. Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages short-sightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism for bringing inclusive growth in India? Discuss.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q7. Explain how Private Public Partnership arrangements, in long gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsustainable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised?

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q8. National Urban Transport Policy emphasises on 'moving people' instead of 'moving vehicles'. Discuss critically the success of the various strategies of the Government in this regard.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q9. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defence sector is now set to be liberalized. What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long run?

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q1. With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new Companies Bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also discuss other provisions in the Bill and their implications.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q2. What were the reasons for the introduction of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q3. What is the meaning of the term 'tax expenditure'? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences the budgetary policies of the government.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q4. Food Security Bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q5. What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and at state levels? Critically analyse the agricultural subsidy regime with reference to the distortions created by it.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q6. India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for ensuring better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q7. Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indians. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? Discuss.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q8. Establish relationship between land reforms, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in the Indian economy. Discuss the difficulties in designing and implementation of agriculture-friendly land reforms in India.

2013 GS-III 5M • 150W

Medium

Q9(a). Discuss the impact of FDI entry into Multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy.

2013 GS-III 5M • 150W

Medium

Q9(b). Though India allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in what is called multi-brand retail through the joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI, even after a year, has not picked up. Discuss the reasons.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q10. Discuss the rationale for introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Bring out critically the reasons for the delay in roll out for its regime.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q11. Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problem of conventional energy.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q12. Adoption of PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free of criticism. Critically discuss pros and cons of the model.

Internal Security

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. 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.

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. 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?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q20. Why is maritime security vital to protect India's sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q19. 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.

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. 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.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security.

2022 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q19. 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.

2022 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. 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.

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. 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.

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q10. Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks.

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q19. 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.

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q20. 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.

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q9. Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. 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.

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q19. 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?

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q9. The banning of 'Jamaat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize influence of OGWs.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q10. What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.

2019 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q19. 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.

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. 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.

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q9. 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.

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. 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.

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q19. 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?

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q20. 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 counter-measures should be taken to prevent the same?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q9. Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it.

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q10. The North-East region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q19. Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence.

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q20. The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q17. The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q18. "Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades." Analyze the above statement.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q19. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q20. Use of Internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q13. Discuss the advantages and security implications of cloud hosting of servers vis-a-vis in-house machine-based hosting for government businesses.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q17. Human rights activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q18. Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country?

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q19. The persisting drives of the Government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q20. Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Force" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q16. "The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighbourhood." Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q17. International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace'? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q18. How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q19. In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organization. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns?

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q20. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What threat does this pose for India's security? Critically examine.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q21. Money laundering poses a serious security threat to a country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace?

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q22. What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present?

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q23. Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q24. Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing extremism.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q25. How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?

Science and Technology

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. 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?

2025 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. How can India achieve energy independence through clean technology by 2047? How can biotechnology play a crucial role in this endeavour?

2025 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q16. 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.

2024 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q20. 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.

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. 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 healthcare?

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. 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?

2023 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q10. 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.

2023 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q16. 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.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. 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?

2022 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. 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?

2022 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. 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?

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world?

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer sections of the society?

2021 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. 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?

2020 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector?

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. 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.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q6. What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q15. How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers?

2018 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Discuss the work of 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics.

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q15. Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and severe burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments?

2017 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space missions. What are the main obstacles to launching a manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Examine critically.

2017 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q16. Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India?

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q12. Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development?

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q13. Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of Indian Government's Mission on Nanoscience and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q11. What do you understand by 'Standard Positioning Systems' and 'Precision Positioning Systems' in the GPS era? Discuss the advantages India perceives from its ambitious IRNSS programme employing just seven satellites.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q12. What are the areas of prohibitive labour that can be sustainably managed by robots? Discuss the initiatives that can propel research in premier research institutes for substantive and gainful innovation.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q14. India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in the country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and cons of making this database publicly available under open-source licensing.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q10. Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as are business professions, engineering or administration, and the universities are becoming consumer-oriented. Critically comment.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q11. Can overuse and free availability of antibiotics without Doctor's prescription, be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q12. In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms — Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets.

2014 GS-III 12M • 200W

Medium

Q13. Should the pursuit of carbon-credits and clean development mechanisms set up under UNFCCC be maintained even though there has been a massive slide in the value of a carbon credit? Discuss with respect to India's energy needs for economic growth.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q13. Bringing out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to the section 3(d) in Indian Patent Law, 1970, discuss how it has been utilized by the Supreme Court in its judgement in rejecting Novartis' patent application for 'Glivec'. Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q14. What do you understand by Fixed Dose Drug Combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits.

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q15. What do you understand by Umpire Decision Review System in Cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicone tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system?

2013 GS-III 5M • 150W

Easy

Q16(b). How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology.

2013 GS-III 5M • 150W

Easy

Q17(a). What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their applications in aviation and automobile industries.

Disaster Management

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q17. 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).

2024 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q18. 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.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5. Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department.

2022 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. Explain the mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the context of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss two recent examples.

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4. Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment.

2021 GS-III 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. 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.

2021 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q18. Describe the various causes and the effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy.

2020 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q15. Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.

2020 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q18. Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach.

2019 GS-III 10M • 150W

Medium

Q8. 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.

2019 GS-III 15M • 150W

Easy

Q18. 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.

2018 GS-III 15M • 250W

Medium

Q18. 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'?

2017 GS-III 15M • 250W

Hard

Q19. On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on fourteen countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for occurrence of tsunami and its effects on life and economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q14. Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q14. "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Medium

Q15. The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.

2016 GS-III 12.5M • 150W

Easy

Q16. With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand.

2015 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q16. The frequency of earthquakes appears to have increased in the Indian subcontinent. However, India's preparedness for mitigating their impact has significant gaps. Discuss various aspects.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q14. Drought has been recognized as a disaster in view of its spatial expanse, temporal duration, slow onset and lasting effects on vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), discuss the mechanisms for preparedness to deal with likely El Niño and La Niña fallouts in India.

2014 GS-III 12.5M • 200W

Medium

Q19. Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why?

2013 GS-III 10M • 200W

Medium

Q18. How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management? As an administrator, what are key areas that you would focus on in a Disaster Management System.

2013 GS-III 5M • 200W

Medium

Q19(b). The recent cyclone on east coast of India was called 'Phailin'. How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? Elaborate.