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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Executive & Judiciary — GS-II

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

14 Questions

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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14 Questions across 3 Sections

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Executive — structure, organization and functioning; Ministries and De...

2014 GS-II 12.5M · 200W

Q5. Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time limit specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse.

2014 GS-II 12.5M · 200W

Q6. The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far is the efficacy of a government then inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss.

Judiciary — structure, organization and functioning

2025 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q7. 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.

2024 GS-II 15M · 150W

Q6. 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?

2022 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q7. "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.

2021 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q8. Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness.

2017 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q6. Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India.

2015 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q7. Khap Panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra-constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human rights violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive and the judiciary to set the things right in this regard.

Pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role

2025 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q13. What are environmental pressure groups? Discuss their role in raising awareness, influencing policies and advocating for environmental protection in India.

2021 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q7. "Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies.

2019 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q6. What are the methods used by the farmers' organisations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods?

2017 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q7. How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as more powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years?

2016 GS-II 12.5M · 150W

Q7. "The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss.

2013 GS-II 10M · 200W

Q10. Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India.

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