

11 Years **General Studies**

Mains PYQs Solved

For UPSC CSE



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- Strict adherence to UPSC demand



11 Years General Studies Mains PYQs Solved

A Complete Solution to
General Studies Mains Previous Year Questions for UPSC CSE

Study IQ Education Pvt. Ltd.

11 Years General Studies Mains PYQs Solved by Study IQ Publications

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Aspirants,

StudyIQ brings to you this one stop solution for UPSC CSE General Studies Mains Previous year Questions (11 Years) with great pleasure and immense pride. This book was demanded by thousands of students as there is a severe dearth of quality content on Mains PYQs.

This book is designed keeping in mind the challenges faced by the aspirants while preparing for the Civil Services Examination. Practising and understanding previous year questions is the key to crack UPSC Civil Services Mains Exam. But aspirants are often confused as to where to read and revise these PYQs. Above all, absence of good previous year question revision source hinders the preparation of most of the aspirants.

This book is an honest attempt to tackle these problems and improve students' knowledge base, saving their precious time during their preparation and eliminating many academic misunderstandings that they encounter.

Salient Features of this book are as follows:

1. 5000+ examples, value addition pointers, data points
2. Topic-wise arrangement of Model answers
3. Crisp and concise answers with simple and understandable language
4. Approach boxes before every model answer to give an overview on how to write an answer
5. Complete breakdown of demand of the question using colourful headings
6. Full updation with current affairs keeping in mind upcoming mains exam
7. Use of diagrams especially in Geography section
8. Use of real life examples of officers in Ethics Section
9. Use of latest judgements in Polity & Constitution section
10. Introductions and conclusions are designed in a language which can directly be replicated in the exam. (* Note - Few questions which have become redundant are either dropped or their answer is written in a manner which is relevant from the upcoming mains exam point of view.)

StudyIQ is walking on the path to democratise education and this book is a step in that direction. We sincerely believe that this book will help UPSC aspirants in clearing the mains exam with flying colours.

Best Wishes!!

StudyIQ

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GENERAL STUDIES - 1

Art & Culture

Topic 1: Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

Q. 1 Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Approach: Introduce your answer with the diversity of geographical factors in India. In the body, mention the role of geographical factors in development of ancient India. Conclude by highlighting major kingdoms of ancient India.

India has a diverse geography in terms of climate, topography, drainage system, vegetation etc. This diversity has given rise to different political boundaries, economic activities, cultural interactions, and societal structures in ancient India.

Role of geographical factors in development of ancient India

- **River system:** The major river systems, like the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, provided fertile land for agriculture, supported large populations, and facilitated trade and transportation.
 - **E.g.** The fertile plains of the Indus River supported intensive agriculture, leading to the growth of advanced urban centres like **Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro**.
- **Water availability:** This gave rise to different types of water conservation techniques especially in Peninsular India.
 - **E.g.** Use of **stepped tanks in Vijayanagar empire**.
- **Mountain barriers:** The mountain ranges acted as natural barriers, protecting the region from invasions, and defining cultural and political boundaries.
 - **E.g.** Magadh's capital city, **Rajgir** was surrounded by mountains which made Magadha formidable.
- **Forest resources:** The dense forests of India provided resources like timber, medicinal plants, and facilitated the development of early human settlements.
 - **E.g.** The **Chera kingdom** in Kerala benefited from the spice trade, which was in high demand in foreign markets.
- **Mineral resources:** Deccan Plateau is rich in minerals resources that led to development of mining activities and gems & jewellery trade.
 - **E.g.** The **Hathigumpha inscriptions** near Bhubaneswar refer to the gold mining activities by King Kharavela involving river beds.
- **Agriculture:** Availability of fertile soil, water resources and skilled labour supported urbanisation, trade, and economic prosperity.
 - **E.g.** The surplus food production in the **Mauryan empire** due to fertile alluvial soil and water management practices (first "hydraulic civilization").
- **Coastline:** India's extensive coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal facilitated maritime trade and cultural exchanges with other civilizations.
 - **E.g.** The ancient port city of **Lothal** had a dockyard that facilitated trade with Mesopotamia, Egypt, and other regions.
- **Cultural development:** Variations in climate influenced agricultural practices, isolation led to development of new languages etc.
 - **E.g.** Monsoon dependent agriculture in Ganges plain led to the celebration of festivals like **Makar Sankranti**.

Hence geographical factors were responsible for the development of powerful kingdoms from the **Mauryan** dynasty in the north to the **Cholas** in the south and from **Satavahanas** in the west to the **Kalingas** in the east who left significant imprints important today.

Q. 2 What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words) (2023)

Approach: Introduce your answer with basics of Vedic period. In the body, mention the main features of Vedic society and religion. Also discuss features of Vedic society still prevailing in Indian society. Conclude by highlighting major transformations in present times.

Recently an archaeological excavation at Vadnagar, showed evidence of a human settlement that is as old as 800 BCE contemporary to late-Vedic/pre-Buddhist Mahajanapadas. Vedic society and religion emerged in the Indian subcontinent around **1500 BCE**.

Main features of Vedic society

- **Varna / caste system:** The early elements of the caste system in Vedic society were evident, with social status and occupation being hereditary.
 - E.g. Rig Vedic society was divided into four varnas- **Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras**.
- **Role of family:** The family was the central unit of Vedic society, with a patriarchal structure.
 - E.g. The concept of **Grihastha** (householder stage) emphasized the importance of family life and household duties.
- **Status of women:** Women had a respected status, particularly in early Vedic times.
 - E.g. Women like **Ghosha and Lopamudra** are mentioned in the Rigveda as respected sages and composers of hymns.
- **Emphasis on rituals:** Vedic society placed a strong emphasis on elaborate rituals and sacrifices, which were performed by the Brahmins.
 - E.g. The **"Agnihotra"** fire ritual was conducted to maintain cosmic order and seek divine favor.
- **Education System:** Education was highly valued, and the **Gurukula system** was the primary mode of education, where students lived with their teacher (guru) to receive instruction.

Main features of Vedic religion

- **Polytheism:** The worship of numerous gods and goddesses representing various natural forces and aspects of life.
 - E.g. **Indra** (god of thunder and rain), **Agni** (considered the mediator between humans and gods).
- **Rituals and Sacrifices:** Yajna (sacrifice) involved offerings to deities through fire, with the belief that these offerings maintained cosmic order and pleased the gods.
 - E.g. **Ashvamedha (Horse Sacrifice)** was a significant royal ritual performed by kings to demonstrate their supremacy and ensure prosperity.
- **Importance of Priests:** Brahmins were essential to the Vedic religion, conducting rituals, preserving sacred texts, and imparting spiritual knowledge.
 - E.g. Samaveda hymns are chanted by the priest called **Udgatri**.

Some of the features still prevailing in Indian society

- **Influence of caste system:** Though officially abolished, the caste system's remnants still persist in Indian society.
 - E.g. Caste influence on politics: demand of votes based on caste in West Bengal.
- **Family structure:** Indian society still follows the structure of **joint family** especially in rural areas.
- **Devotion to deities:** Worship of Vedic deities and their modern incarnations remains integral to Indian religion.
 - E.g. Devotion to deities like **Lord Shiva and Goddess Durga** continues till today.
- **Philosophical traditions:** Concepts like **karma and reincarnation** still significantly impact Indian philosophy and spirituality.
 - E.g. Emphasis on karma in **"art of living"** by Gurudev Ravi Shankar.
- **Veneration of nature:** Indians maintain a deep reverence for natural elements.
 - E.g. Devotees worship **Chandra Dev (Moon)** on **Sharad Purnima**.

However, significant transformations have also occurred like shifts in gender roles (challenging vedic era patriarchy), written documentation replacing oral traditions etc. Still vedic heritage continues to be the testimony of unity in diversity in the past and a learning for the present.

Q. 3 What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence Indian society? (15 Marks, 250 Words) (2023)

Approach: Introduce your answer by giving a brief idea about the Sultanate period. In the body, mention the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period. Also discuss Influence of technological changes in Indian society. Conclude by summarising the answer.

The Sultanate period in India, spanning from the 13th to the 16th centuries, was started in 1206 AD by Qutubuddin Aibak. This period brought significant technological advancements that had profound impacts on various aspects of Indian society.

Major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period

- **Metallurgical Advances:** The period saw the production of high-quality metalwork and alloys.
 - E.g. **Bidriware metalwork** is renowned for its intricate silver inlay on blackened alloy.
- **Irrigation Systems:** The development of canals and stepwells significantly boosted agricultural productivity.
 - E.g. The **Adalaj Stepwell in Gujarat** was built to store and distribute water for irrigation purposes.
- **Textile Industry:** There was significant growth in the production of delicate and highly sought-after fine fabrics.
 - E.g. **Dhaka muslin and Banarasi brocade** became famous for their quality and craftsmanship.
- **Agricultural Innovations:** The expansion of cash crops and improved cultivation techniques transformed agriculture.
 - E.g. The use of the **Persian wheel (saqiya)** for irrigation significantly improved water management.
- **Military Technology:** The Sultanate period saw the introduction of advanced military technologies and tactics, including the use of cavalry, composite bows, and gunpowder.
- **Architecture:** Fusion of Indian and Persian architectural styles, leading to the development of the **Indo-Islamic architectural tradition**.
 - E.g. **Jama Masjid and Gol Gumbaz**

Influence of technological changes in Indian society

- **Agricultural prosperity:** Surplus food production improved living standards and reduced the frequency of famines. This led to economic stability, supporting the growth of towns and trade centres.
- **Improved connectivity:** Enhanced connectivity supported the movement of goods, people, and ideas, contributing to economic and cultural exchanges.
 - E.g. The **Grand Trunk Road** built by Sher Shah Suri
- **Economic Advancements:** The growth of the metallurgical and textile industries stimulated trade, both domestic and international.
 - E.g. **Cambay and Multan** emerged chief centres of trading activities; so were the **Multani, Sahas and Gujarati** merchants.
- **Intellectual Advancements:** Introduction of paper and book production techniques, boosted the growth of literature and scholarship which contributed to the growth of Indian scholarship in fields such as **mathematics and astronomy**.
- **Cultural enrichment:** Artistic patronage and manuscript production promoted cultural exchange and the dissemination of knowledge.
 - E.g. The coexistence of **Hinduism and Islam** during the Sultanate period facilitated religious and cultural tolerance.
- **Architectural Advancements:** The construction of **forts, mosques, and palaces** demonstrated the power and sophistication of the Sultanate rulers. Urban development around these architectural projects promoted cultural and economic activity.

The Sultanate period in India introduced significant technological changes that had lasting impacts on Indian society. The period set the stage for further developments in the subsequent Mughal era, continuing the legacy of innovation and integration.

Modern History

Topic 1: Significant events, issues, personalities during the middle of the eighteenth century (1750s) until the present

Q. 1 What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? (10 Marks, 150 Words) (2023)

Approach: Introduce by briefly giving the significance of nationalism and education. Next, introduce both the personalities, Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. In the body, mention the differences in their approach towards education and nationalism. Conclude the answer by giving the reasons behind their different approaches.

During the freedom struggle, education and nationalism influenced each other. Education fueled nationalism, and nationalism, in turn, shaped education in India. During the freedom struggle, Gandhiji focused on achieving political freedom, while Tagore worked on social rejuvenation. Both had their own approaches to nationalism and education.

Difference Between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore Towards Education

Aspect	Mahatma Gandhi	Rabindranath Tagore
Medium of Education	Focused on providing primary education in the vernacular language .	Though not in favour of education in English language only. But never disregarded the use of English in education.
Aim of Education	The main aim of education should be the spiritual development of an individual.	The aim of education should be to improve skills such as artefacts through curiosity.
Approach of Pedagogy	Promoted "Nai Talim" - learning by activity and practicality.	Adopted Plato's method of curiosity-driven learning . Experiential learning - Viswa Bharati University of Shantiniketan Model.
Agenda of Education	Promoted Indian culture and civilisation through education.	Advocated integrating the best of Western education into the Indian system.

Difference Between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore Towards Nationalism

Aspect	Mahatma Gandhi	Rabindranath Tagore
Definition of Nationalism	Nationalism as a means for serving humanism through establishing equality, freedom.	Nationalism was about politics and the economy. It does not help in developing morality.
Nationalism Against Social Empowerment	Gandhiji was of the thought that Indians have the ability to provide social welfare for themselves. First, they should have political rights in their hands.	Predominantly focused on Social empowerment before political movement.
Nationalism as a way of Social Cohesion	Through Satyagraha, Ahimsa, these ways can be adapted by everyone. So, politics is binding in all section.	Nationalism is putting a man against another man.
End of Nationalism	Gandhiji wanted to establish Swaraj, Self-sufficiency.	Ideas of nationalism are beyond the border and irrespective of race and culture.

Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore both aimed for an equal and just society. They differed mainly in prioritising political freedom over social development. Tagore also contributed to the nationalistic cause by composing patriotic songs like "Amar Sonar Bangla" and returning his knighthood to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and Gandhiji through establishing Harijan Sevak Sangh.

Q. 2 Why did the armies of the British East India Company - mostly comprising of Indian Soldiers - win consistently against more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give Reasons. (10 Marks, 150 Words) (2022)

Approach: Introduce your answer by describing the status of the British EIC army and the armies of other contemporary Indian rulers. In the body, mention the reasons behind the consistent victories of the British army over Indian rulers. Conclude with the importance of the British army in establishing their rule over India.

British East India Company's Army consisted mostly of Indians. In 1857, the Bengal Army had 86,000 men, of which 12,000 were British, and 16,000 Sikhs. On the other hand, Raja Ranjit Singh whose army was second to British Army and Tipu sultan army which was trained on French style could not win over British Army.

Reasons Behind Consistent Win of Armies of British East India Company

- **Trained Army of EIC:** The EIC army was trained to fight both within and outside of India. In contrast, the armies of Indian rulers were not formally trained.
 - **E.g.** In the Battle of Plassey, Robert Clive's 3,000 soldiers defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah's army, which had 50,000 soldiers, 40 cannons.
- **Use of Technology:** East India Company's artillery played a significant role in aiding the Company gain victories against its Indian opponents.
 - **E.g.** The British used musket bearing infantry, modern cavalry, artillery, cannons, and guns.
- **Higher Expenditure on EIC Army:** The EIC maintained a more standardised pay structure for its sepoys and officers.
 - **E.g.** Around 40% of British India's revenue was spent on the military, compared to the expenditures of other armies in India.
- **Unknown with ethos of Nationalism:** Indian soldiers were not familiar with the feeling of Nationalism. They fought as if they were defending their own kingdom.
 - **E.g.** In Third Anglo-Mysore War(1790), the British fought alongside the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad against Tipu Sultan.
- **Internal Rivalry Between Different Groups:** Within the same kingdom, these groups fought with each other due to personal enmity. This helped the British to exploit these divisions.
 - **E.g.** In the **Third Anglo-Maratha War**, Maratha sardars fought separately instead of forming a united front, and they surrendered one by one.
- **Diplomacy and Betrayal:** The East India Company used diplomacy and internal enmity to cause disagreements and distrust among Indian rulers, making them less united against the British.
 - **E.g.** In the Battle of Plassey, the EIC convinced Mir Jafar, the commander of the Nawab's army, to join their side. This led to Siraj-ud-Daulah not getting the support of his army.

The British East India Company army defended the company from both foreign invasions and internal conflicts. Due to the "Namak" culture of loyalty of Indians to their employers, a lack of nationalism, and the well-disciplined British army, the British were able to rule India for 200 years.

Q. 3 Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons. (10 Marks, 150 Words) (2022)

Approach: Introduce your answer by giving ideas about the scale of famines that occurred during the British period. In the body, identify reasons behind such sudden spurt of famines. Conclude the answer by giving the repercussions of these famines.

The late 18th and 19th centuries saw an increase in the incidences of severe famine. Approximately 15 millions died from 1850 to 1899 in 24 major famines. Droughts, combined with policy failures, have periodically led to major Indian famines, including the Bengal famine of 1770, the Great Famine of 1876–1878, and the Bengal famine of 1943.

Reasons Behind Sudden Spurt in Famines in Colonial India

- **Droughts:** Traditionally Indian agriculture is dependent on monsoonal rainfall which is variable in nature.
 - **E.g.** As per Geographical Research Letter, the three most deadly droughts (1877, 1896, and 1899) were linked with positive phase of El Niño–Southern Oscillation.
- **Lack of Investment in Irrigation:** Drought has been one of the reasons for famine in India. Lack of irrigation facilities led to the number of droughts in this period.
 - **E.g.** By 1900, only around 13 million hectares of area were irrigated, while 40% of the expenditure was allocated to military spending.
- **Land Revenue Policy:** During this period, peasants were charged high land revenue in the form of farm produce. Thus, they did not have enough food grain during times of distress.
 - **E.g.** Under the Permanent Settlement act 1893, 89% of tax was going to Britishers and 11% to zamindars, leaving only around 50% of produce with the actual tillers.
- **Focus on Cash Crop:** British East India Company forced cash crops (indigo, coffee) for Europe, making Indian farmers reliant on them and vulnerable to famines.
 - **E.g. Tinkathia system (3/20)** forced farmers to grow indigo on a part of their land, hurting soil and becoming useless with new dyes.
- **Absentee Landlordism:** Absentee zamindars, living in faraway urban areas, did not pay attention to affordability, only raised rents excessively, impoverishing the peasantry.
 - **E.g.** Due to Permanent Settlement 1793, nearly half of the peasants became landless due to indebtedness between 1792 to 1820.
- **High Demand During the War Period:** During the war time, domestic food production used to divert for military consumption leading to the famine in war time.
 - **E.g.** World War II diverted domestic production to military consumption. Thus, 1943 famine led to the death of 3 million people in Bengal.

The significant increase in famine in India after the mid-18th century was due to **greedy British Drain of Wealth policies** which led to the deaths of **100 million people between 1880 and 1920**. India remained impoverished for a long time and its people had to struggle for basic necessities, alongside fighting for political freedom from the tyranny of the British.

GENERAL STUDIES - 2

Polity

Topic 1: Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure

Q. 1 Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. (15 Marks, 250 words) (2023)

Approach: Start your answer by introducing the recent women reservation act passed by the Parliament. In the body, first mention the Constitutional perspectives of Gender justice. In the second part provide landmark judgements ensuring Gender justice. Conclude by including a case study on gender empowerment.

Recently the **106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023** was passed which reserves one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha, State legislative assemblies and in Delhi Legislative assembly. The Act is in line with the international consensus to reduce gender inequalities.

Constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice

- **Preamble** - Social, economic and political justice are secured through equal treatment of all citizens, elimination of inequalities of wealth and equal access to all political offices.
- **National Commission for Women (1992)** - To protect social, educational and economic interests of women.

Fundamental rights

- **Article 14** - Ensures equality before law which connotes absence of special privileges, equal subjection of all persons to ordinary law of the land.
- **Article 15** - No citizen shall be subjected to disability, liability, restrictions on grounds of sex in availing equal access to public places, use of wells, tanks dedicated for the use of public.
- **Exception to Article 15** - The state is permitted to make any special provision for women and children.
- **Article 16** - Provides equality of opportunity for citizens in matters of employment or appointments to any office under the state.

Directive principles of state policy

- **Article 38** - State shall set a path towards a welfare state by minimising inequalities in income, facilities and opportunities.
 - E.g. **Minimum Wages Act (1948)**
- **Article 39 (d)** - Equal pay for equal work for men and women and prevention of concentration of wealth.
- **Article 42** - To make provisions for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief
 - E.g. **Janani Suraksha Yojana** providing cash transfer for delivery and post delivery relief.

Landmark judgements ensuring Gender Justice

- **Navtej singh johar v. Union of India (2018)** - The Supreme Court decriminalised Section 377 of IPC, i.e. Homosexuality.
- **Sabrimala Temple case (2018)** - The apex court held that devotion cannot be subject to gender discrimination which further aids the **doctrine of social inclusion**.
- **Karnataka hijab issue** - The state High court formed a distinction between **Freedom of Conscience** as an internal belief and **Religious Expression** as an outward expression. The essential **right of a woman to choose** was upheld.
- **Vishaka Guidelines** - A form of **judicial activism** where guidelines were provided by the apex court to prevent sexual harassment at workplace.
- **Nirbhaya Case (2014)** - Established **Justice J.S. Verma Committee** to suggest amendments to deal with sexual offences effectively. Harsher penalty with the gravity of offence was introduced.
- **Shah Bano case (1985)** - The apex court observed that a **common Civil code** will uphold national integration and gender justice by eliminating regressive laws.

Women like **Jaswanti Ben**, the **founder of Lijjat Papad** depict the role of gender empowerment as a vehicle steering the country's economic growth if provided with the right set of opportunities, skills and social inclusion.

Q. 2 *The Constitution 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 Marks, 250 Words) (2023)*

Approach: Start your answer by quoting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his views on the Constitution as a living document. In the body, first mention the Constitution as a living instrument with capabilities of dynamism for a progressive society. In the second part mention the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty along with case laws. Conclude on the significance of Article 21.

As quoted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, “Constitution is not a mere lawyer’s document, it’s vehicle of life, its spirit is always the spirit of the age”. The quote throws light on the Constitution as a living document.

The Constitution as a living instrument with capabilities of dynamism for a progressive society

- **Doctrine of Basic Structure** - Ensures power of amendment is not misused by the Parliament. The doctrine was established in the **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)**
- **Constitutional Morality** - Supreme Court in the **Sabarimala Case (2018)** upheld the religious freedom, Right of women to Worship and Gender equality guaranteed in the Constitution.
- **Emergency provisions** - Supreme Court can scrutinise the advice tendered by Council of Ministers on the President to impose President’s Rule under **Article 356. (S.R. Bommai case 1994)**
- **Draconian laws** - The colonial laws like Sedition have been tested time and again. In **S.G. Vombatkere V. Union of India (2022)** the Supreme court held that the State and Central Governments should refrain from registering any FIR under Section 124A of IPC.
- **Empowering Local bodies** - Through the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act**, the Panchayats in India were awarded Constitutional status.
- **Electoral Reforms** - SC directed all political parties who received donations through the Electoral bonds to submit particulars of donors to the Election Commission (**ADR V. UOI case, 2021**)

During the National emergency of 1976, The Supreme court in the **ADM Jabalpur case** suspended the Right to life under Article 21. This day is recorded as a black day in the judicial history of India. After this incident, the scope of Right to life and personal liberty has been expanding.

Expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty

- **To live with dignity** - In the **Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India case**, the Supreme court expanded the scope of Right to life which extends from physical survival to a life with dignity.
- **Education** - The Supreme Court in the **Unnikrishnan JP V. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993)** held that the **Right to Education** is a Fundamental Right under Article 21.
- **Privacy** - Bodily autonomy is an integral part of the right to privacy under Article 21. (**Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case, 2017**)
- **Environment protection** - Blanket ban on firecrackers in **Delhi-NCR region** and sale of **Green crackers** to safeguard the right to public health.
- **Right to die with dignity** - In the **Aruna Shanbaug Case**, the SC gave a legal sanction to passive euthanasia to uphold the Right to die with dignity akin to Right to life.
- **Free legal aid** - It is the state’s duty to provide free legal aid to an accused who cannot afford legal services due to factors like poverty. (**M H Hoskot vs State of Maharashtra**)
- **Decent livelihood** - Pavement dwellers also hold the right to livelihood under the Right to life. (**Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation**)

Right to life and liberty (Article 21) lies at the heart of the Indian Constitution and cannot be abridged during the operation of National Emergency. It provides a mechanism to establish a reasonable balance between stability and social change which is a driver of a living Constitution.

Q. 3 *“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 Marks, 150 Words) (2022)*

Approach: Start the answer by quoting Article-19 of the Constitution. In the main body, first list down the provisions related to right to movement and residence in the Constitution. In the next part, discuss how the Right to residence and movement are not absolute. Add examples to support your arguments. Conclude with the significance of the reasonable restrictions provided in the Constitution.

The Indian Constitution guarantees its citizens the fundamental rights of movement and residence throughout the country under **Article-19** of the Constitution. However, similar to other fundamental rights, these rights are not immutable and are subject to reasonable restrictions.

Constitutional Provisions related to the Right of movement and residence

- **Article 19(1) (d):** This article grants the right to move freely throughout the territory of the country. This right is available only to **Indian citizens** and shareholders of a company.
 - In **Kharak Singh v. State of UP (1963)**, the Supreme Court held that the right to move freely throughout the territory of India means the **right of locomotion**, which includes the right to move wherever one likes and however one likes.
- **Internal Freedom of Movement:** Article 19(1) (d) protects only the internal freedom of movement, i.e., the right to move within the country.
- **Article 19 (1) (e):** This article provides Indian citizens with the right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.

Reasonable restrictions on right of movement and residence

- **Protection of interests of people:** Article 19(5) empowers the State to impose reasonable restrictions for the protection of the interest of any Scheduled Tribe.
 - **E.g.** Restriction of movement in areas where the endangered **Jarawa tribe** lives in Andaman.
- **Public Health:** The government may need to restrict the movement of people to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
 - **E.g.** lockdowns and travel restrictions during Covid-19.
- **Protection of vulnerable groups:** The state may restrict the right to movement under **Article-19** for protection of **vulnerable groups**.
 - **E.g.** In areas with a high incidence of human trafficking, the government may impose restrictions on the movement of women and children.
- **National Security:** Other grounds for imposing reasonable restrictions on the right to freedom of movement include national security.
 - **E.g.** In areas with high levels of terrorist activity, the government may impose curfews.
- **Restriction on reside:** The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the right to reside in India, based on public interest or scheduled tribes' protection.
 - **E.g.** In **State of UP v. Kaushalya (1964)**, the Supreme Court held that the right of movement of prostitutes may be restricted in the interest of public morals.
- **Protection of the Environment:** The government may need to restrict the movement of people to protect the environment.
 - **E.g.** In **ecologically sensitive zones, national parks etc.**

While these restrictions may at times appear to restrict our liberties, they are essential for maintaining the social and cultural fibre of our diverse nation. As responsible citizens, it is important to respect these restrictions and work towards a society that values the rights and freedoms of all individuals.

GENERAL STUDIES - 3

Economy & Agriculture

Topic 1: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment

Q. 1 *Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard. (10 Marks, 150 Words) (2023)*

Approach: Introduce your answer by giving a brief introduction about the MSME sector in India. In the body, identify the connection between faster economic growth, manufacturing, and MSMEs. Then, discuss the policies of the government in this regard. Conclude with a way forward.

Recently, **International MSME Day** was observed on **27th June** to recognize the **significance of MSMEs** and their contribution to the economy. The theme for 2023 was **“Future-ready MSMEs for India@100.”**

Connection between faster economic growth, manufacturing, and MSMEs

- **Economic Growth:** MSME contributes around **30%** of India's GDP and around **36%** to Manufacturing output. It has a **45%** share in the country's exports.
- **Development of states:** Successful MSMEs ensure development by providing jobs and attracting investments.
- **Employment:** India has more than **7.9 million** MSMEs as of March 27, 2022 and employs over **110 million** people.
- **Entrepreneurship:** MSME provides ample opportunity for entrepreneurship.

Present policies of the Government

- **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme:** Its primary goal is to enhance the quality, technology adoption, innovation capabilities, and market reach of MSME enterprises.
- **National Manufacturing Policy (NMP), 2011:** The objective is to enhance the share of manufacturing in GDP from **16% to 25%** within a decade and create 100 million jobs.
- **Make in India 2.0:** It is the second phase of the Make in India. 'Make in India 2.0' is focusing on 27 sectors, which **include 15 manufacturing sectors and 12 service sectors**.
- **Zero Defect and Zero Effect scheme:** MSMEs are given ZED rating based on 50 parameters and are provided financial assistance for activities to be carried out for ZED certification.

Issues with these policies

- **Issues in payments:** A recent report indicates that around Rs **10.7 lakh crore** is held up as delayed payments to MSMEs in India, constituting **6%** of the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) for FY 2020-21.
- **Bureaucratic hurdles:** Despite efforts to streamline processes through the Make in India initiative, businesses continue to encounter bureaucratic hurdles.
 - **E.g. Tesla's** experience highlights the challenges posed by rigid land acquisition policies.
- **Complex GST regime:** It introduced complexities for many MSMEs, particularly during the initial transition phase, due to technological barriers and comprehension of tax slabs.
- **Unawareness:** GeM is a robust platform, but many MSMEs are unaware of its benefits or find it challenging to list their products due to complex procedures and requirements.

Solutions

- **Payment Scheme:** Strengthen MSME Samadhan and enforce strict payment clearance system
- **Simplified Documentation:** Allowing self certification and reducing paperwork
- **GST facilitation center:** Helping MSMEs in adapting to GST framework
- **Awareness campaign:** By Collaborating with industries and conducting workshops

In order to achieve the goal of **US\$ 5 trillion**, career opportunities for the young population have been generated and **MSMEs have the potential to serve as a key employment generator**. The government should invest in providing more back-end services to improve performance of the MSME sector.

Q. 2 What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements. (10 Marks, 150 Words) (2023)

Approach: Introduce your answer by briefly mentioning about India's digital transformation. In the body, mention the status of digitalization in the Indian economy. For the second part of the question, identify the challenges in digitalizing the Indian economy. Also suggest measures for the improvement. Conclude with a way forward.

The Digital Revolution in India started with the Government of India initiating the **Digital India programme** in July 2015 to **transform India into a digitally enabled knowledge-based economy**. It aimed to make technology “**accessible, affordable, and useful**” to the country's citizens.

Status of digitalization in the Indian economy

- According to the **Internet in India report 2022**, There are **692 million active internet users in the country**.
- According to **Economic survey 2022-23**, India's core **digital economy** has grown at **2.4 times** the overall economic growth between 2014 and 2019.
- **E-Commerce:** According to the Global Payments Report, India's e-commerce market is projected to post impressive gains and grow at **18 per cent annually through 2025**.
- **E-Governance:** The Digital India program has significantly improved e-governance services.
- **E.g. DigiLocker** (facilitating paperless availability of public documents) and **e-NAM** (creating an online transparent competitive bidding system to facilitate farmers with remunerative prices for their produce).

Problems faced in digitizing the economy

- **Digital divide:** As per **UDISE+ report**, about 66 per cent of schools in India lack access to the internet, with states such as **Bihar and Mizoram** having 92 and 90 per cent schools, respectively, in this category.
- **Privacy issues:** The **Pegasus spyware incident** accentuated these concerns, pointing towards the vulnerabilities in the digital space.
- **Cybersecurity Concerns:** Financial frauds accounted for **75% of cyber crimes in India from Jan 2020 to June 2023**.
 - **E.g. Cyber-bullying, sexting and email phishing** accounted for 12 percent of the online offenses
- **Inclusivity Issues:** Exclusion of marginalized sections and the elderly due to unfamiliarity with digital tools exacerbates social and economic disparities.
- **Infrastructure Readiness:** Ensuring high-speed internet access and reliable digital infrastructure remains a challenge, particularly in rural areas.
 - **E.g. Spectrum availability** in Indian metros is about a tenth of that in cities in developed countries

Measures needed

- **Enhanced Digital Literacy Programs:** Implement comprehensive digital literacy initiatives targeting all age groups, with a focus on rural and marginalized communities.
 - **E.g. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)**
- **Infrastructure Development:** Invest in expanding robust digital infrastructure.
 - **E.g. BharatNet project.**
- **Cybersecurity Framework Strengthening:** Develop and enforce stringent cybersecurity measures, including regular audits and awareness campaigns, to protect digital assets.
 - **E.g. Digital personal data protection act, 2023.**
- **Public service delivery:** Continue efforts to digitize government services, making them accessible and user-friendly.
 - **E.g. Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance, DBT**

With the help of public and private partnerships (**PPP**), favorable government policies, innovative reforms, demographic advantage, rising incomes and the rise of India's startup culture, India can become the fastest-growing digital economy. India's digital revolution is expected to be a **US\$ 1 trillion** opportunity.

Q. 3 *Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements. (15 Marks, 250 Words) (2023)*

Approach: Introduce your answer by giving a brief idea about structural unemployment. In the body, identify the factors behind structural unemployment in India. Also discuss the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in India along with its limitations. Suggest measures for improvement. Conclude with a way forward.

Structural unemployment refers to a type of **long-term unemployment** that arises from a mismatch between the skills and qualifications of the labor force and the requirements of the job opportunities available in the market.

Factors behind structural unemployment in India

- **Technological Changes:** Rapid technological advancements can lead to a mismatch between the skills possessed by the workforce and the skills demanded by evolving industries.
 - E.g. Closure of **Nokia's Chennai plant**, leaving workers without necessary technical skills.
- **Skill Gaps:** As of Dec 2023, only **2.4 per cent** of India's 530-million-strong workforce has received formal vocational education or training.
- In 2017 **Yuval Noah Harari** wrote about how the world will soon observe the evolution of a new class of people altogether 'The Useless Class'. These people would not just be unemployed, but unemployable.
- **Huge Informal sector:** More than **90%** of the overall workforce is employed in the informal economy.
- **Periodic Labour Force Survey Report (PLFS):** **74% of non-farm workers** are in proprietorships and partnerships, officially classified as **informal sector enterprises**.

Methodology adopted to compute unemployment in India

- **Reports of Census of India:** Though the data provided by the census is comprehensive, there is a huge delay due to the 10-year gap between the consecutive censuses.
- **PLFS (Periodic Labor Force Survey):** It furnishes detailed information on labor force participation and employment status and is carried out annually. For instance, the **2022-23 PLFS** indicated a labor force participation rate of **57.9%**
- **Labor Bureau Surveys:** The surveys such as **Employment and Unemployment Surveys (EUS)** collect pertinent data, such as a **10%** decline in manufacturing jobs in 2020 compared to 2018.
- **NSSO (National Sample Survey Office) Surveys:** NSSO conducts comprehensive sample surveys focusing on employment and unemployment every **5 years**.

Limitations with the unemployment calculation in India

- **Delayed release of employment data:** this delay on releasing official statistics **denies citizens access to reliable data** on what is going on in the economy and assess the government's performance.
- **Social norms:** Numerous women in domestic roles express a willingness to work but may not actively search for jobs, resulting in the undercounting of unemployed individuals.
- **Quality of Jobs:** The methodology may not provide a comprehensive assessment of the quality of jobs, including factors like job security and working conditions.
- **Hidden Unemployment:** Individuals who have given up actively seeking employment or are not part of the formal labor force may not be adequately considered in unemployment rates.

Suggestive Measures

- Revise the **definitions** of "labor force" and "worker" to encompass the excluded individuals.
- To **tackle structural unemployment**, upcoming methodologies should collect data on skill mismatches to identify areas that necessitate workforce development.
- Adopt an **integrated approach** that considers factors contributing to structural issues such as skill gaps, sectoral imbalances, and changing job market dynamic.

According to **R A Mashelkar**, **techno-nationalism** will help India to address the issues of structural unemployment and ensure economic prosperity and social stability. This was highlighted by the report **"The Indian Economy-A Review"**.

Q. 4 *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 Marks, 150 Words) (2022)*

Approach: Introduce your answer by giving the details of life expectancy (changing patterns of life expectancy) in India. In the body, discuss specific health challenges associated with an aging population, such as chronic diseases, degenerative conditions, and mental health issues. In the second part of the answer, discuss the steps to be taken to tackle these challenges. To conclude, summarize policies initiated by the government to effectively address these challenges.

Life expectancy in India has increased from **45 years in 1960 to 70 in 2020**. Further, India's elderly population (aged 60 and above) is expected to record a 41 per cent increase over a decade, according to the **National Statistical Office (NSO)'s Elderly in India 2023 report**.

Newer health challenges related to old age

- **Non-communicable diseases:** With increasing age, the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer increases.
 - **E.g.** As per **India Human Development Survey (IHDS) 2015**, the prevalence of **high blood pressure** among the old almost **doubled** over the period 2005-12.
- **Mental health:** Mental health disorders such as **depression, anxiety, and dementia** are also more common in older adults.
 - **E.g.** According to the **Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) (2021)**, 20 percent of elderly above 60 years old suffer from **mental health issues**.
- **Disability:** According to **India Human Development Survey (IHDS) 2015**, difficulty in walking was 1.7 times greater in the age group 70-plus years relative to 60-69 years in 2012.
- **Social isolation and elder abuse:** Older adults may also face **social isolation and loneliness** as they age.
- **Access to healthcare: Out-of-pocket expenses** can worsen their financial insecurity, disrupt their access to healthcare and in the worst cases push them into poverty.
 - **E.g.** More than **98 percent** of India's senior citizen population remains devoid of health insurance coverage amid the increasing cost of healthcare services.

Steps to be taken to tackle these challenges

- **Providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens:** This can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions.
- **Mental health support:** Mental health support like counseling should be integrated into primary care services to ensure that older adults receive the care they need.
- **Health insurance:** The need for **comprehensive health coverage for senior citizens** has become more apparent, however, the penetration of insurance continues to be a challenge.
- **Start-ups and innovative solutions:** Giving incentives for developing aged-care products can go a long way like the **Senior-care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative**.
- **"Public concept" of health:** As per **Srinath Reddy Committee**, health must be completely treated as "public concept".

To tackle the newer health challenges, the government has taken several initiatives like the **National Programme for Health Care of Elderly, Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** etc. These are steps in the right direction, but more needs to be done like adopting innovative practices such as **The time bank pension scheme in Switzerland**.

GENERAL STUDIES - 4

Theory Questions

Topic 1: Ethics and Human interface: Essence, determinants, and consequences of ethics in human actions, dimensions of ethics, ethics in public-private relationships

Q. 1 Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples. (2023)

Approach: Introduction: Start by introducing moral intuition and moral reasoning.

Body: Differentiate between the two in the table format with suitable examples

Conclusion: Conclude by highlighting the importance of balancing both.

In our daily lives, we are faced with ethical dilemmas requiring us to make moral judgments. Both 'moral intuition' and 'moral reasoning' are two distinct ways of arriving at moral judgements.

Difference between moral intuition and moral reasoning

Basis of difference	Moral intuition	Moral reasoning
Definition	It refers to the immediate, automatic feeling of rightness or wrongness that arises within us when faced with a moral situation. It involves a gut reaction or an instinctive response. E.g. the decision of lord Rama to honour his father's word and go into exile for fourteen years despite it being unjust.	It involves the deliberate process of thinking through a moral problem, considering various principles, consequences, and ethical theories in order to arrive at a judgement. E.g. Karna's dilemma between loyalty to his friend Duryodhana and his recognition of righteousness is an example of complex moral reasoning.
Speed of decision-making	It can lead to spontaneous decision making based on one's gut feeling or conscience. Therefore, it is fast and automatic. E.g. helping the person in need without consciously reasoning through the consequences.	It involves step-by-step analysis, weighing the consequences, and assessing the ethical implications. Hence, it is slower in decision making. E.g. a person carefully deliberates whether to donate a significant portion of their income to charity.
Rationale	It relies on cultural norms, societal expectations, and upbringing.	It relies on formal ethical theories, philosophical principles, and structured ethical frameworks.
Subjectivity	Personal experiences, cultural and societal influence plays a role in shaping it, making it highly subjective. E.g. An animal lover would disapprove of animal sacrifice while for a devout it is an acceptable practice.	It is still influenced by personal beliefs but aims for a more objective assessment by considering a broader range of factors. It tends to be universal as it is grounded in logic and reason. E.g. laws, rules and regulations.
Applicability	Moral intuition often applies in more quick responses in situations where time for reflections is limited. E.g. Mother Teresa's immediate, instinctual response to the suffering and poverty in Calcutta.	Moral reasoning involves where there is a need for conscious reflection, dialogue, and critical thinking to arrive at morally sound decisions. E.g. various provisions in the constitution for backward classes.
Limitations	Moral intuition is influenced by biases, cultural conditioning and personal experiences leading to inconsistencies and errors in judgement.	Moral reasoning, while valuable, can also be influenced by cognitive biases and leads to moral paralysis or excessive moral relativism .

While both are distinctive processes, understanding the interplay between these two modes of moral judgement can help individuals develop a more nuanced and balanced approach to ethical decision-making.

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Q. 3 Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do".-Potter Stewart. (2022)

Approach: Introduction: importance of ethics in decision -making

Body:

1. Inherent values in the statement
2. Underlines the relevance in present context

Conclusion: Conclude by writing the importance of ethics.

The above statement by Potter Stewart emphasises the importance of considering not only what we have the legal right to do but also what is morally right and justifiable. It serves as a reminder of the critical role of ethical values in guiding human behaviour.

Inherent values in the given statement

- **Right v/s Duty:** Ethics help to understand what we do (right) and what we ought to do(duty).
 - E.g. Freedom of Speech vs. Hate Speech (case of Kunal Kamra)
- **Responsibility:** It highlights the individual or collective responsibility to make choices that align with ethical principles, even when legal rights may permit alternatives.
 - E.g. Marital rape, Adultery(though repealed).
- **Moral development and cultivation of Virtue:** It speaks to the ongoing development of ethical sensibilities and the cultivation of virtuous behaviour that goes beyond the mere exercise of legal rights.
 - E.g. Values such as compassion, honesty and justice.
- **Consideration of ethical consequences:** Right to privacy v/s Data protection: People have the right to privacy, including the protection of their personal data but it is an ethical responsibility of companies collecting user data to ensure the ethical use and protection of that data.

Relevance in the present context

- **Means v/s Ends debate:** Many outfits are using people as means to achieve their outlined ends. Humans should not be used as a means to achieve some ends(Immanuel Kant).
 - E.g. Terrorist outfits such as LeT
- **War -prone society:** Global society is not at peace due to the threat of war which is hampering the overall growth of the societies.
 - E.g. Russia-Ukraine war, Hamas conflict in Israel
- **Resource- scarce societies:** Many countries are facing the scarcity of resources. In this scenario, what is right to do should be the guiding lamp.
 - E.g. India's Vaccine diplomacy during Covid
- **Environmental emergency:** In today's times, environmental concerns are real. The above quote by potter stewart clearly outlines the importance of the right thing to do is following sustainable practices.
 - E.g. Climate change, global warming, Sea-level rise etc.

Therefore, the statement by Stewart over the importance of ethics stands to time. It underscores the need to carefully consider the moral dimensions of one's actions, even when legal rights may offer latitude for alternative choices.

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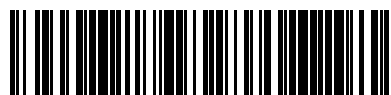
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