

AKriti IAS

For aspirants who wish to think,
not merely prepare.

THE LEARNING PORTFOLIO

Look what you could have learnt.

The topics. The connections.
The answers you could have built.

PRELIMS

Facts with precision

MAINS

Arguments with depth

JUDGMENT

Ideas with application

PRATEEK BHATT

Founder & Mentor, AKriti IAS

Former Team Lead, MGP, ForumIAS
UPSC Mentor · Interview Panelist · Educator

A retrospective of the academic material created and available
up to 21 October 2026.

A topic learnt is several answers waiting to happen.

This is the academic ground you could have covered with Prateek Bhatt and AKriti IAS: what to recognise in Prelims, what to explain in Mains, and which connections make knowledge usable.

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Read the two columns differently. Prelims identifies facts, terms and distinctions. Mains identifies explanations, comparisons and applications. Thinker and ethics entries mark supporting concepts where the strongest examination use is in Mains.

Recurring topics are grouped by learning value. A topic appearing in more than one format represents a different route into the same idea, not additional unique syllabus coverage.

TAP A VERTICAL TO EXPLORE

The material behind the learning.

A few pages from the portfolio. Each begins with a focused question and opens into a larger part of the syllabus.

AKriti IAS
PRELIMS LENS / GEOGRAPHY + AGRICULTURE
17 OCTOBER 2026

FOR ASPIRANTS WHO WISH TO THINK, NOT MERELY PREPARE.

THE NEWS, THROUGH AN EXAM LENS

Punjab's hidden water budget

Physical Geography | Groundwater | Irrigation | Sustainable agriculture

NEWS CUE / THE HINDU / 23 SEPTEMBER 2026
Punjab's groundwater crisis links intensive rice-wheat farming, cheap pumping and unequal access to deeper water. A resource can be renewable and still be overdrawn.

THE ANNUAL BALANCE / COWI ASSESSMENT 2025

156.36%

Stage of groundwater extraction
About 156 units withdrawn for every 100 units of annual extractable resource.

Extractable 16.80 BCM
Withdrawn 26.27

BCM = billion cubic metres. Both bars represent annual quantities.

SoE (%) = annual groundwater extraction ÷ annual extractable groundwater resource × 100

HOW PRESSURE BUILDS

Assured markets
Procurement supports the rice-wheat system.

Cheap pumping
Power subsidies reduce the private cost of extraction.

Persistent demand
Intensive irrigation keeps drawing from shared aquifers.

The social consequence: deeper water requires costlier wells and pumping. Farmers with less capital may become dependent on others for irrigation.

THE ELIMINATION EDGE
156.36% compares annual flows; it is not the share of all underground water used.

SOURCES: 1, 2. All numerical panels use COWI 2025; see the assessment note on page 6.

Prateek Bhatt | Founder & Mentor
Former Team Lead, IAS, IAS (Prelims) / UPSC Mentor | Interview Panelist | Educator

AKRITI IAS / 01

Water → farming incentives

AKriti IAS
PRELIMS LENS / GEOGRAPHY + ENVIRONMENT
17 OCTOBER 2026

FOR ASPIRANTS WHO WISH TO THINK, NOT MERELY PREPARE.

THE NEWS, THROUGH AN EXAM LENS

Rayalaseema: where deep time meets a living landscape

Physical Geography | Rivers and landforms | Biodiversity | Geoheritage

A report from southern India's Pradip turns rock hills, rivers and forest ridges into the connected critical lens. Its central concern is 'deeply' important: quarrying, road construction, groundwater stress and unmanaged tourism on scarce geological records that cannot be rebuilt.

THE NUMBER OF EXTRACTABLE WATER

>2.5 Ga
Age of the Rayalaseema landscape

~800 Ma
Estimated age of Rayalaseema

3,229 m
Highest peak of Rayalaseema

2 NGMs
In Rayalaseema's natural rock

A SITE TRAIL THROUGH THE STORY

NANDYAL
Tiger's quarantine hills (Babbar, limestone cave)

TOR KADAPA
Limestone rock (Jain's Chatur / Mangalagiri temple)

TIRUPATI
Limestone (Sri Venkateswara Temple / Sri Venkateswara Temple)

CHITTOOR
Rajagopala and Naga (Hampi site)

THE CORE DATA
Deep time is not only an age. It is a sequence of rock formed, surface material, weathering, erosion, and landscape development - people added meaning.

THE ELIMINATION EDGE
Keep three questions clear: old rock is not the same as an equally old cave deposit; a UNESCO Global Geopark is not a new protected area law, and a place on the World Heritage Tentative List is not yet a World Heritage Site.

Prateek Bhatt | Founder & Mentor
Former Team Lead, IAS, IAS (Prelims) / UPSC Mentor | Interview Panelist | Educator

AKRITI IAS / 02

Landforms → living landscapes

AKriti IAS
PRELIMS LENS / SPACE & LIGHT
16 OCTOBER 2026

FOR ASPIRANTS WHO WISH TO THINK, NOT MERELY PREPARE.

THE NEWS, THROUGH AN EXAM LENS

PUFFINS: reading starlight to understand cosmic dust

General Science | Space technology | Electromagnetic radiation

Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in InterStellar dust

NASA has selected a University of Arizona led SmallSat mission, headed by astronomer Ramya Ancho, to study how interstellar dust changes ultraviolet starlight.

MISSION IN DEVELOPMENT / ASTROPHYSICS PIONEERS

UV observing band
~70 target stars
10 inches telescope aperture
\$20 million NASA award

01 Follow the light

STAR
Dust can selectively absorb and scatter starlight. Measuring its polarization across wavelengths helps infer grain properties and alignment.

ALIGNED DUST GRAINS
UV TELESCOPE

02 What does it measure?

SPECTROSCOPY
How does the signal change with wavelength?

POLARIMETRY
What are the degree and orientation of polarization?

TOGETHER
Spectropolarimetry: polarization as a function of wavelength.

THE ELIMINATION EDGE
Keep three distinctions clear: ultraviolet is electromagnetic radiation; interstellar dust lies between stars; polarimetry studies a property of light. PUFFINS observes remotely from a planned low-Earth orbit - it does not collect dust samples.

Prateek Bhatt | Founder & Mentor
Former Team Lead, IAS, IAS (Prelims) / UPSC Mentor | Interview Panelist | Educator

AKRITI IAS / 03

Starlight → scientific inference

AKriti IAS
CS IV ETHICS / JOHN RAWLS
16 OCTOBER 2026

FOR ASPIRANTS WHO WISH TO THINK, NOT MERELY PREPARE.

A fair society needs fair institutions

"Justice as fairness assigns a certain primacy to the social."

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

Our lives are shaped by the rules of the family, the economy and the legal system. Rawls asks: **do these rules share opportunities, benefits and burdens fairly?**

SEE IT IN EVERYDAY LIFE

01 THE FAMILY
A daughter does the household chores while her brother gets time to study.
Fairness asks: share care work and give both children a fair chance to learn.

02 THE ECONOMY
Workers help create a firm's profits but work in unsafe conditions.
Fairness asks: protect workers' safety and examine how gains and burdens are shared.

03 THE LEGAL SYSTEM
A poor worker has a valid claim but cannot afford a lawyer.
Fairness asks: make legal help available so that the right can actually be used.

EXPLAIN & DISCUSS

Both are loved. Are their opportunities also fair?

Who receives the gains? Who bears the risks?

Is a right meaningful if a person cannot use it?

THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION MAKES THIS CONCRETE

Article 38: justice should guide national institutions and inequalities should be reduced.
Article 39(a): protect workers' health and strength.
Article 39A: provide free legal aid so poverty does not block access to justice.

GS4 takeaway: Personal kindness matters. Fair institutions make dignity and opportunity less dependent on another person's goodwill.

Prateek Bhatt | Founder & Mentor, AKRITI IAS
Former Team Lead, IAS, IAS (Prelims) / UPSC Mentor | Interview Panelist | Educator

Sources: Rawls, 'A Theory of Justice', p. 138. A Theory of Justice, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, 1993. 284.

Fair institutions → life chances

01 / NEWSDIGEST

Headlines became arguments.

The newspaper became a connected syllabus. These are the issues you could have understood, compared and carried into an answer.

Electoral rolls, SIR and wrongful exclusion

GS II · recurring coverage, 20 Sep–19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Forms 6 and 7; the roles of EROs; the legal framework for voter registration.

FOR MAINS

Balance roll accuracy with notice, hearings, transparent reasons and accessible remedies for excluded electors.

The Election Commission: independence from within

GS II · 24–25 Sep; 15–16 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Article 324; collegial decisions; appointment and removal safeguards.

FOR MAINS

Examine internal dissent, digital centralisation, appointment debates and the relationship between immunity and accountability.

Political finance and party symbols

GS II · 23, 25 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Election symbols, recognition and the institutions regulating political parties.

FOR MAINS

Connect funding transparency and neutral symbol adjudication to fair competition and public trust.

A small byelection, a larger realignment

GS II · 23 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Tirupattur's place in Tamil Nadu's electoral history.

FOR MAINS

Use a local election to explain alliances, leadership and the limits of reading national trends from one result.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Reservation: distinguish the different debates

GS II · 19, 24 Sep; 2, 10, 13 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Constitutional provisions; the creamy layer; local-body reservations and the 50% ceiling.

FOR MAINS

Separate Maratha, SC/ST, OBC and local-body contexts; assess evidence, representation and judicial limits.

Ladakh: voice, autonomy and representation

GS II · 29 Sep; 16–19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Union Territory status; Hill Councils; the Sixth Schedule's institutional design.

FOR MAINS

Weigh local participation, cultural protection and ecological concerns alongside strategic and national considerations.

Jammu & Kashmir and restoration of Statehood

GS II · 30 Sep; 4 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

State and Union Territory structures; legislative and executive arrangements.

FOR MAINS

Analyse political representation, federal trust and the institutional consequences of restoring Statehood.

Census 2027 and refugees in the data

GS I/II · 28 Sep; 7, 12, 17 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Census phases, population data and distinctions among enumeration, citizenship and refugee status.

FOR MAINS

Treat data as public infrastructure: staffing, privacy, inclusion and administrative capacity shape policy quality.

RTI and the boundary of security exemptions

GS II · 28–29 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

The RTI framework, exempt organisations and information commissions.

FOR MAINS

Reconcile legitimate confidentiality with accountability, statutory exceptions and effective appellate institutions.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Article 22 and pre-trial detention

GS II · 22 Sep; 12 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Arrest safeguards, counsel, remand and the distinction between release and acquittal.

FOR MAINS

Use due process to evaluate special-law detention and the relationship between security and personal liberty.

Criminalisation requires law

GS II · 23 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Legislative authority, criminal offences and the separation of institutional functions.

FOR MAINS

Explain why public disapproval or judicial concern cannot independently substitute for a law creating an offence.

New criminal laws: the delivery challenge

GS II · 4 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

BNS, BNSS and BSA: distinguish substantive offences, procedure and evidence.

FOR MAINS

Assess whether staffing, investigation, forensics and court capacity can translate legal change into timely justice.

DGP appointments and police independence

GS II · 9 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

UPSC empanelment, minimum tenure and residual-service eligibility are different safeguards.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate State discretion against continuity, professional policing, federalism and the Prakash Singh reform framework.

Judicial appointments and executive influence

GS II · 11 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

The appointment process and the constitutional roles of the judiciary and executive.

FOR MAINS

Develop an argument linking judicial independence with transparency, accountability and institutional cooperation.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Protest, public order and policing

GS II/IV · 5, 11–12, 13–14, 18 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Article 19 freedoms and reasonable restrictions; the distinction between allegation and established fact.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate protest-site restrictions, proportional force, independent inquiry and the State's duty to facilitate peaceful dissent.

Religion, conscience and women's agency

GS II · 27 Sep; 17 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25; constitutional limits on religious freedom.

FOR MAINS

Connect conversion-law debates and restrictions on women with equality, consent and constitutional morality.

Vande Mataram and constitutional pluralism

GS I/II · 25 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

National song versus national anthem; the context of the Bijoe Emmanuel precedent.

FOR MAINS

Reconcile shared public symbols with sincere conscience, inclusion and careful use of judicial precedent.

FCRA and civil-society autonomy

GS II · 21 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Foreign-contribution regulation, registration and proposed asset-management arrangements.

FOR MAINS

Assess national-security regulation alongside civic space, proportionality, appeals and procedural safeguards.

India-Nepal: reconstruction as diplomacy

GS II · 19, 21, 29 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Border connectivity, hydropower links and the geography of bilateral trade.

FOR MAINS

Turn disaster recovery into an argument about resilient infrastructure, local participation and neighbourhood trust.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

India-Bangladesh: trade and shared rivers

GS II · Newspaper to Mains, 18 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Ganga basin geography, transboundary rivers and regional connectivity.

FOR MAINS

Relate water cooperation and trade normalisation to political trust and neighbourhood stability.

India-New Zealand FTA

GS II/III · 22, 24 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Rules of origin, tariff-rate quotas and sensitive-sector exclusions.

FOR MAINS

Explain why market access needs standards, logistics, firm capability and safeguards to produce distributed gains.

India-EFTA TEPA

GS II/III · 1 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

EFTA membership; distinguish tariff access, investment commitments and technology cooperation.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate trade agreements through investment quality, domestic capability and implementation rather than signing alone.

India-EU trade and copyright

GS III · 21 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Copyright, fair dealing and technological protection measures.

FOR MAINS

Balance trade integration with educational access, research, interoperability and India's digital-policy space.

India-US trade under pressure

GS II/III · 23 Sep; 6, 14 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Tariffs, external-sector dependence and the difference between trade negotiation and implementation.

FOR MAINS

Build an argument about export exposure, policy autonomy, domestic adjustment and strategic trust.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Sanctions, Russian oil and energy security

GS II/III · 19–21 Sep; 18 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Secondary sanctions, crude-import dependence and key maritime chokepoints.

FOR MAINS

Trace how energy sourcing affects inflation, exports, finance and India's room for strategic autonomy.

Hormuz and diplomacy in West Asia

GS II/III · 24, 29 Sep; 5 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Locate the Strait of Hormuz and identify its connection to energy routes.

FOR MAINS

Link regional de-escalation with shipping, insurance, household costs and the restoration of trade and mobility.

Israel-Palestine and democratic inclusion

GS II · 29 Sep; 10 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

West Bank geography; settlements; statehood and electoral participation.

FOR MAINS

Connect settlement expansion and party exclusions to the two-state question, rights and democratic safeguards.

Greenland and the Arctic

GS II · 20, 25, 27 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Greenland's political status, Arctic geography and strategic routes.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish military access from sovereignty; assess alliance politics, self-determination and emerging strategic spaces.

The UN, veto and middle-power coalitions

GS II · 22, 25–28 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

UN organs, Security Council structure and the distinction between reform and voluntary restraint.

FOR MAINS

Compare permanent-seat expansion, veto restraint, P4M and India's case for representative multilateralism.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

BRICS: strategy, payments and tax cooperation

GS II/III · 18, 24 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Members and institutional purpose; local-currency settlement; transfer pricing.

FOR MAINS

Examine strategic autonomy, tax coordination and governance reform while recognising divergent interests within the grouping.

India-Belgium and India-ASEAN cooperation

GS II · 27 Sep; 15 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Regional groupings and the sectors shaping India's external partnerships.

FOR MAINS

Explain how technology, clean energy, defence and maritime cooperation deepen ties beyond conventional trade.

BIMSTEC and cross-border terrorism

GS II/III · 23 Sep; 14 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

BIMSTEC's regional geography and the distinction from other South Asian groupings.

FOR MAINS

Connect counter-terror cooperation with information exchange, capacity and the credibility of commitments against terrorism.

China and Ladakh place names

GS II · 14 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Border geography and the difference between a naming claim and territorial sovereignty.

FOR MAINS

Interpret cartographic assertions through sovereignty, signalling, diplomatic protest and sustained border management.

Sri Lanka's unfinished demand for change

GS II · 2 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

India's maritime neighbourhood and the setting of Sri Lanka's economic crisis.

FOR MAINS

Separate macroeconomic stabilisation from legitimacy, institutional reform and public demands for accountability.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

India's nuclear doctrine: review and restraint

GS III · NewsDigest, 26 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Deterrence, no-first-use, credible minimum deterrence and doctrinal signalling.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish a policy review from a formal revision; evaluate stability, credibility and escalation risks in India's security environment.

Ukraine aid and Cuba's fuel crisis

GS II · 7, 9 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

External financing, sanctions and energy dependence as distinct policy instruments.

FOR MAINS

Compare how international pressure and support affect civilian welfare, reform incentives and policy autonomy.

Consular protection for Indians abroad

GS II · 1 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Recruitment channels, consular functions and the risks of military employment overseas.

FOR MAINS

Propose prevention, verified information, action against deceptive agents and diplomatic assistance for vulnerable citizens.

Make in India and the assembly trap

GS III · 21, 25 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Intermediate goods, capital goods and domestic value addition.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish rising assembly output from deep manufacturing capability, productive jobs and resilient supply chains.

Permanent magnets and critical minerals

GS III · 21 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Rare-earth magnets; the chain from ore to separation, alloy and component.

FOR MAINS

Explain why mineral ownership alone cannot deliver technological sovereignty or industrial resilience.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Deep-tech and research-system capability

GS III · 19, 26 Sep; 7 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Research, development, commercialisation and the difference between publication output and capability.

FOR MAINS

Connect patient finance, institutions, talent and industry links to India's transition from implementer to innovator.

Growth resilience and the jobs gap

GS III · 27 Sep; 6 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

GDP growth, productivity and demographic-dividend concepts.

FOR MAINS

Test headline resilience against real wages, quality employment, rural demand and inclusive structural transformation.

EPFO: coverage versus adequacy

GS III · 19 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Social insurance, formal employment and contributory social-security design.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate whether expanded enrolment produces meaningful protection for workers with low or irregular contributions.

RBI: inflation, real rates and stability

GS III · 21 Sep; 4, 9, 18 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Repo rate, nominal versus real rates, liquidity and financial-stability tools.

FOR MAINS

Assess inflation-growth trade-offs, government borrowing costs and why a stable nominal rate may change real monetary restraint.

RBI's dollar window for oil companies

GS III · 11 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Foreign-exchange demand, exchange rates and the external account.

FOR MAINS

Explain targeted liquidity measures while examining costs, market functioning and the need for broader resilience.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Inflation: food, fuel, CPI and WPI

GS III · 14–15 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

CPI versus WPI; demand and supply shocks; headline versus underlying pressures.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish monetary responses from supply management when external fuel and domestic food shocks interact.

GST: trust, automation and enforcement

GS III · 9–10 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

GST Council, input-tax credit, refunds and risk-based administration.

FOR MAINS

Balance easier compliance with revenue protection, proportionate penalties and cooperative federalism; distinguish proposals from law.

UPI merchant fees and digital trust

GS III · 18, 29 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

MDR, payment infrastructure and the legal basis for charging transactions.

FOR MAINS

Weigh ecosystem sustainability against inclusion, consumer welfare and the public character of digital payments.

SEBI and market-regulation reform

GS III · 25 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Securities-market institutions and investor-protection functions.

FOR MAINS

Connect efficient capital formation with credible enforcement, disclosure and predictable regulation.

IDBI and disinvestment

GS III · 15 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Strategic disinvestment, ownership and banking regulation.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate fiscal, competitive and governance objectives alongside regulatory safeguards and implementation risks.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Model BIT and regulatory space

GS II/III · 3 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Investment treaties, investor protection and dispute settlement.

FOR MAINS

Balance credible investment protection with the State's capacity to regulate for public purposes.

Trade fragmentation and multilateral rules

GS III · 2 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Tariffs, global value chains and rules-based trade.

FOR MAINS

Explain why fragmented trade raises uncertainty and how diversification and domestic competitiveness can reduce exposure.

Urban finance, property tax and services

GS II/III · 8 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Municipal revenues, property-tax bases and the third tier of government.

FOR MAINS

Link fiscal capacity with accountable service delivery, fair valuation and predictable local investment.

Rural prosperity through the value chain

GS III · 1 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Farm credit, processing, storage and value addition.

FOR MAINS

Shift the agriculture argument from crop output alone to finance, market access and rural non-farm opportunities.

MSP, drought and the price promise

GS III · 24 Sep; 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

MSP, procurement, farm-gate prices and weather risk.

FOR MAINS

Explain why an announced support price needs purchase capacity, access and reliable implementation to protect incomes.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Ethanol, food and fuel

GS III · 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

E20; ethanol feedstocks; energy security and competing uses of crops.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate blending through import savings, water use, food supply and the resilience of feedstock choices.

Sulphur and import exposure

GS III · 30 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Sulphur's industrial uses and its place in input supply chains.

FOR MAINS

Show how a less-visible imported input can transmit geopolitical disruption into fertilisers, industry and farm costs.

Punjab groundwater and cropping incentives

GS I/III · 24 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Aquifers, extraction, recharge and the difference between annual flows and groundwater depth.

FOR MAINS

Link procurement, subsidised power and crop choice with depletion, inequality and credible diversification.

Cauvery: scarcity, federalism and the delta

GS I/II/III · 8, 13, 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Basin geography; monsoon dependence; upper and lower riparian positions.

FOR MAINS

Examine distress-sharing rules, reliable reservoir data and coordination between drinking-water and irrigation needs.

Water management and flood preparedness

GS III · 24, 28-29 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Watersheds, soil moisture and differences between rainfall shortage and agricultural drought.

FOR MAINS

Combine basin planning, early warning, local participation and ecological restoration to reduce both floods and droughts.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

El Niño and the Northeast monsoon

GS I/III · 20 Sep; 11 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

ENSO, seasonal winds and the difference between southwest and northeast monsoon responses.

FOR MAINS

Use probabilistic climate signals to argue for preparedness without treating one index as a certain local forecast.

Himachal apples and farm resilience

GS I/III · 2 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Altitude, chilling requirements and climate-sensitive horticulture.

FOR MAINS

Relate changing crop suitability to diversification, risk services, market access and farmer adaptation.

Climate justice, NDCs and climate finance

GS III · 20, 28 Sep; 3 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

NDCs; emissions intensity; capacity versus generation; mitigation versus adaptation.

FOR MAINS

Build a differentiated-responsibility argument connecting development space, loss and damage, finance and implementation.

Climate disasters and the insurance gap

GS III · 16 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Hazard, exposure, vulnerability and risk transfer.

FOR MAINS

Assess why insurance must complement prevention, public infrastructure and affordable protection for vulnerable households.

Western Ghats ESA and livelihoods

GS III · 20, 24, 26 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

ESA framework, Western Ghats ecology and the basis of environmental notification.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate demarcation, ground verification, local consultation and the distribution of conservation costs.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Great Nicobar: development, ecology and rights

GS II/III · 30 Sep; 6 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Island geography, forest rights, biodiversity and tribal cultural protection.

FOR MAINS

Weigh strategic infrastructure against ecological limits, procedural justice and meaningful protection of communities.

Grasslands and mining near a rare gecko

GS III · 30 Sep; 15 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Habitat specificity, ecosystem functions and biodiversity loss.

FOR MAINS

Explain why habitats are not interchangeable and why ecological appraisal must examine place-specific and irreversible impacts.

Agasthyamalai and biodiversity knowledge

GS III · 23 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Western Ghats geography, endemism and flowering-plant diversity.

FOR MAINS

Use biological inventories to discuss conservation priorities, research gaps and protection of living landscapes.

Elephant corridors, GPS and Buxa tigers

GS III · 26 Sep; 3, 8 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Corridors, habitat connectivity, tracking and species reintroduction.

FOR MAINS

Connect technology with habitat protection, coexistence, prey security and long-term ecological monitoring.

Ramsar: two wetland systems

GS III · 16 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel; reservoir versus floodplain lake; Ramsar designation and ecological character.

FOR MAINS

Compare site-specific ecological services and management; designation creates an obligation to sustain ecological character.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Wildlife decline and amphibian sex ratios

GS III · 12-13 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Population abundance versus extinction; temperature-sensitive biological responses.

FOR MAINS

Read ecological evidence accurately and relate warming to ecosystem disruption without exaggerating what a statistic proves.

Urban heat, cement and CAFE-III

GS III · 1, 5, 8 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Heat islands, ventilation, industrial emissions and vehicle fuel-efficiency norms.

FOR MAINS

Compare urban design, hard-to-abate industry and efficiency standards as different parts of decarbonisation.

Green Energy Corridor and reliable power

GS III · 8 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Transmission, grid integration and renewable-energy variability.

FOR MAINS

Explain why generation capacity needs networks, balancing and institutions to become reliable supply.

Data centres: power, water and AI demand

GS III · 28 Sep; 4, 11 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

PUE, cooling, local water stress and electricity-system capacity.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate digital investment through absolute resource use, disclosure and enforceable local sustainability standards.

AI: cheaper units, larger bills

GS III · 20 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Inference, tokens, agents and multi-step computation.

FOR MAINS

Explain the difference between unit efficiency and total consumption; assess costs when adoption and task complexity rise.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

AI agents, cyber fraud and research access

GS III · 30 Sep; 7, 17 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Tool permissions, authentication, phishing and the distinction between a chatbot and an agent.

FOR MAINS

Link innovation to secure design, least privilege, consumer protection and public digital trust.

AI companions and persuasive design

GS II/III/IV · 8, 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Recommender systems, age-sensitive design and digital-risk concepts.

FOR MAINS

Assess child safety, consent, emotional dependence and platform responsibility in an attention-driven environment.

Inclusive AI and work transitions

GS II/III · 4, 6 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Accessibility, assistive technology and skills affected by automation.

FOR MAINS

Connect innovation with disability inclusion, reskilling and fair transition support for workers.

Space governance and indigenous capability

GS III · 20, 22, 27 Sep; 7, 16 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Earth observation, support ships, communication satellites and kinetic versus non-kinetic space risks.

FOR MAINS

Compare capability building with governance, civilian benefits and the need for restraints on destabilising space competition.

China's proposed technology-export controls

GS II/III · 17 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Technology transfer, licensing and strategic supply-chain dependencies.

FOR MAINS

Explain how control of know-how can become a bargaining instrument and what resilient domestic capability requires.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Hydrogen and methane from a new material

GS III · 18 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Energy carriers, storage, stability and the distinction between a laboratory result and usable technology.

FOR MAINS

Assess scale, energy inputs, safety and life-cycle effects before making an energy-transition claim.

Nobel-linked science and stabilisation policy

GS III · 6, 18 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Optogenetics; neural activity; expectations, demand and monetary-policy transmission.

FOR MAINS

Connect basic research with future applications and economic models with the design of stabilisation policy.

Medicine quality, rare diseases and leprosy

GS II/III · 19, 29-30 Sep; 3-4 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Counterfeit medicines, surveillance, access and the difference between elimination and zero transmission.

FOR MAINS

Link affordable treatment with traceable supply chains, early detection, stigma reduction and regulatory capacity.

Rabies, HPV vaccination and child vision

GS II/III · 5, 9, 12 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Zoonotic surveillance, prevention, vaccine quality and screening-to-treatment pathways.

FOR MAINS

Explain why public-health success depends on follow-up, local systems and equitable access after detection.

Fungi, PFAS and environmental health

GS III · 22 Sep; 14 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Antimicrobial resistance; persistent chemicals; exposure versus demonstrated harm.

FOR MAINS

Integrate health surveillance, environmental monitoring and proportionate regulation through a prevention framework.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Healthcare pricing, overdiagnosis and food safety

GS II/III · 13–14, 18 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Price transparency, medical necessity and the distinction between screening and diagnosis.

FOR MAINS

Compare routine inspection, informed consent and appropriate care as ways to prevent avoidable harm and cost.

Manipur and marginalised tribal communities

GS I/II/III · 19, 24 Sep; 3 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Ethnic geography, autonomy arrangements and Yanadi/Chenchu community contexts.

FOR MAINS

Connect peace agreements and welfare schemes with displacement, participation, trust and actual access to basic services.

Caste, untouchability and belonging

GS I/II · 9, 12 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Constitutional safeguards, social hierarchy and the distinction between legal prohibition and lived equality.

FOR MAINS

Trace discrimination across local institutions and overseas campuses; combine law with social and institutional change.

Women's property, child marriage and care work

GS I/II · 5, 10, 16 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Inheritance, agency, social norms and unpaid versus paid care.

FOR MAINS

Relate formal rights to control over assets, education, decent care employment and conditions for meaningful choice.

Paper leaks and recruitment integrity

GS II/IV · 10 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Public recruitment, institutional accountability and examination security.

FOR MAINS

Connect youth trust with transparent investigation, secure processes, timely remedies and prevention of repeated failures.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Urban expansion, heritage and safe mobility

GS I/II/III · 2, 8, 11 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Urbanisation, peri-urban villages, heritage institutions and transport planning.

FOR MAINS

Use Delhi Dehat, heritage responsibility and school commutes to examine coordination, liveability and inclusive urban governance.

Everyday safety: water, buildings, rivers and crowds

GS II/III · 23, 27 Sep; 2, 17, 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Risk, prevention, inspection and administrative responsibility.

FOR MAINS

Connect civic failures and festival crowd risks with enforceable standards, emergency planning and clear institutional accountability.

Displacement, forest rights and rural work

GS I/II/III · 10, 13, 15 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Rehabilitation, livelihood entitlements and the relationship between land and social protection.

FOR MAINS

Assess Majhgaon dam rehabilitation, tribal-home demolition and work guarantees through consent, fairness and implementation.

Traditional fishers and fuel access

GS III · 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Marine livelihoods, fuel costs and coastal economic geography.

FOR MAINS

Frame energy access as a question of livelihood viability, targeted support and sustainable fisheries policy.

Maritime narcotics and seafarer safety

GS III · 26 Sep; 1 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Coastal surveillance, island approaches and transnational trafficking routes.

FOR MAINS

Link intelligence fusion, law enforcement and safe shipping to a broader conception of maritime security.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Seats, voice and democratic representation

GS II · 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Constituencies, legislative representation and institutional design.

FOR MAINS

Explain why increasing seats needs meaningful participation, responsiveness and effective deliberation to strengthen representation.

Pattanam and Indian Ocean exchange

GS I · 19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Archaeology, artefacts and early maritime-trade networks.

FOR MAINS

Use material evidence to explain cultural exchange, coastal commerce and the limits of identifying a site from one clue.

PNG access and household energy

GS III · 7 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Piped natural gas, infrastructure access and fuel-use choices.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish a connection from sustained affordable use; link energy delivery to reliability and household needs.

Fireworks and conditional regulation

GS III · 1 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Air pollution, standards and the distinction between a conditional relaxation and unrestricted permission.

FOR MAINS

Reconcile health, enforcement, livelihoods and public observance through proportionate, workable regulation.

Police publicity and presumption of innocence

GS II/IV · 26 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Investigation, trial and the legal status of an accused person.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate media communication through fairness, dignity and the risk of punishment before adjudication.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

NewsDigest

Semiconductors, tokenisation and new economic systems

GS III · Newspaper to Mains, 18 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Chip-design-to-testing chains; blockchain; tokenised real-world assets; CBAM.

FOR MAINS

Compare ecosystem building, regulatory certainty and export competitiveness across emerging technology and trade challenges.

Integration, language and bamboo

GS I/II/III · Newspaper to Mains, 18 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Hyderabad's integration; concurrent education powers; bamboo's ecological and cultural uses.

FOR MAINS

Connect nation-building with equal citizenship, language-sensitive federalism and livelihoods rooted in local resources.

Digital welfare and verification

GS II · Newspaper to Mains, 18 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Beneficiary records, biometric authentication and audit trails.

FOR MAINS

Explain why authentication must be supported by field verification, correction mechanisms and accountable institutions.

Coal auctions and deepwater exploration

GS III · Newspaper to Mains, 18 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Coal-bearing regions, sedimentary basins and energy-resource geography.

FOR MAINS

Weigh supply security, fiscal returns and exploration risks against environmental costs and the energy transition.

RETRIEVAL TEST Can you explain one issue through causes, consequences and a reasoned response?

02 / QUESTIONS & PRACTICE

Could you answer the demand?

A question teaches you to select, organise and explain. The master bank contains 27 topic records, including the archived urbanisation question; these are a created-question catalogue, not an issuance register.

Nagara and Dravida temples

Master Bank · Q001 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Identify major architectural features and suitable temple examples.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish styles through plan, superstructure and regional expression rather than a list of names.

Non-Cooperation Movement

Master Bank · Q002 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall forms of participation and the social groups involved.

FOR MAINS

Explain how students, peasants, workers and other groups entered a national movement in different ways.

Integration of princely states

Master Bank · Q003 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Locate major integration challenges and recall accession-related concepts.

FOR MAINS

Separate territorial integration from political consolidation, negotiation and the building of a common Union.

French Revolution

Master Bank · Q004 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall estates, hereditary privilege and the vocabulary of citizenship.

FOR MAINS

Explain how revolutionary ideas challenged inherited status and redefined the relationship between people and authority.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

Questions & practice

Diversity of Indian society

Master Bank · Q005 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recognise linguistic, religious, regional and social dimensions of diversity.

FOR MAINS

Organise examples to show both plurality and the institutions that make shared national life possible.

Women's organisations

Master Bank · Q006 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall organisations, reformers and their educational and social initiatives.

FOR MAINS

Explain collective agency in reform without reducing women's participation to a few celebrated individuals.

Urbanisation, housing and services

Master Bank · Q007 · archived question

FOR PRELIMS

Recognise urban processes, housing constraints and basic-service categories.

FOR MAINS

Connect rapid expansion with water, sanitation, transport, affordable housing and urban institutional capacity.

Seasonal reversal of monsoon winds

Master Bank · Q008 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Pressure systems, ITCZ migration, continental heating and oceanic influence.

FOR MAINS

Build a causal explanation supported by a labelled seasonal schematic.

Coal-bearing regions

Master Bank · Q009 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Locate India's major coalfields and distinguish geological settings.

FOR MAINS

Explain spatial concentration and its implications for industrial location, energy and regional development.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

Questions & practice

Earthquakes and plate boundaries

Master Bank · Q010 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Convergent, divergent and transform boundaries; earthquake focus and depth.

FOR MAINS

Relate plate motion to earthquake distribution through process-based explanation and diagrams.

Regional temple traditions

Master Bank · Q011 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Identify regional architectural forms and the settings in which they evolved.

FOR MAINS

Relate patronage, materials and regional culture to variety within Indian temple architecture.

Civil Disobedience Movement

Master Bank · Q012 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall stages, methods and variations in participation.

FOR MAINS

Explain how the movement expanded political participation while recognising uneven regional and social responses.

Linguistic reorganisation of states

Master Bank · Q013 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall the sequence and institutional basis of reorganisation.

FOR MAINS

Analyse how accommodation of language helped manage identity within a federal Union.

Industrial Revolution

Master Bank · Q014 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recognise technological changes and their historical setting.

FOR MAINS

Explain relationships among industrialisation, social change, labour and economic organisation.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

Questions & practice

Caste and social mobility

Master Bank · Q015 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Distinguish hierarchy, mobility and continuity in caste relations.

FOR MAINS

Use education, urbanisation and economic change to explain transformation alongside persistent exclusion.

Women: education and legal reform

Master Bank · Q016 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall major educational and reform interventions.

FOR MAINS

Explain how law and education can expand agency while social norms and unequal access constrain outcomes.

Urban flooding

Master Bank · Q017 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Drainage, runoff, floodplains, land cover and intense rainfall.

FOR MAINS

Trace interacting physical and planning causes, then relate consequences to differentiated urban vulnerability.

Interannual monsoon variability

Master Bank · Q018 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

ENSO, ocean-atmosphere interactions and the distinction between seasonality and year-to-year variation.

FOR MAINS

Explain why a regular seasonal system still produces uneven rainfall across years and regions.

Iron-ore distribution

Master Bank · Q019 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Locate major deposits and relevant mineral belts.

FOR MAINS

Connect resource geography with extraction, transport, industrial development and regional patterns.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

Questions & practice

Himalayan landslides

Master Bank · Q020 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Young fold mountains, slope instability, rainfall and human disturbance.

FOR MAINS

Explain how physical fragility and development choices combine to produce risk and guide mitigation.

Regional identities and Indian diversity

Master Bank · Q021 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recognise language, cultural traditions and regional identity markers.

FOR MAINS

Explain how regional identity can enrich a common national framework rather than assume an inevitable conflict.

Buddhist beliefs and architecture

Master Bank · Q022 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Stupas, chaityas, viharas and beliefs shaping their use.

FOR MAINS

Explain relationships between ideas, patronage, monastic life and architectural form.

Bhakti poetry and regional languages

Master Bank · Q023 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall poets, traditions and regional-language contexts.

FOR MAINS

Trace how devotional expression interacted with vernacular literary growth and wider cultural participation.

The uneven reach of 1857

Master Bank · Q024 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Locate major centres and recognise varying patterns of participation.

FOR MAINS

Explain regional differences through social interests, military conditions and political circumstances.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

Questions & practice

World War I and political instability

Master Bank · Q025 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Recall territorial settlements and the post-war political setting.

FOR MAINS

Relate redrawn boundaries, grievances and economic stresses to subsequent instability without a single-cause explanation.

Unpaid care and women's paid work

Master Bank · Q026 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Distinguish labour-force participation, paid work and unpaid care.

FOR MAINS

Explain how household responsibilities shape opportunity, and connect care infrastructure with women's economic agency.

Industrial location beyond raw materials

Master Bank · Q027 · GS I

FOR PRELIMS

Identify markets, transport, labour, energy, technology and agglomeration factors.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate why access to a raw material is only one part of a location decision.

Nation-building, temples, ethnicity and bamboo

18 Sep practice set · GS I topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

Hyderabad, temple traditions, Northeast geography and bamboo's uses.

FOR MAINS

Practise integration, culture and conflict questions through institutions, land, livelihoods and community participation.

Education, language and federalism

18 Sep practice set · GS II topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

Concurrent subjects, language policy and constitutional institutions.

FOR MAINS

Handle linked demands on cultural autonomy, judicial intervention and cooperative federalism.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

Questions & practice

Welfare delivery and digital identification

18 Sep practice set · GS II topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

Beneficiary identification, authentication, audit and legislative oversight.

FOR MAINS

Explain both the value and limits of digital systems in accountable social-sector delivery.

BRICS, Bangladesh and sanctions

18 Sep practice set · GS II topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

Global-governance reform, river cooperation, secondary sanctions and critical networks.

FOR MAINS

Practise strategic-autonomy answers across multilateral, bilateral and geoeconomic settings.

UPI, tokenisation and blockchain

18 Sep practice set · GS III topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

MDR, digital public infrastructure, distributed ledgers and real-world assets.

FOR MAINS

Balance inclusion and innovation against commercial sustainability, regulatory certainty and systemic risk.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

Questions & practice

Semiconductors, critical minerals and AI

18 Sep practice set · GS III topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

Design, fabrication, materials, testing, cybersecurity and strategic components.

FOR MAINS

Frame technological self-reliance as an ecosystem of skills, supply chains, finance and responsible governance.

Energy imports, coal, deepwater and CBAM

18 Sep practice set · GS III topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

Current-account channels, hydrocarbon basins, commercial mining and carbon-border measures.

FOR MAINS

Link energy security, export competitiveness and transition costs in a multidimensional economic answer.

Precision medicine

18 Sep practice set · GS III topic cluster

FOR PRELIMS

Personalised interventions and the role of data in treatment decisions.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate access, affordability, ethics and health-system readiness alongside scientific promise.

BEFORE YOU WRITE Identify the directive, scope and two useful examples.

03 / INFORMATION SHEETS

Stay with the difficult idea.

The deeper dives: timelines, institutional distinctions, competing arguments and usable frameworks for difficult subjects.

Israel-Palestine: conflict, wars, peace and India

Visual study sheet · 9 pages

FOR PRELIMS

Historical milestones, places, major wars and peace initiatives.

FOR MAINS

Connect land, statehood, security, displacement and India's evolving position in a structured IR answer.

Greenland security arrangements

Greenland security-deal explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Political status, Arctic geography and strategic significance.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish reported access arrangements, legal approval and sovereignty; assess the interests of the actors involved.

India-Pakistan collision at sea

Maritime-security information sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Destroyer versus patrol vessel; maritime geography; collision-avoidance rules.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate escalation control, confidence-building measures and competing accounts of a contested incident.

Diplomatic jargon, decoded

International-relations concept sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Chargé d'affaires, demarche, note verbale, persona non grata and envoy recall.

FOR MAINS

Interpret diplomatic signalling precisely without treating every formal protest as a rupture in relations.

KEEP THE DISTINCTION A claim, a proposal and a final decision carry different evidentiary weight.

Information sheets

Offensive versus defensive realism

Comparative theory sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Security dilemma, anarchy and contrasting explanations of power-seeking.

FOR MAINS

Compare how the same military build-up can be read as deterrence, insecurity or revisionism.

The Graham Bill and US financial power

Geoeconomics explainer · 18 Sep

FOR PRELIMS

Primary and secondary sanctions; dollar networks; banking, shipping and insurance links.

FOR MAINS

Explain weaponised interdependence and weigh short-run coercive leverage against longer-run financial fragmentation.

Article 22: safeguards at arrest

Constitutional-law information sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Grounds of arrest, counsel and production before a magistrate.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish unlawful detention from adjudication of guilt; connect procedural safeguards to substantive liberty.

Dissent within the Election Commission

Election Commission explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Commission structure, majority decisions, statutory officers and digital controls.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate internal checks through records and institutional design while separating reported objections from proven misconduct.

Karnataka's Western Ghats ESA objection

Environmental FAQ · 4 pages

FOR PRELIMS

ESA, demarcation, land categories and the Kasturirangan framework.

FOR MAINS

Build a conservation argument that includes ground verification, livelihoods, consultation and shared regulatory costs.

KEEP THE DISTINCTION A claim, a proposal and a final decision carry different evidentiary weight.

Information sheets

Cockroach Janta Party and political protest

Political-society information sheet · 5 pages

FOR PRELIMS

Pressure groups, youth mobilisation, memes and political communication.

FOR MAINS

Compare rapid digital reach with the harder tasks of representation, organisation and durable political change.

German unification, 1815-1871

History information sheet · 4 pages

FOR PRELIMS

German Confederation, Zollverein, Prussia, Austria and the three wars.

FOR MAINS

Explain unification through economic integration, nationalism, diplomacy and state capacity; distinguish unity from democratisation.

Bismarck: Blood and Iron

History concept sheet

FOR PRELIMS

The 1862 context, Lesser Germany and the stages of Prussian expansion.

FOR MAINS

Assess Bismarck's agency alongside armies, economic links, national sentiment and other actors.

Battle of Asal Uttar

Illustrated history · 8 pages

FOR PRELIMS

Khem Karan sector, the 1965 war, Abdul Hamid and the principal formations.

FOR MAINS

Explain how terrain, coordination, adaptation and courage offset material advantage; use the battle for leadership reflection.

Suspension of Operations in Manipur

Peace-process information sheet

FOR PRELIMS

SoO agreements, armed groups, designated camps and the region's ethnic setting.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish a ceasefire mechanism from a durable settlement; examine monitoring, trust and civilian security.

KEEP THE DISTINCTION A claim, a proposal and a final decision carry different evidentiary weight.

Information sheets

Great Nicobar and cultural rights

Constitutional-development sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Article 29(1), tribal culture, island ecology and judicial-review processes.

FOR MAINS

Connect strategic development with cultural continuity, forest rights and the distinction between a procedural order and a final judgment.

Jaishankar at Munich: when flows are disrupted

GS II conversation explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Energy, trade and mobility as channels transmitting conflict.

FOR MAINS

Link foreign policy to household budgets, jobs and livelihoods while assessing negotiated, lawful regional outcomes.

What is the Commonwealth?

International-organisation sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Membership, institutions, shared history and the distinction from a military alliance.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate the utility and limits of a voluntary association for cooperation, values and India's diplomacy.

Who gets to command the police?

Police-reform explainer · 2 pages

FOR PRELIMS

DGP appointment route, panel, tenure and eligibility thresholds.

FOR MAINS

Use the Prakash Singh framework to discuss professional independence and accountable State discretion.

Break the chain: leprosy in India

Public-health information sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Cause, transmission, detection and elimination versus eradication.

FOR MAINS

Link child cases, stigma, disability prevention and contact tracing to the strengths and gaps of public health.

KEEP THE DISTINCTION A claim, a proposal and a final decision carry different evidentiary weight.

Information sheets

IndiaSkills to WorldSkills

Skills-development information sheet

FOR PRELIMS

MSDE, NSDC, Sector Skill Councils and the competition-to-training pathway.

FOR MAINS

Assess how specialist mentorship and benchmarking can improve ordinary training institutions, jobs and wages beyond medals.

UN, world order and international law

UN/world-order explainer

FOR PRELIMS

UN Charter principles, sovereign equality and institutional roles.

FOR MAINS

Compare a rules-based order with power politics and discuss credibility through civilian protection and consistent application.

India's volatile neighbourhood

Annotated neighbourhood study sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal in their regional setting.

FOR MAINS

Link instability to connectivity, security, economic exposure and a differentiated Neighbourhood First response.

SCO micro-notes

Handwritten classroom micro-notes

FOR PRELIMS

SCO membership, regional geography and its security-cooperation role.

FOR MAINS

Assess counter-terror coordination, India-China relations and the opportunities and limits of regional institutions.

Waqf: concepts and governance

Handwritten teaching notes

FOR PRELIMS

Meaning, endowment, property administration and institutional vocabulary.

FOR MAINS

Organise debates around accountability, community interests, legal safeguards and institutional reform.

KEEP THE DISTINCTION A claim, a proposal and a final decision carry different evidentiary weight.

Information sheets

India-US bilateral trade issues

Handwritten trade notes

FOR PRELIMS

Reciprocal tariffs, trade balance, non-tariff barriers and policy instruments.

FOR MAINS

Trace domestic and external consequences of tariff bargaining through sectors, negotiations and strategic relationships.

Iran-Israel conflict: implications for India

Handwritten conflict notes

FOR PRELIMS

Regional geography, nuclear concerns, energy routes and external actors.

FOR MAINS

Build an India-centred assessment of diplomatic choices, citizen safety, trade and energy exposure.

China-US rapprochement

International-relations information sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Strategic competition, advanced-chip supply chains, rare-earth leverage and economic interdependence.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish a tactical truce from strategic convergence; assess managed rivalry, mutual vulnerability and implications for India.

KEEP THE DISTINCTION A claim, a proposal and a final decision carry different evidentiary weight.

04 / INFOGRAPHICS & VISUAL LEARNING

Recall the relationship.

A diagram can give you a relationship that a paragraph leaves scattered. The visual portfolio made processes, comparisons and locations easier to retrieve.

Monsoon wind reversal

Seasonal-reversal schematic

FOR PRELIMS

Summer and winter pressure patterns; ITCZ shift and oceanic circulation.

FOR MAINS

Recreate the schematic to explain causation clearly within a short geography answer.

Earthquakes at convergent and transform boundaries

Plate-boundary schematic

FOR PRELIMS

Subduction, lateral motion, faulting and earthquake foci.

FOR MAINS

Use paired diagrams to relate boundary processes to earthquake distribution and depth.

Raja Ravi Varma's Little Prince

Art-and-culture infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Artist, portraiture, medium and the relationship between Indian subjects and academic painting.

FOR MAINS

Use a work of art to discuss patronage, representation and encounters between artistic traditions.

Budhi Gandaki: a blocked river breaks free

Nepal disaster-process infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Landslide dam, upstream impoundment and sudden downstream release.

FOR MAINS

Explain a flash-flood mechanism beyond heavy rainfall and connect monitoring with evacuation and settlement risk.

Hormuz and India's regional diplomacy

Hormuz/Doval visual brief

FOR PRELIMS

Chokepoint geography and energy-route dependence.

FOR MAINS

Trace a regional disruption through oil, freight, insurance and India's diplomatic choices.

Infographics & visual learning

India-Nepal relations

India-Nepal visual series

FOR PRELIMS

Connectivity, hydropower, trade, borders and shared disaster exposure.

FOR MAINS

Organise opportunities and friction points into a balanced neighbourhood-relations answer.

Middle East: places in the news

Places-in-news map

FOR PRELIMS

Locate states, coasts, straits and conflict locations in relation to one another.

FOR MAINS

Support an IR argument with geographic context rather than disconnected place names.

BRICS: strategic autonomy and the currency conundrum

BRICS visual series

FOR PRELIMS

Local-currency trade, payment interoperability and a common currency are different concepts.

FOR MAINS

Analyse China's economic weight, divergent member priorities and India's approach to financial cooperation.

India's energy security

Energy-security visual brief

FOR PRELIMS

Import dependence, diversification and sanctions exposure.

FOR MAINS

Relate sourcing decisions to affordability, supply continuity and strategic autonomy.

India's deep-tech push

Deep-tech visual series

FOR PRELIMS

Distinguish assembly, invention and commercialisation.

FOR MAINS

Map the roles of finance, universities, firms and public institutions in building innovation capability.

TRY THIS Close the page. Recreate the relationship, route or comparison from memory.

Infographics & visual learning

IN-SPACE hosted payloads

Hosted-payload guidelines infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Payload versus satellite bus; orbital platform; authorisation roles.

FOR MAINS

Explain how regulation can enable commercial space participation while maintaining clear responsibility.

SAMARTH and future warfare

Army-capability infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Sustainability, adaptation, modernisation, acceleration, resilience, technology and human-machine teaming.

FOR MAINS

Assess how technology supports decision-making and endurance alongside human judgment and organisational reform.

Karnataka's green data centres

Digital-infrastructure infographic

FOR PRELIMS

PUE, cooling, renewable power and local water constraints.

FOR MAINS

Turn digital growth into an analysis of measurable sustainability, siting and resource accountability.

Ageing India

Ageing-shift visual explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Population ageing, dependency, care needs and demographic transition.

FOR MAINS

Connect health, pensions, care workers and family change in a social-policy answer.

Rural prosperity

Rural-prosperity infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Credit, processing, markets and value-chain linkages.

FOR MAINS

Explain how finance and coordination can spread gains beyond production to rural enterprises and livelihoods.

TRY THIS Close the page. Recreate the relationship, route or comparison from memory.

Infographics & visual learning

Rural employment guarantee

Rural-employment overview

FOR PRELIMS

Wage employment, household eligibility and the role of public works.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate employment protection through demand, funding, timely payment and the quality of assets created.

India-EFTA: one plus one equals three

TEPA infographic

FOR PRELIMS

EFTA's four members; the distinction from the EU; TEPA's broad objectives.

FOR MAINS

Explain the interaction of trade, investment, technology and wider European economic engagement.

Democracy without choice?

Local-democracy infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Unopposed election versus contested election; local self-government.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish genuine consensus from pressure or exclusion; evaluate whether citizens have meaningful alternatives.

J&K Statehood

Federalism infographic

FOR PRELIMS

State and Union Territory arrangements and representation.

FOR MAINS

Frame restoration through accountability, federal trust and the experience of residents.

Niyamgiri: mining, rights and consent

Rights-and-resources infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Tribal rights, forest governance and Gram Sabha participation.

FOR MAINS

Use the case to connect resource extraction with consent, cultural claims and procedural justice.

TRY THIS Close the page. Recreate the relationship, route or comparison from memory.

Infographics & visual learning

Tulu and official-language status

Language-and-governance infographic

FOR PRELIMS

State official-language arrangements versus the Constitution's Eighth Schedule.

FOR MAINS

Connect recognition with translation, administrative access and substantive linguistic inclusion.

EU Kids Act and digital childhood

Digital-society infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Platform design, child protection and age-sensitive online risks.

FOR MAINS

Compare protective regulation with privacy, enforceability and the responsibilities of digital firms.

Delhi protests and rights scrutiny

Civil-liberties infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Peaceful assembly, policing and human-rights institutions.

FOR MAINS

Relate domestic constitutional safeguards to public accountability and scrutiny of State action.

France's student protests

Comparative-society infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Education infrastructure, staffing and youth participation.

FOR MAINS

Connect service-delivery grievances, student voice and proportional protest policing in a comparative example.

Macron's UN appeal and open AI

World-order infographic

FOR PRELIMS

International law, civilian infrastructure and technology cooperation.

FOR MAINS

Connect a rules-based order with shared technological capacity and strategic autonomy.

TRY THIS Close the page. Recreate the relationship, route or comparison from memory.

Infographics & visual learning

Humanitarian crisis across Palestine

Humanitarian visual explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Civilian protection, humanitarian access and displacement.

FOR MAINS

Build an evidence-sensitive answer on international law, human costs and the credibility of global institutions.

Kaliningrad and nuclear signalling

Security-geography infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Exclave geography, Baltic security and deterrence vocabulary.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish signalling, escalation risk and doctrine; avoid reading every warning as an operational decision.

Emergency diversion and aviation signals

FZ1073 / emergency-code visual series

FOR PRELIMS

Distinguish emergency-code categories and locate the route and diversion.

FOR MAINS

Separate a verified flight outcome from alleged causes; connect safety protocols with crisis management.

Unsafe space: weapons in orbit

Space-security infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Outer Space Treaty, dual-use satellites and kinetic versus non-kinetic space control.

FOR MAINS

Apply the security dilemma to orbital deployments, autonomous systems and gaps in accountability and escalation rules.

Vultures and power-line electrocution

Conservation infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Vulture ecology, diclofenac history and electrocution versus collision.

FOR MAINS

Link species recovery with safe infrastructure design, site selection and prevention of additional mortality.

TRY THIS Close the page. Recreate the relationship, route or comparison from memory.

Infographics & visual learning

Deep-sea discovery and responsibility

Ocean-environment infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Deep-ocean ecosystems, scientific exploration and biodiversity.

FOR MAINS

Balance research and resource opportunities with uncertainty, precaution and environmental accountability.

Anandam: happiness beyond GDP

Kerala governance infographic

FOR PRELIMS

GDP, well-being and the distinction between a plan and an implemented institution.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate development through health, security, social connection and the quality of public services.

PUFFINS: reading starlight

Prelims Lens visual sheet

FOR PRELIMS

UV radiation, polarimetry, spectroscopy and interstellar dust.

FOR MAINS

Explain how a focused small mission can answer a specific scientific question through careful measurement.

Chirality: when chemistry chooses a side

Chemistry Nobel explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Enantiomers, homochirality and asymmetric autocatalysis.

FOR MAINS

Connect basic chemistry to medicines, biological selectivity and the broader value of fundamental research.

IceCube and neutrino astronomy

Physics Nobel visual / daily-learning sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Neutrinos, Antarctic detectors and indirect detection of high-energy interactions.

FOR MAINS

Explain how new instruments open a different observational window on the universe.

TRY THIS Close the page. Recreate the relationship, route or comparison from memory.

Infographics & visual learning

Optogenetics and light-controlled neurons

Medicine Nobel daily-learning sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Light-sensitive proteins and the control of selected neural activity.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish a research tool from a ready treatment; connect discovery with neuroscience and responsible translation.

Hall, Woodford and stabilisation policy

Economics Prize infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Expectations, household decisions and monetary-policy transmission.

FOR MAINS

Explain why credible policy and microeconomic behaviour matter for managing downturns and inflation.

Anne Carson and creative exchange

Literature Nobel visual sheet

FOR PRELIMS

Author, literary forms, classical traditions and translation.

FOR MAINS

Use her work to explore reinterpretation, memory and the renewal of inherited cultural material in an essay.

Navi Pillay: justice and human rights

Human-rights / Peace Prize visual profile

FOR PRELIMS

International human-rights institutions and accountability vocabulary.

FOR MAINS

Connect a legal career with dignity, gender justice, international law and the persistence needed for institutional change.

A voluntary AI accord

AI-governance infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Internal controls, internal monitoring, external audit and board oversight.

FOR MAINS

Assess industry self-regulation through transparency, independent checks and the need for enforceable public accountability.

TRY THIS Close the page. Recreate the relationship, route or comparison from memory.

05 / PRELIMS LENS

Notice the distinction.

News cue → concept → static link → retrieval. These modules trained the distinctions that make statement-based questions demanding.

Punjab: the hidden water budget

Punjab Groundwater · 6-page module

FOR PRELIMS

Aquifers, porosity, permeability, recharge and stage of extraction; annual water flows versus depth measurements.

FOR MAINS

Connect groundwater physics to rice-wheat incentives, unequal pumping capacity and sustainable agriculture.

Punjab: choosing a conservation response

Punjab Groundwater · applications and checks

FOR PRELIMS

DSR, alternate wetting and drying; water quantity versus drinking-water quality.

FOR MAINS

Assess which interventions change irrigation demand and why diversification needs dependable markets and incentives.

Royalaseema: reading deep time

Royalaseema · 7-page module

FOR PRELIMS

Geological time, crystalline basement, unconformity, quartzite, limestone caves, mesas and natural arches.

FOR MAINS

Explain why a landform is a geological record and why damage to geoheritage may be irreversible.

Royalaseema: living landscapes and status traps

Royalaseema · site trail and six MCQs

FOR PRELIMS

Tirumala, Belum, Silathoranam, Seshachalam, Jerdon's Courser and National Geological Monuments.

FOR MAINS

Connect biodiversity, quarrying, tourism and conservation; distinguish national geoheritage recognition from UNESCO status.

CHECK THE INFERENCE What does the evidence support, and what does it leave unproven?

Prelims Lens

Space & Light: what a telescope measures

Space & Light · 6-page module

FOR PRELIMS

Wavelength, photon energy, spectroscopy, polarimetry and interstellar dust.

FOR MAINS

Explain how measurement supports an inference while distinguishing a detected signal from a claim about life or causation.

The mission matrix

Space & Light · comparisons and five checks

FOR PRELIMS

PUFFINS, XPoSat, AstroSat, Pandora, IXPE and PUEO: band, signal, purpose and platform.

FOR MAINS

Compare small satellites, multi-band observatories and balloons; distinguish a neutrino from the radio signal used to detect interactions.

Census, Ladakh and electoral forms

NewsDigest Prelims cards · 15–19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Census phases; UTs and Hill Councils; Sixth Schedule; exact uses of Forms 6, 7 and 8.

FOR MAINS

Apply institutional distinctions to inclusion, representation and the limits of administrative discretion.

Technology controls and AI agents

NewsDigest Prelims cards · 17–19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Technology versus goods exports; agent permissions, tools and cyber hygiene.

FOR MAINS

Connect strategic dependencies and secure design with responsible adoption of powerful digital systems.

Ethanol, Pattanam and the Northeast monsoon

NewsDigest Prelims cards · 17–19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

E20 and feedstocks; archaeological evidence; seasonal winds and delta agriculture.

FOR MAINS

Build links from energy choices to food supply, from artefacts to trade, and from rainfall timing to livelihoods.

CHECK THE INFERENCE What does the evidence support, and what does it leave unproven?

Prelims Lens

New materials and crowd safety

NewsDigest Prelims cards · 17–19 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Storage versus production; laboratory evidence; crowd density, bottlenecks and flow.

FOR MAINS

Ask what proof a technology needs and why preventive risk design matters before an emergency occurs.

Gecko, forest rights and price indices

Four-card Prelims Lens · 15 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Endemic versus threatened; statutory protection; household entitlements; CPI versus WPI.

FOR MAINS

Use exact categories to assess mining, livelihood guarantees and price shocks without conflating different legal or statistical measures.

Ramsar, immunity and defence systems

Four-card Prelims Lens · 16 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Wetland ecological character; statutory versus constitutional protection; GSAT-7C versus Varunastra.

FOR MAINS

Match institutions and technologies to their functions, then use them to discuss conservation, accountability and indigenous capability.

CHECK THE INFERENCE What does the evidence support, and what does it leave unproven?

06 / MODEL ANSWERS & TEACHING NOTES

Knowledge found its structure.

Prateek Bhatt's answer-led resources showed how knowledge becomes a response: define the issue, address both sides, use evidence and make a reasoned judgment.

The Constitution as a social revolution

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, special provisions and safeguards for marginalised groups.

FOR MAINS

Explain transformative constitutionalism with women's empowerment, inclusion and the distance between guarantees and lived outcomes.

Government of India Act 1935 and the Constitution

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Federal lists, provincial institutions, governors and constitutional development.

FOR MAINS

Weigh institutional continuity against the democratic and rights-based transformation brought by the Constitution.

Separation of powers in India

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Constitutional organs, checks and balances and the parliamentary executive.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate functional overlap without confusing cooperation with unrestrained concentration of power.

Governors and elected State governments

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Constitutional headship, assent, discretion and federal institutions.

FOR MAINS

Assess recurring friction while evaluating both the purpose of the office and the need for restraint and reform.

AFTER READING Build your own outline before returning to the model.

Model answers & teaching notes

Speaker: mandate, controversy and reform

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Presiding-officer functions, privileges and anti-defection adjudication.

FOR MAINS

Compare constitutional expectations with partisanship concerns and assess reforms to strengthen parliamentary fairness.

Representation of the People Act

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Distinguish the 1950 and 1951 laws; election conduct, offences and disqualification.

FOR MAINS

Explain the legal architecture of electoral democracy and evaluate reforms against criminalisation and opaque competition.

Local bodies and real devolution

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

The 73rd and 74th Amendments, schedules, local planning and revenue.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate the gap between constitutional recognition and effective transfer of functions, funds and functionaries.

NHRC: a critical appraisal

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Statutory basis, mandate and institutional limitations.

FOR MAINS

Balance contributions to dignity and rights protection with enforcement constraints, capacity and reform priorities.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Arbitration, mediation, conciliation and Lok Adalats: distinguish mechanisms.

FOR MAINS

Assess affordable and timely justice alongside consent, enforceability, unequal bargaining power and institutional capacity.

AFTER READING Build your own outline before returning to the model.

Model answers & teaching notes

Harmonious construction

Prateek Bhatt · curated model answer

FOR PRELIMS

A principle of interpretation that seeks reconciliation among apparently conflicting provisions.

FOR MAINS

Apply careful legal reasoning to personal law, secular protections and fundamental rights without erasing their differences.

Regionalism: expression and integration

Prateek Bhatt · GS I model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Inter-State, intra-State and supra-State regional identities.

FOR MAINS

Explain how regionalism can preserve culture and support participation while exclusionary forms can strain national integration.

Hunger and child malnutrition

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Nutrition, food access, sanitation, public distribution and social-sector institutions.

FOR MAINS

Explain persistent deprivation through poverty, implementation gaps, silos and unequal access rather than food supply alone.

From data to diagnosis

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

ABHA, health registries, personal health records and digital interoperability.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate digital health through continuity of care, inclusion, privacy, security and the capacity of providers.

Citizen's Charter and good governance

Prateek Bhatt · model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Service standards, grievance redressal, time limits and citizen-facing commitments.

FOR MAINS

Assess why a charter needs visibility, measurable promises, accessible language and credible accountability to improve delivery.

AFTER READING Build your own outline before returning to the model.

Model answers & teaching notes

Responsibility and accountability

Prateek Bhatt · GS IV model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Distinguish a duty to act from answerability for how it is performed.

FOR MAINS

Explain why good intentions require oversight, enforceable processes and the integrity of means.

Integrity and political neutrality

Prateek Bhatt · GS IV model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Foundational civil-service values and their institutional context.

FOR MAINS

Analyse pressures on professional conduct and propose protections that combine ethical culture, fair systems and public accountability.

Ethics and international relations

Prateek Bhatt · GS IV model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Sovereignty, national interest, universal principles and international responsibility.

FOR MAINS

Build a two-sided argument on whether power politics excludes ethics, then support a reasoned position with examples.

Israel-Palestine: implications for India

Prateek Bhatt · IR model answer

FOR PRELIMS

India's relationships, regional geography and the interests affected by conflict.

FOR MAINS

Organise a balanced assessment of diplomacy, strategic ties, energy, citizens and humanitarian commitments.

AFTER READING Build your own outline before returning to the model.

Model answers & teaching notes

Self, society and the urgency to act

Prateek Bhatt · quote-based model answer

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: self-preservation, compassion, collective good and timely assistance.

FOR MAINS

Unpack a three-part ethical quotation into distinct claims, examples and a connected conclusion.

Right to Equality: a lecture made intelligible

Right to Equality · 11-page lecture explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Articles 14–18; equality before law, equal protection and affirmative-action concepts.

FOR MAINS

Distinguish formal and substantive equality; use constitutional reasoning to evaluate classification, discrimination and social justice.

Friedrich Nietzsche: core philosophy

Philosophy explainer · 2 pages

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: nihilism, revaluation, self-overcoming, perspectivism and amor fati.

FOR MAINS

Use ideas carefully in ethics and essays; distinguish Nietzsche's diagnosis of lost meaning from simple slogans or prescriptions.

AFTER READING Build your own outline before returning to the model.

07 / THINKERS, ETHICS & JUDGMENT

A better lens changes the answer.

The conceptual vocabulary for essays, ethical reasoning and difficult administrative decisions. For these topics, the Prelims column identifies supporting concepts; their strongest use is in Mains.

Rawls: the veil of ignorance

Rawls visual explainers

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: original position, equal liberties and the difference principle.

FOR MAINS

Evaluate institutions by asking what rules people would choose without knowing their own social position.

Rawls: justice as fairness

Justice as Fairness · PDF and visual

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: basic structure, institutions and the social conditions shaping life chances.

FOR MAINS

Move an equality answer beyond individual effort to the fairness of rules distributing opportunity and advantage.

Gramsci: cultural hegemony

Thinkers & Ideas infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: civil society, consent, coercion and organic intellectuals.

FOR MAINS

Analyse how power gains everyday legitimacy through schools, media and shared common sense, while remaining contested.

Foucault: power and knowledge

Power/Knowledge infographic

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: classification, expertise, institutions and normalisation.

FOR MAINS

Ask who defines authoritative knowledge, who benefits and whose experience is excluded in schools, healthcare, data and governance.

APPLY THE IDEA Name a real administrative choice that this concept helps you judge.

Thinkers, ethics & judgment

Nirbhau, Nirvair

Ethics visual and PDF

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: freedom from fear and freedom from hostility.

FOR MAINS

Develop an ethics argument in which courage is joined to impartiality and restraint rather than hatred.

Charlie Munger: endurance

Daily-learning visual explainer

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: resilience, agency and the distinction between accepting pain and abandoning effort.

FOR MAINS

Use a restrained example for perseverance, emotional honesty and continuing purposeful action under adversity.

Case 1: The Algorithmic Collector

GS IV case-study collection

FOR PRELIMS

Supporting concepts: data gaps, targeting errors, bias and algorithmic opacity.

FOR MAINS

Balance welfare efficiency with non-discrimination, explanation, human review and remedy for households excluded by a model.

Case 2: The Deepfake Before the Riot

GS IV case-study collection

FOR PRELIMS

Supporting concepts: synthetic media, verification and legitimate restrictions.

FOR MAINS

Combine evidence-based policing, emotional intelligence, honest communication and proportional action under time pressure.

Case 3: The Honest Officer

GS IV case-study collection

FOR PRELIMS

Supporting concepts: tender design, conflicts of interest and whistle-blower protection.

FOR MAINS

Protect a vulnerable complainant while preserving due process, project continuity and integrity under political pressure.

APPLY THE IDEA Name a real administrative choice that this concept helps you judge.

Thinkers, ethics & judgment

Case 4: The Flooded City

GS IV case-study collection

FOR PRELIMS

Supporting concepts: vulnerability, triage and emergency coordination.

FOR MAINS

Prioritise lives and distributive justice when political visibility and conditional private assistance compete with public need.

Case 5: The Welfare Officer and the Widow

GS IV case-study collection

FOR PRELIMS

Supporting concepts: eligibility, documentary error and administrative discretion.

FOR MAINS

Show how compassion can be reasoned, recorded and rule-consistent rather than arbitrary.

Case 6: The Numbers That Look Too Good

GS IV case-study collection

FOR PRELIMS

Supporting concepts: indicators, migration, reclassification and data integrity.

FOR MAINS

Explain why distorted reporting is an ethical failure even without financial theft; protect honest measurement and corrective action.

APPLY THE IDEA Name a real administrative choice that this concept helps you judge.

08 / CLASSROOM BOARD-WORK

See how an argument is built.

Handwritten maps and flowcharts made an answer's structure visible. The supporting concepts below complement the model answers and deepen retrieval.

Digital health: access and exclusion

Flowchart notes · page 1

FOR PRELIMS

Digital divide, data privacy, interoperability and fragmented providers.

FOR MAINS

Turn a list of technology benefits into an assessment of inclusion, cybersecurity and implementation barriers.

Charters, neutrality, powers and rights bodies

Flowchart notes · pages 2–8

FOR PRELIMS

Service standards, public institutions, checks and balances and human-rights mandates.

FOR MAINS

Use a branching structure to connect a problem, its institutional cause and a feasible reform.

Misinformation, disinformation and malinformation

Flowchart notes · pages 9–10

FOR PRELIMS

Distinguish intent, truth and context; recognise synthetic-media risks.

FOR MAINS

Compare disclosure, labelling, monitoring and digital literacy as responses with different benefits and limits.

Ujjwala: benefits beyond a fuel connection

Flowchart notes · page 11

FOR PRELIMS

Clean cooking, time use, health, forest pressure and household energy choices.

FOR MAINS

Trace multiple channels from access to outcomes, while asking whether use remains affordable and sustained.

REBUILD THE BRANCHES Problem → causes → effects → institutions → response.

Classroom board-work

RTI as sunshine legislation

Flowchart notes · page 12

FOR PRELIMS

Statutory access, timelines, appeals and public authorities.

FOR MAINS

Explain how disclosure changes the relationship between citizen and administration and where implementation can weaken it.

Regionalism, remittances and poverty

Flowchart notes · pages 13–16

FOR PRELIMS

Types of regionalism, diaspora remittances and the meaning of a poverty measure.

FOR MAINS

Link cultural participation, household resilience and careful reading of economic indicators to broader social change.

Globalisation, Israel-Palestine and a two-state solution

Flowchart notes · pages 17–19

FOR PRELIMS

Protectionism, data sovereignty, agreed borders and sovereign statehood.

FOR MAINS

Map India's moral commitments, regional geopolitics and strategic interests; separate conceptual goals from implementation barriers.

Character, work and self-awareness

Flowchart notes · pages 20–22

FOR PRELIMS

Conceptual support: values, perseverance, ego, doubt and the purpose of work.

FOR MAINS

Develop reflective ethical answers on how character is tested, how work acquires meaning and how self-awareness supports public service.

REBUILD THE BRANCHES Problem → causes → effects → institutions → response.

09 / READING PATHWAYS & REVISION TOOLS

Read to a purpose.

Reading lists are routes into a topic. Questions are prompts to practise. Advance topics are preparation signals. Keeping those functions distinct makes the system more useful.

Opening-week reading pathway

Week 1 reading list · 7–9 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Culture, modern history, integration, world history, diversity and women's organisations.

FOR MAINS

Read to the syllabus keyword before selecting examples and organising a short foundational answer.

Week 2 reading pathway

Corrected Week 2 reading list · 12–16 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Coal, earthquakes, monsoon, culture, history, society, women and regional identity.

FOR MAINS

Connect a focused source to a specific demand; use comparison and a simple causal chain to improve organisation.

Week 3 reading pathway

Week 3 topic and reading list · 19–23 Oct

FOR PRELIMS

Floods, monsoon variability, minerals, landslides, Buddhism, Bhakti, 1857, war, care and location.

FOR MAINS

Practise causes, consequences and relationships through material aligned with the week's drafted questions.

READ SELECTIVELY Make a concept note, choose examples, then outline an answer.

Reading pathways & revision tools

Reading-first sampler

November-intake reading sampler

FOR PRELIMS

Topic, source and syllabus alignment across the first two weeks.

FOR MAINS

See how advance reading prepares understanding before an answer is attempted; a sampler is a pathway, not extra taught coverage.

Prelims MCQ preparation plan

Prelims 2027 MCQ practice plan

FOR PRELIMS

Topic cycles, GS and CSAT practice, revision and error analysis.

FOR MAINS

Use an attempt-review-read-return loop; the schedule supports preparation and is not a completed MCQ bank.

READ SELECTIVELY Make a concept note, choose examples, then outline an answer.

One topic. Several stronger answers.

The academic advantage is cumulative: a fact supports a concept, a concept supports an argument, and an argument becomes more useful when you can move it across contexts.

01 WATER

Punjab groundwater → monsoon → Cauvery → urban floods

Prelims: aquifers, winds, basins. Mains: cropping incentives, distress-sharing and planning. Ethics: fair rescue priorities and vulnerability.

02 EQUALITY

Electoral forms → Article 22 → social revolution → Rawls

Prelims: exact institutional and legal distinctions. Mains: due process, inclusion and substantive equality. Ethics: rules that people can reasonably regard as fair.

03 TECHNOLOGY

Deep-tech → critical minerals → AI agents → algorithmic welfare

Prelims: components, permissions and technological processes. Mains: capability, accountability and inclusion. Ethics: a useful system must still be open to challenge and correction.

04 CULTURE

Buddhist architecture → Ravi Varma → Pattanam → Anne Carson

Prelims: forms, sites, artists and evidence. Mains: belief, patronage, trade and cultural exchange. Essay: inheritance can be renewed through reinterpretation.

How much of this could you retrieve today?

Tick a line only when you can do it without looking back. A gap is a precise place to begin your next revision.

- ☐ **Distinguish the close-looking terms.**
Form 6 / 7 / 8; ESA / ESZ; State / UT; statutory protection / constitutional immunity.
- ☐ **Explain the physical process.**
Monsoon reversal; earthquake boundaries; groundwater depletion; landslide-dam floods.
- ☐ **Read the scientific evidence carefully.**
Polarimetry versus spectroscopy; particle versus signal; laboratory result versus deployable technology.
- ☐ **Build a constitutional argument.**
Use the relevant right, institution, competing interest and safeguard rather than a string of Article numbers.
- ☐ **Write beyond one cause.**
Urban floods, malnutrition, industrial location and monsoon variability need interacting explanations.
- ☐ **Connect current affairs with the static syllabus.**
Bring an electoral, energy, climate or technology development into a coherent issue-based paragraph.
- ☐ **Use a thinker accurately.**
Apply Rawls, Gramsci, Foucault or Nietzsche to illuminate a problem with appropriate limits.
- ☐ **Make an ethical decision.**
Identify stakeholders, compare options and justify a practicable action in one of the six case studies.

The next reading horizon.

26–30 October 2026 · GS I

A proposed topic-and-reading plan already prepared. These are advance topics; daily questions follow separately. They are not counted as completed lessons or drafted questions in this portfolio.

CULTURE

Sangam literature and early Tamil society; Indian painting and dance traditions.

HISTORY

Colonial economic change and social reform; the freedom struggle beyond the main national leadership.

SOCIETY

Population structure, poverty and development; globalisation and changes in Indian families; communalism, regionalism and secularism.

WORLD HISTORY

Capitalism, socialism and communism.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Ocean circulation and global climate; changing water bodies and ice caps.

The reading architecture continues the same habit: know the syllabus demand, read selectively, notice relationships, then write.

THE WORK COMPOUNDS.

The next headline could meet a mind already prepared.

Facts become useful when you understand them.
Understanding becomes visible when you write.

PRATEEK BHATT

Founder & Mentor, AKriti IAS
Former Team Lead, MGP, ForumIAS
UPSC Mentor · Interview Panelist · Educator

Think → Write → Get evaluated → Understand → Improve → Repeat

Continue with the Mains Answer Writing & Mentorship Programme.
November intake: orientation on 7 November 2026;
regular writing begins 9 November.

WhatsApp +91 98995 35504

Telegram @AKritiIAS

directorakritiias@akritiias.org

akritiias.org