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Essential

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

for

IAS MAINS 2024

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GS PAPER-I

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

GEOGRAPHY

□ Physical Geography

- Subaerial volcanic Eruption: Phenomena and Impact
- Supervolcanos: Concept and Impact
- Volcanoes of Island Arcs: Recent eruptions of Indonesia
- Fissure Volcanic Eruption: Impact and Consequences
- Geomagnetic Storm and Auroras: Origin and Impact
- Indian ocean warming and Climate Change
- Pacific Weather Changing: More Multi-Year El Nino and La Nina
- Volcanic Vortex Rings: Formation and Impact
- Oceanic Nino Index: Indication and Application
- Pacific 'Ring of Fire' and Earthquakes: Geophysical Hazard Zone
- Sea swells and their impact on Human Settlements
- Rip currents: Significance for beaches
- Alpenglow: A Rare Phenomena
- Earthquakes and Ionosphere: Interrelated Geophysical Phenomena
- Impact of climate change on ocean currents
- Cryosphere and Climate change

- Lightning in India: Phenomena, Impact and Challenges
- Marine Heatwave and its Impacts
- The Slowdown in Overturning Circulation: Reasons and Impact
- Africa's Rift Valley and the Creation of a New Ocean Basin

□ Indian Geography

- Cyclones of Bay of Bengal and Climate Change
- El Nino and Indian Monsoon
- Dam construction on Indus Rivers: Prospects and challenges
- Receding glaciers in Himalayas: Issues and Challenges
- Indian Ocean Dipole: Impact on Indian weather
- Increasing landslides in Himalayan region
- Tectonic Deformation in Northern Plains
- Land Subsidence in Chenab Valley
- Heat Waves, Anticyclones and Global Warming in India
- Expanding Glacial Lakes in the Himalayas
- Integrated River Basin Management: Prospects and Challenges
- Changing Western Disturbances: Reasons and Consequences

□ Economic Geography

- Tunnel development and Regional connectivity
- Food security in Sub-Saharan region of Africa
- Mineral resources of Antarctica – A Mineral hub of Gondwanaland
- Minerals of Mid-oceanic ridges
- Exclusive economic zones and Minerals Deposits
- Hydrocarbon extraction: Prospects and Challenges
- Indian Ports and Economic development
- Geopolitics of South China Sea: Challenges for India
- Multipurpose project and Regional development
- Wind Energy in India: Potential and Challenges
- Petroleum oil production: Issues and Challenges
- Critical Minerals: Distribution, Prospects and challenges
- Eastern Maritime Corridor(EMC): Prospects and challenges
- Declining Groundwater in India:

Issues and challenges

- Increased Coal demand and Net Carbon Neutrality
- Rare Earth Metals: Prospects and Challenges

□ Human Geography

- Indian Demography: Largest, Youngest and Underdeveloped
- Urban Flooding: Issues and Challenges
- Menace of Illegal Migration in India and World
- Surge in Human Settlements in Flood-Prone Areas
- Issues with Tribal habitat in India
- Migration in India: Changing pattern and dynamics
- Low Human Development in India: Reasons and Consequences
- Climate change and North-South Divide in India
- Social Capital in India: Issues and Challenges
- Quality of Life and Standard of Living in India: A Paradoxical case
- Population compositing of India: Changing Dynamics

HISTORY

□ Indian Art Heritage

- **Coinage of India:** Remarkable discoveries have been made of coins belonging to Ikshavu period (Phanigiri village, Telangana) and Kushana Empire.
- **The Legacy of Devadasi Tradition:** The Suchindram temple, situated in Tamil Nadu, stands as a testament to the rich cultural heritage intertwined with the practice of Devadasi tradition.
- **Aadi Mahotsav & Empowerment of Tribal Communities:** Organized by TRIFED, the event highlights the rich legacy of tribal traditions while also shedding light on the challenges faced by these communities.
- **Preserving India's Cultural Heritage-Rapid urbanization and losing cultural connection:** Preserving rich cultural heritage sites amidst rapid urbanization poses significant challenges.
- **The City of Dwarka and Indian Ancient Maritime Heritage:** Recent underwater prayers by PM have reignited interest in the ancient city, prompting a closer examination of its mythical roots, archaeological evidence and historical narratives.
- **Rich Tradition of Indian Miniature Painting:** The recent demise of B.N. Goswamy has brought into focus his significant contributions

to the study of Indian miniature painting tradition. His famous work is on the intricate family lineages of artists and the evolution of miniature painting styles in India.

- **Nataraja statue:** Ashtadhatu Natrāja Statute at Bharat Mandapam and importance of Natrāja (Chola Bronze sculpture) in Indian Culture.
- **Bronze art tradition from Indus valley to medieval times:** Rich heritage and cultural legacy of Indian Sculpture traditions
- **Socio-Cultural Patterns and Practices of Pre-Historic age-Paintings and Potteries:** Recent discoveries of pre-historic sites and engraved rock paintings
- **Seals of Indus Valley:** New excavations, discoveries and studies puts back light on the Socio-Economic life of Indus Valley Civilisation.

□ ARCHITECTURE

- **Indian Temple Architecture- Pran Prathista of Ram lalla:** Enduring Legacy of cultural heritage and architectural magnificence- Forms and elements in temple architecture
- **Regional Styles of architecture-Contribution of Rajputs, Kashmir, Bengal, Kalinga styles etc.:** Recently inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage the hoysala

temples. Along with Hoysala, many medieval styles gained prominence.

- **Indo-Islamic architecture:** The marvel of Medieval India 12th AD-17th AD, Fusion of Islam and Hindu culture
- **Revamped 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' Programme:** ASI launched a new version to ensure quality and inclusive provision of public service roping in Private and public organisation by encouraging utilisation of CSR funds.
- **National Mission for Cultural Mapping:** Ministry of culture to develop a comprehensive database of art forms, artists and other cultural resources.
- **JATAN:** Virtual Museum Builder: Preservation of our cultural heritage.
- **Indian Antiquities:** Discoveries and returning of many antiquities in recent times.
- **India's Ancient Maritime Heritage:** A significant initiative has been launched by the Central government, in collaboration with the Navy, the Culture Ministry, and Goa-based shipbuilding company Hodi Innovations, to revive an ancient maritime heritage of India – the stitched shipbuilding method

thought.

- **Upanishads:** Highest Point of Indian philosophical thoughts
- **Rise of heterodox Sects:** Buddhism, Jainism and Ajivikas: A counter to prevalent Brahmanical ritualistic religiosity.
- **New elements in religion-Cults and Tantrism:** Changes in the Religious elements and ways, more connected with fluid contemporary social arrangement.
- **Bhakti Movement and Saints:** Karnataka government has agreed to declare 12th century social reformer Basavanna (part of the Bhakti Movement in Hinduism) as Karnataka's "cultural leader."
- **Brahmo Samaj:** The Sadharan Brahmo Samaj paid tribute to Raja Rammohun Roy, the pioneer of Bengal Renaissance and the first modern man of India to mark his 250th birth anniversary.
- **Ramakrishna Mission:** Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, founded by Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda, are global spiritual organizations dedicated to humanitarian service, devoid of sectarianism.
- Socio-Religious Reform Movements in 19th Century

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

- **Adi Shankaracharya & his Philosophy:** The recent inauguration of a 108-foot-tall statue of Adi Shankaracharya, the revered 8th-century philosopher and spiritual leader who left an indelible mark on Indian philosophy and religious

HISTORY through Eyes of TRAVELLERS

- **Ayodhya's:** Historical narratives- The Supreme Court's 2019 Ayodhya title suit judgment references early European travellers' accounts to shed light

on Ayodhya's historical narratives

- **Chinese Pilgrim Travellers to India:** The transmission of Buddhist doctrines from India to China in the first century CE facilitated significant cross-cultural exchanges, impacting Asian and world history.
- **Arab Travelers and Cultural Encounters:** India, with its rich culture, history, and diversity, has long captured the imagination of travellers from distant lands. Among them, the Arab explorers stand out for their pioneering journeys that left an indelible mark on India's historical narrative and global perception.

□ Important Cultural Issues/ themes in News

- **Kuli Language:** Gets approval for inclusion in 8th Schedule.
- **Maritime Legacy of the Chola Dynasty:** India was the first nation that had blue water naval capabilities. The roots of the Indian Blue Water Forces date back centuries ago during the era of Chola Dynasty in Southern India.
- **Climate and Indian Empires:** The annals of history bear testimony to the disastrous impact of climate disasters on the fate of ancient civilizations.
- **Maratha Military Landscapes of India:** The "Maratha Military Landscapes of India" (dating back to the 17th to 19th centuries) is going to be India's nomination for recognition as UNESCO World Heritage List for the year 2024-25.

- **UNESCO'S 2023 Prix Versailles:** Honor for exceptional architecture and design on a global scale.
- **Abhilekh Patal:** A portal for access to archives and learning.
- **Homo Naledi:** Previously unknown species of extinct hominin. Now uncovered some remains in cave (Rising star Cave, south Africa) suggest that they lived thousand years ago
- **Woman Odhuvar:** TN govt appoints Odhuvars including some women. Odhuvars are devotional singers dedicated to shiva temples.

□ PAINTING AND OTHER FORMS OF ART

- Panamalai paintings(Tamil Nadu)
- Cheriyal Scroll Painting
- Mewar school of Painting
- Gilgit Manuscripts
- Ol Chiki Script
- Phanigiri artefacts
- Vajra Mushti Kalaga
- Bagh print
- Garba
- Cham Lama Dance
- Kolkali Dance
- Pulikali Dance(Tiger Dance)

□ Historical Sites/Places in News

- Keeladi Excavation
- Juna Khatiya site
- Chebrolu
- Menhirs
- Thoppikkallu or Hat stones

- Sundargarh Natural Arch
- Sisupalgarh
- Chandraketugarh
- Old Fort

□ **IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES IN NEWS**

- Rabindranath Tagore
- Mihir Bhoja
- Rani Durgavati
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
- Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati
- Sri Aurobindo Ghosh
- Bhagwan Birsa Munda
- Sri Alluri Sitarama Raju
- Kazi Nazrul Islam
- Raja Ravi Varma
- Srimanta Sankaradeva
- Ahilyabai Holkar (1725-1795)
- Sree Narayan Guru 1856-1928)
- Sachchidananda sinha (1871-1950)
- Swami sahanand saraswati
- Malati Mem (aka Mangri Orang)
- Rukmini Lakshmipathi (1892-1951)
- Ashfaqulla Khan (1900-1927)
- Shri Ramalinga Swamigal

INDIAN SOCIETY

□ Marriage

- **Validity of Hindu Marriages:** Supreme Court: Hindu marriage invalid without prescribed rituals.
- **Live-in Relationship in Indian Society:** Live-in relationships challenge India's traditional marriage norms.
- **Raising Legal Age for Marriage:** India Government plans to raise women's marriage age to 21.
- **Laws on the legal age Marriage Age in India:** India's marriage age affects rights and equality.
- **Pros and Cons of Increasing Marriageable Age for Women in India:**
- **Menace of Girl-Child Marriage in India**
- **Schemes/ Policies for Preventing Girl Child Marriage:** India combats child marriage with legal, educational, financial measures.

□ Women and Related Issues

- **Hysterectomies in India:** Study examines hysterectomy prevalence and reasons in older Indian women.
- **Equal Participation of Women in Workforce:** Denying child care leave violates women's workforce equality.
- **Impact of Non-Participation of Married Women in the Workforce in India**
- **Gender Disparities in Poverty:** UN gender snapshot: Elderly women face heightened global poverty.
- **Gender Parity and Women's Empowerment Gap:** UN report urges policy action for gender equality worldwide.
- **Women in Corporate Roles in India after Pandemic**
- **Various Initiatives and Policies to Promote Gender Equality in India**
- **Role of the 'Gig Economy' in the Process of Empowerment of Women in India:**
- **The Role of Male Membership in Enhancing Gender Inclusivity in Women's Organizations"**
- **The continued challenges for women in India against time and space**
- **Women's Rights and Laws in India:** India's legal evolution addresses women's rights but faces ongoing challenges.
- **Abortion Rights in India: Legal Complexities and Ethical Dilemmas**
- **The History of Abortion Rights In India and the US:** Global abortion debates follow US Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade overturn.
- **State of Abortion Laws in India:**

- **Gender Digital Divide in India: Challenges and Reform**
- **Menstrual Hygiene in Indian Prisons:** India celebrates progress in menstrual hygiene; prisons still neglected.
- **Surrogacy Regulation in India**
- Integral role of women in waste management:
- Women MPs in Lok Sabha
- Marital Rape: An Indignity to Women
- Sexual violence against women in the country
- **Dowry System in India:** Cultural and legal challenges persist
- **Women in STEM:** Pursuing gender equality in science fields.
- **Sexual Harassment at Workplace:** Legal protections and cultural reforms needed
- **Menstrual Hygiene in India:** Addressing gaps in access and awareness crucially needed
- **Female Entrepreneurs in India:** Empowerment through business and innovation.
- **NFHS 5: A Women-Centric Analysis**
- **Keeping Girls In School:** Enhancing educational opportunities and retention.
- **Ramani Judgment:** Legal landmark in #MeToo movement.
- **Water, Sanitation & Women's Rights:** Addressing equity and access challenges.
- **Women Led Development Model:** Empowering communities through female leadership.

□ CHILDREN

- **Child Labour:** Addressing exploitation through legal and social reforms.
- **Child Adoption:** Facilitating legal processes for stable family placements.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:** Providing rehabilitation and protection for juvenile offenders.
- **Child Trafficking in India:** Combating exploitation with stringent legal enforcement.
- **Age of Consent:** Determining legal boundaries in relationships and protection.

□ OTHER VULNERABLE SECTIONS

- **Tribal Welfare - Denotified tribes (DNTs):** Advocating for rights and socio-economic empowerment.
- **Supreme Court Judgment on LGBTQIA+ Rights: Transgender Rights**
- **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs):** Promoting accessibility and inclusive policies nationwide.
- **Manual Scavenging:** Eradicating hazardous practices through legislative and social measures.
- **Marginalisation of Sexual Minorities:** Advocating for rights and social acceptance in society.

□ EDUCATION

- **Public Schools in India:** Improving infrastructure and educational outcomes nationwide.

- **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** Enhancing foundational literacy and numeracy skills among children.
- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) Act, 2023:** Promoting research and innovation in educational institutions.
- **National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE)**
- **Performance Grading Index (PGI) for School Education System**
- **Higher Education in India:**
 - ▶ Deemed to be Universities (DTBU)
 - ▶ **Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India:** Facilitating international collaborations and educational opportunities.
 - ▶ **National Credit Framework (NCRF):** Standardizing credit systems for higher education qualifications.
 - ▶ **Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions:** Ensuring quality assurance and standards in higher education.

□ HEALTH:

- **National Family Health Survey 5 Report:** Providing comprehensive health data for informed policymaking.
- **Universal Health Coverage:** Ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare for all citizens.
- **Anganwadi System:** Delivering essential health and nutrition services at grassroots levels.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** Promoting hygiene practices and safe water access for public health.
- **Renewed Healthcare System:** Reforming infrastructure and services for improved health outcomes.
- **One Health Concept:** Integrating human, animal, and environmental health for holistic approaches.

□ NUTRITION AND SANITATION:

- **Global Hunger Index (GHI):** Assessing hunger levels and food security globally.
- **Open Defecation Free (ODF) Status:** Achieving sanitation and hygiene improvements nationwide.
- **Nutritional Security Through Food Fortification:** Enhancing nutritional content in food for improved public health.

□ Population & Associated Issues

- **Deaths by Suicide in India:** Addressing mental health challenges and interventions.
- **Great Replacement Theory:** Examining demographic shifts and societal implications.
- **Population Crisis in Asian Nations:** Managing population growth and socio-economic impacts.
- **Manual Scavenging, India's "dirtiest job":** Eradicating hazardous sanitation practices and ensuring dignity.
- **Impact of Globalization on Indian Society:** Analyzing cultural, economic, and social transformations.

- **Communalism and Its Impact on Indian Society:** Addressing religious and social tensions for harmony.
- **Westernisation of Societal Norms:** Evaluating cultural shifts and identity preservation.
- **Child Marriage:** Advocating for legal reforms and protecting children's rights.
- **Caste-based Violence:** Combating discrimination and promoting social cohesion.
- **Social Inequalities in Disasters:** Mitigating vulnerabilities and ensuring equitable disaster response.
- **Need For Caste Census:** Informing policies for addressing caste-based disparities.
- **Controlling Population: A Double Edged Sword:** Balancing demographic concerns with sustainable development.
- **Human Migration: Reasons & Impact:** Understanding migration patterns and socio-economic effects.
- **Silver Economy:** Harnessing elderly population for economic growth and welfare.

□ Initiatives for Elderly in India:

-
- **SACRED Portal:** Digital resources for senior citizen empowerment
- **SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine):** Platform for elder care services
- **Elder Line:** Helpline for elderly assistance and support

- **Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP):** Welfare schemes and services
- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):** Free aids and assistive devices for elderly
- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** Financial support for senior citizens
- **The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana:** Pension scheme for senior citizens.
- **Vayoshreshtha Samman:** National awards recognizing senior citizens' contributions.
- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act, 2007:** Legal protections and welfare measures.

□ SECULARISM

- **Education and Secularism:** Promoting unbiased education free from religious influence.
- **Extremism:** Addressing radical ideologies and promoting tolerance.
- **Consent among Teenagers:** Educating on autonomy and rights within ethical frameworks.
- **Disparities in Education Outcomes in India:** Mitigating educational inequalities across diverse demographics.
- **Role of Religion & Patriarchy:** Analyzing impacts on societal norms and gender equality.

□ MISCELLANEOUS

- **Old Age Care:** Enhancing support and services for elderly populations.
- **Rag-Pickers in India:** Improving livelihoods and waste management practices.
- **The Link between Caste and Manual Scavenging:** Addressing systemic discrimination and sanitation reforms.
- **Occupational Safety and Health:** Ensuring workplace protections and standards for workers.
- **State of Prisons in India :** Reforming conditions and rehabilitation programs.
- **Killing Inequality:** Addressing socio-economic disparities through policy and action.
- **Migrant Workers and Urban Housing:** Providing affordable housing solutions for migrant populations.
- **Socio-Economic Inequality in India:** Mitigating disparities through inclusive policies and initiatives.
- **Climate Change and Food Insecurity:** Addressing environmental impacts on food supply and access.
- **MGNREGA Delay in Payments:** Ensuring timely payments for rural employment guarantee scheme.
- **Policy Action Against Drug Abuse:** Implementing strategies for prevention and rehabilitation.
- **Social Media and Youth:** Understanding impacts and promoting responsible use.
- **Reimagining Global Food Systems:** Innovating sustainable practices for food production and distribution.
- **Disease Surveillance System:** Strengthening healthcare monitoring and response capabilities.
- **'Good' Urbanisation:** Promoting sustainable urban development and infrastructure.
- **e-Shram Portal: Scope of Improvement:** Enhancing effectiveness and accessibility for workers.
- **Localising SDGs:** Implementing global goals at local levels for sustainable development.
- **Need For Urban Social Safety:** Ensuring safety and security measures in urban areas.
- **India and Food Insecurity:** Addressing challenges in food access and nutrition.
- **Digital Challenge For Civil Society:** Navigating digital transformation for societal impact.
- **Registration of Migrant Workers:** Formalizing labor mobility for rights and benefits.
- **One Nation One Ration Card Scheme:** Facilitating food security and mobility for citizens.
- **Child Labour in India:** Eradicating exploitative practices through legal and social measures.
- **Inequalities in Digital World:** Bridging digital divides for equitable access and opportunities.
- **Food Wastage Issue:** Addressing inefficiencies in food distribution and consumption.
- **Universal Social Welfare:** Ensuring comprehensive welfare programs for all citizens.
- **Human Development Index:** Measuring progress in health, education, and standard of living.

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GS PAPER-II

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

POLITY

□ Indian Federation

- Special Category Status: Demands for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh
- Inter-State Water Dispute: A never-ending battle?
- Finance Commission
- Status of Indian Federalism

□ Election and Election

- First Past the Poll System v/s Proportionate Representation: Lok Sabha Elections 2024
- NOTA in Indian Elections
- Coalition Politics
- Election Commission of India: Powers & Responsibilities
- Issues : Electoral Bonds - Scam or Reform?

□ Fundamental Right

- Right to Personality: Extension of Right to privacy
- Promotion: Not a Fundamental Right
- Right to Vote for Undertrials: Extending democracy
- Essence of Article 31C
- Reservation on the basis of Religion: Affirmative action and basis

- Reservation on the basis of Domicile
- Freedom of Press in India
- Comparing Indian Secularism to French
- Bail as Right of an Individual

□ Local Bodies

- PRI Elections: Challenges and Reforms
- OBC Reservation in Local Bodies

□ Judiciary

- Curative Petition: Last resort to Justice (Judiciary)
- Enforcement Directorate and PMLA: Supreme Court's check on Powers of ED
- Tribunals in India: Functioning and Challenges
- Scope of Alternative Dispute Resolution in India
- Article 370 and Verdict of Supreme Court
- All India Judicial Services - Yes or No?
- Supreme Court and Case burden
- Issue: Delay in Judicial Appointments (Judiciary)
- Words Socialist and Secular in Constitution

□ Legislation and Legislature

- Citizenship Amendment Act: Secularism at stake? (Legislation)
- Parliamentary Privileges: Immunity for legislators and Judicial Intervention
- Is India ready for Uniform Civil Code (UCC) (Legislation)
- Rebooting Criminal Law Reforms
- Anti-Defection Law: Challenges and Reforms
- Reform of Special and Local Laws (Legislature)
- Rising cases of Contempt of Court (Legislature)

- Women's Reservation Act - Role of Women in law-making process

□ Special Provisions

- Ladakh and demand for 6th Schedule
- Sub-Categorisation of Schedule Caste
- Reservation in Jammu & Kashmir
- OBC Reservation in Local Bodies

□ Miscellaneous

- IGNCA's Language Atlas
- Governor's Judicial Powers

GOVERNANCE

□ Issues

- Elections & Technology: General Elections in India and Interference, including Deep Fakes, Fake news Social Media Etc.
- Women in Judiciary
- Technology and E governance in Judiciary
- Microfinance Sector
- Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) in India
- Municipal Bonds
- Social Stock Exchange
- Foundational Literacy And Numeracy (FLN): Increasing stress on FLN in NEP 2020 and other Government Programmes
- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG's): Increased focus on Welfare of PVTGs
- Manual Scavenging
- Gender Budgeting
- Women in Workforce
- Mental Healthcare
- Regulation of Fake News
- Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)
- e-Commerce Promotion and Regulation
- E-pharmacy Sector
- Vehicle Scrappage
- Right to Repair
- Forest Rights in India
- Right To Health
- Nutrition Crisis in Adolescent Girls and Women
- Land Records Modernization in India
- Regulation of Online Gaming
- Mid-Day Meal
- Internet Shutdowns
- Sexual harassment at Workplace
- Child Malnutrition
- Issue of Child Marriage
- Internal Displacement
- Food Fortification
- OTT Regulation in India
- Regulation of Start-Up Ecosystem
- Gig Workers and Gig Economy
- Global Regulatory Framework For Crypto-Asset Activities
- Right-Based Approach for Development
- Urbanisation and Agri-food System
- Mother Tongue in Foundational Education
- Medical and Wellness Tourism
- Tribal Health
- Drug Abuse in India
- PVTG Welfare
- Regulation of Crypto Assets
- Digital Inclusion in Emerging Technologies
- Digitisation of Agriculture

- Universal Health Coverage
- Women's Basic Income
- Capacity Building of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
- Role of Technology in Public Services Delivery
- Consumer Protection in India
- LGBTQIA+ , Queer rights and welfare
- Malnutrition in Children
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)
- Tribal Welfare
- Accessibility in Urban Infrastructure
- Surrogacy in India
- AI in Healthcare
- Start-ups in Rural India
- Living Wage and Minimum Wage
- Urban Poverty in India
- Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
- Temple Regulation in India
- 'NITI for States' Platform
- Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)
- Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)
- Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)
- Illegal Migration: Global issue, due to Wars and Conflicts
- Gender-Based Violence
- Adoption Regulation
- Solar Rooftop Power
- Climate Resilient Farming
- Senior Care Reforms in India
- Ease of Doing Business Reforms

- Fertilizers Sector in India
- Anganwadi Protocol for Divyang Children
- Decentralised Autonomous Organisations (DAO)
- Self Help Group Bank Linkages (SHG-BL) Project
- Global Finance Architecture for Sustainable Growth
- Emerging Technology and Caste Identities in India
- Drone Sector in India

□ Policies, Programmes and Schemes

- Aspirational Block Programme (ABP)
- Vehicle Scrapping Policy
- PM SVANidhi
- Jal Jeevan Mission
- Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)
- Electric Vehicles (EVs) Policy
- Stand-up India
- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)
- FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicle) Scheme
- PLI scheme
- One Station One Product (OSOP) Scheme
- One-stop Centres for Zero Waste
- Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi (PBPB) Scheme
- Nyaya Vikas Portal

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN) Scheme
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA)
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- Centralised Information Management System
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhaan (PMSYM)
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- BharatNet
- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
- Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)
- SVAMITVA Scheme
- National Logistics Policy (NLP)
- PM Vishwakarma scheme
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) Platform
- Digital Advertisement Policy 2023
- National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP)
- Draft National Menstrual Hygiene Policy, 2023
- National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)- Mission Karmayogi
- Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme
- Gram Manchitra
- Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 2024 (UNNATI 2024)
- Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme- 2024
- The Holistic Progress Card (HPC)
- SWAYAM Plus platform
- Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna
- 'SMART 2.0' for Ayurveda Teaching Professionals
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)
- Revamped Scheme for Administrative Reforms
- MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme
- National Transit Pass System (NTPS)
- Solar Power Scheme for PVTGs Habitations
- PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI) Scheme
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)
- National AYUSH Mission
- GHAR PORTAL
- Support to Students for Participating in Competitions Abroad (SSPCA)
- YUva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA)
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)
- Menstrual Leave Policy

- NITI Aayog Launches GROW Report and Portal
- Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)
- Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi SahYojana
- Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM)
- Raising And Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP)
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Urban)
- National Geoscience Data Repository Portal (NGDRP)
- Report on 'National Policy on Child Labour'

□ Index, Reports and Rankings

- Rule of Law Index
- All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020- 2021
- Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022
- Logistic Performance Index 2023
- Global Food Policy Report 2023
- Health for All Report
- Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI)
- Panchayat Development Index (PDI)
- National Indicator Framework (NIF) for SDGs
- Gender Gap Report-2023
- 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) Report
- National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- The Paths to Equal Report
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Progress Report 2023
- State of Education in Rural India Report
- Digital in Health – Unlocking Value for Everyone" report
- Global Hunger Index (GHI)
- UNESCO's "Technology on Her Terms" Report
- State of World Population - 2024 Report
- IOM released "A Decade of Documenting Migrant Deaths" Report
- Food Waste Index Report 2024
- Longevity India Initiative (LII)
- The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)
- Human Development Report (HDR) 2023-2024
- Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23
- Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2022
- World Poverty Clock (WPC)
- National Multidimensional Poverty Index
- Future of Growth Report 2024
- All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022
- LEADS Report 2023
- Annual NeSDA Report
- Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), 2023

□ Laws

- Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002

- Draft National Medical Commission (Amendment) Bill- 2022
- Competition (Amendment) Bill 2022
- Digital Services Act
- Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023
- Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023
- Pharmacy (Amendment) Act, 2023
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) Act, 2023
- Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act
- Nari Shakti Vandan [Constitution (106th Amendment)] Act, 2023
- Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023
- Telecommunications Act 2023
- Post Office Act, 2023
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016
- Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014
- Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024
- Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024
- Epidemic Diseases Act (EDA), 1897
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (POSH) Act,

□ Institutions

- Office of Lokpal
- Central Administrative Tribunal
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- Social Audit Advisory Body (SAAB)
- Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)
- NALSA (National Legal Services Authority)
- National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- World Migration Report 2024
- United Nations Global Supply Chain Forum: Geopolitical tensions in Global Trade
- Minilateralism in the Indo-Pacific: Opportunities and Challenges
- Amendment of International Health Regulations
- United Nations Peace Keeping Force and India
- Charter gives BIMSTEC a legal personlity
- International Criminal Court and Israel-Hamas Dispute
- Global Anti-Terrorism efforts and India (CTTF)
- India-Iran Agreement on Chabahar Port
- Geopolitical Dynamics of Volatile South China Sea
- Arunachal Pradesh at the centre of India-China Border Dispute
- Vision for Global South and Voice of Global South
- 75TH Anniversary of NATO
- China-Taiwan Dispute and India
- Bhutan-China Relations and India
- UNSC and G4: Challenges and Scope
- Revisiting India's Neighbourhood First Policy
- India-EFTA Deal
- Raisina Dialogue 2024
- INDUS X Summit
- India-Afghanistan (6th Regional Dialogue of Secretaries of Security Councils/National Security Advisers (NSA) on Afghanistan)
- History of Northern Ireland Conflict
- Transformation of the India-UAE relations
- Red Sea Crisis- Impact on India
- Crisis in WTO and reforms needed
- India-France relations growing 'Strength to Strength'
- Functioning of the BRICS
- 19th NAM Summit
- India- Uganda Relations: Expulsions of Indians from Uganda
- India-Nepal Power Pact – A Milestone between two neighbours
- Hyper-nationalism hurting India– Maldives relations
- India-Italy Migration and Mobility Agreement
- China's BRI (Italy's withdrawal)
- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: De-ratification by Russia
- India-Lithuania Relations
- India and 2+2 diplomacy
- Boost in cooperation between India & Netherlands
- Artificial Intelligence Safety Summit
- Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness
- India-Tanzania Relations – A strong region in Western Indian Ocean

- India-Argentina Social Security Agreement
- G-20 and India
- India-Canada Relations: National Security Issues
- India-Middle East-Europe Corridor – Connecting to Europe through West Asia
- India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership
- India-Greece Relations – Rekindling the Past
- India in Africa for Renewable Energy
- India in Arctic Region – A New Frontier
- India-US Strategic Partnership (Jet Engine Deal)
- Atlantic Declaration – Diplomacy in Science
- Outer Space Treaty – Arms Race in Space
- Revisiting India's Act East Policy

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CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

ECONOMY

□ Growth & Development

- Inequality & Growth (Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023)
- India's Manufacturing Landscape ("Indian Government Prioritizes Manufacturing Sophistication and Global Integration for Economic Growth.")
- Low Wages and impact on Indian Economy (Stagnating wages in rural India, a distress signal of unequal economic growth)
- Minimum Wage vs Living Wage (India to establish a Living Wage Standard by 2025)
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI could help India become an \$8-trillion economy by 2030,)
- Universal Basic Economy and India's Poverty (Suitability of UBI as an universal solution to inequality and poverty)
- Link between GDP Growth & Employment (State of Working India 2023 (SWI) Report)
- Climate Risks on Indian Economy (RBI's draft guidelines on Disclosure Framework on Climate-related Financial Risks, 2024)
- India's Ageing Workforce (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's Economic Outlook)
- Greedflation ('Greedflation' Statistics & Trends 2024)

- Critical Mineral and Economic Significance (Identification of 30 Critical Mineral)
- India's demographic advantage (Aging Well in Asia: Asian Development Policy Report 2024)
- India's Energy Security (India's 63rd on WEF's energy transition index)

□ Sectors of Economy

- Coastal Economy of India (Blue Economy 2.0 IN Interim Budget)
- India's Online Gaming Sector (India's contribution of 20% of the world's total mobile game downloads)
- Modernization of Indian Railways (Connectivity, increasing disasters, and technological advancement (Kavach)
- Indian Economy's Import Dependence Problem (Efforts to cut Chinese imports)
- Pink Economy (Economic potential of the LGBTQ+ community)
- Gig Economy & Increasing Informalisation (Rise of gig workers and challenges)
- India's Unorganised Sector (Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2021-22 and 2022-23)
- India's Evolving Space Economy (Indian Space Association (ISpA), Space Travel)

- Fintech Sector (Modern tech stack solutions for India's fintech future)
- Rare Earth Mineral Economy (India's need to overcome China's Rare Earths Monopoly)
- Angle Tax and Startups (DPIIT Startup Recognition & Tax Exemption)
- Cyber Security and India's financial sector (Cyber threats and implications for financial institutions)
- Green Economy of India (Net zero goal, focus on green economy, climate interventions)
- Health Tourism in India (Medical Tourism Index 2023-24)

□ Money & Banking

- RBI's Surplus Transfer 2023-24 (RBI transfers Rs 2.11 lakh crore as surplus)
- RBI's Gold Reserve (RBI's repatriation of gold from UK)
- Cryptocurrency Regulation in India
- Surplus Liquidity in banking system (Bank seek to park Rs 1.03 lakh crore with RBI)
- Disinvestment (Coalition put a question mark on government's disinvestment Plans)
- The problem of Bad Loans (Solutions for NPAs)
- RBI's Liquidity Management System (Technical glitch at RBI and impact on liquidity management system)

□ Agriculture

- India's Agricultural Subsidies (WTO's Agreement on Agriculture)

- Climate Change and impact on agricultural output (Declining production of wheat, increasing wheat imports)
- Punjab and Haryana's Role in National Food Security (India's breadbaskets)
- Innovation in Traditional Practices of Agriculture (Challenges (climate change, declining water, soil erosion) and need of innovation)
- Agriculture's Labour Dependency (Job shifting from Agriculture)
- Green Revolution (Impact on foodgrain production)
- MSP and required revision (MSP law complexities and required changes)
- India's sugar production and impact on groundwater
- Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (Target of PACS in every village by 2027)
- E-technology in Agriculture (drones)

□ Investment

- Decline in Foreign Investment
- India's Stock Market & Influencing Factors (Elections)
- Clean Energy Investment (SDG 7 Report: India's Renewable Energy Revolution in Focus - Asia Pacific)

□ External Economy

- Dedollarisation (Trade in Indian Currency)
- Global Debt Crisis (Global public debt hits record \$97 trillion in 2023: UN)
- Social Protection in Low-Income Nations

- India's Forex Reserve (India's reserve hit new high of USD 655.81 bn: RBI)
- US-China Trade War and implications on India (Dumping)
- Middle-East Conflict and Impact on Indian Economy
- India-Japan Free Trade Deal
- India-Eurasian Economic Union (EaEu) FTA
- Recession (case of UK & Japan)
- Red Sea Crisis
- Climate Change and impact on Global Sea Trade (Red Sea Crisis, Israel-Hamas)
- India's Foreign Trade Policy (Fragile global economy and India's foreign trade)
- BRICS Expansion (Geopolitical rival to G7 and economic impact)
- Global Layoffs and impact on India
- Sea Piracy & impact on global economy (Houthi Attacks)
- Sports Economy of India (Major sporting events and growing industry revenue)
- Impact of Recent War on Indian Economy
- Militant Activity Affecting Indian Tourism (Terrorist attacks and threatened tourism)
- Stable Government & Policy Implications (Coalition Government and economic decisions)

ENVIRONMENT

□ Ecosystem and Ecology

- IUCN Report on Mangrove Ecosystems - Climate resilience and habitat loss.
- Coral Bleaching in Great Barrier Reef - Persistent climate stressors and recovery efforts.
- Marine Heatwaves in Arctic Ocean - Accelerated sea ice loss and species migration.
- Coastal Erosion impacting ecosystem - Infrastructure vulnerability and adaptation strategies.
- Deoxygenation in Riverine Ecosystems - Agricultural runoff and biodiversity loss.

□ Biodiversity

- Impact of El Nino on the lakes of World - Hydrological cycles and freshwater ecosystems.
- Turtle conservation - Habitat destruction and poaching threats.
- Tiger conservation - Human-wildlife conflict and habitat fragmentation.
- Artificial reefs - Marine biodiversity and climate resilience.
- Sundarbans: Becoming a Fragile ecosystem - Rising sea levels and mangrove deforestation.
- Market-Based Approaches to Forest Conservation - Economic incentives and community involvement.

- Constructed Wetlands: Benefits and Challenges - Urban pollution and ecological restoration.
- Vultures at Risk in India - Drug toxicity and conservation efforts.
- Great Indian Bustards: Conservation and challenges - Wind energy development and habitat protection.
- Threat of Invasive Alien Species - Global trade impacts and ecosystem disruption.

□ Pollution

- Rising pollution in Indian Rivers - Urbanization pressures and water quality management.
- Pest attack and its impact on crop production - Pesticide resistance and ecological balance.
- Air Pollution Control in India - Urban health impacts and policy enforcement.
- Groundwater Contamination in India - Industrial effluents and sustainable water use.
- Plastic Waste Crisis in the Indian Himalayan Region - Remote waste management and environmental degradation.
- India's Battle Against Single-Use Plastics - Legislative reforms and consumer behavior.
- Nitrogen Pollution: Agricultural practices and waterway contamination.

- Radioactive Discharges from Indian Nuclear Plants - Environmental monitoring and public health concerns.
- Acid Rain: Impact on Environment - Industrial emissions and ecosystem acidification.
- India's Coal Plants: SO₂ Emission Control - Clean energy transitions and air quality improvements.
- 8-Point Plan in NCR and Nearby Regions under GRAP Stage-IV - Seasonal pollution management and public health responses.
- Metal Mining Pollution - Tailings management and land reclamation.

□ Waste Management

- Microplastics: Impact on Land and water - Marine food web contamination and waste prevention.
- Issue of Solid Waste Management - Urban infrastructure and recycling innovations.
- Solar Waste Management: New Challenges - Photovoltaic panel recycling and sustainability.
- E-Waste Management in India - Technological obsolescence and informal recycling hazards.
- Converting Plastic Waste into Fuel - Circular economy initiatives and carbon emissions reduction.

□ Environmental Conservation

- Anthropocene - Human impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems.
- Declining green cover in Cauvery river basin - Deforestation and watershed management.

- Green Industrialisation Initiative - Sustainable production practices and carbon neutrality.
- Manufactured Sand - Mining alternatives and environmental impacts.
- Rising Global Temperatures - Climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.
- Amazon Forest Fire: Global Impact - Deforestation rates and international conservation efforts.
- Desertification: Issues and Challenges - Land degradation and sustainable agriculture.
- Harnessing Biomass Cultivation on Degraded Land - Bioenergy potential and soil restoration.
- Mining in Aravalli Range - Environmental regulations and community resistance.
- Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in a Changing Climate - Occupational hazards and climate resilience.
- Carbon Farming: A Path to Sustainable Agriculture
- Electric Mobility: A new paradigm in India -
- Water Crisis in Urban India: Impact on Environment -
- Used Heavy Duty Vehicles and the Environment
- Land Management for Sustainable Development - Land use planning and biodiversity conservation.
- India's Green Energy Transition in times of climate change
- Green Hydrogen: Enabling Measures Roadmap for Adoption in India

- India's Green Future through BioCNG - Biofuel alternatives and rural development.
- Ethical, Social and Cultural Risks of Climate Engineering - Geoengineering impacts and ethical considerations.
- CCUS Policy Framework: NITI Ayog - Carbon capture technologies and industrial emissions reduction.
- Ammonia: Potential Automotive Fuel - Alternative fuel development and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

□ Environmental Governance

- Projects in Kumaon Himalayas - Judicial activism and environmental protection.
- Laws for flora and fauna rescue from smuggling - Wildlife trafficking and legal enforcement.
- Illegal Sand Mining in Indian river basins - Environmental degradation and regulatory challenges.
- Climate Migration - Displacement and climate adaptation policies.
- Regenerative Blue Economy - Ocean sustainability and economic development.
- NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 - Rural finance and climate resilience.
- Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024 - Legislative reforms and waste reduction targets.
- Human-Animal Conflict - Conservation conflicts and mitigation strategies.

- Wild Life Licensing Rules 2024 - Wildlife trade regulation and species protection.
- EU's Carbon Border Tax Impact - Trade policy and carbon emissions pricing.
- Greenwashing - Corporate sustainability and consumer trust.
- Climate Change Performance Index 2024 - Global climate policy rankings and benchmarks.
- International Energy Agency's Coal 2023 Report - Fossil fuel phase-out strategies and energy transition.
- Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 - Electronic waste recycling and resource recovery.
- EIA For Himalayan Region - Environmental impact assessments and regional development.
- Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 - Biodiversity conservation laws and policy updates.

□ Environmental Laws, Conventions and Protocols

- Brazzaville Declaration - Conservation commitments and biodiversity protection.
- Recovery of Ozone Layer - Montreal Protocol compliance and ozone-depleting substances.
- KAZA Summit 2024 and Wildlife Product Trade - Transboundary conservation and wildlife trafficking.

- Paris Agreement Climate Finance Target for 2022 - Climate finance commitments and global funding mechanisms.
- 19th Session of United Nations Forum on Forest - Forest governance and sustainable management.
- World Wildlife Crime Report 2024 - Illegal wildlife trade trends and enforcement challenges.
- The State of the Climate in Asia 2023 - Regional climate impacts and adaptation strategies.
- Green Credit Program - Sustainable finance and green investment initiatives.
- Human Rights and Environment - Environmental justice and human rights law.
- Kunming-Montreal GBF Implications for India's Indigenous Tribes - Indigenous rights and biodiversity conservation.
- Climate Finance Road to COP29 - Financial mechanisms and climate adaptation funding.
- Global E-waste Monitor 2024 - Electronic waste trends and management strategies.
- Global Methane Tracker 2024 - Methane emissions monitoring and reduction strategies.
- State of the Global Climate 2023: WMO - Climate science assessments and global weather patterns.
- World Air Quality Report 2023 - Air pollution trends and urban health impacts.
- IPCC Reports and Equity in Climate Change Mitigation - Climate science communication and policy equity.
- The Unjust Climate: FAO - Climate justice and global food security.
- CMS COP14 - Migratory species conservation agreements and international cooperation.
- Emissions Gap Report 2023: UNEP - Carbon reduction targets and policy effectiveness.
- Bonn Climate Meet - International climate negotiations and agreements.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

□ Cyclones and Tropical Storms

- Cyclone Tauktae (May 2021)
- Cyclone Yaas (May 2021)
- Cyclone Gulab (September 2021)
- Cyclone Jawad (December 2021)
- Cyclone Asani (May 2022)
- Cyclone Biparjoy,
- Cyclone Mocha
- Cyclone Michaung

□ Floods and Landslides

- Assam and Bihar Floods (2022)
- Flooding due to climate change-induced extreme rainfall.
- Flood caused by climate change induced extreme rainfall events. e.g., Bangalore floods - Urban flooding exacerbated by climate factors.
- Floods in Chennai - Floods triggered by Cyclone Michaung affecting urban areas.
- Kerala Landslides (2021) - Landslides affecting hilly terrain during monsoon.
- Cloudbursts in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh - Extreme precipitation causing flash floods.
- Joshimath Land Subsidence (Early 2023) - Land subsidence highlighting ecosystem fragility.

- Uttarakhand Tunnel Collapse (November 2023) - Infrastructure collapse due to landslides.

□ Earthquakes

- Earthquake in Assam (April 2021)
- Seismic activity in northeastern India.
- Earthquakes in Himachal Pradesh (2021-2022) - Earthquake events affecting northern India.
- Earthquake in Ladakh (January 2022) - Tremor in the northern Himalayan region.

□ Wildfires

- Uttarakhand Forest Fires - Forest fires impacting biodiversity and air quality.
- Simlipal Forest Fire in Odisha - Wildfires affecting protected areas.
- Wildfires in California and Europe - Global impact on climate and environmental discourse.

□ Pandemics and Health Crises

- COVID-19 Pandemic and India's management strategies - Public health crisis management and response.
- Monkeypox outbreak (2022) - Emerging infectious disease challenges.

INTERNAL SECURITY

□ Border Security and Territorial Integrity

- India-China Border Tensions in Ladakh (Galwan Valley standoff continuation)
- India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC) (February 2021)
- Developments in the Indo-Pacific region and Quad Summit discussions
- Demographic inversion in border areas due to illegal immigration

□ Internal Security

- Naxal-Maoist Insurgency and major encounters (e.g., Bijapur attack in Chhattisgarh, April 2021)
- Developments in Jammu & Kashmir, post-Article 370 abrogation, increasing terrorist attacks eg. Reasi attack
- Rising communal tensions and measures to address them
- Nexus between drug smuggling and terrorist organisations
- Geospatial data and internal security
- Anti-maritime piracy act

□ Cybersecurity

- Rising cyberattacks on Indian infrastructure and enterprises

- Government initiatives on cybersecurity, including the National Cyber Security Strategy 2021
- Pegasus spyware controversy and its implications
- Ransomware-Akira
- Threats posed by deepfakes to social trust

□ Terrorism

- Counter-terrorism measures and policies
- Recent terrorist attacks and India's responses
- Role of international organizations like FATF in curbing terrorism financing

□ Defense Technology and Modernization

- Indigenization of defense production and Atmanirbhar Bharat in defense
- Development and induction of new defense systems like the S-400 Triumf, Tejas Mk1A, and various indigenous missiles
- Maritime security and commissioning of new naval assets

□ Maritime Security

- Strategic developments in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- India's engagements in Indo-Pacific and Quad security dialogues
- Piracy incidents and India's anti-piracy operations
- India's deployment of naval ships in the Arabian Sea amid rising attacks on merchant vessels highlights the strategic importance of maritime security
- Drone Attacks on Merchant Vessels

□ **Space Security**

- Advancements in India's space capabilities (e.g., Gaganyaan mission updates, satellite launches)
- India's participation in global space security dialogues

□ **Biological and Chemical Threats**

- Preparedness against biological warfare in the context of COVID-19
- Chemical weapon threats and India's compliance with international conventions

□ **Intelligence and Surveillance**

- Enhancements in intelligence capabilities
- Role of agencies like RAW, IB, and NIA in national security

□ **Legislative and Policy Developments**

- National Security Act (NSA) and its recent applications
- Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and its amendments
- Personal Data Protection Bill and its implications on national security

SCIENCE AND TECH

□ SPACE

- Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND) - Alternative gravity models and galaxy dynamics.
- PRATUSH - India's Moon based Telescope - Lunar observation capabilities and space exploration.
- Soft Landing on Moon - Technological advancements in lunar missions.
- India's First Indigenous Space Mission - National space capabilities and satellite launches.
- NISAR Mission - Climate change monitoring and radar imaging.
- India is now part of world's largest radio telescope project - Radio astronomy and cosmic phenomena research.
- XPoSat - Satellite technology for X-ray Detection
- Japan's Slim lander on Moon - Lunar exploration and international space collaboration.
- Indian researchers detect X-Ray Polarization in Extragalactic black hole
- Aditya L1 Mission - Solar observation and space weather.
- Applications of NavIC - Navigation technology and global positioning systems.
- Chandrayaan-3: Mission to Moon - Lunar exploration and mission objectives.
- Peace & security in outer space - Space policy and international cooperation.
- Indian Space Policy – 2023 - National space strategy and regulatory framework.
- EOS-06 satellite: Application and Technological Edge - Earth observation and satellite capabilities.
- ISRO launches new rocket SSLV-D2 - Launch vehicle technology and space mission efficiency.
- NASA's Artemis mission - Lunar exploration program and human spaceflight.
- The search for Dark Matter- LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) - Particle physics and cosmological mysteries.
- International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT) - Optical astronomy and large-scale telescopes.
- POEM-3 Mission and Space Debris - Orbital debris mitigation and space sustainability.
- LIGO Project - Gravitational wave detection and astrophysical phenomena.

□ IT, TELECOM & ELECTRONICS

- The Dark Web - Cybersecurity threats and illicit online activities.
- Europe's AI Convention - Artificial intelligence policy and ethical considerations.

- US-UK Partnership on AI - International collaboration in artificial intelligence research.
- Cyber Slavery - Human trafficking and digital exploitation.
- Digital Divide And India - Technological access and rural connectivity challenges.
- World's first AI Law - Legal implications of artificial intelligence technologies.
- End-to-End Encryption - Privacy protection and data security.
- Threats to Net neutrality in India - Internet freedom and regulatory challenges.
- IndiaAI 2023 - Artificial intelligence applications and national strategy.
- Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) with AI - Educational technology and personalized learning platforms.
- Dark Patterns - Emerging cybersecurity threats and dark web trends.
- Gaps in AePS abused by cybercriminals - Financial technology vulnerabilities and cybercrime.
- Generative artificial intelligence (GAI) - Creative AI applications and ethical concerns.
- "Organoid Intelligence" – Revolutionary Biocomputers - Bioengineering and computational biology.
- Bluebugging and hacking Bluetooth-enabled devices - Mobile device security and vulnerabilities.

- 5G Technology launched in its full pace in India - Next-generation mobile networks and connectivity.
- Facial Recognition Technology - Biometric security and privacy implications.
- Deepfakes: Challenges and Mitigation

□ **DEFENCE**

- China's Offensive Air Capabilities along LAC - Border security and regional military dynamics.
- LVM3 Commercialisation - Space launch capabilities and commercial satellite services.
- Development of Electric Propulsion System For Indian Warships - Naval technology and sustainability.
- Kavach system - Defense technology and electronic warfare.
- Exercise TARKASH: Chemical and biological warfare - Military preparedness and biological defense.
- Interpol launches Metaverse for global law enforcement - Virtual policing and cyber threats.

□ **NANO-SCIENCE & NANO-TECHNOLOGY**

- National Quantum Mission (NQM) - Quantum computing and technology development.
- Nanoparticle and Cancer treatment - Medical nanotechnology and oncology.
- Room temperature superconductivity - Material science and energy efficiency.

- Quantum Computing: New era computers
- Graphene: Application and Properties
- Nano Urea - Agricultural nanotechnology and fertilizer innovation.
- Brainware - Neurotechnology and brain-computer interfaces.
- Carbon Nanoflorets - Nanomaterials and environmental applications.

□ ROBOTICS

- Drones to monitor worksites - Unmanned aerial vehicles and industrial applications.
- HAL to provide MRO for MQ-9B drone engines in India - Drone maintenance and defense capabilities.
- New Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator - UAV technology and autonomous flight.

□ NUCLEAR ENERGY

- Role of Nuclear Technology in Global Food Safety - Nuclear agriculture and food security.
- 50 years of Pokhran-I - Nuclear testing history and geopolitical impact.
- India's beaches and a nuclear-powered future - Nuclear energy policy and coastal management.
- Nuclear Power and Waste Management: Issues and Challenges - Radioactive waste disposal and environmental concerns.

- Radiocarbon dating - Archaeological dating techniques and scientific research.
- Breakthrough in nuclear fusion energy - Sustainable energy and fusion research.
- MIRV Technology: Application and Challenges - Strategic defense systems and missile technology.

□ BIOTECHNOLOGY

- The evolution of Neuroscience - Brain research and neurological disorders.
- '10,000 genome' project completed - Genomics and personalized medicine.
- Navigating the Ethical Frontiers of CRISPR - Gene editing technology and ethical debates.
- The untapped potential of stem cells - Regenerative medicine and cell therapy.
- mRNA, the Next Frontier for Personalized Medicine - Vaccines and therapeutic applications.
- The future of healthcare is in our genes - Precision medicine and genetic testing.
- Population-level genome sequencing: Benefits - Public health genomics and disease prevention.
- India fight against cancer and Cancer care - Oncology research and treatment advancements.
- NICED and detection of drug-resistant H. pylori - Infectious diseases and antibiotic resistance.
- Pink Bollworm Threat for Bt Cotton - Agricultural biotechnology and pest management.

- Metagenome Sequencing - Environmental microbiology and biodiversity analysis.
- Understanding a Human Pan-genome Map - Genomic diversity and human genetics.
- Mitochondrial Donation Treatment (MDT) and Inherited Diseases - Mitochondrial disorders and reproductive technology.
- The Auto-Immune Inflammation of Blood Vessels: Vasculitis
- Side-Effects of Covid-19 Vaccine - Vaccine safety and public health concerns.
- CAR T-Cell Therapy - Immunotherapy and cancer treatment.
- Gene Therapy for Hemophilia A - Genetic disorders and therapeutic gene editing.
- Global Trans Fat Elimination: WHO Report - Nutrition policy and cardiovascular health.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Flex-fuel prototype - Alternative fuels and energy sustainability.
- Hydrogen Fuel Cell - Clean energy technology and hydrogen infrastructure.

- Electric Batteries and Electrochemical Cells - Energy storage solutions and battery technology.
- Green Hydrogen - Substitute to Fossil Fuel - Renewable energy and hydrogen production.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIANS IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Chemistry Nobel 2023 - Chemical sciences and research excellence.
- Nobel Prize in Medicine 2023 - Medical breakthroughs and biomedical research.
- Nobel Prize in Physics 2023 - Physics discoveries and theoretical advancements.
- Shrinivas R Kulkarni Awarded Shaw Prize - Astronomy and astrophysics contributions.
- Blavatnik Awards in UK:
- Rahul R Nair - Advanced materials and nanotechnology.
- Mehul Malik - Quantum physics and entanglement research.
- Tanmay Bharat - Structural biology and microscopy.
- Subra Suresh – National Medal of Science - Engineering and scientific leadership.

GS PAPER-IV

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

□ Ethics Topic Listing

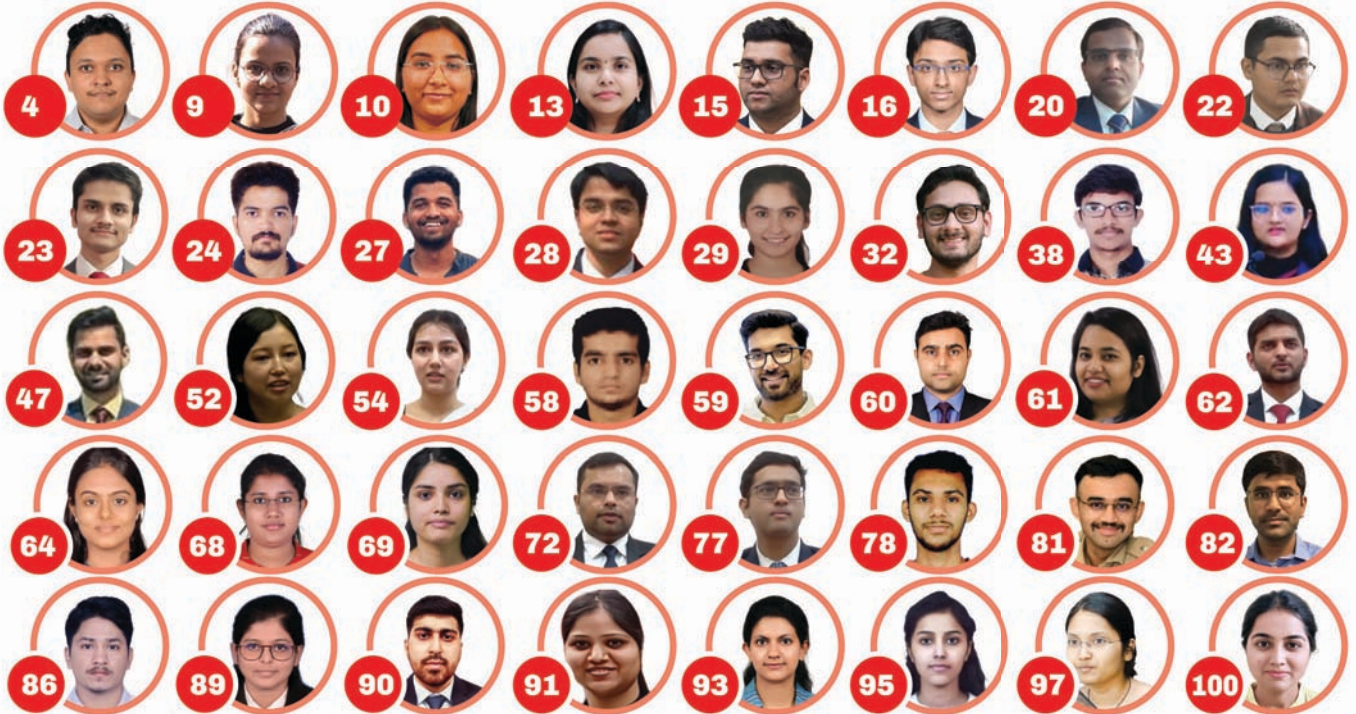
- Ethics Of Elections
- Ethics in Digital Public Infrastructure
- Drones and Ethics
- Ethics and Artificial Intelligence
- Euthanasia
- Social Media Influencing
- Parliamentary Privileges and Ethics
- Judicial Ethics- Judicial Majoritarianism
- Internet Shutdowns and Ethics
- Ethics in IR: Trade and War
- Ethics in IR: Climate Change and Climate Finance
- Societal Ethics: Manual Scavenging
- Medical Ethics: Organ Transplant
- Ethics of War
- Ethics of Arbitration
- AI Ethics in Healthcare
- Ethics of Animal Rights
- Ethics of Gig Economy
- Weaponisation of Space
- Ethics of Migration
- Prisons and Ethics
- Judicial Ethics: Recusal by Judges
- Technological Ethics: Facial Recognition Technology
- Technological Ethics: Crypto Mining
- Clinical Trials
- Child Artists and Ethics
- Ethics and Law on Sedition
- Ethics and Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Environmental Ethics: Cloud Seeding
- Environmental Ethics: Climate Change and Food Choices
- Modern Slavery
- Patronage Appointments
- Ethics and Cattle Management
- Science Without Humanity
- Ethical Conduct of Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS)
- Ethics and Credit Rating Agencies
- Student Suicides
- Media Ethics
- Consumerism
- Wokeism
- Ethics for Legislators
- AI and Human Rights
- Ethics and Climate Equality
- Ethics in Sports
- Labour/ Workers Ethics- Duration of Working Hours
- Ethics of Nudge
- Individual Social Responsibility (ISR)

- Online Gaming
- Ethics and Mining
- Ethical Considerations in Stray Dog Control
- Ethics and Grey-zone Warfare
- Ethics and Brain-computer Interface (BCI)
- Ethics and Paper Leaks
- Use of Unfair Means (Cheating) in Examination
- AI and Creativity
- Ethics and Live-In Relationships
- Ethics and Organ Transplantation
- Ethics of Food Service and Safety
- Political Ethics and Conflict of Interest
- Freedom of Speech on Social Media
- Moral Policing
- Identity Politics and Gender Justice
- Sex Workers' Rights
- LGBTQIA+ Rights
- Conflict of Interest in Public Policy
- Reproductive Rights
- Peacekeeping and Human Rights
- Humanitarian Intervention



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