



An Institute for Civil Services

# INTERVIEW GUIDANCE SERIES

## IAS 2022



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ARTICLES**



**SELF MOCK  
QUESTIONS**

**An Interview Preparation Toolkit**

*by* **S. B. SINGH & MANOJ K. JHA**

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An Institute for Civil Services

# INTERVIEW GUIDANCE PROGRAMME 2022

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# QUALITIES TO BE ASSESSED DURING THE UPSC INTERVIEW

S. B. Singh & Manoj K. Jha

Many interview sessions follow a well-structured pattern, but IAS interview is an exception to this. Far from being conducted under a structured format, it is an exercise in which an engaging conversation takes place between the board and the candidate. Thus, contrary to the popular perception of interview being a question answer session, it is much more than that. In a setting which is formal but undirected one (undirected means a natural course is followed at the interview rather than a pre-determined session), the interview session seeks to evaluate a candidate on the below given qualities.

A proper understanding of what he is going to be tested for will make a candidate's preparation close to its needs.

## **IAS interview is NOT about:**

- ❑ A mere question answer session
- ❑ A test of knowledge or plethora of information
- ❑ A deliberate attempt to pin you down by difficult questions
- ❑ Having extraordinary expectations from you

## **Qualities to be assessed during the interview:**

UPSC, every time in its notification, outlines the broad qualities that will be assessed during the interview session. These qualities are explained below for better understanding.

**1. Mental alertness**

Mental alertness means being at the time and place, ie, a wholehearted presence and engagement. In other words it is about “presence of mind” which is opposite of “absent mindedness”.

Once or twice you may politely ask the board members” sir please tell me the question again” but repeatedly missing the points and queries signifies lack of mental alertness. Also failing to understand the context and indications as to why a question has been asked and also missing occasional hints related to queries from board members can be taken as lack of mental alertness.

**2. Critical power of assimilation**

This is not just about “I have read” or “I know”, but also about whether you have reflected and introspected and examined and weighed to understand matter of the fact and drawn reasoned conclusions.

**3. Clear and logical exposition**

You can be clear in exposition only if you understand a thing. And logical exposition also means that anything that you say should not be devoid of order, i.e, first thing first, followed by next important one be it simple listing of relevant facts, causes, reasons etc. while answering.

It is about avoiding “vagueness” and treating your statement as “axiomatic” as if everybody should accept it without suspecting and be convinced. Clarity and logical exposition convinces the listener or at least you make your point whether they agree or not and you have an explanation for what you say.

**4. Balance of judgement**

Being judgmental about any event, thing or person on the basis of limited understanding, inadequate facts, prejudice, preference or bias is greatest of all intellectual failures.

Before we judge, we must try to take a neutral and honest position on one hand and a proper sense and understanding of ground realities. Balance of judgement can be achieved by considering pros and cons, good and bad, cost and benefit and moral and ethical as well as long term implications of a thing, policy, measure or a thing or a position that we take.

**5. Ability for social cohesion and leadership**

A prospective Civil Servant should have a mindset and attitude to understand the need and importance of social cohesion while fulfilling his duties and in all her/his public utterances, posturing and interactions.

India is a country which stands for unity in diversity and our constitutional values

also signify that. This awareness should be reflected in the thought and actions of a Civil Servant.

**Leadership** - Leadership is about knowing the path, showing the path and leading the path. It is not just about flagging the problems but also about willingness and ability to find solutions. Leadership is also about team spirit, giving due consideration and credit to all the stakeholders. It is also about being cool, calm, patient and optimistic. It is also about endurance and resilience. It is also about giving and ensuring maximum benefit to maximum people at the same time avoiding being populist or irrational especially with regard to optimisation of resources and their outcomes.

Last but not the least a leader is one who through his sincerity, honesty and integrity and hard work becomes a role model for public. These things must be reflected in our thought processes.

## **6. Intellectual and moral integrity**

A public servant elicits trust, credibility and confidence among people if her/her moral and intellectual integrity is above board and beyond doubt. This not only makes the Civil Servants a perfect role model, but also makes governance more human and worthy.

### **So, IAS interview is about:**

- ▣ Judging your authentic self
- ▣ An interactive, friendly session
- ▣ Extracting your opinion and stand on vital issues
- ▣ Exploring the quality of honesty, integrity, commitment, leadership etc.
- ▣ Testing you more on where you know rather than where you do not know

\*\*\*\*\*

# PROBABLE QUESTIONS & HOW TO TACKLE THEM

S. B. Singh

Any interview, more so an IAS interview, is mainly about questions being raised by board members and answers being offered by the candidates. Thus, anticipating questions and formulating their answers is an important part of the interview preparation. After acquainting oneself with the purpose and technique of the interview, one must turn one's attention on creating a pool of probable questions on a variety of topics and formulate their answers, explanations that sound logical and acceptable to the interview board. This exercise will minimise the surprise element during the interview session in that most of the questions will appear to have been asked on expected topics.

## Area wise analysis of questions

### 1. Educational Background

In this section, questions will pertain to the name of school, college, subjects studied there and performance in terms of marks or grades obtained. You must know what is the significance of the name of your school/college, when and by whom it was established, any alumni you can recall from the institution you have studied in etc. Say for example, if you have studied in a school called 'Navodaya Vidyalaya' you should know the objectives of such schools, your personal experience about it, values inculcated by you from your association with the school.

### 2. Parental Background

In some cases, they will also take interest in your parents' occupation by asking you as to what you have learnt from their professional experience, and if your parents are role models for you.



### **3. Work Experience**

If you have worked in private sector or under government, they will definitely ask you couple of questions related to your job description. You are expected to know what your organisation is all about, details of tasks performed by you, why you want to leave that job and want to join civil services, how your job experience can help you in your career in civil services.

### **4. State to which you belong**

A wide range of questions will be raised on your state. Its cultural, historical importance, law and order situation, governance , performance on various economic indicators, state of agriculture, industrialisation, resources available and solutions to various problems of your state, will constitute areas on which questions will be asked.

### **5. Hobbies, Extra curricular activities**

On your hobbies, questions are meant to assess your genuine interest in what you pursue as your hobby. If reading is your hobby, whether you read fiction or non fiction, who is your favourite author, which books you have read recently, are going to be likely questions. Similarly, if watching documentaries or photography is your hobby, they will delve deep in the subject to find out your level of commitment and interest in the stated hobby. Say for example, you have mentioned watching wildlife documentaries as your hobby, you will be asked to name a few famous Indian and foreign documentary makers, whether you have watched their documentaries or not. If you are not able to recall any famous wild life documentary maker's name, then it is going to leave a poor impression before the board. Similarly, if you have mentioned yoga or meditation as your hobby, expect both theoretical and practical questions on these hobbies. For example, what is the underlying philosophy of yoga, who was its main proponent, what books you have read on yoga, who are leading yoga experts , will be areas of interest for the board members to ask questions. This way, you should frame likely questions on your different hobbies and fortify your knowledge on them.

### **6. Why you want to join Civil Services**

During the interview session, the common refrain is - "Why you want to join civil services." Almost every candidate is asked this question by one or another member of the board. Though this question is common , it does not mean answer to it should be common too. Rather than sounding idealistic, you should offer a realistic answer to this question. Answers like - I want to serve the nation, or I want to serve the society, or, It offers a diverse, challenging career, looks like an old, repetitive cliché used by every candidate. A more realistic answer to this should be: "I want to join civil services for a number of reasons. First, it offers job security. Second, it offers some of the most coveted jobs under the government. Third, I



will derive higher job satisfaction in civil services because of its diverse nature. Fourth, I consider civil services not just a job but a service with a deep public interface. Finally, it will provide me an opportunity to be a part of the governing architecture of the country which will allow me to contribute meaningfully to public service. If you phrase your answer like this, you will sound more realistic about the civil services .

Another related question here can be: how your knowledge of your discipline of study (engineering, medicine, agriculture, botany etc.), can be used in administration. To this, you should say that such domain knowledge will help you understand the issues better and will be handy to make better policies and decisions. You can substantiate this answer with some examples. For example, If you are from medical background, you can say that it will help you formulate more practical health policies with your first hand knowledge of medical issues. Like this, find relevance of your educational discipline in civil services before you face the interview board.

Similarly, there will be some questions whose answers you may not know. There are two ways to tackle them . First, if you don't know anything about the question, just politely accept it and say you don't know the answer. Second, if you have some vague idea about the question, ask the board if you can try to attempt it with some guess. If allowed, make an intelligent guess and answer it.

## 7. Situation based questions

Not always, but in many cases, one of the board members may raise situation based questions. This can be either on a real situation that has appeared in news, or a hypothetical one. In both types of situations, real or hypothetical, your answer must weigh in all factors and then provide a solution that sounds implementable on ground, beneficial to the country or citizens and innovative in thinking.

**For example, consider this situation:** A conflict situation is getting out of hand among two countries in some part of the world. The country's interest is firmly embedded in both the conflicting parties involving multiple dimensions like economy, defence, diaspora etc. You as part of The Ministry of External Affairs team have been asked to draft a statement explaining India's position. Now, as part of the team, your yardstick to draft a statement should be India's interest. In a situation like this, the first thing is the need to co-ordinate with both the parties to safely evacuate non-combatants. Hence, favouring one over other is outrightly out of question, at least publically, no matter question of human rights and aggressions are still there. The larger picture involves defense co-operation on one hand, which is vital as India is placed in a hostile neighbourhood, and economy is important for growth and development. Hence, a balanced response is needed which calls for dialogue over conflict and use of India's effort to build a humanitarian corridor.

## **8. Current Affairs**

Since Ukraine-Russia conflict is in the news along with the United Nations, its relevance, European union, zone of influence, etc along with topics related to geopolitics like quad, rules-based order, are issues at hand now that can be framed as questions. The conflict has laid bare the effect of sanctions on the global order. So, questions on new global order, etc are likely, to touch on various dimensions of globalization.

As regards international issues, India's G20 Presidency and Opportunities, India's balancing act with the West viz-a-viz East and especially among P5, India's disputes with neighbors like China, China's Wolf-Warrior Diplomacy, India's Advancement in Defence Technology and its Impact on "Act East Policy", NATO and India's strategic autonomy, War crimes and the rules of war will surface during the interview. Quad, Indo-Pacific policy, and India's relations with China, Russia, USA could be areas of interest to the interview board. In particular, read in detail about the recent development between India and China and the expected impacts.

The best way to prepare for these topics is to read the editorial comments on related issues in good newspapers and formulate your answers.

## **9. Questions on Social Issues**

There are a host of issues that relate to our society, for example, nutritional issues in children, women and the poor, inequality in online education, issues of mental health of citizens during the pandemic, rising domestic violence during lockdown and so on. You must embrace these topics with compassion and offer solutions from both your heart and mind.

## **10. Controversial Questions**

There are many sensitive issues on which taking the right stand may look difficult to a candidate without guidance. My suggestion here would be not to take an extreme stand on them. You should present both sides of the argument, assess their respective merits and present a middle ground. You should not take a stand that sounds anti government. But you are free to point out to failures of the government and suggest better policy measures. Some criticism is always welcome, but you need not appear like an opposition party or like a newspaper article in criticizing government vehemently. To take an example, on the controversial Hijab row, rather than opposing or defending the issue, take a stand that encapsulates both perspectives, that of the legal and religious. Then, suggest a conciliatory approach to solve the issue.

Thus, by following the above advice, you can reasonably hope to get many questions on expected lines with prior preparation so that you are not taken by surprise during your interview.

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# IAS INTERVIEW: VITAL ASPECTS OF PREPARATION

S. B. Singh

When it comes to preparing for IAS personality test (popularly known as IAS interview), the common question in the minds of aspirants is: how to prepare for it? Knowing little about the way it is conducted, the composition of the board, method of assessment of performance, allocation of marks, and probable areas on which questions shall be raised, it is inevitable that a candidate who is going to present himself before the board develops anxiety, fear, and mental blocks which may affect his performance adversely. Getting to know about the vital aspects of preparation is, thus, an imperative need.

## How the interview session is conducted

In its notification, UPSC clearly mentions both the purpose and manner of the interview. It is quite instructive to read UPSC guidelines in its published notification.

- ❑ UPSC, in its notification, states that “a candidate will be asked questions of general interest. The object of the interview/personality test is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service by a board of competent, unbiased observers.”
- ❑ “The technique of the interview/personality test is not a strict cross-examination but of a natural, though directed and purposive conversation which is intended to reveal the mental qualities of the candidate.”
- ❑ “The interview/ personality test is not intended to be a test either of specialised or general knowledge of the candidate which has already been tested through their written papers. Candidates are expected to have taken an intelligent interest not only in their special subjects of academic study but also in the events that are hap-

pening around them both within and outside their own state or country as well as on modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should rouse the curiosity of well educated youth.”

A close reading of the above instructions issued by UPSC removes all doubts and apprehensions about the interview. The major derivations from UPSC instructions are:

- ❑ The interview seeks to assess whether a candidate is suitable for a career in public service. His traits of leadership, decision making capacity, social cohesion, balanced judgement, moral and intellectual integrity will greatly determine his suitability for public service.
- ❑ The board, consisting of five members, is a competent and unbiased group of experienced experts which will be solely guided by objective criteria of a candidate's merit without any bias of any kind. Every one is treated as equal before the board irrespective of his social, economic, academic background.
- ❑ The keyword used by UPSC is “purposive conversation” during the interview session. By engaging you in a conversation, the board will encourage you to reveal your mental qualities such as mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity.
- ❑ Finally, UPSC notification makes it amply clear that current happenings in the state to which a candidate belongs, national and international happenings, current developments in health, trade, science and technology etc will be taken up during the conversation. Quite naturally, current affairs constitute a good part of the interview.

**How the interview begins:** When you enter the board, you will find yourself standing before five senior, experienced members sitting opposite you. Of these, one will be chairman of the board, who happens to be one of the members of UPSC. Quite often, the chairman is a retired bureaucrat from IAS, IPS , IFS or some central service. Of the remaining four, two members happen to be from bureaucracy while two are domain experts. These four members come on invitation by UPSC to be a part of the board. Once you are asked to take your chair, the chairman will engage you in a short conversation for five to seven minutes mostly raising questions relating to your bio data, known as DAF or Detailed Application Form. Then, he will direct another member to put his questions before you. He may also raise some questions on certain aspects of information furnished by you in your DAF. Then he will ask questions relating to economics, governance, international issues etc. This trend will continue during the remaining part of the interview. In other words, different questions on economy, health, governance, etc will be posed by all members. Moreover, certain well known questions regarding your choice for civil services as a career, hypothetical questions like how you will act in a given situation, how will you tackle corona in your district if you are the district collector, are bound to be raised. During this kind of conversation, there will be situations where the member/members will disagree with you on your position, explanation. You must remember, it is part of the interview process and disagreement is designed to test your balanced responses.

**How your performance is assessed:** After you leave the interview room, the chairman will give his comments on your performance to other members. The other members will also submit their assessment of your performance. Keeping in mind how they have been allocating marks to previous candidates, they will arrive at a certain allocation of marks to you. Rather than judging your performance on various specific yardsticks, they will judge you on the basis of your overall personality projection. A good performance is one in which you are able to convince the board with your crisp, precise answers and impress them with your personality traits. A bad performance is one where you appear unsure about your stand on an issue, or contradict yourself, or lack basic information expected of you. An average performance is one wherein you are found to be a person of medium caliber lacking outstanding qualities.

**Probable areas of questions:** A proper understanding of the kind of questions being asked to majority of candidates in the past several years makes it easier to anticipate what questions you are likely to be asked in your interview. Of course not all the areas or questions can be predicted as there will always be some unpredictable questions. To be realistic, you should prepare for predictable questions and not the unpredictable ones. In any case, as far as unpredictable questions are concerned, even if you are not able to answer some of them, its not going to impact your interview so long as you are strong enough in the predictable part of the questions. Some of the probable questions will be on the following topics.

- ❑ **DAF:** You are required to furnish in your DAF a variety of details regarding your parental, educational background, your job description, if any, your hobbies and extracurricular activities, choice of services and preference for cadre. Thus, your DAF attracts the members most and they not only form an opinion about you through your DAF, but also raise questions on the basis of information furnished by you in it. Be very careful to furnish those information with accuracy and honesty. Never commit yourself to anything in DAF which is difficult to defend or justify. Since you have on your own provided those information, you are supposed to defend them. Consult some knowledgeable persons to formulate your answers on DAF.
- ❑ **Your state:** Questions on your state relating to its economy, law and order, issues of governance, culture, history etc are bound to crop up. A quick brush up on these issues from authentic sources is highly desirable. For example, if you belong to Bihar, its history in terms of big empires like Mauryan empire, birth of Buddhism, Jainism maybe asked. Bihar's backwardness, caste ridden politics, bad governance will be taken up by the board members during the conversation and your views will be elicited on the same. Recent issues like impact of prohibition, recently passed Bihar Police Act will surely be asked. Taking a cue from this example, you should prepare for your respective states.
- ❑ **National issues:** This will be an important part of the interview conversation. COVID related health issues, governance challenges posed by covid, measures being taken to revive the economy, farm bills and issue of protests, downgrading of Indian democracy by international watchdogs, rise in naxal violence, and a host of other recent issues will be on the plate.



- ❏ **International issues:** A lot has happened on the international horizon in the last several months. China related issues, US elections, JCPAO and Iran, cyber attacks by China and Israel, Abraham accords, vaccine diplomacy, role of WHO during pandemic, Brexit and its implications for UK, EU and India, Indian foreign policy and its relationship with neighbours, especially recent disengagement on LAC between India and China, ceasefire on LOC between India and Pakistan, trade issues with Pakistan, Indo- Nepal issues, 50 years of Bangladesh independence, devolution of powers in Srilanka etc are going to be some of the areas on which questions will be raised. One should list out several more such issues and formulate different questions/answers on these issues.
- ❏ **Controversial questions:** Candidates always wonder as to what stand to take on controversial issues. For example, how to answer questions on farm laws which are so controversial, or, what stand to take on the reservation politics. On such issues, a rebellious, extreme type of stand should be avoided. Middle path should be chosen by adopting moderate opinions. You can always disagree with government stand on an issue, but never sound politically opposed or motivated because you are supposed to be neutral and unbiased as a civil servant. The key here is to make a list of controversial issues, frame probable questions, and articulate a stand beforehand so that you don't have to improvise it during interview.
- ❏ While answering questions on the above issues, you must sound authentic, and well informed. You must appear to be in possession of a critical, analytical mind with keen interest on issues of public importance. Even if you don't have in-depth knowledge of the subject, its fundamentals should be clear to you.
- ❏ **Your optional paper:** The board will get to know about your optional paper from your DAF. They may or may not test you on your optional paper, but you must anticipate a few questions and prepare their answers. Usually, the questions on the optional paper are not specialised, but of a general nature. They may want to know why you have opted for it, its application in administration, current developments in the subject, if any.

Finally, just preparing on the expected areas is not the complete preparation for the interview. Its about projection of your true, authentic and real personality. Therefore, try to reveal the real attributes of a good personality during the interview session. Remember, interview session is not an extraordinary event .There will be no extraordinary expectations from you by the board members. It is going to be just a normal dialogue between you and the members in a comfortable atmosphere. So, no need to act before the board as someone which you are not. Present your normal self rather than trying to impress the board by over projection of your personality.

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# HOW TO APPROACH CSE INTERVIEW

Arpan Yaduvanshi, IPS

**Civil services 'personality test'**, also popularly known as '**interview**' is the final phase in the three stages of examination and is the most important of all, as the marks in the interview decide the service of your choice. **Interview** is the **least prepared** of all, but if rightly managed it can be a most rewarding experience.

It is the last hurdle, still quite a significant one. Marks in this may result in amongst the top rank or may evict you out of the race, no matter how good you have been performing till now. Marks in the interview have a great bearing on your selection/elimination or at least on your service allocation.

## **Purpose of Interview and what an interview board expects:**

Civil service interview is more or less like a discussion. The members **don't check** how much knowledge you possess or how in-depth you know things about as they have already checked these stuffs in your prelims and Mains examination. They only check your presence of mind and problem handling capacity.

**If you look at the Gazette notification for both CSE and 'Personality Test', this is what is mentioned:**

- "The candidate will be interviewed by a Board who will have before them a record of his/her career. He/ she will be asked *questions on matters of general interest*. The object of the interview is to *assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service by a Board of competent and unbiased observers*. The test is intended to judge the mental caliber of a candidate. In broad terms this is really an assessment of not only his/her intellectual qualities but also social traits and his/her interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities to be judged are mental alertness, critical pow-



ers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgment, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity”.

- ❑ *“The technique of the interview is **not** that of a strict cross-examination but of a natural, thought directed and purposive conversation which is intended to reveal the mental qualities of the candidate.”*
- ❑ *“The interview test is not intended to be a test either of the specialized or general knowledge of the candidates which has been already tested through their written papers. Candidates are expected to have taken an intelligent interest not only in their special subjects of academic study but also in the events which are happening around them both within and outside their own state or country as well as in modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should rouse the curiosity of well-educated youth.”*

This might come across as jargon for first time readers, but frankly it pretty much sums up the answer to your question. Pay special attention to those keywords that are italicized. If any candidate, irrespective of her academics, grades, experience and background is able to have this checklist done right, 200+ is highly feasible. Yes, there might be a factor of some luck involved too but it is better to focus on the things we have in our hands than those which we don't!

As a future administrator you are supposed to be unbiased, neutral and apolitical in your views. Moreover, UPSC looks for professional as well as intellectual integrity in the candidates. It doesn't matter whether you are a left, center or right in your political leanings or what your religious views are, what matters is whether you display a balanced opinion on issues or not. Also, under no circumstance you should try to manipulate your answers because the board members are very experienced people and they usually know if you try to manipulate. And that reflects very poorly on you. Also, there is very less ideological bias in the selection because they are selecting future civil servants and not politicians and civil servants being the permanent executive are by the very nature of their job, supposed to be ideologically neutral. There are few tips that can help a candidate to sail through the interview.

- ❑ Don't just answer a question, **discuss** them with the board. I think one should **engage with the members** while answering questions.
- ❑ Be **humble** while answering. If you didn't know any answer, directly say, I am sorry sir I don't know the answer/unable to recollect at the moment but also say that I will look it up. Never ever try to bluff the board.
- ❑ **Never beat around the bush.** If you didn't have absolutely any idea about any question say, sorry sir I don't know. But many a time there are questions we are not totally sure of, but we know the answer. What most people do is say sorry and don't answer that question but it's a bad move. What one should do is to say that Sir I don't have complete idea about this issue but if you allow me, I will try to explain it in my own words. Then if they say go ahead and then explain. The thing is that one should always ask for their permission otherwise it reflects very

poorly on you. Same goes for taking a guess. And trust me it's the way you say also matters. Never say that Sir **Can/May I** take a guess? Instead it's better if you say Sir **If you allow me** I will take a guess.

- ❑ If you are not comfortable with any area of DAF be prepared for explaining and if you haven't been able to pursue any hobby/interest in recent past straightway tell them so.
- ❑ **Be prepared for vague questions.** There were so many of them in everyone's interview. What I feel is that if you don't understand the question asks them humbly to repeat. So, it is much better to say **I am sorry sir/I beg your pardon sir** I didn't understand your question than to say Sir would you please repeat the question. Trust me it's easier said than done.

Overall, it's **the range of interests and knowledge, honesty, truthfulness, humbleness and calm demeanor that matters in the interview.** And one should be happy during that interview. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet so many knowledgeable people. The interviewers are not testing merely your knowledge; rather they are testing your personality traits through your answers. And that is why it is absolutely okay not to answer a few questions and that doesn't affect your marks. But if your answers reveal any bad personality traits you will be awarded poor marks.

Also, it is absolutely vital to **be unbiased and balanced** in your approach towards issues. As an administrator you are not supposed to take sides and be impartial and judge issues based on fact and that is what should be reflected in your answers. It does not mean that you can't have an ideology. UPSC doesn't want people who are bereft of ideology; rather they want people who are **appreciative and accommodating of other opinions.**

Also, under **no** circumstances your answers should reflect **arrogance or lackadaisical attitude** towards life or other people. **That's why it is acceptable that you might have failed at a certain point of time in your life, but what is not acceptable is that you don't have a valid explanation for the same.** So, if you have, poor marks in academics be ready to have an explanation that shows your positive attitude towards it like what you learnt from it, how you overcame/bettered yourself after that setback and the like.

## Topics that needs to be covered for interview preparation

### DAF

Details like significance of date of birth, significance of your name, family background, service order, cadre order, giving other exams etc. should be looked into.

### State

You need to be thorough with your **state's major topics**: Demography, Challenges, Inter-State conflicts, Agriculture, Industry, Culture, History, Major tourist spots, Weaknesses, Unique Opportunities, Resources, etc. State Development Reports (SDRs) published by the government are available for each state. They are quite comprehensive. State Government websites are also useful. If no other resource is available, then you can also go for NBT books available for each state.

## Hobbies and Games

This is the most feared part of UPSC interview. It's advisable to write one or at maximum two hobbies. You should be clear with **broader contours** of your hobby. Let us take 'Sketching' as an example, following can be your expected points of understanding:

- ❑ Types of sketching,
- ❑ Techniques of sketching,
- ❑ Some famous sketch artists/ painters/ cartoonists,
- ❑ Importance of sketching in academics, like, geography, cartography, anatomy studies, etc.
- ❑ How it changes your worldview or approach to see the world around?
- ❑ How sketching would help you in IAS?
- ❑ Issues related to Right to Freedom of expression, for ex, M.F. Husain issue

These along with, what is your inspiration are some of the must know questions. At the same time, some should-know questions may include comparison of various forms of paintings, paintings in temple architecture of India, Photography vs Painting, Schools of Painting etc.

## Background

You should be thoroughly familiar with your Schools, Colleges and Employers on a broader level. Again, do not explore into detailed history but a cursory knowledge over important topics like meaning of the school name should be there. The important peripheral issues related to your background should be adequately addressed. Let us take IIT as an example of your college. Questions like Change in standards of Alumnus, Brain drain, Loss of engineer if you join IAS, Entrepreneurship culture, Why IAS after IIT, opening up of new IITs, Autonomy of IITs etc. should be prepared with diligence.

### Achievements and Positions of Responsibility

Again falls into the must know topics. Should be thorough with these things. Peripheral questions like how they have impacted your personality, key learning for life etc. should be prepared.

## **Current Affairs**

Continue reading newspaper. This time of the phase demands two newspapers, one a bit right-of-center and other a bit left-of-center. The two techniques stated above will be more than helpful in this phase.

## **Optional and Graduation**

Basic topics related to your graduation subject are expected but they are less likely to be asked if you have a prior work experience. You should be thorough with your optional as many questions will be related to the optional directly or indirectly.

## **Groups for Mock Interview**

It's a good practice to form groups for interview preparation. Form a group of around 3-5 friends (group of 3-, too less diversity while group of 5+, too much time pass). Take mock interviews of each other once a day. Blatant and explicit flaws will be easily pointed out and the basic common questions will be practiced. Also, you come into the flow of giving the interview.

## **Mocks**

The correlation of mock interviews with scoring high marks in the interview is a debatable topic. Don't ever lose your originality. Yet, it is advisable that if you have never given a mock interview, then giving 1 or 2 mocks would be helpful to get some unambiguous and clear-cut errors pointed out to you. However, the feedback of the mock interviewers should not be taken very seriously. Different mock boards may give contradicting feedbacks. You should not try to modify your personality too much before the interview. Be yourself.

**Finally, some useful tips for a successful interview at UPSC are:**

- ❑ To have a positive body language, your gesture and posture should reflect a confident person. Sit comfortably showing respect to board members.
- ❑ To have a good personal turnout and ensuring the right posture. Your attire should be formal. The looks of a person does not matter rather it is how he present himself/herself in those 30-40 minutes is important.
- ❑ To answer questions clearly and confidently taking a little pause in between. Always have a pleasant smile.
- ❑ Try to remain calm and composed even when faced with provocative questions because it might be possible that you are falling in a trap. Members test your temperament and patience through such discussion.

- ❑ Try not getting into long winded explanations and answer to the point. Be honest, no need to pretend as the board is well experienced.

### Things to be avoided at the UPSC interview

- ❑ Avoid conversational clichés, like: 'as you know', 'that's correct', 'of course', 'indeed', 'obviously', etc.
- ❑ Avoid technical jargon. However, if a member continues to probe you in any technical field, you can use technical expressions.
- ❑ Maintain a cheerful disposition. Now and then you can appear serious; but most of the time keep smiling or look cheerful and composed. **One caution here:** if the board laughs, you should only smile. It is only when you maintain some amount of distance that the board begins to wonder about the depth of your personality.
- ❑ Do not give long introductions. Come straight to the heart of the matter.
- ❑ Show human concern whenever possible in your answers.
- ❑ You should be logically consistent and analyze things rationally while talking. You are supposed to defend what you say, but with due respect to the views of the board. Stop trying to defend an answer if it becomes difficult to do so logically and fairly.
- ❑ Do not make hasty or sweeping generalizations.

Last but not the least, have utmost faith in yourself, which will drive you to back yourself till the very end with confidence and poise.

***All The Best To Aspirants!***

# PREPARING FOR IAS INTERVIEW: THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

— S. B. Singh —

With the announcement of the results of the civil services main examination, a lot of excitement, fear and hope grips the mental state of the successful candidate which is but natural given the fact that after months, or even years of hard work, success almost seems to embrace him. It is the most transformative phase of the competition which will change the entire world for him. It has the power to change the entire context of his life. Overnight, she/he becomes an officer from an aspirant. Her/his social recognition is much bigger than they had expected. The delight of her/his family members is unfathomable. She/he gets attention from media, relatives, friends, future aspirants. In fact, the success makes her/him a superstar, a status enjoyed till next year when new results are announced. All this looks wonderful. But, all this would happen only when the performance at the interview is splendid. Or else, the opposite can also happen. A dismal performance in the interview brings the aspirants back to square one and they find themselves struggling again for the dream job from the starting point, i.e., preliminary examination. All aspirants dread to confront this because, going all over again in the process of the civil services examination is a true nightmare. It takes more than a year to go through the entire ritual of preparation, and at every stage, there is uncertainty looming. Therefore, every candidate looks forward to producing a commendable performance at the IAS interview so that one does not have to go through the same rigmarole of this tedious examination again. But just wishful thinking will not ensure good performance. Only a good understanding of the nitty and gritty of the interview can navigate the candidate through this maze.

**Importance of interview in success and ranking :** As is well known, the three-step civil services examination is designed to evaluate different qualities of a candidate. The preliminary examination is designed to eliminate the non-serious, non-deserving candidates through a filtering process. The main examination tests the academic learning of the candidate acquired through his education as well from commanding the UPSC syllabus. The interview part, as UPSC itself states, tests a candidate's personality. Therefore, this is known as personality test in UPSC parlance. Put simply, the objective and purpose



of any job interview is to assess the suitability of the candidates for the job they are aspiring for. For example, an interview board which is interviewing aspirants for a captain's job in the army, will look for qualities of courage, valor, mental and physical fitness, discipline, leadership. Similarly, in the case of a lecturer's interview, the board will test their pedagogy. The IAS interview thus is designed to test the suitability of the candidate for a career in the civil services. This suitability is tested by scanning the candidate's mental, intellectual and administrative caliber during the interview session. As far as the importance of the interview in ranking is concerned, it must be noted that it can significantly contribute to getting a very high rank by fetching 190 plus marks out of a maximum of 275 marks. In other words, even if a candidate could not secure very high marks in the main examination, the interview offers another opportunity to add more marks to get a good rank.

The best guide to the IAS interview is the notification issued by UPSC itself. It is pertinent here to quote from UPSC notification on personality test.

- ❑ **On qualities to be tested:** To quote UPSC, "The candidate will be interviewed by a Board who will have before them a record of the candidate's career. The candidate will be asked questions on matters of general interest. The object of the Interview/ Personality Test is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service by a board of competent and unbiased observers. The Interview/ Personality Test is intended to judge the mental caliber of a candidate. In broad terms, this is an assessment of not only intellectual qualities but also social traits and interest in current affairs. Some of the qualities to be judged are: mental alertness, critical power of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity.
- ❑ **Technique of the interview:** Again, to quote UPSC, "The technique is not that of a cross-examination but a natural, though directed and purposive conversation which is intended to reveal the mental qualities of the candidate."
- ❑ In own words of UPSC, "Interview test is not intended to be a test either of specialized or general knowledge of the candidates which has already been tested in their written papers. Candidates are expected to have taken an intelligent interest not only in their special subject of academic studies but also in the events which are happening within and outside their own state or country, as well as the modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should rouse the curiosity of well-educated youth."

**Composition of the UPSC interview Board:** In all, there shall be 8 to 10 separate boards each headed by a member of UPSC, and four other experts invited from outside, who are called **domain experts**. Of these four, usually two are ex-civil servants who belong to the IAS, IPS, IFS or group A services. The other two belong to academia, social work, art or literary background. **Please note that there is no psychologist sitting in the board as is sometimes made out by market sources.** Each board interviews 10 candidates in one day. Thus, the schedule of the board is pretty tight every day.



**How it begins:** Just after a candidate is ushered into the interview room, he/she is asked to take their seat after exchange of greetings. Then, the chairman of the board initiates the interview by asking a few questions on his DAF (Detailed Application Form) which carries various information about the candidate. He may also ask questions outside the DAF before handing over to another member. After this, turn by turn, each member is provided a chance to ask questions. On an average, two to three questions are asked by each member and each question has to be answered by the candidate in 3- 4 minutes. If he/she is taking a longer time to answer, they may be cut short by the member because there is a paucity of time. **It is worth noting that the caste details are not revealed to the board members except the chairman to avoid any possible caste bias.**

**How marks are allotted:** Once the candidate leaves the room, a short discussion follows among the members which helps to arrive at a consensus on their performance level. After that, the chairman suggests certain marks to be allotted to the candidate which is usually accepted by all. If a member feels that he/she should have been given a little more or less marks, this is considered by everyone, and a revised mark is allotted. But generally, the allotment of marks is a smooth process and there are no disputes among members on this.

**How secrecy is maintained about the Board:** Till the last moment, the board does not know the details of candidates allotted to it for the day. Every morning, just before the interview starts, the list of candidates to be interviewed is furnished to the board. This is why UPSC interview has a reputation of being fair to all. Similarly, the candidate has no clue about the board he is going to face. He/ she is ushered in the interview room without any knowledge of who all are there.

**Objectivity, impartiality and non - partisanship of the Board:** A remarkable feature of the board is its impartiality. It is not a biased Board in terms of caste, religion, gender, region, language. Also, your elite background or poor background makes no impact on the board. They will look for your qualities, rather than your background. In the same vein, even if you have been a mediocre student, they will not create a negative opinion about you without giving you a due opportunity to prove yourself. All in all, the UPSC board is a friendly board and there is no need to dread it. The members are cordial, cooperative and encouraging. For example, if they find that you are not able to answer questions on a particular area, they will ask you which topic you are more familiar with and if you suggest an area, they will ask you questions on that. Similarly, even if your medium of interview is English and you are fumbling to answer a particular question in English, they will allow you to attempt it in Hindi on your request. This way, the board is flexible and reasonable. So, there is no need to imagine a very hostile board trying all-out to put you down. On the contrary, the board will encourage you to bring out the best by providing ease and comfort during the entire session.

## GROUND RULES OF FACING THE BOARD:

- ❑ **Be honest:** Never try to hide anything from the board. Always speak the truth. Only truth will be appreciated. If you tell any manufactured thing, be sure you will be caught.

- ❑ **Be polite:** Be humble and polite. Never give an impression that you are rigid, arrogant etc.
- ❑ **Be courteous:** Maintain etiquette, be respectful to the members
- ❑ **Present your true, authentic self:** Do not try to present what you are not. Project a true and authentic self of yours before the board. There is no need to prove to the board that you are extraordinary, because they are looking for a down to earth person, not a super –hero in you. In other words, there is absolutely no need to present a manufactured personality, but a true personality.
- ❑ **Be attentive, alert, and energetic all through the interview session:** While you are answering questions, you are constantly being watched for your energy levels, degree of attention and alertness. Never give an impression of a lazy, disoriented person to the board.
- ❑ **Say no when you really do not know:** There definitely will be some questions you may not be able to answer. It is perfectly alright to say that you don't know the answer to that particular question. No bad impression will be created by admitting this. If you attempt to answer something you do not know, it will put you in an awkward position.
- ❑ **Read the UPSC notification very carefully:** There can be no better guide than the UPSC explanation of the purpose and technique of the interview as given above in this article. This will help you articulate your answers before the board on the expected lines.
- ❑ **Defend you DAF very well:** The information you have furnished in your DAF is entirely yours and you own responsibility for each information supplied. You should be able to defend them. Therefore, never provide any information that you find difficult to defend, particularly with regard to your hobbies, extra-curricular activities, job experience. If you fluster on these, a negative impression will be created.
- ❑ **Don't make the interview preparation look like GS preparation:** Always remember, IAS interview is an interactive and engaging conversation with the board. Therefore, the issues cannot be looked from the prism of GS preparation. The approach should be to engage yourself in a conversation with the board on expected issues rather than furnishing loads of information before the board.
- ❑ **Do not clutter your mind with myths about the interview:** Of late, every second person in the coaching world has begun to wear the mantle of an interview expert, without knowing what really happens inside the board. This will take you away from the realities of the interview and drive your preparation in wrong direction. It is prudent to get guidance from proven, competent persons rather than from people without any credentials.

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# SELF MOCK QUESTIONS

## SOCIETY

### Unity in Diversity /Salient Features:

- ▣ Differentiate between culture and civilization. How can India be best explained as:
  - Integrative elements of Indian society
  - India as a civilizational state
  - Indian culture from a historical perspective-past present continuum
- ▣ What are any 2 things that the world can learn from India right now, which may lead to peace, stability, and cohesion of the society?
- ▣ What is the Significance of Indian cultural ethos in modern society?
- ▣ Mention some Integrative elements of the Indian society.
- ▣ How to refurbish ancient values to the present context?

### Urbanization- Industrialization :

- ▣ What are the Changing population dynamics in the modern world and what are the emerging challenges?
- ▣ Describe the dialectical relation between economy polity and population.
- ▣ What is the relationship between the Citizenship and political rights?
- ▣ Do rights of migrant population is a concern in India?
- ▣ What are the Social - Ethical dilemma related to Urbanisation-Industrialisation?

- ▣ How unplanned urbanization impacts on the residence in our country?

### The Great Indian Challenges of Indian Society:

- ▣ What are the challenges faced by Children in India?
  - Child labour
  - Malnutrition
  - Illiteracy
  - Gender bias against girl child
  - Child Abuse
  - Child trafficking
- ▣ What are the Challenges faced by Women in India?
  - Juvenile Delinquency Women and Health
  - Violence/crime against Women Gender discrimination
- ▣ What are Challenges faced by young population in our country?
  - Unemployment
  - Challenges to adolescent and young adult health
- ▣ What are the Challenges faced by elderly population?
  - Lack of physical infrastructure is a major deterrent
  - Loneliness and isolation
  - Mental health issues
  - Financial dependence
  - Rapid transformation, urbanization, technical & technological change

### Secularism:

- ▣ What is the crux of the Iranian mobilization and how is different or similar to the Karnataka hijab ban controversy?

- Discuss the Dimensions.
- Discuss the role of religion in integration and disintegration of the society.
- Examine twin shackles of religious dogma and patriarchy.
- How local and global waves of feminism are related to Iranian mobilization?
- What is the role of state in espousing secularism?
- What are the challenges of end to secularism?

## Population Dynamics :

- ▣ **Can you explain the paradox of Low Sex Ratio at birth and Higher Sex Ratio that India demography is seeing presently?**
  - Emerging Population Dynamics
  - Impact on demographic dividend
  - Continuing Son meta preference, female foeticide : Reasons and ways to tackle
  - Regional variation
  - Access to medical technology - PCNDT Act

## Women's Issues:

- ▣ **Can democratization of domestic chores help resolve the issue of patriarchy to some extent in India?**
  - Gender bias perception
  - Covert and Overt forms of patriarchy
  - Changing modes to fulfil functional necessities
  - Need for democratisation of gender roles
  - Marriage age for Women
  - Does the age of Consent matters to resolve issues of patriarchy?
    - The missing link between legal age of sexual consent and age of marriage

- Implications for sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Same Sex Marriage
  - How Would Same-Sex Marriages Affect Society?
  - Do you agree that it can ruin civilisation?
  - Do you see legalization of same-sex marriage as positive step?

## Surrogacy

- ▣ **What do you understand by the term anti feminism? What role does globalization play in spreading the same?**
  - #MeToo Reaction : Anti MeToo, #MeFirst
  - Intersection of Patriarchy and State
  - False cases dilute the cause of feminism
  - Arguments for and against gender parity

## Challenges to Social Transformation:

- ▣ **The Indian diaspora has been subjected to racial profiling in the recent times. How would you suggest tackling the issue?**
  - Racism in 21st Century
  - Challenges to Indian diaspora
  - International security measures – globalization
- ▣ **The NCRB data records an increase in student suicides, scrutinize the multiplicity of causes and suggest actionable measures.**
  - Suicide as a psychological as well as sociological challenge
  - Modern education and its challenges
  - Role of NEP in fostering overall development and comprehensive learning
  - Ethical approach

## **POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

### **Governor's role in state politics (doctrine of pleasure)**

- ❑ How does the Governor being the agent of Central Government and not moving beyond party affiliation compromises the duties of the governor?
- ❑ How appointment of Governor and term in office is influenced with political decisions.
- ❑ Discuss the term 'Pleasure of President' in the context of office of Governor.
- ❑ Discuss the Doctrine of Pleasure in the context of State of Bihar vs Abdul Majid and Union of India vs Tulsiram Patel.
- ❑ Discuss the appointment of Vice-Chancellors in the context of recent controversy in state of Kerala.
- ❑ How the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission are relevant for the unbiased conduct of Governor while performing his duties?

### **Constitutionality of First Constitution Amendment Act**

- ❑ Discuss how Supreme Court's verdict validated Art 19 (a)(2).
- ❑ What are the reasons for SC validating First Constitutional Amendment Act?
- ❑ How the first amendment act influenced Freedom of Speech?
- ❑ Discuss the changes made by 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act.

### **Idea of one nation, one police uniform**

- ❑ The idea of one nation, one police uniform, how it can be a way forward for on-going issues and Inter-state disputes?
- ❑ Why the idea of one nation, one police uniform is being announced by Prime

### **Minister?**

- ❑ Why the Police Forces wear uniform of different colours from Khaki?
- ❑ Discuss the feasibility of the idea of one nation, one police uniform.
- ❑ How does the idea influence the centre-state relation Police being under state list?

### **Right to vote for under trials and civil prisoners**

- ❑ How Right to vote for under trials and civil prisoners' can influence a better governance system?
- ❑ Discuss the Right to vote given under the Indian Constitution?
- ❑ What are the provisions for restrictions on voting under the Representatives of Peoples' Act, 1955?
- ❑ What types of detentions restrict right to vote?
- ❑ Discuss the Question on Right to Vote of convicted person being infringed.
- ❑ Discuss the Right to vote and its exercise with respect to under-trials.
- ❑ What is the Position of Right to Vote of prisoners in other countries?

### **Regulations for Online Child Sexual Abuse in India**

- ❑ What are the regulations for Online Child Sexual Abuse in India?
- ❑ What are the key highlights of Megh Chakra Operation?
- ❑ What are the causes and mediums of circulation of Child Sexual Abusive Material?
- ❑ Discuss the liabilities of Internet Service Providers with respect to child pornography.



- ▢ Discuss the Section 67B and 88 of IT Act with respect to the Online Child Sexual Abuse in India.
- ▢ How does the POSCO Act works for the regulation of Online Child Sexual Abuse in India. Discuss its limitations?
- ▢ How does the involvement of teachers and parents can help in avoiding Online Child Sexual Abuse in India?
- ▢ Discuss the Role of Civil Society and NGOs e.g. Aarambh India for the regulation of Online Child Sexual Abuse.

### **Electoral Bonds and their significance**

- ▢ What are Electoral Bonds? How they are significant?
- ▢ What are the Provisions of Representation of Peoples' Act, 1955 with respect to party funding?
- ▢ What are Electoral Bonds and their association with electoral reforms?
- ▢ What is the Procedure of working of electoral bonds?
- ▢ How do you think that it is Necessary of Electoral Bonds for free and fair elections?
- ▢ What is the Contradiction of the principle of Electoral Bonds?
- ▢ Discuss the Observation of Supreme Court in this context.

### **VII. Ban on PFI**

- ▢ What is the Provision of Ban under UAPA?
- ▢ What is PFI and discuss its origin? What are the reasons for ban on PFI?
- ▢ What are the Constitutional Provisions on Right to form association and its exception?
- ▢ What do you know about UAPA Tribunal?

### **Internal Democracy in Political Parties**

- ▢ What do you understand by internal Democracy in Political Parties?

- ▢ How the Equal Political Opportunity influences rights in democracy?
- ▢ How the Lack of accountability and decentralisation in Indian Politics are interrelated?
- ▢ How the Dynastic Politics influence democratic principles in India?
- ▢ How Personality Politics works in India?
- ▢ Discuss the Lack of laws on practise of internal democracy in India.
- ▢ Discuss the Role of Election Commission and its powers.

### **Hate Speech on Social Media**

- ▢ How Hate Speech on Social Media is a concern for India?
- ▢ What do you understand by Hate Speech?
- ▢ Discuss the provision under 267<sup>th</sup> report of Law Commission on Hate Speech.
- ▢ How do Freedom of Speech and Article 19 of the Indian Constitution hinder the regulation of hate speech in India?
- ▢ How the Ideology and hate speech are interrelated?
- ▢ What Internal security issues are related to hate speech?
- ▢ Discuss the provisions related to IPC and Representation of People's Act.
- ▢ What are the provisions related to IT Act with respect to hate speeches?
- ▢ Discuss Vishawanathan and Bezbaruah Committee with respect to hate speech and freedom of speech.
- ▢ Discuss the Opinion of Supreme Court in Shreya Singal vs Union of India, Arup Bhuyan vs State of Assam and S. Rangarajan vs P. Jagjivan Ram.



**Climate Change and Cooperative Federalism**

- ❑ How the Climate Change and Cooperative Federalism is related to each other?
- ❑ Discuss the concept of Cooperative Federalism.
- ❑ How do the inter-state activities impact Cooperative Federalism?
- ❑ Discuss the Climate impact due to Inter-state bus transport.
- ❑ What is Grand Challenge 1?
- ❑ How does the Co-ordination amongst states and with Centre take place with respect to climate change?
- ❑ Discuss the role of Panchayati Raj institutions for limiting climate change.

**Provisions related to age of Consent in India**

- ❑ What are the provisions related to age of Consent in India? Discuss important judgements.
- ❑ Discuss the provisions related to Age of consent of girls above 16 and below 18 with respect to consensual sexual act?
- ❑ Discuss the Provisions of Section 366 under IPC, Section 6 of POSCO and Section 9 of Child Marriage Act.
- ❑ How the laws related to sexual act are tend to be misused?
- ❑ Discuss the decision of Madras High Court in Vijaylakshmi vs State?
- ❑ Discuss the views of Law Commission of India with respect to the consensual sexual act.

**India's labour reforms and persistent gaps**

- ❑ What are the India's labour reforms and persistent gaps?

- ❑ Discuss the Division of labour in organised and unorganised sector in India?
- ❑ How do you see the Poor condition of labour and their working conditions in India?
- ❑ Discuss some Constitutional provisions related to equality in Fundamental Rights and Labours in Directive principles of State Policy?
- ❑ How the Decision of Supreme Court in Randhir Singh vs Union of India influence labour class in India?
- ❑ Elaborate some important Labour Codes given below:
  - Code of Wages, 2019
  - Industrial Relations Code, 2020
  - Social Security Code, 2020
  - Occupation Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019
- ❑ Discuss some important Initiatives by States to bring labour reforms?
- ❑ How Labour reforms presence in Concurrent List makes centre and state both liable towards labour?
- ❑ Discuss the Difficulties related to present labour law.
- ❑ What are the Industrial dispute resolution and labour reforms?
- ❑ How does Ease of doing business influence labour laws?
- ❑ How Gender Parity influence Labour Reforms?
- ❑ Discuss the condition of Labours in Start-ups.

**Digital layers for democratic governance**

- ❑ Do adding Digital layers for democratic governance is beneficial? How?
- ❑ Discuss the concept of e-governance?
- ❑ Discuss the Benefits of e-governance?
- ❑ Discuss the role and importance of National Agencies in implementing e-governance provisions in India?

- ▢ What is the meaning of G2C, G2B, G2G and G2E?
- ▢ What are the Challenges associated with implementing e-governance?
- ▢ Discuss the Initiatives taken by the Central Govt and some state governments to promote e-governance?
- ▢ Discuss the National E-Governance Plan and suggest some measures to improve it?
- ▢ How E-Kranti and Digital India Initiative can bring more inclusiveness in society?

### **Right to be forgotten and Right to Privacy**

- ▢ What is Right to be forgotten and mention its reach under the Right to Privacy?
- ▢ Discuss the Concept of Right to be forgotten?
- ▢ How the right to be forgotten is related to Right to Privacy under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution?
- ▢ Discuss it in the context of the Decision of Court of Justice of the European Union.
- ▢ How does the EU's General Data Protection Regulation influence the Right to be forgotten?
- ▢ What is Status of Right to be forgotten in India and Personal Data Protection Bill?

### **Welfare State V/s Freebies**

- ▢ How Welfare State V/s Freebies is a dilemma for political parties?
- ▢ How does Freebies influence the free and fair election process in Indian Politics?
- ▢ Discuss the Positives and Negatives of Freebies.
- ▢ Does Freebies follow the phenomenon of Good Politics but bad Economics?
- ▢ Discuss the importance of drawing a line between necessary allocations and bad freebies?

- ▢ Discuss the Judicial intervention with respect to freebies?
- ▢ How Election Commission can put a check on freebies by political parties?

### **Agnipath Scheme**

- ▢ What is Agnipath Scheme?
- ▢ What is the Aim of the scheme?
- ▢ What are the different Provisions of the scheme?
- ▢ What are the features of Seva Nidhi Programme?
- ▢ What is the Need for the scheme and its impact of Defence Budget?
- ▢ What does it mean by All India, All Class Recruitment?
- ▢ How does the scheme will act as a reform in army?
- ▢ What is the need of Agnipath from the point of view of rationalising size of army?
- ▢ Does this scheme follow the idea of need of a young army?
- ▢ What are the Criticism of Agnipath Scheme?

### **Inter-state arrests**

- ▢ Why Inter-state arrests are messy affairs?
- ▢ Discuss inter-state arrests in the Case of Tajinder Singh Bagga.
- ▢ How does the Inter-state arrest conducted and what are their implications?
- ▢ Discuss the Police and Law & Order being a state subject?
- ▢ What is the Procedure of inter-state arrest as per CrPC?
- ▢ Discuss the Politics in Policing.
- ▢ Is there any Inter-state police rivalries exist and how?

- What is the Need for concretising the idea of Co-operating federalism and not misusing the policing powers?

### **Role of 'indigenous language' in education**

- What is the Role of 'indigenous language' in education?
- What are the reasons behind the Implementation of Decision of Madhya Pradesh Government to offer MBBS course in Hindi?
- Discuss the Article 350 of Indian Constitution and its implementation?
- What are the Provisions of National Education Policy related to education in indigenous language?
- What are the Benefits of providing education in indigenous language?
- What are the obstacles of providing higher and technical education in indigenous language?

### **Era of Combative Federalism'**

- What do you understand by the 'Era of Combative Federalism'?
- How Proposed amendment to Indian Administrative Cadre Rules, 1954 influence federalism?
- Discuss the turf war between Indian Union and States with respect to IAS officers?
- How the Different interpretations of cadre rules influence federalism?
- Differences between Centre and States also on following issues:
  - (a) GST Compensation
  - (b) Actions of Central Agencies
  - (c) Territorial extension of BSF
- Discuss the Need of conciliation between Centre and States?

### **One Nation, One Election**

- How do you see the One Nation, One Election vision of Central government?
- Discuss the drawbacks and positive aspects associated with the multiple elections in India?
- How the multiple elections puts financial burden on the Indian exchequer?
- Discuss the restrictions on implementation of welfare scheme when MCC is in effect?
- What difficulties India may face while conducting One Nation, One Election?
- Discuss the drawbacks associated with the One Nation, One Election vision of Central government?
- What if government loses confidence of legislature?

### **Uniform Civil Code**

- What is Uniform Civil Code and how it can impact Article 19 of the Constitution?
- Discuss the Article 44 of Indian Constitution?
- What is the Need of Uniform Civil Code in the context of India?
- What are the concerns with respect to Uniform Civil Code?
- Is there any Constitutional exception to some states under the Indian Constitution for the UCC?
- Discuss the Uniform Civil Code in Goa and how does it influence the law and order?

### **Supreme Court's Observation:**

- What are the SC's latest observation regarding the ECI?
- Is collegium system better than NJAC?
- Is remote voting for migrants a good idea? What are the challenges associated with remote voting?

- ▣ What does the Essential Religious Practice Test means?

### Governance as a Public administrator:

- ▣ Is Online gaming is safe or not?

- ▣ Is EdTech distorting the Indian Education sector?

- ▣ Do you think central agencies are really independent? Do you think CBI is really a "caged parrot"?

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****China's Wolf-Warrior Diplomacy**

- ❑ What is wolf-warrior diplomacy? Why is China adopting the same? Is it a diversionary tactic from domestic chaos?
- ❑ Which countries are aimed at by China through wolf warrior diplomacy?
- ❑ Has India being targeted by China's wolf warrior diplomacy?
- ❑ What are the economic and diplomatic ramifications of this policy?

**India's Refugee Policy (Rohingya):**

- ❑ What is the Rohingya Crises?
- ❑ What is India's attitude towards the Rohingya crises and the immigrants?
- ❑ How far has this crises affect India's relations with Myanmar and Bangladesh?
- ❑ Has India played any role in navigating the relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh based on Rohingya crises?
- ❑ Which are the important conventions globally on refugees? Is India part of any of them?
- ❑ What is India's policy on Refugees?
- ❑ What are the security concerns that India has with respect to Rohingyas?

**The making of 'Greater India' in Southeast Asia:**

- ❑ What are your views on 'Greater India'? Is it expansionist policy, or only culture centric?
- ❑ Which regions of Asia are considered to be predominantly part of Greater India?
- ❑ Which event has led to a renewed discussion on Greater India?

- ❑ Has this being adopted by India as its official policy?

**India and Nepal: moving beyond the hurdles of Past:**

- ❑ Do you think that there is need for re-negotiating Friendship Treaty between India and Nepal?
- ❑ Explain the Hydro-Power Diplomacy between India and Nepal.
- ❑ What do you understand by the Border Disputes and their implications between India and Nepal?
- ❑ What is BBIN?
- ❑ How Military Exercises can become a link for both the countries to counter current issues?
- ❑ Do you think that initiatives to flourish the historical links between Indian and Nepal like the Ramayana Circuit can help nations to build trust?
- ❑ The decision of India's assistance for building National Police Academy and Integrated Check Post in Nepal is correct or not?
- ❑ How Co-operation in the field of renewable energy (Nepal joins International Solar Alliance) can facilitate India's One Sun, One World, One Grid initiative?

**NATO and India's strategic autonomy:**

- ❑ What is NATO and why was it established?
- ❑ How is the Nature of talks between India and NATO (Political or military or both) seems like?
- ❑ What is India strategic autonomy in NATO?
- ❑ Why is NATO important for India?

- ❑ Will India-NATO talks affect the formers strategic autonomy?
- ❑ Will India-NATO talks take away the former from its Non-Alignment Policy?
- ❑ How India's engagement with NATO can widen its imperatives on relations with Europe and US?
- ❑ How NATO's engagements with Pakistan and China affect India?
- ❑ What are the Impact of this dialogue on India's relations with Pakistan and China?
- ❑ How the focus of these relations with respect to Afghanistan matters for India?
- ❑ Divergent views of India and NATO about Russia and Euro-Atlantic Security is important? How
- ❑ What is the role of Quad in India-NATO relations?

## India's Advancement in Defence Technology and its Impact on "Act East Policy"

- ❑ What are the essential features of Act East Policy and how it is different with respect to Look East Policy?
- ❑ What are the Dimensions of India's relations with East Asia and Indo-Pacific
- ❑ What are the disputed between China and East Asian Countries (Especially maritime disputes)?
- ❑ How the increasing impact of China in the relation due to BRI is related to India?
- ❑ How is India's defence co-operation significant with East Asian Countries?
- ❑ How India can become the Net Security Provider for East Asia?
- ❑ How India as a reliable source of weapons (Brahmos to Vietnam) and satellite imagery to south Asian countries?

- ❑ What is Quad in the region? And how India's participation in it is important?

## Security of supply of critical minerals (US's 'Minerals Security Partnership'):

- ❑ What are critical minerals?
- ❑ Why are they important?
- ❑ What is Minerals Security Partnership?
- ❑ Which countries is part for this initiative?
- ❑ What are the objectives of this initiative?
- ❑ What are the concerns of India with regards to rare earth minerals?
- ❑ What is the position of India with respect to the supply of rare earth minerals?
- ❑ Is India part of Minerals Security Partnership?
- ❑ Has India entered into partnership with other countries for their supply?
- ❑ What is Lithium agreement that India has signed with Argentina?

## India's G20 Presidency and Opportunities

- ❑ What is G20?
- ❑ What are the objectives of G20?
- ❑ How was India chosen to be the President of G20 in 2022?
- ❑ What is the theme and agenda for G20 Summit presided over by India?
- ❑ What are Issues of global concerns related to?
  - Russia-Ukraine War
  - Food Inflation
  - Energy Challenge
  - Stagflation
- ❑ What is the India's contribution to G-20?
  - Projecting India's diversity to the world
  - India's handling of Covid
  - Financial Inclusion through use of UPI
  - India's strides towards green energy



- ❑ **What are the Opportunities that India will have due to it hosting the G-20 Summit?**
  - Building economic partnerships in areas like tourism, IT, Pharma etc
  - Getting expertise in diverse fields

**India US 2+2 (past, present & future)**

- ❑ **What is 2+2?**
- ❑ **What is Space Situational Awareness Arrangement?**
- ❑ **Comment on Defence Artificial Intelligence Dialogue.**
- ❑ **Will there be Military Supply Chain Management between India and US in Indo-Pacific region?**
- ❑ **What is the Outlook on Ukraine Crises of US and India?**
- ❑ **What are LEMOA, COMCASA and BECA?**
- ❑ **How will LEMOA, COMCASA and BECA help India?**

**Role of UNHCR- A Critical Analysis**

- ❑ **What is UNHCR?**
- ❑ **Under which principal organ of UN does it work?**
- ❑ **What is the primary objective of UNHCR?**
- ❑ **Discuss about the Global Trends Report?**
- ❑ **What Nansen Refugee Award?**
- ❑ **What is the convention relating to Status of Refugees, 1951?**
- ❑ **What is Non-Refoulement?**
- ❑ **What is the role of UNHCR during the COVID crises?**
- ❑ **Has it become a political tool to discredit some countries?**

**War Crimes and Rules of war:**

- ❑ **Who is Irmgard Furchner?**

- ❑ **What does Geneva Convention of 1951 say on War Crimes?**
- ❑ **What does Rome Statute of International Criminal Court state?**
- ❑ **Does war crimes in Russia-Ukraine War is influencing other countries?**
- ❑ **How do you see the Massacre in Bucha and Mariupol?**
- ❑ **How you see Russia's membership to Geneva Convention of 1951?**

**Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022**

- ❑ **What is the importance of Antarctic in general and for India in specific?**
- ❑ **What do you understand about Antarctic Treaty?**
- ❑ **What is its ambit?**
- ❑ **How does the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) can help the Bill?**
- ❑ **What is the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty mean?**
- ❑ **What is the importance on domestic law on Antarctic?**
- ❑ **Do Jurisdiction of Indian Courts in Antarctic matters?**
- ❑ **How Indian policy makers can end crime against Environment in Antarctic?**
- ❑ **Which committee on Antarctic is made in India?**
- ❑ **What are the provisions for mineral resources in Antarctic and their use?**
- ❑ **What are the Endemic species of Antarctic?**
- ❑ **How nuclear explosion and waste can impact Antarctic?**



## India – UK & the changing dynamics

- ❑ Do the opinion with respect to Ukraine War is on same pace for both India and UK?
- ❑ What is India-UK Free Trade Deal and how it is affected from Russia-Ukraine war?
- ❑ What is said as a “Living Bridge” between India and UK?
- ❑ What are “Zero effect, zero defects” products?
- ❑ What are the investment plans between the two countries?
- ❑ What is the Defence Industry Joint Working Group?
- ❑ What is Open General Export Licence?
- ❑ What are the possible outcomes of UK-India Education and Research Initiative?
- ❑ What is Newton-Bhaba Fund?
- ❑ How rise of Indian Diaspora is creating a good impact on UK and their dependence on economy?
- ❑ What is Khalistani movement? How it is related to UK?

## Australia–India Scripting a ‘new chapter’ in Bilateral Relations:

- ❑ How Quad became a major link for India and Australia?
- ❑ What is Indo-Pacific Clean Energy Supply Chain Forum?
- ❑ What is Indo-Pacific Economic Integration?
- ❑ The New Centre of Excellence for Critical and Emerging Technology Policy between the two is contributing to which of the sectors?
- ❑ What is the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement?
- ❑ Do the MoU on Tourism between both

the countries helping nation-building?

- ❑ How the initiatives like Maitri Scholarships Programme, Maitri Grants and Fellowships Programme and Australia-India Maitri Cultural Partnership are significant?
- ❑ What do you understand by the Energy Dialogue?
- ❑ What is Water recycle optimization?

## India-Germany Mobility Partnership Pact:

- ❑ What are the convergent views of India and Germany on China?
- ❑ What is the comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership?
- ❑ How Student Visa and Academic Evaluation Centre are strengthening ties among India and Germany?
- ❑ How Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism by Pakistan is a concern for Germany?

## India’s Soft Power:

- ❑ What do you understand by Soft Power and its Components?
- ❑ What is the role of Diaspora in expanding soft power?
- ❑ The Cinema as ambassador of India, How?
- ❑ What are the benefits that India gets from its soft power?
- ❑ How the shortcoming of soft power is affecting India?

## India’s Africa outlook:

- ❑ What is 17th India-Africa Growth Partnership?
- ❑ How the mutual benefit through ensuring food and energy security is important for Africa and India?
- ❑ What are the India’s investments plans in Africa?

- ❑ **Does India's Pharma and Petroleum goods helping Africa?**
- ❑ **What is the role of India in United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Africa?**
- ❑ **How catching up with China in Africa can impact India?**
- ❑ **What is the educational and Humanitarian Aid provided by India to Africa?**
- ❑ **How Indian Diaspora in Africa remain as a link for India-Africa relations?**

## FATF and Pakistan:

- ❑ **What is FATF and its objectives?**
- ❑ **What do you understand regarding the Grey and Black list of FATF?**
- ❑ **How money Laundering and terror financing is one of the factors of concern for India and Pakistan?**
- ❑ **What are the reasons for removal of Pakistan from FATF Grey List?**
- ❑ **What is India's stand on Myanmar's position in Black list of FATF?**

## Ukraine War:

- ❑ **What are the reasons of the war- NATO's eastward expansion**  
Russia's ambition to control former Soviet republics  
Putin's ambition to restore Russia a great power
- ❑ **Why has the war prolonged?**
  - Russia's military miscalculation
  - Unprecedented Ukrainian response
  - NATO's role in supporting Ukraine
  - No dialogue mechanism to end war.
- ❑ **What are the effects of war on India and Globally?**
  - Energy Supplies
  - Value chain disruption
  - Food insecurity
  - Growing world disorder

- New impetus to arms race
- Fear of Nuclear war

## ❑ **What is India's stand about the War?**

- India's Stand: Combination of national interest and value based foreign policy

## ❑ **What is the relevance of NATO?**

- Should it continue or dissolve?
- Should Ukraine be given NATO's membership
- Why Finland and Sweden applied for NATO's membership
- Turkey's opposition to membership
- What is CSTO?
- Why the west has not interfered?
- How true is nuclear blackmail of Russia

## ❑ **What is China's stand in the war?**

## ❑ **How failure of UN in Ukraine War is seen by world?**

- Why UN wouldn't intervene?
- Russia itself is a permanent member of UNSC
- Lack of consensus within UN on the war?

## ❑ **How War and Indo-Russia Relations are affecting in recent times?**

- World looks at India to mediate in the war
- How west played with India?

## ❑ **What is the position of India-Ukraine Relations in your view?**

- Can India's G20 presidency help resolve the Ukraine War
- Relations between India-Ukraine relations

## US-China Relations:

## ❑ **What lies at the core of US-China's cold war?**

- Geo-politics
- Trade War
- Technology War

## ❑ **What is the Taiwan Issue all about?**

## ❑ **How the growing Russia-China relationship can affect India?**

## US-Russia:

- ▣ **How the post-cold war relations between US-Russia have unfolded?**

## UN Reforms:

- ▣ **What is united did for peace resolution?**
- ▣ **Mention the concept of Collective Security of UN and its effectiveness.**
- ▣ **Discuss India role in peacekeeping operations.**
- ▣ **Intergovernmental negotiation:**
  - A body within UN to suggest reforms
  - G4 and Koffee Club
  - What in your view is India's candidature for UNSC?
  - What is UN's CTC?
  - What is Delhi Declaration?
- ▣ **What is the difference between FATF and no money for Terror finance (NMTF)?**
- ▣ **Restructure the global financial architecture in terms of India.**
  - IMF, World Bank
  - Crises in WTO
    - Multilateral trading
    - Problems in trade dispute in WTO

- ▣ **What is the WHO's role in recent times?**
  - Function
  - Controversial role during pandemic
  - WHA
  - De-globalization
- ▣ **What are the emerging challenges against the World Order?**
  - Is it a multipolar world?
  - A highly disordered world?
  - Uncertain World
- ▣ **What are the environmental Issues emerging in near future?**
  - Major takeaways of COP27
  - Loss and damage fund
  - Terms: Adaptation, Mitigation, UNEF, Climate finance, Justice, Geo-Engineering, COP, UNFCCC, IPCC.
  - India's position at COP 26, 27.
  - Net-Zero emission
  - Montreal CBD conference
  - Factors damaging biodiversity and efforts to prevent it
  - India and biodiversity
- ▣ **Causes of Soil Pollution and remedies**
- ▣ **30 into 30 plan**
- ▣ **What do you understand by 6<sup>th</sup> Mass Extinction? How do you see It?**

## ECONOMY

### Employment

- ❑ **Unemployment in India has increased to more than it was during the pandemic months when millions lost their jobs. What's more worrying is that the pace of job addition has slowed down, too. How would this situation improve?**
- ❑ **The Great Resignation and Tech Layoffs**
  - Do you think that the Great Resignation is a sustainability warning to companies that have not focused on culture and leadership for a while?
- ❑ **Why are there so many tech layoffs?**
- ❑ **How will global layoff impact India?**

### The booming Online Sector

- ❑ **There's no doubt that e-commerce helped many navigate the pandemic. But as we slowly emerge from lockdowns, it's less clear how this shift to digital commerce may evolve across economies and industries. What are your views on this?**
- ❑ **Since 2020, total game downloads have grown from 6.5 billion to 15 billion. India also had the highest share of game downloads (17 per cent) globally in 2022. Why is the online gaming industry booming in India?**

### DBT and Financial Inclusion

- ❑ **How is direct benefit transfer (DBT) a game-changer for financial inclusion in India?**
  - Reasons behind the efficient DBT
  - Advantages of Direct Benefit Transfer
  - Challenges of Direct Benefit Transfers in India
- ❑ **Financial Inclusion is among top-most priorities of the Government as it is an enabler for inclusive growth. Suggest measures to promote more responsible financial inclusion.**

### RBI's digital currency: Potential and Challenges

- ❑ **Why does the RBI need CBDCs?**
- ❑ **What is the potential and challenges of digital currency?**
  - Viability of a CBDC
  - How it can be compared to cryptocurrency?
  - How is it different from the private virtual currency?
  - Role in financial inclusion
  - Issues CBDCs Address and Create
- ❑ **Do you think India really needs a central bank digital currency?**

### The 'serious' situation of hunger in India

- ❑ **Why India Is experiencing an alarming rate of hunger (Add data findings of Global Hunger Index, 2022)**
- ❑ **India is among the largest producer of some critical staples in the world, yet our population is nutrition- and food-deprived, why?**
- ❑ **Do you think that India's real food problem isn't hunger but food wastage? Provide solution to the problem.**
- ❑ **What is the Micronutrient deficiency among children under a certain age group in India?**
- ❑ **Climate change as a major issue for world hunger. How it is impacting India as a developing country?**

### Innovation and India (Global Innovation index, 2022)

- ❑ **India is projected to be among the youngest, largest, and fastest growing economies, boasting scalable research capacity and an enormous talent pool. How India can become a global R&D powerhouse?**
- ❑ **Why do we need innovation?**

- ▢ What are the factors that affect innovation in India?
- ▢ What is the potential of India's Innovation ecosystem?
- ▢ What are the Socio-economic conditions that are acting as barriers to innovation in India?
- ▢ What is the need for R&D and global partnership in innovation?

## India's Energy Security

- ▢ What are the challenges for India's Energy Security?
- ▢ How can we enhance our energy security?
- ▢ What are the impacts of Russia-Ukraine Conflict on Global Energy Security?
- ▢ How Oil, Gas, and Coal India Imports from Russia got affected during war?

## Hostile takeover

- ▢ How a hostile takeover is done?
- ▢ What is the process of a hostile takeover?
- ▢ What are the Impacts of a hostile takeover?
- ▢ What will be the Defense action against a hostile takeover?

## Rupees depreciation

- ▢ What are the reasons for the Current Depreciation of the Indian Rupee?
- ▢ How Crude Oil Prices Affect Rupee?
- ▢ How does the Depreciation of the Rupee Impact the Overall Economy?

## Impact of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict on the Indian Economy

- ▢ How Ukraine War is reverberating across major regions of the world?
- ▢ Impact on inflation, crude oil prices

- ▢ What is the Currency impact?

## Freebies & their economic viability

- ▢ Economic implications of freebie politics
- ▢ How is freebie a burden on the taxpayer of the economy?
- ▢ Should open-ended 'freebies' be discouraged?
- ▢ How are Freebies different from Subsidies?
- ▢ The debate on freebies cannot be seen as indifferent to the fiscal health of the states. Do you agree?
- ▢ Are you in favor of freebies? Or it should be banned completely?

## India & its race to be in the list of largest Economies

- ▢ What are the key factors that can drive India to become the third-largest economy by 2030?
- ▢ Compared to the gloomy global picture, India is the only economy that looks promising. What worked in India's favour to compete and outpace its competitors?
- ▢ Do you think RBI's new mechanism to settle international trade payments in Rupees would promote global trade from India and at the same time support the increasing interest of the global trading community in INR?

## Hyper-lapse consumerism

- ▢ What is Hyper Lapse Consumerism?
- ▢ What are the main reasons for growing consumerism in Indian society?
- ▢ Economic, social, environmental, and psychological consequences of hyper-consumerism.

**The 'OpenSea' tale on the future of NFTs**

- What are the new economic opportunities provided by the Non-fungible token (NFTs)?
- Relation between Blockchain and Fungibility
- How NFTs are different from cryptocurrency
- Unenforceability of copyright
- Environmental concerns -NFT purchases and sales are enabled by the high energy usage
- Issue of Plagiarism and fraud

**Assessing Indian Economic progress since Independence**

- How Indian economy grew since 1947
- What did India's founders and citizens dream of and how has the Indian economy fared since 1947?
- What have been the challenges and successes of the Indian economy after 75 years of Independence?
- How do you see India's journey from the economic crisis as the world's fastest growing major economy?

**Required reform in indirect taxation (GST 2.0)**

- Why is India's GST one of the world's most complex tax reforms?
- What reform do you suggest in indirect taxation (GST 2.0)?
- Advantage of GST for government, economy, trade and industry, states
- Issues related to GST- Arisen or Unresolved
- Controversy around GSTN

**Protectionism**

- Is protectionism compatible with liberalization?
- Is Protectionism Left-Wing or Right-Wing Politics?
- What Are the Arguments for Protectionism?
- Protectionism vs Globalization

**Circular economy**

- What is a circular economy and why is it important for India?
- Is recycling the same as that of the Circular Economy?
- Circular production, solution to India's textile waste problem
- Adoption and applications by industry
- Criticism of circular economy model

**India's position in Sustainable Development**

- How does GDP growth relate to sustainability?
- Suggest measures to make economic growth in India sustainable, resilient and inclusive.
- India's Commitment towards wider implementation of SDG Goals

**Significance of Semiconducting Devices in Indian Economy**

- Significance of Semiconductor Chips
- What is required for semiconductor manufacturing?
- Opportunities for India
- Challenges /Issues related to semiconductor manufacturing in India



- ▢ Why is India's focus on semiconductor manufacturing strategically important?

#### **India's Fertiliser sector**

- ▢ State of organic fertilizer, biofertilizer sector in India
- ▢ What is the potential of Biofertilizers in Crop Production in Indian Agriculture?
- ▢ What are issues associated with the biofertilizer sector in India?
- ▢ One of the important components for ensuring food security is fertilizers. The availability of fertilizers and their rising costs is considered to be among the most crucial challenges faced by the world today. Do you think that there is need for global leaders to curate reasonable and transparent mechanisms with long-term goals to deal with issues of fertilizers in the larger interest of global food security?

#### **Universal basic Income**

- ▢ The Care Economy via Universal Basic Income
- ▢ Why is there a Growing Debate over UBI in India?
- ▢ What are the arguments in favour and against of UBI in India?
- ▢ Can Universal basic income (UBI) be an effective tool for eradicating poverty in India?

#### **Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis& lessons for India**

- ▢ What led to the recent Sri Lanka Crisis?
- ▢ What can India learn from the Sri Lanka economic crisis?

- ▢ Should India worry about Sri Lanka Crisis?
- ▢ What Opportunities should India look for?
- ▢ Why Should India assist in Helping Sri Lanka?

#### **Do you think India's Agriculture required reforms?**

- ▢ Role of Agriculture in making India a \$ 5 trillion economy
- ▢ How can the government revive agricultural reforms?
- ▢ Explain the need for structural reforms in Indian agriculture?
- ▢ How do you see the feminization of agriculture in India?
- ▢ Drone technology and its significance in the agricultural sector
- ▢ What is the need for climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in modern India?

#### **Tourism**

- ▢ What is the Contribution of Tourism to the Indian Economy?
- ▢ What do you mean by Sustainable Tourism?
- ▢ What are the adverse Effects on Environment and Ecology?
- ▢ What are the undesirable Social and Cultural Change due to Tourism especially in Rural areas?

## ENVIRONMENT

### Environment driven taxes:

- ❑ What are the objectives behind the formation of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF)?
- ❑ Financing mechanism for LDF. How Environment-Driven taxes will help in financing LDF?
- ❑ Benefits for India, with the establishment of LDF.
- ❑ Role of private sector organisations in LDF.

### The Harvest of Polluted Air:

- ❑ Do weather conditions play any role in pollution during the winter season, especially in the NCR region?
- ❑ Why is stubble being burned?
- ❑ Despite various initiatives like the formation of the Commission for Air Quality Management, Why does the NCR region face Air pollution problems every year? What innovative steps should be taken to handle air pollution?
- ❑ Is there any alternative to stubble burning?

### Blue opportunities for Green Development of Pacific Island Countries

- ❑ Pacific island countries are vulnerable to climate change induced disasters. How can marine resources be of help to these countries? Which approach-(Climate Change Mitigation or Adaptation) would be of help to these countries?
- ❑ Which initiatives were launched by India in COP-26, for island states?
- ❑ How LDF would be of help to these countries?
- ❑ What is the Blue Economy?

### Recycling heat generated by Data centres

- ❑ How Data centres are endangering climate goals?
- ❑ Do data centres have any role in energy transition?
- ❑ What is 'Proof-of-work' and 'Proof-of-stake'? Which is better environmentally?

### Artificial Intelligence and its climate cost

- ❑ Does AI have any negative externalities?
- ❑ How does AI affect the environment? (Both positive and negative impacts).
- ❑ Which AI applications may lead to carbon emissions?
- ❑ How can AI be made more climates friendly?

### The Question of Biodiversity (Relocation of Cheetahs)

- ❑ Significance of the new Global Biodiversity Framework.
- ❑ Why is there a need to amend the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?
- ❑ Invasive species and threats that they pose.
- ❑ Significance of Biodiversity resources in Human life.
- ❑ Ecological benefits of the relocation of Cheetahs.

### 'Arth Ganga' a new model for the River's sustainable development

- ❑ What is river-based development?
- ❑ Ganga River and livelihoods linked with it.

- ▢ Feasibility of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) in India, in the contest of climate change.
- ▢ Which innovative measures can be taken to reduce pollution of rivers?
- ▢ Importance of Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ▢ Role of people in addressing river pollution.

#### **India's Renewable sector (Wind Project addition to peak by 2024)**

- ▢ Energy sources highlighted under 'Long term Low Emission Development strategy' (L-LEDS).
- ▢ What is Net-zero emissions?
- ▢ Steps to increase Renewable Energy Production.
- ▢ Need for wind-solar hybrid projects.
- ▢ Importance of Hydrogen as a source of energy.

#### **Access to a clean, healthy environment, a universal right**

- ▢ Planetary crisis and threats to a right of clean and healthy environment
- ▢ Does making a clean environment a part of Human Rights, ensures its fulfillment?
- ▢ Challenges in implementing a clean environment as a Human Right in India.
- ▢ Importance of a clean environment in 21 century.

#### **Agro-forestry and its socio-economic impact**

- ▢ What is Agro-Forestry? How is it different from social forestry?
- ▢ Its impact → environmental & socio-economic
- ▢ Impediments in the adoption of Agro-forestry.

- ▢ Its significance for farmers, for achievement of NDCs
- ▢ National Agroforestry Policy.

#### **Man-Animal Conflict**

- ▢ Is it a positive externality of conservation programmes?
- ▢ What leads to Man-animal conflict – animals coming out of their habitat or human encroachment?
- ▢ Vermin animals
- ▢ Ethical perspective on man-animal conflict.
- ▢ Impact of Man-Animal Conflict.
- ▢ How technology can be harnessed to address man-animal conflicts?

#### **Green Investments and Sustainability**

- ▢ Role of financial institution in Green Financing.
- ▢ Importance of Green investments with respect to climate change targets.
- ▢ Importance of private sector in Green Investments.
- ▢ What is Greenwashing?
- ▢ Are Green investments synonymous with Sustainable Development?

#### **Balancing Global Nutrition and Climate Change**

- ▢ In the context of climate change, importance of locally-sourced food.
- ▢ Are GM crops the only solution for climate-resilient agriculture?
- ▢ Arguments in favor and against GM crops.
- ▢ Does climate change have any positive impact on agriculture?

- ❑ Importance of animal husbandry, impact on animal rearing in climate change.
- ❑ Climate change and inflation.
- ❑ Plant-based diet – as a demand side management of climate change.

#### **Indian solar-power dream**

- ❑ Importance of solar-energy for Net-zero emissions.
- ❑ What is LT-LEDS? (long Term – Lone Emissions Development Strategy)
- ❑ Problems in meeting 100 GW of solar energy target by 2022.
- ❑ Feasibility of 500 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030.
- ❑ Steps to increase solar power generation in India.
- ❑ Solar power projects and Great Indian Bustard conservation.

#### **Mine e-waste, not the Earth**

- ❑ Can E-waste be considered as a treasure?
- ❑ Contribution of forced obsolescence to E-waste.
- ❑ Responsibility of Producers, Dealers etc. in handling E-waste.
- ❑ Why submission of used Electronics goods will save the Environment?
- ❑ Precious metals, toxic elements present in E-waste.

#### **Sustainable way for ecological restoration (M)**

- ❑ Importance of nature-based solutions for challenges like climate change
- ❑ Role of community in ecological restoration
- ❑ What is Miyawati forest?
- ❑ Services received from nature
- ❑ Nagar Van Yojana.

#### **Ban on Plastic and expected results:**

- ❑ How 20<sup>th</sup> century's invention became the most important challenge for 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- ❑ Why plastic pollution is not being halted?
- ❑ Alternatives to plastic
- ❑ Impact of plastic on marine life
- ❑ Innovative solutions for plastic waste like Bioremediation.

#### **Climate Smart Agriculture:**

- ❑ Need of climate smart Agriculture
- ❑ Aspects of climate smart Agriculture
- ❑ What is 2BNF
- ❑ Environment-friendly agricultural practices in India.
- ❑ Importance of India-Israel collaboration for climate smart agriculture
- ❑ Nanotechnology for precision farming.

#### **Need of Indian Environment service**

- ❑ Why IES is needed, despite have Indian Forest service?
- ❑ Importance of Environment Bureaucracy
- ❑ Will IES help solve the problem or will lead to duplication of institutions already present?
- ❑ Has Formation of NGT helped?

#### **Increasing heat events around the Globe**

- ❑ Can recent heat events be attributed to climate change?
- ❑ Heat waves criteria in India.
- ❑ Guidelines for handling heat waves in India.
- ❑ Role of District Administration in heat and cold wave conditions. a) long term solution for heat waves across the globe.

## INTERNAL SECURITY

### Emerging Security Threats

- ❑ What are the emerging threats to India's internal security in the wake of-
  - Globalization?
  - Regime changes in the neighborhood?
  - Emerging technologies?
- ❑ How India is dealing with growing economic and political instability in its South Asian neighborhood?
- ❑ Technology manipulation by terrorist organisations and their supporters for recruitment, financing, propaganda, training, inciting lone wolf attacks, etc., in the age of fake news and disinformation via social media, tests India's law and order and internal security machinery. Do you think India is capable to handle the problem?
- ❑ The new frontiers of war—what we call the fourth-generation warfare—is the civil society. Do you agree?

### What is India's National Cyber Security Strategy?

- ❑ What are the India's recent cyber diplomacy initiatives?
- ❑ What can be the appropriate measures to address the issue of security of national cyberspace?
- ❑ Cyber Security Exercise NCX
- ❑ CERT-In and its responsibilities
- ❑ Wannacry and its effects
- ❑ Pegasus
- ❑ National Security Council and Cyber Security
- ❑ Malware, Viruses, Trojans, Spywares comparison
- ❑ Identity theft, cyberstalking, phishing

- ❑ IT Act and National Cyber Security Policy
- ❑ NTRO
- ❑ Cyber Attacks on Power grids in India
- ❑ Cyber-attack on AIIMS

### How Big-Techs are weaponising Internet?

- ❑ Weaponisation through data
- ❑ Russia-Ukraine war and Data weaponisation
- ❑ Effects of weaponising internet on Economy, Information containment and Net Neutrality
- ❑ Concept of splinter-net
- ❑ Data localization
- ❑ Importance of domestic data protection law

### What do you understand by Radicalization in India?

- ❑ Reasons for rise in radicalization
- ❑ Funding routes for organisations like PFI and laws to tackle them
- ❑ Multi-state nexus of Radical organisations
- ❑ UAPA and its utility
- ❑ Links with global terrorist organisations
- ❑ Ways in which radicalization could be contained

### Why is India's Coastal Security significant?

- ❑ Importance of coastline for India
- ❑ Reasons for India's coastline being porous and its implications
- ❑ History of security threats

- ❑ **Nexus between organized crime networks and terrorist organizations**
- ❑ **Lessons learnt after 26/11 Mumbai attack**
- ❑ **Types of Security threats from coastlines of India**
- ❑ **Utility of Coast Guards and Navy**
- ❑ **Initiatives taken by State Police of Coastal States**
- ❑ **Establishment of NATGRID**
- ❑ **Training and upgrading**
- ❑ **Intelligence collection and use of technology for it (Space Technology)**
- ❑ **Joint Military exercises and co-ordination with other countries**

#### **What is AFSPA and status of areas under it?**

- ❑ **Origin of AFPSA and its needs**
- ❑ **Power to State and Central Government under it**
- ❑ **Concept of Disputed Areas**
- ❑ **Question of Human Rights violations**
- ❑ **AFSPA and 2nd ARC**
- ❑ **Views of Supreme Court on AFSPA**
- ❑ **Repeal of AFSPA in certain areas**
- ❑ **Jeevan Reddy Committee**

#### **Integration of Central Agencies with CCTNS**

- ❑ **What are CCTNS and its utility?**
  - Call for Integration by Home Ministry and reasons for the same
  - Current status of state police forces being integrated under CCTNS
  - Inter-operable criminal justice system and use of AI and Blockchain in it

#### **Crypto currency and National Security**

- ❑ **What is crypto currency?**
- ❑ **What is blockchain and its utilities**
- ❑ **Bitcoin and Satoshi Nakamoto**
- ❑ **How Crypto currency can act as new asset and form of investment?**
- ❑ **What are the ways in which crypto can cause:**
  - Means of funding to terrorist organizations and illegal activities?
  - Money laundering?
  - Means of online extortion?
- ❑ **What do you know about the concept of Dark Net?**
- ❑ **What are the Governments actions and views on problems emerging?**
- ❑ **How Crypto currency acts as disruptor to economy and liquidity?**



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Space

- ❑ Is the 21st century India's century in space?
- ❑ What factors led to opening up of space sector?
- ❑ Elaborate India's emerging space programmes
- ❑ Why the sudden increase in satellite launches?
- ❑ What are the major roles of satellites in national development?
- ❑ Discuss India's moon missions and Challenges associated with them?
- ❑ What are the latest rocket technologies related to India and other countries?
- ❑ What is the significance of launching sovereign space stations?
- ❑ Role of Private Players in the Space Sector
- ❑ Self-reliance in Space Technologies

### Space Debris

- ❑ Space debris race
- ❑ Do you think that there should be a shared responsibility of all the countries to clean space? If yes, then how can countries reach to terms?
- ❑ What are the persistent issues and challenges related to the space movement?
- ❑ What should be the accountability of developed countries in managing space debris?
- ❑ Do you think that there is need to regulate the unregulated space junk?

### Importance of Drone Technology in Indian Agriculture

- ❑ How technology and drones are changing agriculture?
- ❑ What are the major applications of Drones in Agriculture in India?
- ❑ How Kisan drones, agritech innovations are generating investment opportunities in India?
- ❑ To maximise utility of drone in public life, Indian government has been liberalising its drone policy for last few years. Do you think the liberalised drone policy can bring an overall revolution in the country?
- ❑ How feasible is it to use drones in India? Point out the challenges if any.
- ❑ What about farmer's training and financial support?

### Policing in the Metaverse (Interpol launches metaverse)

- ❑ What is your take on the usage of virtual reality technologies like metaverse in the Indian context?
- ❑ What is the role of advanced technologies in policing?
- ❑ Is investment in Metaverse, useful for India?

### 5G Technology & India

- ❑ Is India ready for large-scale 5G rollout?
- ❑ Do you think the 5G rollout will be a chance for Indian mobile manufacturers to regain the market?
- ❑ What are the issues/bottlenecks related to 5G rollout?

- ❑ What is the role of satellites in 5G technology?
- ❑ While imagining the new development opportunities 5G brings to its economic and social progress, India should reflect on its 5G development history and revise some policy obstacles that will hinder its further development of 5G. Do you agree?

## India's geospatial technology

- ❑ Why is India opening up the Geo-spatial sector? Is the full potential of geospatial being exploited?
- ❑ Why is Geospatial Technology important? Why is it important?
- ❑ How do you see expanding role of the private sector in geospatial technology?
- ❑ How Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) has become such an integral part of our daily lives that it is almost impossible to do without them?
- ❑ How Geo-tagging (of government assets) would ensure better monitoring, recording, and terrain mapping for future development works?
- ❑ Do you think Geotagging can stop leakages in government schemes?

## CRISPR & its role in changing the world (10 Years of CRISPR)

- ❑ How CRISPR is a game-changing technique for genetic engineering?
- ❑ How tools of Gene editing are changing human lives?
- ❑ What are the applications of genome editing technology in the targeted therapy of human diseases?
- ❑ Could this potentially affect the diversity of the human genome overall?
- ❑ What is the Ethics related to gene editing?
  - A Chinese scientist was reprimanded a few years ago for making edits to a human embryo. Do you think there should be a

global pause on this use of the technology?

- ❑ Where does India stand in the field of gene editing and, more specifically, the use of CRISPR?
- ❑ What is the role of gene editing in different sector (e.g. Agriculture)?
  - GM- MUSTARD
  - Bt-cotton

## Increasing adoption of AI (Delhi Police's use of Facial Recognition Technology)

- ❑ Do you think using facial recognition in establishing crime has ethical and practical issues?
- ❑ Police training and awareness in utilizing new technologies
- ❑ Application of AI technology (agriculture, education, criminal justice system, renewable energy, governance)
- ❑ Government's initiative for growth of India's AI industry
- ❑ AI in the governance sector of India
- ❑ Hurdles and challenges

## Data democracy (WHO bats for passing on genomics tech to developing world)

- ❑ How do you see the issue of data democracy?
- ❑ Issues related to intellectual property rights in open sharing
- ❑ What is Big Data and fourth industrial revolution?
- ❑ What are the ethical issues related to sharing data?
- ❑ How knowledge transfer in a globalized world is dangerous?
- ❑ Mention available databases with government (Adhaar, Agristack (Agricultural sector), e-SHRAM (unorganised labourers), Arogya Setu, Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission) and Challenges.

**New era of astronomy (NASA's James Webb telescope)**

- ▢ What is the Role of James web telescope?
- ▢ How its advantages above other observatories?

**India's race to quantum supremacy**

- ▢ What is the need for India to participate in the supremacy?
- ▢ What are the Challenges before India?
- ▢ What is the Need of Advanced tech to solve Indian socio-economic problems?

**Global Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

- ▢ Do you think the new fund for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response could change the global health landscape for the better?
- ▢ Do you think there is need to channel the lessons we've learned from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and from other pandemics and invest in building and strengthening our capacities?
- ▢ What is the importance of mitigation strategy?
- ▢ What is investment contributes in strengthening infrastructure for disaster preparedness?
- ▢ How to prepare the world for the next pandemic?

**Disaster Induced Displacement**

- ▢ How will you cater to the needs of vulnerable sections in disaster-induced displacement?
- ▢ How to improve rehabilitation policy for smooth displacement?
- ▢ How investment in creating a more empathetic rehabilitation policy?

**Urban Flood Management (to tackle frequent floods)**

- ▢ Urban floods: Is it the impact of climate change or the outcome of bad city management?
- ▢ How revamping city infrastructure can help to deal with urban flood?
- ▢ What are the mitigation strategies in dealing with urban floods?

**Disasters across World**

- ▢ At present, hydro-meteorological (floods, storms, heat waves) and climatological disasters (droughts, wildfires) are on the rise. Do you think this sharp rise has a likely and ominous link to climate change?
  - Example:
    - Pakistan Floods
    - Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes in island countries
    - Coastal Floods and climate change
    - Disaster C & D fund
- ▢ What is the need for climate resilience in India?

## ETHICS

### The Ethics linked to Environment:

- ❑ What is the relationship between Humans and Environment (Environmental Ethics)?
- ❑ Changing Ocean Ecology to combat Climate Change? Is the trade-off justified?
- ❑ What can be the Quick Fix with long-term implications of Environment related ethics?
- ❑ Environment doesn't have a voice of its own; this doesn't mean it has no rights?
- ❑ Less inclusive approach to decision making, as only a few technical experts decide. Is it justified?

### Moon Lighting and Ethics:

- ❑ How ethics of Contractual Relationship is important for corporate management?
- ❑ How Data/Information Breach (Especially in IT Sector) is against the corporate ethics?
- ❑ Ethics regarding intellectual property is a concern for developing countries. How?
- ❑ What do you understand by work Ethics?
- ❑ Is an employee, an employee for 24 hours or for the duration one is being paid?
- ❑ What are the implications for Government Servants and government, if moonlighting is legitimized?

### Ethics of Public Interest Litigation

- ❑ What is Judicial Activism vs over-reach?
- ❑ How Delay in Justice, as PIL (At times non-serious) adds to the burden of pendency?
- ❑ Ethics and duty as a citizen/litigant must be addressed in a democracy. Discuss
- ❑ Who defines the public interest- The politics of public interest?
- ❑ Should Courts be demigods as knowers of every good?

- ❑ Do PIL Sets precedent or secures relief?
- ❑ Does litigant's interest or the public interest, which is important?

### What about 'justification' in law in case of Rule of Bulldozer? What are the threats to the principle of natural justice?

- ❑ Violation of Right to property
- ❑ Rule of Law or Rule by Law
- ❑ Arbitrariness in state action
- ❑ Due process of law
- ❑ Natural Justice vs. immediate justice
- ❑ Justice hurried is justice buried
- ❑ Right to be heard
- ❑ Demolition as a Deterrent

### Panopticonism & the Ethics of Technological Surveillance:

- ❑ What is Power upon or Power with (Citizen/people and state debate) means?
- ❑ Means vs ends the debate. Both need to be ethical or not?
- ❑ What are the limits of accountability?
- ❑ Free will and Freedom, Is there anything left free? Or everything is being conditioned by the invisible hand (Often controlled by Tech/power elites).
- ❑ How does the Opinion Shaping matters?

### Does the Cooling off period is needed in Civil Services? What ethics is related to the issue?

- ❑ Post-retirement benefits
- ❑ Politico-Bureaucratic Nexus
- ❑ Ethics of Neutrality, impartiality
- ❑ Probity in Public Life

- ❑ **Business-Bureaucratic Nexus (Retired Bureaucrats joining Private firms as advisors, board members, Senior Positions, etc.)**
- ❑ **Crony Capitalism**
- ❑ **Code of Ethics for Civil Servants**

## Constitutionality and Morality of Abortion:

- ❑ What are the Reproductive rights of Women? Do abortion is ethical?
- ❑ Human Rights of new-borns and conceived (As they are voiceless) is an ethical concern. What do you think?
- ❑ Pregnancy due to Rape, incest, etc. needs a procedure and right to abort the unwanted pregnancy. What do you think?
- ❑ Short window of 6 weeks to exercise choice of abortion. Is it ethical?
- ❑ Mental and Physical Health of Women ('Doctrine of double effect, and Self Defense)
- ❑ **Abortion is akin to killing. Is it justified?**

## How State can act as a moral agent?

- ❑ **The Personhood of the State vs. the State as a Moral Agent (Hobbes)**
- ❑ **Morals and values associated with the State as the Decision Maker regarding the allocation of resources. (Value choices that the state makes)**
- ❑ **Imparting of Values and morals in society (Arbitrator values of society which the state governs)**
- ❑ **Virtue Ethics to make moral claims about state actions and choices**
- ❑ **Virtues of the State**

- ❑ **Modes through which the state exercises its moral agency: Laws, etc.**
- ❑ **Ecology of State and Society; Working of Moral dynamics and impact on each other**
- ❑ **State- morality and Realism**

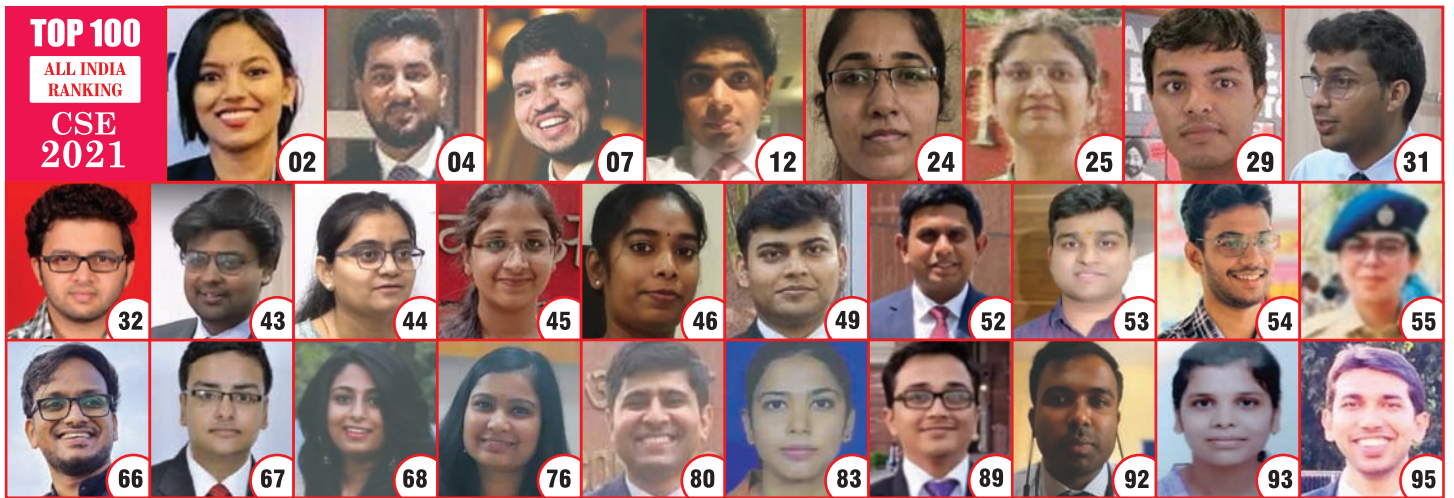
## What are the Ethical dilemmas related to war (Just War Theory)?

- ❑ **Loss of Human Life and Human Suffering**
- ❑ **Duty of State to defend Justice and citizens**
- ❑ **Defending the Moral and value foundations of the state (Moral edifice of the state)**
- ❑ **The idea of "Lesser evil"**
- ❑ **Aggressor- Defender Dilemma**
  - **Jus ad Bellum:** the conditions under which the use of military force is justified.
  - **Jus in Bello:** how to conduct a war in an ethical manner.

## How opinion poll is an ethical Issue?

- ❑ **Influence Public Opinion**
- ❑ **Skewed findings: Morphing of Reality**
- ❑ **Paid and vested interests**
- ❑ **Bandwagon effect**
- ❑ **Affects the morale of the Election machinery, both within Election related authorities and Electoral Participants**
- ❑ **Opaque methodologies**
- ❑ **Vague findings**
- ❑ **Need for opinion polls in a democracy: Better framework needed**





**SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!**

