

## General Studies - 3 (2013 -2023)

### Economy

#### Theme - 1 (Liberalisation and Industrial Policy)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard.	Manufacturing and Industrial Sector	2023
2	Account for the failure of manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports.	Manufacturing and Industrial Sector	2017
3	“Industrial growth rate has lagged behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product (GDP) in the post-reform period” Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate?	Manufacturing and Industrial Sector	2017
4	There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports. Recognising this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs require augmentation. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of SEZs with respect to taxation, governing laws and administration.	Manufacturing and Industrial Sector	2015
5	Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-à-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base?	Services Sector	2014
6	Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indians. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? Discuss.	Liberalisation	2013

#### Theme - 2 (Indian Economy and Issues related to it)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.	Digital Economy	2023
2	Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements.	Employment related issues	2023
3	Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment?	Care Economy	2023

4	Is inclusive growth possible under market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India.	Inclusive Growth	2022
5	The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them?	Inclusive Growth	2022
6	'Economic growth in the recent past has been led by increase in labour productivity.' Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity.	Employment related issues	2022
7	Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product(GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015.	National income	2021
8	Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.	Macroeconomic indicators	2021
9	Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development.	Inclusive Growth	2020
10	Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP?	National income	2020
11	It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement	Inclusive growth	2019
12	Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments.	Macroeconomic indicators	2019
13	How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India?	Macroeconomic indicators	2018
14	"Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." Comment on the progress made in India in this regard.	Growth and Development	2018
15	How are principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by erstwhile Planning Commission in India?	Growth and Development	2018
16	What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyse and suggest measures for inclusive growth.	Inclusive growth	2017
17	Among several factors for India's potential growth, savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential?	Macroeconomic indicators	2017

18	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poor section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.	Financial Inclusion	2016
19	Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is gap between MoUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India.	FDI	2016
20	Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.	Inclusive growth	2016
21	How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?	Employment related issues	2016
22	"Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms." Discuss with logical arguments.	Employment related issues	2015
23	The nature of economic growth in India in recent times is often described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer	Employment related issues	2015
24	Craze for gold in Indians has led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of Gold Monetization Scheme.	Macroeconomic Indicators	2015
25	"While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability." What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain.	Employment related issues	2014
26	Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages short-sightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism for bringing inclusive growth in India? Discuss.	Inclusive growth	2014
27	With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new Companies Bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also discuss other provisions in the Bill and their implications.	Inclusive growth	2013

**Theme - 3 (Agriculture and Land Reforms)**

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	State the objectives and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered as an effective reform under economic criteria.	Land Reforms	2023
2	Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions.	Cropping pattern and irrigation	2023
3	What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies.	Subsidies	2023
4	How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.	E technology in aid of farmers	2023
5	What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent?	PDS	2022
6	Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India.	Food Processing	2022
7	What are main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India?	Agriculture marketing	2022
8	What is Integrated Farming System ? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India ?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2022
9	How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers ?	Land Reforms	2021
10	How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis ?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2021
11	What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013 ? How as the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India	PDS	2021
12	What are the present challenges before crop diversification ? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2021
13	What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India?	Agriculture marketing	2020
14	What are the challenges and opportunities in food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing?	Food processing	2020
15	What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2020
16	What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2020

17	Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario.	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2020
18	What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective?	PDS and Food Security	2019
19	Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.	Food processing	2019
20	How far is the Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2019
21	Elaborate on the impact of the National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2019
22	How was India benefited from the contributions of Sir M.Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2019
23	Elaborate on the policy taken by the government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.	Food processing	2019
24	Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2018
25	How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption.	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2018
26	Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries?	Agriculture marketing	2018
27	What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap?	Subsidies	2018
28	What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost-effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers?	Food processing	2017
29	What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2017
30	Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?	food security and PDS	2017
31	How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers?	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2017
32	What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water use efficiency.	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2016

33	What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture	Cropping pattern and Irrigation	2016
34	Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Schemes	2016
35	Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.	Land Reforms	2016
36	How can the 'Digital India' programme help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the Government taken in this regard?	Schemes	2015
37	What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming these bottlenecks?	Agriculture marketing	2015
38	Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sectors in India	Animal husbandry and Livestock	2015
39	In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non-viable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons	Land Reforms	2015
40	In what way could replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss	Subsidies	2015
41	The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 has come into effect from 1st January, 2014. What are the key issues which would get addressed with the Act in place? What implications would it have on industrialization and agriculture in India?	Land Reforms	2014
42	There is also a point of view that agriculture produce market committees (APMCs) set up under the state acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine.	Agriculture marketing	2014
43	"In the villages itself no form of credit organisation will be suitable except the cooperative society." - All Indian rural credit survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agriculture finance in India. What constrain and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finances? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients?	Cooperatives	2014
44	Food Security Bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions	PDS and Food Security	2013

	in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO		
45	India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement.	PDS and Food Security	2013
46	Establish the relationship between land reform, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in Indian Economy. Discussion the difficulty in designing and implementation of the agriculture friendly land reforms in India.	Land Reforms	2013
47	What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyze the agriculture subsidy regime with the reference to the distortions created by it.	Subsidies	2013

#### Theme - 4 (Infrastructure and investment)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructural projects? Examine the role of PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India.	PPP in Railways	2022
2	Do you think India will meet 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030? Justify your answer. How will the shift of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables help achieve the above objective? Explain.	Energy infrastructure	2022
3	Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth". Discuss in the light of India's experience.	Infrastructure and Inclusive growth	2021
4	Explain the meaning of investment in an economy in terms of capital formation. Discuss the factors to be considered while designing a concession agreement between a public entity and a private entity.	Investment	2020
5	Examine the development of Airports in India through joint ventures under Public - Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard.	PPP in Airports	2017
6	Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).	Energy infrastructure	2016
7	What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.	Urban Infrastructure	2016
8	To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment costs and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications	Energy infrastructure	2015

	does the trend have for the thermal power producers and the related industry?		
9	National Urban Transport Policy emphasises on 'moving people' instead of 'moving vehicles'. Discuss critically the success of the various strategies of the Government in this regard.	Transport and Mobility	2014
10	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defence sector is now set to be liberalized. What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long run?	Defence Infrastructure	2014
11	Explain how Private Public Partnership arrangements, in long gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsustainable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised?	PPP in Infrastructure	2014
12	(a) Discuss the impact of FDI entry into Multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy. (b) Though India allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in what is called multi-brand retail through the joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI, even after a year, has not picked up. Discuss the reasons.	FDI	2013
13	Adaptation of PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free from criticism. Critically discuss the pros and cons of the model.	PPP in Infrastructure	2013

### Theme - 5 (Public Finance)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Distinguish between Capital Budget and Revenue Budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets.	Budget Terms	2021
2	Explain the rationale behind the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to states) act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions?	Taxation	2020
3	The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in context of budget making during the post liberalization period. Clarify it.	Budget Terms	2019
4	Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the goods and services tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017.	Taxation	2019
5	Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long Term Capital Gains Tax (LTCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019.	Taxation	2018



6	One of the intended objectives of Union-Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energize and clean India'. Analyze the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective.	Union Budget	2017
7	Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?	Gender Budgeting	2016
8	What were the reasons for the introduction of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.	Budget Terms	2013
9	Discuss the rationale for introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Bring out critically the reasons for the delay in roll out for its regime	Taxation	2013
10	What is meaning of the term tax-expenditure? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences budgetary policies of the government.	Taxation	2013

## General Studies - 3 (2013 -2023)

### S&T

#### Theme - 1 (Electronics, Robotics & IT)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.	Already covered in economy	2023
2	Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to privacy of the individual in the use of AI in healthcare?	Emerging Tech	2023
3	Starlink will change the internet connectivity “. Discuss the utility of the project in bringing remote connectivity.	Emerging Tech	2022
4	India’s data storage center industry had leap-frogged at least a decade in the past couple of years. Discuss.	Emerging Tech	2022
5	The Nobel Prize in Physics of 2014 was jointly awarded to Akasaki, Amano and Nakamura for the invention of Blue LEDs in 1990s. How has this invents impacted the everyday life of human beings?	Nobel Prize	2021
6	How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by science-based technologies? (Answer in 150 words)	Science and Agriculture	2020
7	Discuss the work of ‘Bose-Einstein Statistics’ done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics.	Nobel Prize	2018
8	What are the areas of prohibitive labour that can be sustainably managed by robots? Discuss the initiatives that can propel research in premier research institutes for substantive and gainful innovation	Robotics	2015
9	Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as are business professions, engineering or administration, and the universities are becoming consumeroriented. Critically comment	STEM Research	2014
10	What do you understand by Umpire Decision Review System in Cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicone tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system?	Science in Sports	2013
11	(a) What is a digital signature ? What does its authentication mean? Give various salient built-in features of a digital signature. (b) How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology	Emerging Tech	2013

**Theme - 2 (Nuclear Tech & Alternative Energy Resources)**

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage.	Bio Fuels	2023
2	The adoption of electric vehicles is rapidly growing worldwide. How do electric vehicles contribute to reducing carbon emissions and what are the key benefits they offer compared to traditional combustion engine vehicles?	Electric Vehicles	2023
3	Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to the conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our government for this purpose? (Answer in 250 words)	Solar Energy	2020
4	With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy?	Nuclear energy	2018
5	Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India?	Nuclear energy	2017
6	(a) What is an FRP composite material ? How are they manufactured? Discuss their applications in aviation and automobile industries. (b) What do you understand by Run-of-river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project?	Hydro Energy	2013

**Theme - 3 (Space & Defence)**

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	What is the main task of India's third moon mission which could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota.	Space missions	2023
2	Private players can bring in the innovation needed for developing space-based applications and services". In the light of this statement, highlight the role of private sector in India's space science and technology.	Private sector in space	2022
4	Launched on 25th December, 2021, James Webb Space Telescope has been much in the news since then. What are its unique features which make it superior to its predecessor Space Telescopes? What are the key goals of this mission? What potential benefits does it hold for the human race?	Space Missions	2022

5	How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world ?	Defence	2021
6	What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?	Space Missions	2019
7	India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission. What are the main obstacles to launching a manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Examine critically.	Space Missions	2017
8	Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development?	Space Missions	2016
9	What do you understand by 'Standard Positioning System' and 'Precision Positioning System' in the GPS era? Discuss the advantages India perceives from its ambitious IRNSS programme employing just seven satellites.	Satellites	2015

#### Theme - 4 (Biotechnology)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Indian Biological Data Bank will reduce the dependency of Indian researchers on American and European data banks." In the light of the statement, discuss key features of indigenous data bank centre.	Biotech data bank	2022

#### Theme - 5 (Nano & Biotech)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer sections of the society ?	Applied Biotech	2021
2	What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector? (Answer in 150 words)	Nanotechnology	2020
3	How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers?	Biotechnology and farmers	2019
4	Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma?	Biopharma	2018

### Theme - 6 (Health)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them ?	Health challenges	2022
2	What is the basic principle behind vaccine development? How do vaccines work? What approaches were adopted by the Indian vaccine manufacturers to produce COVID-19 vaccines?	Vaccines	2022
3	COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crises. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management of the Pandemic. (Answer in 250 words)	Technology and COVID	2020
4	Can overuse and free availability of antibiotics without Doctor's prescription, be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved.	Antimicrobial resistance	2014
5	What do you understand by Fixed Dose Drug Combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits	Fixed dose combinations	2013
6	Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassaemia, damaged cornea and several burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments?	Stem Cell Therapy	2017

### Theme - 7 (Nanotech & Biotech)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of Indian Government's Mission on Nanoscience and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country	Nano Technology	2016

### Theme - 8 (IPR)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	How is the government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?	N/A	2019
2	India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and	N/A	2015

	cons of making this database publicly available under open-source licensing		
3	In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish the terms – Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets	N/A	2014
4	Bringing out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to the section 3(d) in Indian Patent Law, 1970, discuss how it has been utilized by the Supreme Court in its judgement in rejecting Novratis' patent application for 'Glivec'. Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision.	N/A	2013

## General Studies - 3 (2013 -2023)

### Environment

#### Theme - 1 (Environmental Pollution)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India?	Marine Pollution	2023
2	Discuss in detail the photochemical smog emphasizing its formation, effects and mitigation. Explain the 1999 Gothenburg protocol.	Air Pollution	2022
3	Describe the key points of the revised Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). How are these different from its last update in 2005? What changes in India's National Clean Air Programme are required to achieve these revised standards?	Air Pollution	2021
4	What are the key features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the Government of India?	Air Pollution	2020
5	What are the impediments disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid waste which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulated in our habitable environment?	Waste management	2018
6	Discuss the Namami Gange and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) programmes and causes of mixed results from the previous schemes. What quantum leaps can help preserve the river Ganga better than incremental inputs?	Water pollution	2015
7	Enumerate the National Water Policy of India. Taking river Ganges as an example, discuss the strategies which may be adopted for river water pollution control and management. What are the legal provisions of management and handling of hazardous wastes in India?	Water pollution	2013
8	What are the consequences of Illegal mining? Discuss the Ministry of Environment and Forests' concept of GO AND NO GO zones for coal mining sector	Land Pollution	2013

#### Theme - 2 (Ecosystems)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Comment on the National Wetland Conservation Programme initiated by the Government of India and name a few India's wetlands of international importance included in the Ramsar Sites.	Wetlands	2023
2	Each year a large amount of plant material, cellulose, is deposited on the surface of Planet Earth. What are the natural	Pollutant	2022

	processes this cellulose undergoes before yielding carbon dioxide, water and other end products?		
3	Explain the causes and effects of coastal erosion in India. What are the available coastal management techniques for combating the hazard?	Coastal Ecosystem	2022
4	Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indians coasts, citing specific examples.	Coastal Ecosystem	2019
5	What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India.	Wetlands	2018

### Theme - 3 (Climate Change)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one metre by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region?	Sea Level rise	2023
2	Discuss global warming and mention its effects on the global climate. Explain the control measures to bring down the level of greenhouse gases which cause global warming, in the light of the Kyoto Protocol, 1997.	Global warming	2022
3	Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference?	UNFCCC and COP	2021
4	'Climate change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change?	Climate Change and india	2017
5	Should the pursuit of carbon credit and clean development mechanism set up under UNFCCC be maintained even through there has been a massive slide in the value of carbon credit? Discuss with respect to India's energy needs for economic growth.	UNFCCC and COP	2014

### Theme - 4 (Sustainable Development)

S. No.	Question		Year
1	Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at the World Leaders Summit of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021. When was this idea first floated in the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?	UNFCCC and COP	2021



2	What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security?	Water Resources	2020
3	Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under the depleting scenario.	Water Resources	2020
4	Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our Government for this purpose?	Sustainable Energy	2020
5	Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region.	Sustainable development and ecosystem	2019
6	Not many years ago, river linking was a concept but it is becoming reality in the country. Discuss the advantages of river linking and its possible impact on the environment.	Water Resources	2017
7	Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).	Sustainable Energy	2016
8	Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects.	Sustainable Planning	2016
9	To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment costs and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for the thermal power producers and the related industry?	Sustainable Energy	2015
10	Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problems of conventional energy.	Sustainable Energy	2013
11	What do you understand by run of the river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project?	Sustainable Energy	2013

**Theme - 5 (EIA)**

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006?	N/A	2020
2	Environmental Impact Assessment studies are increasingly undertaken before a project is cleared by the Government. Discuss the environmental impacts of coal-fired thermal plants located at coal pitheads.	N/A	2014

Theme - 6 (Agriculture)			
S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State?	Organic farming	2018
Theme - 7 (Biodiversity and PAs)			
S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna?	N/A	2018
Theme - 8 (Disaster Management)			
S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management. As an administrator, what are key areas that you would focus in a disaster management	Risk and vulnerability	2013
2	Drought has been recognised as a disaster in view of its party expense, temporal duration, slow onset and lasting effect on various vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National disaster management authority, discuss the mechanism for preparedness to deal with the El Nino and La Nina fallouts in India.	Draught	2014
3	The frequency of earthquakes appears to have increased in the Indian subcontinent. However, India's preparedness for mitigating their impact has significant gaps. Discuss various aspects.	Earthquake	2015
4	The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods. highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.	Urban Floods	2016
5	With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand.	Cloudbursts	2016
6	On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on 14 countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for occurrence of Tsunami and its effects on life and economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.	Tsunami	2017
7	Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework	Sendai Framework	2018

	for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005?		
8	Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help in disaster mitigation in the case of landslides.	Landslides	2019
9	Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability with reference to disasters.	Risk and vulnerability	2019
10	Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach.	Generic	2020
11	Discuss about the vulnerability of India to earthquake-related hazards. Give examples including the salient features of major disasters caused by earthquakes in different parts of India during the last three decades	Earthquake	2021
12	Describe the various causes and the effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy.	Landslides	2021
13	Explain the mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the context of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss two recent examples.	Cloudbursts	2022

## General Studies - 3 (2013 -2023)

### Security

#### Theme - 1 (Kashmir Issue)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Winning of Hearts and Minds' in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir.	J&K	2023
2	The banning of 'Jamat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs.	J&K	2019

#### Theme - 2 (Border Management)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat.	Technology in Border management	2023
2	What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organizational, technical, and procedural initiatives taken to improve maritime security.	Maritime Security	2022
3	Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also, discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (Answer in 250 words)	Specific Border issues	2020
4	For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals	Border area locals	2020
5	India's proximity to the two of the world's biggest illicit opium growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter measures should be taken to prevent the same?	Border management and organised crime	2018
6	Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management	Generic	2016

7	The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.	Specific Border issues	2016
8	In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organization. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns?	Maritime Security	2014
9	China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What threat does this pose for India's security? Critically examine.	Specific Border issues	2014
10	International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat.	Airspace	2014
11	How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration	Border and Migration	2014
12	How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?	Specific Border issues	2013

### Theme - 3 (Role of Non-State Actors)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats.	Investigative Agencies	2023
2	Discuss the types of organized crime. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organized crime that exist at the national and transnational levels.	Organized Crime	2022
3	Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats	Generic	2021
4	The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same.	Specific issues	2018
5	Use of internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.	Non state actors and Technology	2016

### Theme - 4 (Terrorism & Radicalization)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022.	Terror financing	2023
2	Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. 15 (Answer in 250 words)	Generic	2021
3	Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the unlawful activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.	UAPA	2019
4	The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?	generic	2017
5	Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence.	Mob violence	2017
6	"The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighbourhood." Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment.	Radicalisation	2014
7	'Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades.' Analyse the above statement.	Terrorism Industry	2016
8	Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous to the internal security of our country?	Radicalisation	2015

### Theme - 5 (Cyber Security)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy.	National Cyber Security Challenges	2022
2	Keeping in view India's internal security, analyses the impact of cross-border cyber-attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks. 1	Cyber Attacks	2021

3	Discuss different types of Cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. (Answer in 150 words)	Cyber Crime	2020
4	What is the CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.	Cyberdome	2019
5	Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber crimes. The Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space?	Data security	2018
6	Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it.	Cyber attack	2017
7	Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Forces" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation.	National Cyber Security policy	2015
8	Discuss the advantages and security implications of cloud hosting of servers vis-a-vis in-house machine-based hosting for government businesses.	Cloud hosting	2015
9	Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.	Cyber warfare	2013
10	What is digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Giver various salient built in features of a digital signature.	Cyber threats	2013
11	What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present?	Social Networking sites	2013

### Theme - 6 (Left Wing Extremism)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Naxalism is a social, economic, and developmental issue manifesting violent internal security threats. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.	N/A	2022
2	What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (Answer in 250 words)	N/A	2020
3	Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the	N/A	2018

	Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.		
4	The persisting drives of the Government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth.	N/A	2015
5	Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing extremism.	N/A	2013

### Theme - 7 (Money laundering)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels.	Emerging tech and money laundering	2021
2	Money laundering poses a serious security threat to a country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace?	Generic	2013

### Theme - 8 (North East Insurgency)

S. No.	Question	Sub Themes	Year
1	Cross-Border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.	N/A	2019
2	The North-Eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.	N/A	2017
3	Human right activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court.	AFSPA	2015