Clarity

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN)

UPSC Mains question papers 2017–2026

Essay and General Studies Papers I, II, III and IV, year by year.

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2026 2025 2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2026

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 Oxymorons reflect the ironies of life.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 A grateful mind is very beautiful.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 A thorn is a changed bud.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 Nature is the symbol of the spirit.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 A good leader is one who follows the followers.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2026

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Analyze the importance of Ashokan inscriptions for reconstructing Mauryan history.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Discuss the impact of Macaulay's Minute on colonial administration and education in India.
150 words · 10 marks

3 The significance of the Gandhian movements lay in the masses they mobilized. Elucidate.
150 words · 10 marks

4 What is the Fujiwhara effect? Explain its impact on the movement and intensity of tropical cyclones.
150 words · 10 marks

5 "Tundra regions are ecologically fragile but economically important." Examine this statement critically.
150 words · 10 marks

6 Discuss the role of aeolian processes in desertification and land degradation.
150 words · 10 marks

7 "Water resources are both an asset and a source of conflict in South Asia." Examine this statement giving examples.
150 words · 10 marks

8 Unity in diversity remains the defining feature of Indian society despite the challenges from communalism and regionalism. Comment.
150 words · 10 marks

9 How do you understand disability? Substantiate the need for inclusive policy framework in India in this regard.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Do you think digital technology promotes social empowerment? Explain with examples.
150 words · 10 marks

11 Vijayanagara architecture exemplifies the amalgamation of past traditions with contemporary practices. Elucidate with examples.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Linguistic reorganization of Indian States was driven by popular pressure from below. Comment.
250 words · 15 marks

13 The model of planned economy was adopted in India to address the regional imbalances left behind by colonial rule. Comment.
250 words · 15 marks

14 Compare the Loo, Chinook and Foehn winds with respect to their regions of prevalence, their nature and climatic impacts.
250 words · 15 marks

15 Analyze the role of satellite-based technologies in achieving climate-smart agriculture and food security in India.

250 words · 15 marks

16 "The centre of global trade is gradually shifting from the Atlantic region to the Indo-Pacific region." Examine this statement.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Analyze the major drivers of human-induced land-use changes in India and their geographical consequences.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Is caste disappearing in urban India? Illustrate your answer with examples.

250 words · 15 marks

19 Critically examine the challenges of demographic transition in contemporary India.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Evaluate the impact of globalization on Indian youths with reference to social, political, economic and cultural spheres.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2026

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Right to privacy relating to self-identity is very dear to every human being and well protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. In this context, examine the effect of the amendment in 2026, to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

150 words · 10 marks

2 "Women as a class neither belong to a minority group nor are they regarded as forming a backward class." In the light of this statement, discuss the evolution of women's reservation from local bodies to Parliament.

150 words · 10 marks

3 Examine whether the constitutional office of the Lok Sabha Speaker has become vulnerable to partisan politics under the current anti-defection regime. What institutional changes are required to ensure the neutrality of the Lok Sabha Speaker in managing a polarised House?

150 words · 10 marks

4 Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

150 words · 10 marks

5 Do constitutional bodies like the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCS) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) possess adequate enforcement powers to secure substantive social equality? Suggest measures to enhance their institutional effectiveness.

150 words · 10 marks

6 Does India's tribal development policy reflect the aspirations for a socially grounded and equity-based governance? Justify your answer.

150 words · 10 marks

7 Malnutrition in India is not merely a public health concern; it is also a challenge of social equity, human development and effective welfare governance. Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Analyse the advantages and limitations of the generalist structure of the Indian Civil Services in contemporary governance.

150 words · 10 marks

9 "IPMDA (Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness) bridges the gap between India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision and the Quad's collective Indo-Pacific strategy." Make a critical assessment of the statement focusing on IPMDA.

150 words · 10 marks

10 "BRICS acts as a powerful counterweight in global governance, actively amplifying the voice and influence of the Global South." Explain the role of BRICS in projecting itself as an alternative to other groupings.

150 words · 10 marks

11 Discuss the position of the Governor in the federal polity of India. What is the nature of his power while giving assent to a bill passed by the State Legislature? Is he bound by the aid and advice of his Council of Ministers in all his functions?

250 words · 15 marks

12 What is meant by judicial legislation? In this context, discuss the verdicts of the apex court allowing "passive euthanasia" and a "living will".

250 words · 15 marks

13 How far has the Indian federal framework been successful in accommodating regional and cultural diversities? Highlight the role of asymmetric federalism and suggest measures to make dispute resolution mechanisms more effective.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Examine how the separation of powers is practised in India compared to the rigid presidential model of the United States of America. In this context, compare the actual authority of the Indian Prime Minister with that of the President of the USA.

250 words · 15 marks

15 To what extent do pressure groups, social movements and corporate lobbies deepen pluralistic democracy in India by representing excluded interests? Analyse whether the growing convergence of corporate wealth and political power poses a threat to the autonomy of formal democratic institutions.

250 words · 15 marks

16 "Transparency and accountability in governance are not about controlling corruption but about creating the trust of stakeholders in the policy process by following the Rule of Law and Participatory Governance." Comment.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Can the constitutional mandate of rights-based welfare be effectively realised in the context of non-integrated governance and minimal public investment? Examine.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Should education be treated primarily as a welfare obligation of the state or as a strategic investment for building a globally competitive, knowledge-driven nation? Critically evaluate.

250 words · 15 marks

19 "India's global diaspora acts as a living bridge, as a critical economic factor and knowledge network in transforming cultural heritage into geopolitical influence and strategic leverage worldwide." Critically examine this statement.

250 words · 15 marks

20 "China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has transformed South Asia from a regional space into a theatre of great power competition." Analyse the strategic implications of the BRI for India's security and regional influence in South Asia.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2026

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 What do you mean by Digital Rupee? In this context, explain the working and progress of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

150 words · 10 marks

2 Examine the view that financial inclusion is an integral part of social and economic inclusion in a country like India. Also throw light on the usefulness of the R.B.I.'s Financial Inclusion Index.

150 words · 10 marks

3 Describe the various Technology Missions initiated in Indian agriculture and examine their role in food security.

150 words · 10 marks

4 Explain the factors responsible for inefficiency of agri-produce marketing. How e-commerce helps to reduce inefficiency of agri-produce marketing? Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

5 Explain by giving two examples, how biotechnology has helped the Indian farmers in processing their perishable crops.

150 words · 10 marks

6 Distinguish between a Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) and a thermal nuclear reactor. In the context of first indigenously developed prototype FBR at Kalpakkam, explain the term 'criticality'. What are its implications for clean energy future of our country?

150 words · 10 marks

7 Discuss how the contradiction between 'rapid infrastructure development' and 'disaster-risk reduction' in ecologically-sensitive areas of India can be managed, with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Discuss the aim and goals of Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework. Mention India's commitments and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets of this framework giving suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

9 Explain how fake news and disinformation pose threat to Internal Security and Public Order in Indian context? In this regard, discuss salient features of amendments in respect of Information Technology (Intermediatory Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

150 words · 10 marks

10 Ladakh is strategically located between China and Pakistan. As a measure to win hearts and minds of locals, discuss the Border Area Development Programmes (BADP) by the Central Government and civic actions by the Army. Also discuss demand of promulgation of provision of the Sixth Schedule of constitution for Ladakh.

150 words · 10 marks

11 Explain the key challenges for India's energy security. What measures do you suggest for ensuring energy security along with economic growth and sustainability?
250 words · 15 marks

12 How are startups in India promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and employment? Discuss the global and domestic challenges in their working and suggest suitable measures to overcome these challenges.
250 words · 15 marks

13 How Indian agriculture has been transformed from food scarcity to food surplus level? Explain the various government policies implemented for diversification of Indian agriculture.
250 words · 15 marks

14 Discuss the different types of subsidies and supports provided by the Government of India to agricultural sector. Examine the related issues pertaining to Agreement on Agriculture of World Trade Organisation (WTO).
250 words · 15 marks

15 Mention salient features of 'Mission Drishti'. Discuss the imaging techniques used in the satellite launched on 3rd May 2026. Why it is being considered world's first satellite of its kind?
250 words · 15 marks

16 What is agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Explain its working. Describe its applications with suitable examples. Discuss the advantages, risks and challenges associated with agentic AI systems.
250 words · 15 marks

17 What are the challenges to solid waste management in India? Discuss the governmental policy framework on solid waste management. Discuss the success/ failure cases of Delhi and Indore cities highlighting the salient feature of their solid waste management initiatives.
250 words · 15 marks

18 "Community participation is the cornerstone of effective disaster management" Analyse this statement with suitable examples from India. Also discuss the challenges to community participation and measures to strengthen it.
250 words · 15 marks

19 Separatist movements have been one of the major factors contributing to militancy and instability in Jammu & Kashmir (J& K). Bring out actions taken by the Government to bring J& K into national mainstream. Discuss pre and post abrogation status of Articles 370 and 35A. Also bring out positive impacts of abrogation of both articles in mainstreaming the state.
250 words · 15 marks

20 Discuss counterfeit currency and money laundering as major sources of terror funding in India. State the actions being taken at International level to check these menaces. Highlight the role of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and methods of compliance by its member states in preventing terror funding.
250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2026

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) Owing to paucity of time, a university professor generates a Ph.D. evaluation report using Artificial Intelligence and submits it with some modifications. Discuss this from the perspective of accountability and integrity.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) A business house is working on a project that could displace a forest community from their habitat. As the administrative officer of that district, what ethical challenges are you likely to face?

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) An endangered tribe has developed a severe skeletal deformity. A university research has identified a mineral supplement as a possible remedy, though clinical trials are yet to be conducted. Should the District Magistrate (DM) use this research on the tribe? Discuss from the perspective of medical and administrative ethics.

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) Discuss how national security can be balanced with concerns of human rights.

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had cautioned that employing civil disobedience within a constitutional democracy equates to endorsing 'anarchy'. How should modern democracies navigate the ethical dilemmas posed by civil disobedience movements that aim to promote social justice against policies that may raise genuine concerns?

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) In what ways can an Indian Administrative Officer apply Gandhi's notion of 'trusteeship' to ensure fairness in governance?

150 words · 10 marks

3(c) Shakespeare in Henry IV says, "The arms are fair when the intent of bearing them is just". What ethical implications does this have in governance?

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) Citing the serious adverse effects of long-term medication, a doctor convinces the family of a female patient for surgery. This led the patient to reluctantly consent for the surgery, though her original choice was to opt for medication. Explain the concepts of paternalism and beneficence by analysing the doctor's action.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) Efficiency is doing things right, while effectiveness is doing the right thing. How do you strike a balance between the two to enhance productivity?

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) Usually schools, working in remote areas, do not fully comply with government regulations. However, if the rules are enforced strictly, it would lead to most schools closing down. How should an administrator strike a balance between enforcement of rules and educational rights of children?

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) In international relations, ethical considerations are often subjugated to the strategic interests of nation-states. Discuss this from an ethical perspective.

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) On the request of his Personal Assistant (PA), the District Magistrate (DM) stops the transfer of a schoolteacher who takes private tuition for his daughter diagnosed with learning disability. In this context, discuss the aspects of empathy versus compliance with rules.

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) Some moral philosophers argue that spending some of your resources — without significantly affecting your financial stability—to help other people who badly suffer is our moral duty and not merely a matter of charity. Justify this claim by explaining the distinction between duty and charity.

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 Lata, a mother of two children, was admitted to a hospital for acute abdominal pain. Her sister-in-law, Sujatha, accompanied her. Dr. Mansi examined Lata and recommended a diagnostic laparoscopy. Lata's consent was taken to conduct the medical procedure under general anesthesia. During the laparoscopy, Dr. Mansi's team discovered a tumor in Lata's uterus. A closer examination suggested that the tumor could be malignant. One option before Dr. Mansi was to extract a sample for biopsy. In that case, if the tumor was malignant, Lata would have to undergo another surgery for removal of the uterus. An alternative was to remove the uterus immediately. Dr. Mansi had to take a quick decision. As Lata was under general anesthesia, Dr. Mansi explained the situation to Sujatha. Sujatha agreed with Dr. Mansi's recommendations for a hysterectomy, wherein Lata's uterus would be removed to avoid the risk and pain of undergoing another surgery. Dr. Mansi removed Lata's uterus after receiving Sujatha's consent in writing. Lata was informed of this the next day. She was very upset and felt betrayed as she had not consented to the removal of her uterus. Lata complained to the police who tried to convince her that Dr. Mansi had acted with good intention to help a patient. Sujatha was of the same opinion, however Lata was not convinced and decided to approach the court.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.

(b) Discuss the moral conduct of the doctor in this situation.

250 words · 20 marks

8 Ravi is a senior police officer with vast experience in riot control and cyber-policing. Since one year, he has been the Superintendent of Police (SP) of a district with a history of frequent rioting. Last year, Ravi had sought installation of an AI enabled software for predictive policing. This system has been operational for approximately six months. This new system employs advanced algorithms for capturing the biometric data of persons in a crowd and swiftly relating it to a data library. This has enabled the police to identify the persons involved in various crimes. The system has identified an immigrant and low-income neighbourhood as a centre for gang violence and drug trafficking. Aided by this AI analysis, the local police has focused its patrolling, preventive detentions and establishing checkposts. Consequently, public order and law enforcement has

visibly improved. Last week, some community leaders, civil rights lawyers and human rights activists visited Ravi's office. They submitted a memorandum that the new system is faulty as it is based on incorrect historical data caused by social biases and discriminatory policing. The memorandum also alleges that the increased surveillance has created a climate of tension amongst residents. This feeling is aggravated by the fact that the residents are not aware of the data noted against their names.

(a) What are the ethical issues including biases involved in the use of AI in data-driven policing?

(b) Place yourself in Ravi's role and discuss the alternatives available. Justify the action that optimises compliance with ethics.

250 words · 20 marks

9 Seema is a senior bureaucrat with a reputation of honesty and professional efficiency. She has recently been posted as the District Collector (DC) to Surinder Nagar, where a large industrial area is being established. The new industrial area had caused many farmers to submit applications for change of land use (CLU) to convert their farmlands into residential areas. There is an unusually large backlog of these applications awaiting processing. Seema noticed that some applications had been approved selectively with no visible chronological pattern. The case files showed a few complaints of some approvals being subject to receipt of large bribes from the applicants. On further fact-finding, Seema realized that a small group of touts was controlling this illegal activity through some subordinate officials in the Collectorate. This had created a fear in the other employees who were reluctant to process any application. The resultant backlog has been piling up thereby hindering local economic progress and causing public dissatisfaction. Seema was faced with a major moral and administrative challenge of dismantling this corruption network without hampering daily administrative operations. An aggressive internal investigation would result in institutional resistance and, possibly, a backlash from labour unions. Conversely, ignoring this situation would encourage the wrongdoers and unnecessarily continue this avoidable harassment to the populace.

(a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?

(b) Discuss the options open to Seema. Identify the recommended option and justify it.

250 words · 20 marks

10 Vikas is a government officer with over a decade of service in public administration. He has recently moved as the District Collector (DC) of Nainipura, a remote hilly district bordering a forest. Due to Nainipura's low levels of economic development, one of his major duties is to ensure proper functioning of the public distribution system (PDS) amongst the economically weaker sections (EWS). During his on-site visits, Vikas was apprised of a typical administrative challenge in operating the PDS. To prevent leakages, all distributors were required to carry out real-time biometric identification of the beneficiaries, whose fingerprints were tallied with identity card records. This was creating problems as the operating system sometimes rejected fingerprint matching in the cases of growing children, manual labourers and senior citizens. The problem was further compounded in periods of low WiFi connectivity. The distributors, in such cases, resorted to personal discretion when they could identify the recipient. Vikas had to address this problem on priority. Strictly adhering to government regulations would ensure fiscal probity but would greatly trouble the proposed beneficiary, i.e., EWS. It may even impinge on their fundamental right to life as per Article 21 of the Constitution. Conversely, leaving the resolution solely to the discretion of the distributors could lead to misuse and leakages.

(a) What are the options open to Vikas? How should he balance fiscal probity with empathy towards the designated beneficiaries?

(b) Discuss the ethics of using technology as a gatekeeper for welfare schemes.

250 words · 20 marks

11 Rajapuram is a border district. Jhara and Biru, its two major communities are in continual conflict with each other. The social fabric is fractured and demands mending. Ethnic tensions between the two communities have erupted into violence resulting in a large number of deaths. The stated causes are conflicting land claims, uneven resource allocation and inadequate political representation in government bodies. Separate relief camps had to be created for the two communities. The situation is volatile and appears to be getting out of control. Rajan has been appointed the District Magistrate (DM) of Rajapuram and tasked to quickly get the situation under control. His immediate tasks include restoring administrative authority, reopening the highway and initiating peace talks. On taking over his appointment, Rajan realized that the inter-community rivalry had even seeped into the local administration and police. With functional neutrality being the immediate casualty, it had made both communities distrustful of the government. The neighbouring country could utilize the opportunity to spur insurgent activity and further aggravate the situation. Rajan favoured a controlled approach starting with opening the highway to restore food and medical supplies. He toyed with the idea of requisitioning CRPF units to help restore administrative control.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues that need to be addressed in this case.

(b) What are the options open to Rajan? Which option would ensure protection of his non-partisan image without compromising ethics?

250 words · 20 marks

12 Ajit has been recently promoted as the Head of the Department of Weapon Sales (DWS) in the Ministry of Defence Production (MDP). His charter of duties includes international sales of weapons produced domestically by MDP. In two recent wars, MDP weapons have performed admirably, resulting in many countries showing interest in buying them, particularly long-range artillery and missiles. Country A and country B have asked for these weapons. However, production constraints restrict DWS to accept only one purchase order. Country A is a developing nation with a sound technology base. MDP is planning R&D collaboration with it for the next generation of weapons. It is not part of any security alliance and needs weapons for protection from a troublesome neighbour. It seeks a large acquisition on a long-term loan. Country B is also a developing nation. Military strength is its priority, with the military budget often ingressing into allocations for human resources and infrastructure development. It is in security alliance with a superpower who has a large military base there and periodically allots it financial grants. It is a member of an economic bloc with which the government is currently negotiating a free trade agreement. It is not a signatory of NPT but possesses smaller nuclear weapons and delivery systems. It supports some guerrilla forces abroad. It has sought a smaller acquisition and is prepared to make some advance payment. It is currently negotiating arms purchases from another nation too. Ajit discussed this case with his counterparts in the related departments. Therein, the significant economic benefits, employment generation and stronger diplomatic relations arising from this sale were highlighted. It was also emphasized that refusing the deal could result in country B purchasing weapons from some other supplier. Ajit was aware that in arms sales, due diligence at each stage was pivotal to ensure conformity to national policy and international treaties.

(a) Discuss the options available to Ajit. Which option should he select and why?

(b) How can Ajit balance nation's economic and strategic interests with ethical considerations?

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2025

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 Truth knows no color.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 Thought finds a world and creates one also.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 Best lessons are learnt through bitter experiences.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 Muddy water is best cleared by leaving it alone.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 The years teach much which the days never know.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 It is best to see life as a journey, not as a destination.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 Contentment is natural wealth; luxury is artificial poverty.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2025

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism.
150 words · 10 marks

3 'The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.' Elucidate.
150 words · 10 marks

4 How are climate change and the sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations? Discuss with examples.
150 words · 10 marks

5 What are non-farm primary activities? How are these activities related to physiographic features in India? Discuss with suitable examples.
150 words · 10 marks

6 Explain briefly the ecological and economic benefits of solar energy generation in India with suitable examples.
150 words · 10 marks

7 What are Tsunamis? How and where are they formed? What are their consequences? Explain with examples.
150 words · 10 marks

8 How does smart city in India, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice?
150 words · 10 marks

9 The ethos of civil service in India stand for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness - Elucidate.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Do you think that globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture? Justify your answer.
150 words · 10 marks

11 Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations.
250 words · 15 marks

13 The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain.
250 words · 15 marks

14 Give a geographical explanation of the distribution of off-shore oil reserves of the world. How are they different from the on-shore occurrences of oil reserves?

250 words · 15 marks

15 How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning?

250 words · 15 marks

16 Discuss how the changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins of the planet take place due to tectonic movements of the crustal masses.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Discuss the distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin with special reference to land, soil and water resources.

250 words · 15 marks

18 How do you account for the growing fast food industries given that there are increased health concerns in modern society? Illustrate your answer with the Indian experience.

250 words · 15 marks

19 Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India - Comment.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2025

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Discuss the 'corrupt practices' for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether the increase in the assets of the legislators and/or their associates, disproportionate to their known sources of income, would constitute 'undue influence' and consequently a corrupt practice.

150 words · 10 marks

2 Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribunal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021.

150 words · 10 marks

3 Compare and contrast the President's power to pardon in India and in the USA. Are there any limits to it in both the countries? What are 'preemptive pardons'?

150 words · 10 marks

4 Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

150 words · 10 marks

5 "The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel." Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations in this regard.

150 words · 10 marks

6 Women's social capital complements in advancing empowerment and gender equity. Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

7 e-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify.

150 words · 10 marks

9 India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate.

150 words · 10 marks

10 "With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism." Elucidate.

150 words · 10 marks

11 "Constitutional morality is the fulcrum which acts as an essential check upon the high functionaries and citizens alike...." In view of the above observation of the Supreme Court, explain the concept of constitutional morality and its application to ensure balance between judicial independence and judicial accountability in India.

250 words · 15 marks

12 Indian Constitution has conferred the amending power on the ordinary legislative institutions with a few procedural hurdles. In view of this statement, examine the procedural and substantive limitations on the amending power of the Parliament to change the Constitution.

250 words · 15 marks

13 Discuss the evolution of collegium system in India. Critically examine the advantages and disadvantages of the system of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and that of the USA.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Examine the evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal federalism in India?

250 words · 15 marks

15 What are environmental pressure groups? Discuss their role in raising awareness, influencing policies and advocating for environmental protection in India.

250 words · 15 marks

16 Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one of the major causes of poverty. Discuss in the context of 'paradox of poverty'.

250 words · 15 marks

17 "In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution defeating the objectives of development." Critically evaluate.

250 words · 15 marks

18 The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures the Commission can initiate to tackle the issue.

250 words · 15 marks

19 "Energy security constitutes the dominant kingpin of India's foreign policy, and is linked with India's overarching influence in Middle Eastern countries." How would you integrate energy security with India's foreign policy trajectories in the coming years?

250 words · 15 marks

20 "The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs. Russo-Chinese alliance." Examine and critically evaluate the East-West policy confrontations in this regard.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2025

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Distinguish between the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) with special reference to India. Why is the IHDI considered a better indicator of inclusive growth?

150 words · 10 marks

2 What are the challenges before the Indian economy when the world is moving away from free trade and multilateralism to protectionism and bilateralism? How can these challenges be met?

150 words · 10 marks

3 Explain the factors influencing the decision of the farmers on the selection of high value crops in India.

150 words · 10 marks

4 Elaborate the scope and significance of supply chain management of agricultural commodities in India.

150 words · 10 marks

5 The fusion energy programme in India has steadily evolved over the past few decades. Mention India's contributions to the international fusion energy project - International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). What will be the implications of the success of this project for the future of global energy?

150 words · 10 marks

6 How can India achieve energy independence through clean technology by 2047? How can biotechnology can play a crucial role in this endeavour?

150 words · 10 marks

7 What is Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)? What is the potential role of CCUS in tackling climate change?

150 words · 10 marks

8 Seawater intrusion in the coastal aquifers is a major concern in India. What are the causes of seawater intrusion and the remedial measures to combat this hazard?

150 words · 10 marks

9 Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

10 The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE?

150 words · 10 marks

11 Explain how the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) can be used as a tool for assessing the fiscal performance of states in India. In what way would it encourage the states to adopt prudent and sustainable fiscal policies?

250 words · 15 marks

12 Discuss the rationale of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. What are its achievements? In what way can the functioning and outcomes of the scheme be improved?

250 words · 15 marks

13 Examine the factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India. What are the steps taken by the government to mitigate such depletion of groundwater?

250 words · 15 marks

14 Examine the scope of the food processing industries in India. Elaborate the measures taken by the government in the food processing industries for generating employment opportunities.

250 words · 15 marks

15 How does nanotechnology offer significant advancements in the field of agriculture? How can this technology help to uplift the socio-economic status of farmers?

250 words · 15 marks

16 India aims to become a semiconductor manufacturing hub. What are the challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India? Mention the salient features of the India Semiconductor Mission.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Mineral resources are fundamental to the country's economy and these are exploited by mining. Why is mining considered an environmental hazard? Explain the remedial measures required to reduce the environmental hazard due to mining.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Write a review on India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement (2015) and mention how these have been further strengthened in COP26 (2021). In this direction, how has the first Nationally Determined Contribution intended by India been updated in 2022?

250 words · 15 marks

19 What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Why is maritime security vital to protect India's sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2025

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherance of the rule of law." Examine the significance of constitutional morality for public servant highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration.

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) Carl von Clausewitz once said, "War is a diplomacy by other means." Critically analyse the above statement in the present context of contemporary geo-political conflict.

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) Keeping the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversies over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country.

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context? "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself." - Thiruvalluvar

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes." - William James

150 words · 10 marks

3(c) "The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." - Swami Vivekananda

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) "For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) What are the major teachings of Mahavir? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) "One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant.

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal?

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure value-based and compliance-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your work place?

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) India is an emerging economic power of the world as it has recently secured the status of fourth largest economy of the world as per IMF projection. However, it has been observed that in some sectors, allocated funds remain either under-utilised or misutilised. What specific measures would you recommend for ensuring accountability in this regard to stop leakages and gaining the status of third largest economy of the world in near future?

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 Vijay was Deputy Commissioner of remote district of Hilly Northern State of the country for the last two years. In the month of August heavy rains lashed the complete state followed by cloud burst in the upper reaches of the said district. The damage was very heavy in the complete state especially in the affected district. The complete road network and telecommunication were disrupted and the buildings were damaged extensively. People's houses have been destroyed and they were forced to stay in open. More than 200 people have been killed and about 5000 were badly injured. The Civil Administration under Vijay got activated and started conducting rescue and relief operations. Temporary shelter camps and hospitals were established to provide shelter and medical facilities to the homeless and injured people. Helicopter services were pressed in, for evacuating sick and old people from remote areas. Vijay got a message from his hometown in Kerala that his mother was seriously sick. After two days Vijay received the unfortunate message that his mother has expired. Vijay has no close relative except one elder sister who was US citizen and staying there for last several years. In the meantime, the situation in the affected district deteriorated further due to resumption of heavy rains after a gap of five days. At the same time, continuous messages were coming on his mobile from his hometown to reach at the earliest for performing last rites of his mother.

(a) What are the options available with Vijay?

(b) What are the ethical dilemma being faced by Vijay?

(c) Critically evaluate and examine each of these options identified by Vijay.

(d) Which of the options, do you think, would be most appropriate for Vijay to adopt and why?

250 words · 20 marks

8 In line with the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Indian Constitution, the government has a constitutional obligation to ensure basic needs - "Roti, Kapda aur Makan (Food, Clothes and Shelter)" - for the under-privileged. Pursuing this mandate, the district administration proposed clearing a portion of forest land to develop housing for the homeless and economically weaker sections of the society. The proposed land, however, is an ecologically sensitive zone densely populated with age-old trees, medicinal plants and vital biodiversity. Besides, these forests help to regulate micro-climate and rainfalls; provide habitat for wildlife, support soil fertility and prevent land/soil erosion and sustain livelihoods of tribal and nomadic communities. Inspite of the ecological and social costs, the administration argues in favour of the said proposal by highlighting that this very initiative addresses fundamental human rights as a

critical welfare priority. Besides, it fulfils the government's duty to uplift and empower the poor through inclusive housing development. Further, these forest areas have become unsafe due to wild-animal threats and recurring human-wild life conflicts. Lastly, clearing forest-zones may help to curb anti-social elements allegedly using these areas as hideouts, thereby enhancing law and order.

(a) Can deforestation be ethically justified in the pursuit of social welfare objectives like, housing for the homeless?

(b) What are the socio-economic, administrative and ethical challenges in balancing environmental conservation with human development?

(c) What substantial alternatives or policy interventions can be proposed to ensure that both environmental integrity and human dignity are protected?

250 words · 20 marks

9 Subash is Secretary, PWD in the State Government. He is a senior officer, known for his competence, integrity and dedication to work. He enjoys the trust and confidence of Minister Incharge of PWD and Programme Implementation. As a part of his job profile, he is responsible for policy formulation, execution of projects relating to infrastructure initiatives in the State. Besides, he oversees the technical and administrative aspects relating to planning, designing and construction etc. Subash's Minister is an important Minister in the state and significant growth in urban infrastructure development and road network has been registered during his tenure. He is very keen for launching of ambitious road construction project in the near future. Subash is in regular touch with the Minister and is working various modalities of road construction project. Regular meetings, interactions and presentations are made by him to the Minister before a formal public announcement of the project is made by the Minister. Subash's only son Vikas is in real estate business. His son from his own sources is aware that a mega road project is on the anvil and announcement in this regard is expected anytime. He is very keen to know from his father the exact location of the upcoming project. He knows that there would be quantum jump in the prices of land in the vicinity. Buying land at this stage at cheaper prices would pay him rich dividends. He is pleading with him (his father) day in and day out to share him location of the proposed project. He assured him that he would handle the matter discretely as it would not attract any adverse notice as he in the normal course, keeps on buying land as a part of his business. He feels pressurised because of constant pleadings by his son. Another significant aspect of the matter pertained to the extra/undue interest in the above project by the Minister PWD. His nephew was also having big infrastructure project company. In fact, the Minister has also introduced his nephew to him and indicated to him to take care of his nephew's business interest in the forthcoming project. The Minister encouraged him to act fast in the matter as early announcement and execution of mega road project would enhance his status in the party and public life. In the above backdrop, Subash is in a fix as to the future course of action.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.

(b) Critically examine the options available to Subash in the above situation.

(c) Which of the above would be most appropriate and why?

250 words · 20 marks

10 Rajesh is a Group A officer with nine years of service. He is posted as Administrative Officer in an Oil Public Sector undertaking. As an Administrative Officer he is responsible for managing and coordinating various administrative tasks to ensure smooth functioning of office. He also manages office supplies, equipment etc. Rajesh is now sufficient senior and is expecting his next promotion in JAG (Junior Administrative Grade) in the next one or two years. He knows that

promotion is based on examination of ACRs/Performance Appraisal of last few years (5 years or so) of an officer by a DPC (Departmental Promotion Committee) and an officer lacking requisite grading of ACRs may not be found fit for promotion. Consequences of losing promotion may entail financial and reputational loss and set-back for career progression. Though he also puts his best efforts in official discharge of his duties, yet he is unsure of assessment by his superior officer. He is now putting extra efforts so that he gets thumping report at the end of financial year. As Administrative Officer, Rajesh is regularly interacting with his immediate boss, who is his reporting officer for writing his ACR. One day he calls Rajesh and wants him to buy computer-related stationery on priority from a particular vendor. Rajesh instructs his office to initiate action for procuring these items. During the day, the dealing Assistant brings an estimate of Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs covering all stationery items from the same vendor. It is noticed that as per delegated financial powers, as provided in the FR (General Financial Rules) as applicable in that Organisation, expenditure for office items exceeding Rupees Thirty Lakhs requires sanction of the next higher authority (boss in the present case). Rajesh knows that immediate superior would expect all these purchases should be done at his level and may not appreciate such lack of initiative on his part. During discussions with office, he learns that common practice of splitting of expenditure (where large order is divided into a series of smaller ones) is followed to avoid obtaining sanction from higher authority. This practice is against the rules and may come to the adverse notice of Audit. Rajesh is perturbed. He is unsure of taking decision in the matter.

(a) What are the options available with Rajesh in the above situation?

(b) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?

(c) Which would be the most appropriate option for Rajesh and why?

250 words · 20 marks

11 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program, MGNREGA was earlier known as National Rural Employment Scheme, NREGA. It is an Indian Social Welfare Program that aimed at fulfilling the 'Right to Work' provisions made in the Constitution. MGNREGA was launched in 2006 under Rural Employment Sector by the Ministry of Rural Development. Main objective of the program is to give legal guarantee of wage employment to the adult members of rural households who are willing to do unskilled manual labour work subject to a maximum of 100 days per year for every household. Every rural household has the right to register under the scheme, job card is issued to the registered, Job Card holder can seek employment; State Government shall pay 25% of minimum wage for the first 30 days as compensatory daily unemployment allowance to the families and of wage for remaining period of the year. MGNREGA work was undertaken by various Gram Panchayats. You have been appointed as an Administrator Incharge of the District. You have been given the responsibility of monitoring MGNREGA work undertaken by various Gram Panchayats. You are also given the authority to give technical sanctions to all MGNREGA works. In one of the Panchayats in your jurisdiction, you notice that your predecessor has mismanaged the Program in terms of: (i) Money not disbursed to actual job-seekers. (ii) Muster Rolls of the Labourers not properly maintained. (iii) Mismatch between the work done and payments made. (iv) Payments made to fictitious persons. (v) Job Cards were given without looking into the need of person. (vi) Mismanagement of funds and to the extent of siphoning of funds. (vii) Approved works that never existed.

(a) What is your reaction to the above situation and how do you restore the proper functioning of MGNREGA Program in this regard?

(b) What actions would you initiate to solve the various issues listed above?

(c) How would you deal with the above situation?

250 words · 20 marks

12 Ashok is Divisional Commissioner of one of the border districts of the North East State. A few years back, Military has taken over the neighbouring country after overthrowing the elected civil government. Civil war situation is prevailing in the country especially in last two years. However, internal situation further deteriorated due to rebel groups taking over control of certain populated areas near own border. Due to intense fight between military and rebel groups, civilian casualties has increased manifold in recent past. In the meantime, in one night Ashok got information from the local police guarding the border check post that there are about 200-250 people mainly women and children trying to cross over to our side of the border. There are also about 10 soldiers with their weapons in military uniform part of this group who wants to cross over. Women and Children are also crying and begging for help. A few of them are injured and bleeding profusely need immediate medical care. Ashok tried to contact Home Secretary of the State but failed to do so due to poor connectivity mainly due to inclement weather.

(a) What are the options available with Ashok to cope with the situation?

(b) What are the ethical and legal dilemmas being faced by Ashok?

(c) Which of the options, do you think would be more appropriate for Ashok to adopt and why?

(d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the Border Guarding Police in dealing with soldiers in uniform?

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2024

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 Forests precede civilizations and deserts follow them.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 The empires of the future will be the empires of the mind.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 There is no path to happiness; Happiness is the path.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 The doubter is a true man of science.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 Social media is triggering 'Fear of Missing Out' amongst the youth, precipitating depression and loneliness.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 Nearly all men can stand adversity, but to test the character, give him power.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 All ideas having large consequences are always simple.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 The cost of being wrong is less than the cost of doing nothing.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2024

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India.
150 words · 10 marks

3 What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results.
150 words · 10 marks

4 What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones?
150 words · 10 marks

5 Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries.
150 words · 10 marks

6 What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain.
150 words · 10 marks

7 What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate.
150 words · 10 marks

8 Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation?
150 words · 10 marks

9 Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

10 In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?
150 words · 10 marks

11 "Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture." Comment.
250 words · 15 marks

12 How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power?
250 words · 15 marks

13 How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India?
250 words · 15 marks

14 The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?

250 words · 15 marks

15 What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?

250 words · 15 marks

16 What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?

250 words · 15 marks

17 What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India?

250 words · 15 marks

18 Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment.

250 words · 15 marks

19 Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family?

250 words · 15 marks

20 Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2024

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to "one nation — one election" principle.

150 words · 10 marks

2 Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases?

150 words · 10 marks

3 "The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy." Elucidate.

150 words · 10 marks

4 "The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety." Comment.

150 words · 10 marks

5 Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at local level and bring out the pros and cons merging the rural local bodies with the urban local bodies.

150 words · 10 marks

6 Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment.

150 words · 10 marks

7 Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?

150 words · 10 marks

8 The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

9 "The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China's political and economic dominance." Explain this statement with examples.

150 words · 10 marks

10 Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics.

150 words · 10 marks

11 What are the aims and objects of recently passed and enforced, The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act?

250 words · 15 marks

12 Right to privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21 of the constitution. Explain. In this reference discuss the law relating to D.N.A. testing of child in the womb to establish its paternity.

250 words · 15 marks

13 What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre-State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build the trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary?

250 words · 15 marks

15 Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US constitution.

250 words · 15 marks

16 The Citizens' charter has been a landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them.

250 words · 15 marks

17 In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level.

250 words · 15 marks

18 e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance.

250 words · 15 marks

19 "Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security." Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition?

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2024

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent this has been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?

150 words · 10 marks

2 What are the causes of persistent high food inflation in India? Comment on the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the RBI to control this type of inflation.

150 words · 10 marks

3 What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate.

150 words · 10 marks

4 Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India.

150 words · 10 marks

5 What is the present world scenario of intellectual property rights with respect to life materials? Although, India is second in the world to file patents, still only a few have been commercialized. Explain the reasons behind this less commercialization.

150 words · 10 marks

6 What is the technology being employed for electronic toll collection on highways? What are its advantages and limitations? What are the proposed changes that will make this process seamless? Would this transition carry any potential hazards?

150 words · 10 marks

7 Industrial pollution of river water is a significant environmental issue in India. Discuss the various mitigation measures to deal with this problem and also the government's initiatives in this regard.

150 words · 10 marks

8 What role do environmental NGOs and activists play in influencing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) outcomes for major projects in India? Cite four examples with all important details.

150 words · 10 marks

9 Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.

150 words · 10 marks

10 Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

150 words · 10 marks

11 Discuss the merits and demerits of the four 'Labour Codes' in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard?

250 words · 15 marks

12 What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements.

250 words · 15 marks

13 What are the major challenges faced by Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

15 The world is facing an acute shortage of clean and safe freshwater. What are the alternative technologies which can solve this crisis? Briefly discuss any three such technologies citing their key merits and demerits.

250 words · 15 marks

16 What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe?

250 words · 15 marks

17 What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various elements of a resilience framework. Also mention the global targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

250 words · 15 marks

18 Flooding in urban areas is an emerging climate-induced disaster. Discuss the causes of this disaster. Mention the features of two such major floods in the last two decades in India. Describe the policies and frameworks in India that aim at tackling such floods.

250 words · 15 marks

19 India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2024

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) "Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour." Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context.

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts?

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment?

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context? "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others." — Swami Vivekananda

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." — Sardar Patel

150 words · 10 marks

3(c) "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." - Immanuel Kant

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) "The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today's context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice." Examine the above statement with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) "Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent." Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations.

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) "The 'Code of Conduct' and 'Code of Ethics' are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place." Suggest a suitable model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance.

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system.

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity.

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level?

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 There is a technological company named ABC Incorporated which is the second largest worldwide, situated in the Third World. You are the Chief Executive Officer and the majority shareholder of this company. The fast technological improvements have raised worries among environmental activists, regulatory authorities, and the general public over the sustainability of this scenario. You confront substantial issues about the business's environmental footprint. In 2023, your organization had a significant increase of 48% in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the levels recorded in 2019. The significant rise in energy consumption is mainly due to the surging energy requirements of your data centers, fuelled by the exponential expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI-powered services need much more computational resources and electrical energy compared to conventional online activities, notwithstanding their notable gains. The technology's proliferation has led to a growing concern over the environmental repercussions, resulting in an increase in warnings. AI models, especially those used in extensive machine learning and data processing, exhibit much greater energy consumption than conventional computer tasks, with an exponential increase. Although there is already a commitment and goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, the challenge of lowering emissions seems overwhelming as the integration of AI continues to increase. To achieve this goal, substantial investments in renewable energy use would be necessary. The difficulty is exacerbated by the competitive environment of the technology sector, where rapid innovation is essential for preserving market standing and shareholders' worth. To achieve a balance between

innovation, profitability and sustainability, a strategic move is necessary that is in line with both, business objectives and ethical obligations.

(a) What is your immediate response to the challenges posed in the above case?

(b) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.

(c) Your company has been identified to be penalized by technological giants. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince about its necessity?

(d) Being a conscience being, what measures would you adopt to maintain balance between AI innovation and environmental footprint?

250 words · 20 marks

8 Raman is a senior IPS officer and has recently been posted as D.G. of a state. Among the various issues and problems/challenges which needed his immediate attention, the issue relating to recruitment of unemployed youth by an unknown terrorist group, was a matter of grave concern. It was noted that unemployment was relatively high in the state. The problem of unemployment amongst graduates and those with higher education was much more grave. Thus they were vulnerable and soft targets. In the review meeting taken by him with senior officers of DIG Range and above, it came to light that a new terrorist group has emerged at the global level. It has launched a massive drive to recruit young unemployed people. Special focus was to pick young people from a particular community. The said organisation seemed to have the clear objective of utilising/using them for carrying out militant activities. It was also gathered that the said (new) group is desperately trying to spread its tentacles in his state. A definite/reliable intelligence tip was received by the State CID and Cyber Cell that a large number of such unemployed youth have already been contacted by the terrorist outfit/group through social media and local communal organisations and other contacts. The need of the hour was to act swiftly and to check these elements/designs before they assume serious proportions. Discrete inquiries made by the police, through the Cyber Cell, revealed that good numbers of unemployed youth are very active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. On an average, many of them were spending 6 - 8 hours each day, using electronic devices/internet, etc. It also came to light that such unemployed youth were showing sympathy and endorsing the messages received from certain persons, allegedly the contact persons of that global terrorist group. Their social media accounts revealed their strong affinity to such groups inasmuch as many of them started forwarding anti-national tweets on their WhatsApp and Facebook, etc. It seemed that they succumbed to their ploy and started propagating secessionist ideology. Their posts were hyper-critical of the government's initiatives, policies and subscribing to extreme beliefs and promoting extremism.

(a) What are the options available to Raman to tackle the above situation?

(b) What measures would you suggest for strengthening the existing set-up to ensure that such groups do not succeed in penetrating and vitiating the atmosphere in the state?

(c) In the above scenario, what action plan would you advise for enhancing the intelligence gathering mechanism of the police force?

250 words · 20 marks

9 With multipronged strategy of the Central and State Governments specially in the last few years, the naxalite problem has been resolved to a large extent in the affected states of the country. However, there are a few pockets in certain states where naxalite problem still persists, mainly due to involvement of foreign countries. Rohit is posted as SP (Special Operations) for the last one year, in one of the districts which is still affected by the naxalite problem. The district administration has taken a lot of developmental works in the recent past in the naxalite affected areas to win the hearts and minds of the people. Over a period of time, Rohit has established an

excellent intelligence network to get the real time information regarding the movement of naxalite cadre. To instill confidence in the public and have moral ascendancy over the naxalites, a number of cordons and search operations are being conducted by the police. Rohit, who himself was leading one of the contingents got a message though his intelligence source that about ten hard core naxalites were hiding in a particular village with sophisticated weapons. Without wasting any time, Rohit reached the target village with his team and laid out a foolproof cordon and started carrying out a systematic search. During the search, his team managed to overpower all the naxalites along with their automatic weapons. However, in the meantime, more than five hundred tribal women surrounded the village and started marching towards the target house. They were shouting and demanding the immediate release of insurgents since they are their protectors and saviours. The situation on the ground was becoming very critical as the tribal women were extremely agitated and aggressive. Rohit tried to contact his superior officer, IG (Special Operations) of the state on the radio set and on mobile phone, but failed to do so due to poor connectivity. Rohit was in great dilemma since out of the naxalites apprehended, two were not only hard core top insurgents with prize money of ₹ ten lakhs on their heads, but were also involved in a recent ambush on the security forces. However, if he did not release the naxalites, the situation could get out of control since the tribal women were aggressively charging towards them. In that case, to control the situation Rohit might have to resort to firing which may lead to valuable loss of lives of civilians and would further complicate the situation.

(a) What are the options available with Rohit to cope with the situation?

(b) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Rohit?

(c) Which of the options, do you think, would be more appropriate for Rohit to adopt and why?

(d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the police in dealing with women protesters?

250 words · 20 marks

10 Sneha is a Senior Manager working for a big reputed hospital chain in a mid-sized city. She has been made in-charge of the new super speciality center that the hospital is building with state-of-the art equipment and world class medical facilities. The building has been reconstructed and she is starting the process of procurement for various equipment and machines. As the head of the committee responsible for procurement, she has invited bids from all the interested reputed vendors dealing in medical equipment. She notices that her brother, who is a well-known supplier in this domain, has also sent his expression of interest. Since the hospital is privately owned, it is not mandatory for her to select only the lower bidder. Also, she is aware that her brother's company has been facing some financial difficulties and a big supply order will help him recover. At the same time, allocating the contract to her brother might bring charges of favouritism against her and tarnish her image. The hospital management trusts her fully and would support any decision of hers.

(a) What should be Sneha's course of action?

(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

(c) In this case, how is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest?

250 words · 20 marks

11 With the summer heat being exceptionally severe this year, the district has been facing severe water shortage. The District Collector has been mobilizing his subordinate officials to conserve the remaining water reserves for preventing the district from plunging into acute drinking water crisis. Along with an awareness campaign for conserving water, strict measures have been taken for stopping the over-exploitation of ground-water. Vigilance teams have been deployed to tour

the villages and find the farmers who are drawing water from deep borewells or from the river reservoir for irrigation. The farmers are agitated by such action. A delegation of farmers meets the District Collector with their issues and complains that while they are not being allowed to irrigate their crops, big industries located near the river are drawing huge amounts of water through deep borewells for their industrial processes. The farmers allege that their administration is anti-farmer and corrupt, being bribed by the industry. The district needs to placate the farmers as they are threatening to go on a prolonged protest. At the same time, the District Collector has to deal with the water crisis. The industry cannot be closed as this would result in a large number of workers being unemployed.

(a) Discuss all options available to the District Collector as a District Magistrate.

(b) What suitable actions can be taken in view of mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?

(c) What are the potential administrative and ethical dilemmas for the District Collector?

250 words · 20 marks

12 Dr. Srinivasan is a senior scientist working for a reputed biotechnology company known for its cutting-edge research in pharmaceuticals. Dr. Srinivasan is heading a research team working on a new drug aimed at treating a rapidly spreading variant of a new viral infectious disease. The disease has been rapidly spreading across the world and the cases reported in the country are increasing. There is huge pressure on Dr. Srinivasan's team to expedite the trials for the drug as there is significant market for it, and the company wants to get the first-mover advantage in the market. During a team meeting, some senior team members suggest some shortcut for expediting the clinical trials for the drug and for getting the requisite approvals. These include manipulating data to exclude some negative outcomes and selectively reporting positive results, foregoing the process of informed consent and using compounds already patented by a rival company, rather than developing one's own component. Dr. Srinivasan is not comfortable taking such shortcuts, at the same time he realises meeting the targets is impossible without using these means.

(a) What would you do in such a situation?

(b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved.

(c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2023

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 Thinking is like a game, it does not begin unless there is an opposite team.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 Visionary decision-making happens at the intersection of intuition and logic.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 Not all who wander are lost.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 Inspiration for creativity springs from the effort to look for the magical in the mundane.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 Girls are weighed down by restrictions, boys with demands — two equally harmful disciplines.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 Mathematics is the music of reason.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 A society that has more justice is a society that needs less charity.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2023

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India.
150 words · 10 marks

2 What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism?
150 words · 10 marks

3 Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world.
150 words · 10 marks

4 Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries.
150 words · 10 marks

5 Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources?
150 words · 10 marks

6 How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world?
150 words · 10 marks

7 Why is the South-West Monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?
150 words · 10 marks

8 Do you think marriage as a sacrament is loosing its value in Modern India?
150 words · 10 marks

9 Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.
150 words · 10 marks

11 What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society?
250 words · 15 marks

12 What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society?
250 words · 15 marks

13 How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression?
250 words · 15 marks

14 Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forest regions of India.

250 words · 15 marks

16 Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?

250 words · 15 marks

17 From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?

250 words · 15 marks

19 Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?

250 words · 15 marks

20 Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2023

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 "Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy." Comment.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India.
150 words · 10 marks

3 "The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially." Comment.
150 words · 10 marks

4 Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty.
150 words · 10 marks

5 Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.
150 words · 10 marks

6 The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy.
150 words · 10 marks

7 Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.
150 words · 10 marks

8 e-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features?
150 words · 10 marks

9 "Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO." In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.
150 words · 10 marks

11 "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws.
250 words · 15 marks

13 Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid 1990s.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism?

250 words · 15 marks

16 Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalisation of Indian Parliament?

250 words · 15 marks

17 "Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment.

250 words · 15 marks

19 "The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India." What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

250 words · 15 marks

20 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos.' Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2023

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

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.
150 words · 10 marks

2 What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.
150 words · 10 marks

3 How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.
150 words · 10 marks

4 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.
150 words · 10 marks

5 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?
150 words · 10 marks

6 Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage.
150 words · 10 marks

7 Dam failures are always catastrophic, especially on the downstream side, resulting in a colossal loss of life and property. Analyze the various causes of dam failures. Give two examples of large dam failures.
150 words · 10 marks

8 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?
150 words · 10 marks

9 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.
150 words · 10 marks

10 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.
150 words · 10 marks

11 Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment?

250 words · 15 marks

13 Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions.

250 words · 15 marks

14 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.

250 words · 15 marks

15 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?

250 words · 15 marks

16 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.

250 words · 15 marks

17 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.

250 words · 15 marks

18 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?

250 words · 15 marks

19 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.

250 words · 15 marks

20 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.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2023

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) "Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society?

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context? "The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." — Mahatma Gandhi

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves." — Jawaharlal Nehru

150 words · 10 marks

3(c) "Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle." — Swami Vivekananda

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) "What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills — your EQ — not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision-making? Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance?

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 You are working as an executive in a nationalised bank for several years. One day one of your close colleagues tells you that her father is suffering from heart disease and needs surgery immediately to survive. She also tells you that she has no insurance and the operation will cost about ₹ 10 lakh. You are also aware of the fact that her husband is no more and that she is from a lower middle class family. You are empathetic about her situation. However, apart from expressing your sympathy, you do not have the resources to fund her. A few weeks later, you ask her about the well-being of her father and she informs you about his successful surgery and that he is recovering. She then confides in you that the bank manager was kind enough to facilitate the release of ₹ 10 lakh from a dormant account of someone to pay for the operation with a promise that it should be confidential and be repaid at the earliest. She has already started paying it back and will continue to do so until it is all returned.

(a) What are the ethical issues involved?

(b) Evaluate the behaviour of the bank manager from an ethical point of view.

(c) How would you react to the situation?

250 words · 20 marks

8 A landslide occurred in the middle of the night on 20th July, 2023 in a remote mountain hamlet, approximately 60 kilometres from Uttarkashi. The landslide was caused by torrential rains and has resulted in large-scale destruction of property and life. You, as District Magistrate of that area, have rushed to the spot with a team of doctors, NGOs, media and police along with numerous support staff to oversee the rescue operations. A man came running to you with a request for urgent medical help for his pregnant wife who is in labour and is losing blood. You directed your medical team to examine his wife. They return and convey to you that this woman needs blood transfusion immediately. Upon enquiry, you come to know that a few blood collection bags and blood group test kits are available in the ambulance accompanying your team. Few people of your team have already volunteered to donate blood. Being a physician who has graduated from AIIMS, you know that blood for transfusion needs to be procured only through a recognized blood bank. Your team members are divided on this issue; some favour transfusion, while some others oppose it. The doctors in the team are ready to facilitate the delivery provided they are not penalized for transfusion. Now you are in a dilemma. Your professional training emphasizes on prioritising service to humanity and saving lives of individuals.

(a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?

(b) Evaluate the options available to you, being District Magistrate of the area.

250 words · 20 marks

9 At 9 pm on Saturday evening, Rashika, a Joint Secretary, was still engrossed in her work in her office. Her husband, Vikram, is an executive in an MNC and frequently out of town in connection with his work. Their two children aged 5 and 3 are looked after by their domestic helper. At 9:30 pm her superior, Mr. Suresh calls her and asks her to prepare a detailed note on an important matter to be discussed in a meeting in the Ministry. She realises that she will have to work on Sunday to finish the additional task given by her superior. She reflects on how she had looked

forward to this posting and had worked long hours for months to achieve it. She had kept the welfare of people uppermost in discharging her duties. She feels that she has not done enough justice to her family and she has not fulfilled her duties in discharging essential social obligations. Even as recently as last month she had to leave her sick child in the nanny's care as she had to work in the office. Now, she feels that she must draw a line, beyond which her personal life should take precedence over her professional responsibilities. She thinks that there should be reasonable limits to the work ethics such as punctuality, hard work, dedication to duty and selfless service.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.

(b) Briefly describe at least four laws that have been enacted by the Government with respect to providing a healthy, safe and equitable working environment for women.

(c) Imagine you are in a similar situation. What suggestions would you make to mitigate such working conditions?

250 words · 20 marks

10 Vinod is an honest and sincere IAS officer. Recently, he has taken over as Managing Director of the State Road Transport Corporation, his sixth transfer in the past three years. His peers acknowledge his vast knowledge, affability and uprightness. The Chairman of the State Road Transport Corporation is a powerful politician and is very close to the Chief Minister. Vinod comes to know about many alleged irregularities of the Corporation and the high-handedness of the Chairman in financial matters. A Board Member of the Corporation belonging to the Opposition Party meets Vinod and hands over a few documents along with a video recording in which the Chairman appears to be demanding bribe for placing a huge order for the supply of QMR tyres. Vinod recollects the Chairman expediting clearing of pending bills of QMR tyres. Vinod confronts the Board Member as to why he is shying away from exposing the Chairman with the so-called solid proof he has with him. The member informs him that the Chairman refuses to yield to his threats. He adds that Vinod may earn recognition and public support if he himself exposes the Chairman. Further, he tells Vinod that once his party comes to power, Vinod's professional growth would be assured. Vinod is aware that he may be penalized if he exposes the Chairman and may further be transferred to a distant place. He knows that the Opposition Party stands a better chance of coming to power in the forthcoming elections. However, he also realizes that the Board Member is trying to use him for his own political gains.

(a) As a conscientious civil servant, evaluate the options available to Vinod.

(b) In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that may arise due to the politicization of bureaucracy.

250 words · 20 marks

11 You have just been appointed as Additional Director General of Central Public Works Department. The Chief Architect of your division, who is to retire in six months, is passionately working on a very important project, the successful completion of which would earn him a lasting reputation for the rest of his life. A new lady architect, Seema, trained at Manchester School of Architecture, UK joined as Senior Architect in your division. During the briefing about the project, Seema made some suggestions which would not only add value to the project, but would also reduce completion time. This has made the Chief Architect insecure and he is constantly worried that all the credit will go to her. Subsequently, he adopted a passive and aggressive behaviour towards her and has become disrespectful to her. Seema felt it embarrassing as the Chief Architect left no chance of humiliating her. He would very often correct her in front of other colleagues and raise his voice while speaking to her. This continuous harassment has resulted in her losing confidence

and self-esteem. She felt perpetually tensed, anxious and stressed. She appeared to be in awe of him since he has had a long tenure in the office and has vast experience in the area of her work. You are aware of her outstanding academic credentials and career record in her previous organisations. However, you fear that this harassment may result in compromising her much needed contribution in this important project and may adversely impact her emotional well-being. You have also come to know from her peers that she is contemplating tendering her resignation.

(a) What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?

(b) What are the options available to you in order to complete the project as well as to retain Seema in the organization?

(c) What would be your response to Seema's predicament? What measures would you institute to prevent such occurrences from happening in your organization?

250 words · 20 marks

12 You hold a responsible position in a ministry in the government. One day in the morning you received a call from the school of your 11-year-old son that you are required to come and meet the Principal. You proceed to the school and find your son in the Principal's office. The Principal informs you that your son had been found wandering aimlessly in the grounds during the time classes were in progress. The class teacher further informs you that your son has lately become a loner and did not respond to questions in the class, he had also been unable to perform well in the football trials held recently. You bring your son back from the school and in the evening, you along with your wife try to find out the reasons for your son's changed behaviour. After repeated cajoling, your son shares that some children had been making fun of him in the class as well as in the WhatsApp group of the students by calling him stunted, duh and a frog. He tells you the names of a few children who are the main culprits but pleads with you to let the matter rest. After a few days, during a sporting event, where you and your wife have gone to watch your son play, one of your colleague's son shows you a video in which students have caricatured your son. Further, he also points out to the perpetrators who were sitting in the stands. You purposefully walk past them with your son and go home. Next day, you find on social media, a video denigrating you, your son and even your wife, stating that you engaged in physical bullying of children on the sports field. The video became viral on social media. Your friends and colleagues began calling you to find out the details. One of your juniors advised you to make a counter video giving the background and explaining that nothing had happened on the field. You, in turn posted a video which you have captured during the sporting event, identifying the likely perpetrators who were responsible for your son's predicament. You have also narrated what has actually happened in the field and made attempts to bring out the adverse effects of the misuse of social media.

(a) Based on the above case study, discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of social media.

(b) Discuss the pros and cons of using social media by you to put across the facts to counter the fake propaganda against your family.

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2022

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 Forests are the best case studies for economic excellence
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 History is a series of victories won by the scientific man over the romantic man
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ship is for
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 You cannot step twice in the same river
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 A smile is the chosen vehicle for all ambiguities
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 Just because you have a choice, it does not mean that any of them has to be right
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2022

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days?

150 words · 10 marks

2 Why did the armies of the British East India Company - mostly comprising of Indian soldiers - win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers? Give reasons.

150 words · 10 marks

3 Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons.

150 words · 10 marks

4 Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks.

150 words · 10 marks

5 Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department.

150 words · 10 marks

6 Discuss the natural resource potentials of 'Deccan Trap'.

150 words · 10 marks

7 Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.

150 words · 10 marks

9 How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption?

150 words · 10 marks

10 Given the diversities among tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category?

150 words · 10 marks

11 The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples.

250 words · 15 marks

12 Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture.

250 words · 15 marks

13 Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture.

250 words · 15 marks

14 What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in fishing industry of the world.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them.

250 words · 15 marks

16 Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How?

250 words · 15 marks

18 Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion.

250 words · 15 marks

19 Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2022

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 "The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws.

150 words · 10 marks

2 "Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute." Comment.

150 words · 10 marks

3 To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?

150 words · 10 marks

4 Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

150 words · 10 marks

5 Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body.

150 words · 10 marks

6 The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

7 The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment.

150 words · 10 marks

9 'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement.

150 words · 10 marks

10 Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation?

150 words · 10 marks

11 Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws.

250 words · 15 marks

12 Discuss the essential conditions for exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature.

250 words · 15 marks

13 "While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.

250 words · 15 marks

16 Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer.

250 words · 15 marks

18 The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse.

250 words · 15 marks

19 How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics?

250 words · 15 marks

20 'Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2022

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

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.

150 words · 10 marks

2 Is inclusive growth possible under market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India.

150 words · 10 marks

3 What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent?

150 words · 10 marks

4 Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India.

150 words · 10 marks

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?

150 words · 10 marks

6 Each year a large amount of plant material, cellulose, is deposited on the surface of Planet Earth. What are the natural processes this cellulose undergoes before yielding carbon dioxide, water and other end products?

150 words · 10 marks

7 Discuss in detail the photochemical smog emphasizing its formation, effects and mitigation. Explain the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Explain the mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the context of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss two recent examples.

150 words · 10 marks

9 Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels.

150 words · 10 marks

10 What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security.

150 words · 10 marks

11 "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.

250 words · 15 marks

12 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.

250 words · 15 marks

13 What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India?

250 words · 15 marks

14 What is Integrated Farming System? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India?

250 words · 15 marks

15 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?

250 words · 15 marks

16 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?

250 words · 15 marks

17 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.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Explain the causes and effects of coastal erosion in India. What are the available coastal management techniques for combating the hazard?

250 words · 15 marks

19 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.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2022

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is not rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations.

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations.

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning?

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) What does each of the following quotations mean to you? "Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do." —Potter Stewart

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel that there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, mother and teacher." -A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

150 words · 10 marks

3(c) "Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it."— Dalai Lama

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) What do you understand by the term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt, it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and the system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to the vulnerable section of the society.

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair.

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) Write short notes on the following in 30 words each: (i) Constitutional morality (ii) Conflict of interest (iii) Probity in public life (iv) Challenges of digitalization (v) Devotion to duty

30 words each · 10 marks

6(a) Whistle-blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle-blower?

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you find that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate world for which the CSR is mandated? Critically examine.

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 Prabhat was working as Vice President (Marketing) at Sterling Electric Ltd., a reputed multinational company. But presently the company was passing through the difficult times as the sales were continuously showing downward trend in the last two quarters. His division, which hitherto had been a major revenue contributor to the company's financial health, was now desperately trying to procure some big government order for them. But their best efforts did not yield any positive success or breakthrough. His was a professional company and his local bosses were under pressure from their London-based HO to show some positive results. In the last performance review meeting taken by the Executive Director (India Head), he was reprimanded for his poor performance. He assured them that his division is working on a special contract from the Ministry of Defence for a secret installation near Gwalior and tender is being submitted shortly. He was under extreme pressure and he was deeply perturbed. What aggravated the situation further was a warning from the top that if the deal is not clinched in favour of the company, his division might have to be closed and he may have to quit his lucrative job. There was another dimension which was causing him deep mental torture and agony. This pertained to his personal precarious financial health. He was a single earner in the family with two school-

college going children and his old ailing mother. The heavy expenditure on education and medical was causing a big strain to his monthly pay packet. Regular EMI for housing loan taken from bank was unavoidable and any default would render him liable for severe legal action. In the above backdrop, he was hoping for some miracle to happen. There was sudden turn of events. His secretary informed that a gentleman-Subhash Verma wanted to see him as he was interested in the position of Manager which was to be filled in by him in the company. He further brought to his notice that his CV has been received through the office of the Minister of Defence. During interview of the candidate-Subhash Verma, he found him technically sound, resourceful and experienced marketeer. He seemed to be well-conversant with tendering procedures and having knack of follow-up and liaising in this regard. Prabhat felt that he was better choice than the rest of the candidates who were recently interviewed by him in the last few days. Subhash Verma also indicated that he was in possession of the copies of the bid documents that the Unique Electronics Ltd. would be submitting the next day to the Defence Ministry for their tender. He offered to hand over those documents subject to his employment in the company on suitable terms and conditions. He made it clear that in the process, the Sterling Electric Ltd. could outbid their rival company and get the bid and hefty Defence Ministry order. He indicated that it will be win-win situation for both-him and the company. Prabhat was absolutely stunned. It was a mixed feeling of shock and thrill. He was uncomfortable and perspiring. If accepted, all his problems would vanish instantly and he may be rewarded for securing the much awaited tender and thereby boosting company's sales and financial health. He was in a fix as to the future course of action. He was wonder-struck at the guts of Subhash Verma in having surreptitiously removing his own company papers and offering to the rival company for a job. Being an experienced person, he was examining the pros and cons of the proposal/situation and he asked him to come the next day.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.

(b) Critically examine the options available to Prabhat in the above situation.

(c) Which of the above would be the most appropriate for Prabhat and why?

250 words · 20 marks

8 Ramesh is State Civil Services Officer who got the opportunity of getting posted to the capital of a border State after rendering 20 years of service. Ramesh's mother has recently been detected cancer and has been admitted in the leading cancer hospital of the city. His two adolescent children have also got admission in one of the best public schools of the town. After settling down in his appointment as Director in the Home Department of the State, Ramesh got confidential report through intelligence sources that illegal migrants are infiltrating in the State from the neighbouring country. He decided to personally carry out surprise check of the border posts along with his Home Department team. To his surprise, he caught red-handed two families of 12 members infiltrated with the connivance of the security personnel at the border posts. On further inquiry and investigation, it was found that after the migrants from neighbouring country infiltrate, their documentation like Aadhaar Card, Ration Card and Voter Card are also forged and they are made to settle down in a particular area of the State. Ramesh prepared the detailed and comprehensive report and submitted to the Additional Secretary of the State. However, he has summoned by the Additional Home Secretary after a week and was instructed to withdraw the report. The Additional Home Secretary informed Ramesh that the report submitted by him has not been appreciated by the higher authorities. He further cautioned him that if he fails to withdraw the confidential report, he will not only be posted out from the prestigious appointment from the State capital but his further promotion which is due in near future will also get in jeopardy.

(a) What are the options available to Ramesh as the Director of the Home Department of the bordering State?

(b) What option should Ramesh adopt and why?

(c) Critically evaluate each of the options.

(d) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Ramesh?

(e) What policy measures would you suggest to combat the menace of infiltration of illegal migrants from the neighbouring country?

250 words · 20 marks

9 The Supreme Court has banned mining in the Aravalli Hills to stop degradation of the forest cover and to maintain ecological balance. However, the stone mining was still prevalent in the border district of the affected State with connivance of certain corrupt forest officials and politicians. Young and dynamic SP who was recently posted in the affected district promised to himself to stop this menace. In one of his surprise checks with his team, he found loaded truck with stone trying to escape the mining area. He tried to stop the truck but the truck driver overrun the police officer, killing him on the spot and thereafter managed to flee. Police filed FIR but no breakthrough was achieved in the case for almost three months. Ashok who was the Investigative Journalist working with leading TV channel, suo moto started investigating the case. Within one month, Ashok got breakthrough by interacting with local people, stone mining mafia and government officials. He prepared his investigative story and presented to the CMD of the TV channel. He exposed in his investigative report the complete nexus of stone mafia working with blessing of corrupt police and civil officials and politicians. The politician who was involved in the mafia was no one else but local MLA who was considered to be very close to the Chief Minister. After going through the investigative report, the CMD advised Ashok to drop the idea of making the story public through electronic media. He informed that the local MLA was not only the relative of the owner of the TV channel but also had unofficially 20 percent share in the channel. The CMD further informed Ashok that his further promotion and hike in pay will be taken care of in addition the soft loan of ₹ 10 lakhs which he has taken from the TV channel for his son's chronic disease will be suitably adjusted if he hands over the investigative report to him.

(a) What are the options available with Ashok to cope up with the situation?

(b) Critically evaluate/examine each of the options identified by Ashok.

(c) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Ashok?

(d) Which of the options, do you think, would be the most appropriate for Ashok to adopt and why?

(e) In the above scenario, what type of training would you suggest for police officers posted to such districts where stone mining illegal activities are rampant?

250 words · 20 marks

10 You have done MBA from a reputed institution three years back but could not get campus placement due to COVID-19 generated recession. However, after a lot of persuasion and series of competitive tests including written and interview, you managed to get a job in a leading shoe company. You have aged parents who are dependent and staying with you. You also recently got married after getting this decent job. You were allotted the Inspection Section which is responsible for clearing the final product. In first one year, you learnt your job well and was appreciated for your performance by the management. The company is doing good business for last five years in domestic market and this year it is decided even to export to Europe and Gulf countries. However, one large consignment to Europe was rejected by their Inspecting Team due to certain poor quality and was sent back. The top management ordered that ibid consignment to

be cleared for the domestic market. As a part of Inspecting Team, you observed the glaring poor quality and brought to the knowledge of the Team Commander. However, the top management advised all the members of the team to overlook these defects as the management cannot bear such a huge loss. Rest of the team members except you promptly signed and cleared the consignment for domestic market, overlooking glaring defects. You again brought to the knowledge of the Team Commander that such consignment, if cleared even for domestic market, will tarnish the image and reputation of the company and will be counter-productive in the long run. However, you were further advised by the top management that if you do not clear the consignment, the company will not hesitate to terminate your services citing certain innocuous reasons.

(a) Under the given conditions, what are the options available to you as a member of the Inspecting Team?

(b) Critically evaluate each of the options listed by you.

(c) What option would you adopt and why?

(d) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by you?

(e) What can be the consequences of overlooking the observations raised by the Inspecting Team?

250 words · 20 marks

11 Rakesh was working as Joint Commissioner in Transport Department of a city. As a part of his job profile, among others, he was entrusted with the task of overseeing the control and functioning of City Transport Department. A case of strike by the drivers' union of City Transport Department over the issue of compensation to a driver who died on duty while driving the bus came up before him for decision in the matter. He gathered that the driver (deceased) was plying Bus No. 528 which passed through busy and congested roads of the city. It so happened that near an intersection on the way, there was an accident involving the bus and a car driven by a middle-aged man. It was found that there was altercation between the driver and the car driver. Heated arguments between them led to fight and the driver gave him a blow. Lot of passerbys had gathered and tried to intervene but without success. Eventually, both of them were badly injured and profusely bleeding and were taken to the nearby hospital. The driver succumbed to the injuries and could not be saved. The middle-aged driver's condition was also critical but after a day, he recovered and was discharged. Police had immediately come at the spot of accident and FIR was registered. Police investigation revealed that the quarrel in question was started by the bus driver and he had resorted to physical violence. There was exchange of blows between them. The City Transport Department management is considering of not giving any extra compensation to the driver's (deceased) family. The family is very aggrieved, depressed and agitated against the discriminatory and non-sympathetic approach of the City Transport Department management. The bus driver (deceased) was 52 years of age, was survived by his wife and two school-college going daughters. He was the sole earner of the family. The City Transport Department workers' union took up this case and when found no favourable response from the management, decided to go on strike. The union's demand was two-fold. First was full extra compensation as given to other drivers who died on duty and secondly employment to one family member. The strike has continued for 10 days and the deadlock remains.

(a) What are the options available to Rakesh to meet the above situation?

(b) Critically examine each of the options identified by Rakesh.

(c) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Rakesh?

(d) What course of action would Rakesh adopt to diffuse the above situation?

250 words · 20 marks

12 You are appointed as an officer heading the section in Environment Pollution Control Board to ensure compliance and its follow-up. In that region, there were large number of small and medium industries which had been granted clearance. You learnt that these industries provide employment to many migrant workers. Most of the industrial units have got environmental clearance certificate in their possession. The environmental clearance seeks to curb industries and projects that supposedly hamper environment and living species in the region. But in practice, most of these units remain to be polluting units in several ways like air, water and soil pollution. As such, local people encountered persistent health problems. It was confirmed that majority of the industries were violating environmental compliance. You issued notice to all the industrial units to apply for fresh environmental clearance certificate from the competent authority. However, your action met with hostile response from a section of the industrial units, other vested interest persons and a section of the local politicians. The workers also became very hostile to you as they felt that your action would lead to the closure of these industrial units, and the resultant unemployment will lead to insecurity and uncertainty in their livelihood. Many owners of the industries approached you with the plea that you should not initiate harsh action as it would compel them to close their units, and cause huge financial loss, shortage of their products in the market. These would obviously add to the sufferings of the labourers and the consumers alike. The labour union also sent you representation requesting against the closure of the units. You simultaneously started receiving threats from unknown corners. You however received supports from some of your colleagues, who advised you to act freely to ensure environmental compliance. Local NGOs also came to your support and they demanded the closure of the polluting units immediately.

(a) What are the options available to you under the given situation?

(b) Critically examine the options listed by you.

(c) What type of mechanism would you suggest to ensure environmental compliance?

(d) What are the ethical dilemmas you faced in exercising your option?

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2021

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 The process of self-discovery has now been technologically outsourced.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 Your perception of me is a reflection of you; my reaction to you is an awareness of me.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 Philosophy of wantlessness is Utopian, while materialism is a chimera.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 The real is rational and the rational is real.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 Hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 What is research, but a blind date with knowledge!
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 There are better practices to "best practices".
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2021

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj.
150 words · 10 marks

3 Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States.
150 words · 10 marks

4 Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.
150 words · 10 marks

5 Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

6 What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples.
150 words · 10 marks

7 Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment.
150 words · 10 marks

8 Why is India considered as a subcontinent? Elaborate your answer.
150 words · 10 marks

9 Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India.
150 words · 10 marks

11 To what extent did the role of the Moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement.
250 words · 15 marks

13 "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement.
250 words · 15 marks

14 Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples.

250 words · 15 marks

15 How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain.

250 words · 15 marks

16 Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world.

250 words · 15 marks

17 What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India?

250 words · 15 marks

18 Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail.

250 words · 15 marks

19 What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also?

250 words · 15 marks

20 How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2021

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness.
150 words · 10 marks

3 How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the States to improve their fiscal position?
150 words · 10 marks

4 To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?
150 words · 10 marks

5 "Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies.
150 words · 10 marks

6 "Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development." Analyze.
150 words · 10 marks

7 'Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment.
150 words · 10 marks

8 Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples.
150 words · 10 marks

9 "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.
150 words · 10 marks

10 "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain.
150 words · 10 marks

11 The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular State is being questioned by various States. However, the power of the States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures.

250 words · 15 marks

13 Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Right to Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples.

250 words · 15 marks

16 Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification.

250 words · 15 marks

17 "Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and feminist movement has been patriarchal." Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?

250 words · 15 marks

18 Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model.

250 words · 15 marks

19 Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India?

250 words · 15 marks

20 The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2021

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Distinguish between Capital Budget and Revenue Budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets.
150 words · 10 marks

3 How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers?
150 words · 10 marks

4 How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis?
150 words · 10 marks

5 How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world?
150 words · 10 marks

6 Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at 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)?
150 words · 10 marks

7 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?
150 words · 10 marks

8 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.
150 words · 10 marks

9 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.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks.
150 words · 10 marks

11 Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.
250 words · 15 marks

12 "Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth." Discuss in the light of India's experience.

250 words · 15 marks

13 What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India?

250 words · 15 marks

14 What are the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification?

250 words · 15 marks

15 What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer sections of the society?

250 words · 15 marks

16 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 invention impacted the everyday life of human beings?

250 words · 15 marks

17 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?

250 words · 15 marks

18 Describe the various causes and the effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy.

250 words · 15 marks

19 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.

250 words · 15 marks

20 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.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2021

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the public servants.

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example.

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example.

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) What does each of the following quotations mean to you? "Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later." — Swami Vivekananda

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves." —Dalai Lama

150 words · 10 marks

3(c) "Life doesn't make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, it is better for us all." —Erik Erikson

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human being. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant?

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) In case of crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine.

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation." Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society.

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered as indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations.

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate.

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) "Integrity is a value that empowers the human being." Justify with suitable illustration.

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 Sunil is a young civil servant and has a reputation for his competence, integrity, dedication and relentness pursuit of difficult and onerous jobs. Considering his profile, he was picked up by his bosses to handle a very challenging and sensitive assignment. He was posted in a tribal dominated district notorious for illegal sand mining. Excavating sand from river belt and transporting through trucks and selling them in black market was rampant. This illegal sand mining mafia was operating with the support of local functionaries and tribal musclemen who in turn were bribing selected poor tribals and had kept the tribals under fear and intimidation. Sunil being a sharp and energetic officer immediately grasped the ground realities and the modus operandi followed by the mafia through their devious and dubious mechanism. On making inquiries, he gathered that some of their own office employees are in hand and glove with them and have developed close unholy nexus. Sunil initiated stringent action against them and started conducting raids on their illegal operations of movement of trucks filled with sand. The mafia got rattled as not many officers in the past had taken such strong steps against the mafia. Some of the office employees who were allegedly close to mafia informed them that the officer is determined to clean up the mafia's illegal sand mining operations in that district and may cause them irrepairable damage. The mafia turned hostile and launched counter-offensive. The tribal musclemen and mafia started threatening him with dire consequences. His family (wife and old mother) were stalked and were under virtual surveillance and thus causing mental torture, agony and stress to all of them. The matter assumed serious proportions when a muscleman came to his office and threatened him to stop raids, etc., otherwise, his fate will not be different than some of his predecessors (ten years back one officer was killed by the mafia).

(a) Identify the different options available to Sunil in attending to this situation.

(b) Critically evaluate each of the options listed by you.

(c) Which of the above, do you think, would be the most appropriate for Sunil to adopt and why?

250 words · 20 marks

8 You are Vice Principal of a degree college in one of the middle-class towns. Principal has recently retired and management is looking for his replacement. There are also feelers that the management may promote you as Principal. In the meantime, during annual examination the flying squad which came from the university caught two students red-handed involving in unfair means. A senior lecturer of the college was personally helping these students in this act. This senior lecturer also happens to be close to the management. One of the students was son of a local politician who was responsible in getting college affiliated to the present reputed university. The second student was son of a local businessman who has donated maximum funds for running of the college. You immediately informed the management regarding this unfortunate incident. The management told you to resolve the issue with flying squad at any cost. They further said that such incident will not only tarnish the image of the college but also the politician and businessman are very important personalities for the functioning of the college. You were also given hint that your further promotion to Principal depends on your capability in resolving this issue with flying squad. In the meantime, you were intimated by your administrative officer

that certain members of the student union are protesting outside the college gate against the senior lecturer and the students involved in this incident and demanding strict action against defaulters.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.

(b) Critically examine the options available with you as Vice Principal. What option will you adopt and why?

250 words · 20 marks

9 An elevated corridor is being constructed to reduce traffic congestion in the capital of a particular state. You have been selected as project manager of this prestigious project on your professional competence and experience. The deadline is to complete the project in next two years by 30 June, 2021, since this project is to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister before the elections are announced in the second week of July 2021. While carrying out the surprise inspection by inspecting team, a minor crack was noticed in one of the piers of the elevated corridor possibly due to poor material used. You immediately informed the chief engineer and stopped further work. It was assessed by you that minimum three piers of the elevated corridor have to be demolished and reconstructed. But this process will delay the project minimum by four to six months. But the chief engineer overruled the observation of inspecting team on the ground that it was a minor crack which will not in any way impact the strength and durability of the bridge. He ordered you to overlook the observation of inspecting team and continue working with same speed and tempo. He informed you that the minister does not want any delay as he wants the Chief Minister to inaugurate the elevated corridor before the elections are declared. Also informed you that the contractor is far relative of the minister and he wants him to finish the project. He also gave you hint that your further promotion as additional chief engineer is under consideration with the ministry. However, you strongly felt that the minor crack in the pier of the elevated corridor will adversely affect the health and life of the bridge and therefore it will be very dangerous not to repair the elevated corridor.

(a) Under the given conditions, what are the options available to you as a project manager?

(b) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by the project manager?

(c) What are the professional challenges likely to be faced by the project manager and his response to overcome such challenges?

(d) What can be the consequences of overlooking the observation raised by the inspecting team?

250 words · 20 marks

10 The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has quickly spread to various countries. As on May 8th, 2020, in India 56342 positive cases of corona had been reported. India with a population of more than 1:35 billion had difficulty in controlling the transmission of coronavirus among its population. Multiple strategies became necessary to handle this outbreak. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India raised awareness about this outbreak and to take all necessary actions to control the spread of COVID-19. Indian Government implemented a 55-day lockdown throughout the country to reduce the transmission of the virus. Schools and colleges had shifted to alternative mode of teaching-learning-evaluation and certification. Online mode became popular during these days. India was not prepared for a sudden onslaught of such a crisis due to limited infrastructure in terms of human resource, money and other facilities needed for taking care of this situation. This disease did not spare anybody irrespective of caste, creed, religion on the one hand and 'have and have not' on the other. Deficiencies in hospital beds, oxygen cylinders, ambulances, hospital staff and crematorium were the most crucial aspects. You are a

hospital administrator in a public hospital at the time when coronavirus had attacked large number of people and patients were pouring into hospital day in and day out.

(a) What are your criteria and justification for putting your clinical and non-clinical staff to attend to the patients knowing fully well that it is highly infectious disease and resources and infrastructure are limited?

(b) If yours is a private hospital, whether your justification and decision would remain same as that of a public hospital?

250 words · 20 marks

11 A reputed food product company based in India developed a food product for the international market and started exporting the same after getting necessary approvals. The company announced this achievement and also indicated that soon the product will be made available for the domestic consumers with almost same quality and health benefits. Accordingly, the company got its product approved by the domestic competent authority and launched the product in Indian market. The company could increase its market share over a period of time and earned substantial profit both domestically and internationally. However, the random sample test conducted by inspecting team found the product being sold domestically in variance with the approval obtained from the competent authority. On further investigation, it was also discovered that the food company was not only selling products which were not meeting the health standard of the country but also selling the rejected export products in the domestic market. This episode adversely affected the reputation and profitability of the food company.

(a) What action do you visualize should be taken by the competent authority against the food company for violating the laid down domestic food standard and selling rejected export products in domestic market?

(b) What course of action is available with the food company to resolve the crisis and bring back its lost reputation?

(c) Examine the ethical dilemma involved in the case.

250 words · 20 marks

12 Pawan is working as an officer in the State Government for the last ten years. As a part of routine transfer, he was posted to another department. He joined in a new office along with five other colleagues. The head of the office was a senior officer conversant with the functioning of the office. As a part of general inquiry, Pawan gathered that his senior officer carries the reputation of being difficult and insensitive person having his own disturbed family life. Initially, all seem to go well. However, after some time Pawan felt that the senior officer was belittling him and at times unreasonable. Whatever suggestions given or views expressed by Pawan in the meetings were summarily rejected and the senior officer would express displeasure in the presence of others. It became a pattern of boss's style of functioning to show him in bad light highlighting his shortcomings and humiliating publically. It became apparent that though there are no serious work-related problems/shortcomings, the senior officer was always on one pretext or the other and would scold and shout at him. The continuous harassment and public criticism of Pawan resulted in loss of confidence, self-esteem and equanimity. Pawan realized that his relations with his senior officer are becoming more toxic and due to this, he felt perpetually tensed, anxious and stressed. His mind was occupied with negativity and caused him mental torture, anguish and agony. Eventually, it badly affected his personal and family life. He was no longer joyous, happy and contented even at home. Rather without any reason he would loose his temper with his wife and other family members. The family environment was no longer pleasant and congenial. His wife who was always supportive to him also became a victim of his negativity and hostile

behaviour. Due to harassment and humiliation suffering by him in the office, comfort and happiness virtually vanished from his life. Thus it damaged his physical and mental health.

(a) What are the options available with Pawan to cope up with the situation?

(b) What approach Pawan should adopt for bringing peace, tranquillity and congenial environment in the office and home?

(c) As an outsider, what are your suggestions for both boss and subordinate to overcome this situation and for improving the work performance, mental and emotional hygiene?

(d) In the above scenario, what type of training would you suggest for officers at various levels in the government offices?

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2020

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 Life is long journey between human being and being humane
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 Mindful manifesto is the catalyst to a tranquil self
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 Ships do not sink because of water around them, ships sink because of water that gets into them
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 Culture is what we are, civilization is what we have
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 There can be no social justice without economic prosperity but economic prosperity without social justice is meaningless
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 Technology as the silent factor in international relations
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2020

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

2 Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate.

150 words · 10 marks

3 Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movement.

150 words · 10 marks

4 Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone.

150 words · 10 marks

5 The process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries. Justify with examples.

150 words · 10 marks

6 How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India?

150 words · 10 marks

7 Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations.

150 words · 10 marks

9 COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment.

150 words · 10 marks

10 Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.

150 words · 10 marks

11 Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

12 Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment.

250 words · 15 marks

13 Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

14 The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.

250 words · 15 marks

16 India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its development. Elaborate.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer.

250 words · 15 marks

19 Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?

250 words · 15 marks

20 How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2020

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 "There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act". Comment.
150 words · 10 marks

2 "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

3 How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer.
150 words · 10 marks

4 The judicial systems in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices.
150 words · 10 marks

5 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India?
150 words · 10 marks

6 In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

7 "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance". In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy.
150 words · 10 marks

8 "The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

9 Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples.
150 words · 10 marks

11 Indian Constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities.

250 words · 15 marks

13 The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funds' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality'. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times.

250 words · 15 marks

14 Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons.

250 words · 15 marks

16 "The incedence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report.

250 words · 15 marks

17 "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of the Self Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India.

250 words · 15 marks

18 National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement.

250 words · 15 marks

19 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times - Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

20 What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2020

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP?
150 words · 10 marks

3 What are the main constraints in transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India?
150 words · 10 marks

4 What are the challenges and opportunities of food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing?
150 words · 10 marks

5 What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector?
150 words · 10 marks

6 How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies?
150 words · 10 marks

7 How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006?
150 words · 10 marks

8 What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security?
150 words · 10 marks

9 Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.
150 words · 10 marks

10 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.
150 words · 10 marks

11 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.
250 words · 15 marks

12 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?
250 words · 15 marks

13 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?
250 words · 15 marks

14 Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario.

250 words · 15 marks

15 COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management of the pandemic.

250 words · 15 marks

16 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?

250 words · 15 marks

17 What are the key features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the Government of India?

250 words · 15 marks

18 Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach.

250 words · 15 marks

19 What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?

250 words · 15 marks

20 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.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2020

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement.

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) 'Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit.' Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) "The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty." Examine this statement in the context of international relations.

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person?

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) What are the main factors responsible for gender inequality in India? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard.

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) "The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values." Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) What do each of the following quotations mean to you? "Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If not, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way." - Swami Vivekanand

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

150 words · 10 marks

6(c) "A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true." - Socrates

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 Rajesh Kumar is a senior public servant, with a reputation of honesty and forthrightness, currently posted in the Finance Ministry as Head of the Budget Division. His department is presently busy in organising the budgetary support to the states, four of which are due to go to the polls within the financial year. This year's annual budget had allotted ₹ 8300 crores for National Housing Scheme (NHS), a centrally sponsored social housing scheme for the weaker sections of society. ₹ 775 crores have been drawn for NHS till June. The Ministry of Commerce had long been pursuing a case for setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in a southern state to boost exports. After two years of detailed discussions between the centre and state, the Union Cabinet approved the project in August. Process was initiated to acquire the necessary land. Eighteen months ago a leading Public Sector Unit (PSU) had projected the need for setting up a large natural gas processing plant in a northern state for the regional gas grid. The required land is already in possession of the PSU. The gas grid is an essential component of the national energy security strategy. After three rounds of global bidding the project was allotted to an MNC, M/s XYZ Hydrocarbons. The first tranche of payment to the MC is scheduled to be made in December. Finance Ministry was asked for a timely allocation of an additional ₹ 6000 crores for these two developmental projects. It was decided to recommend re-appropriation of this entire amount from the NHS allocation. The file was forwarded to Budget Department for their comments and further processing. On studying the case file, Rajesh Kumar realized that this re-appropriation may cause inordinate delay in the execution of NHS, a project much publicized in the rallies of senior politicians. Correspondingly, non-availability of finances would cause financial loss in the SEZ and national embarrassment due to delayed payment in an international project. Rajesh Kumar discussed the matter with his seniors. He was conveyed that this politically sensitive situation needs to be processed immediately. Rajesh Kumar realized that diversion of funds from NHS could raise difficult questions for the government in the Parliament. Discuss the following with reference to this case:

(a) Ethical issues involved in re-appropriation of funds from a welfare project to the developmental projects.

(b) Given the need for proper utilization of public funds, discuss the options available to Rajesh Kumar. Is resigning a worthy option?

250 words · 20 marks

8 The Chairman of Bharat Missiles Ltd (BML) was watching a program on TV wherein the Prime Minister was addressing the nation on the necessity of developing a self-reliant India. He subconsciously nodded in agreement and smiled to himself as he mentally reviewed BML's journey in the past two decades. BML had admirably progressed from producing first generation anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) to designing and producing state of the art ATGM weapon systems that would be the envy of any army. He sighed in reconciliation with his assumptions that the government would probably not alter the status quo of a ban on export of military weaponry. To his surprise, the very next day he got a telephone call from the Director General, Ministry of Defence, asking him to discuss the modalities of increasing BML production of ATGMs as there is a possibility of exporting the same to a friendly foreign country. The Director General wanted the Chairman to discuss the details with his staff at Delhi next week. Two days later, at a press conference, the Defence Minister stated that he aims to double the current

weapons export levels within five years. This would give an impetus to financing the development and manufacture of indigenous weapons in the country. He also stated that all indigenous arms manufacturing nations have a very good record of international arms trade. As Chairman of BML, what are your views on the following points?

(a) As an arms exporter of a responsible nation like India, what are the ethical issues involved in arms trade?

(b) List five ethical factors that would influence the decision to sell arms to foreign governments.

250 words · 20 marks

9 Rampura, a remote district inhabited by a tribal population, is marked by extreme backwardness and abject poverty. Agriculture is the mainstay of the local population, though it is primarily subsistence due to the very small land holdings. There is insignificant industrial or mining activity. Even the targeted welfare programs have inadequately benefited the tribal population. In this restrictive scenario, the youth has begun to migrate to other states to supplement the family income. Plight of minor girls is that their parents are persuaded by labour contractors to send them to work in the Bt Cotton farms of a nearby state. The soft fingers of the minor girls are well suited for plucking the cotton. The inadequate living and working conditions in these farms have caused serious health issues for the minor girls. NGOs in the districts of domicile and the cotton farms appear to be compromised and have not effectively espoused the twin issues of child labour and development of the area. You are appointed as the District Collector of Rampura. Identify the ethical issues involved. Which specific steps will you initiate to ameliorate the conditions of minor girls of your district and to improve the over-all economic scenario in the district?

250 words · 20 marks

10 You are a municipal commissioner of a large city, having the reputation of a very honest and upright officer. A huge multipurpose mall is under construction in your city in which a large number of daily wage earners are employed. One night, during monsoons, a big chunk of the roof collapsed causing instant death of four labourers including two minors. Many more were seriously injured requiring immediate medical attention. The mishap resulted in a big hue and cry, forcing the government to institute an enquiry. Your preliminary enquiry has revealed a series of anomalies. The material used for the construction was of poor quality. Despite the approved building plans permitting only one basement, an additional basement has been constructed. This was overlooked during the periodic inspections by the building inspector of the municipal corporation. In your enquiry, you noticed that the construction of the mall was given the green signal despite encroaching on areas earmarked for a green belt and a slip road in the Zonal Master Plan of the city. The permission to construct the mall was accorded by the previous Municipal Commissioner who is not only your senior and well known to you professionally, but also a good friend. Prima facie, the case appears to be of a widespread nexus between officials of the Municipal Corporation and the builders. Your colleagues are putting pressure on you to go slow in the enquiry. The builder, who is rich and influential, happens to be a close relative of a powerful minister in the state cabinet. The builder is persuading you to hush up the matter, promising you a fortune to do so. He also hinted that if this matter is not resolved at the earliest in his favour there is somebody in his office who is waiting to file a case against you under the POSH Act. Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case. What are the options available to you in this situation? Explain your selected course of action.

250 words · 20 marks

11 Parmal is a small but underdeveloped district. It has rocky terrain that is not suitable for agriculture, though some subsistence agriculture is being done on small plots of land. The area

receives adequate rainfall and has an irrigation canal flowing through it. Amria, its administrative centre, is a medium sized town. It houses a large district hospital, an Industrial Training Institute and some privately owned skill training centres. It has all the facilities of a district headquarters. A trunk railway line passes approximately 50 kilometres from Amria. Its poor connectivity is a major reason for the absence of any major industry therein. The state government offers a 10 years tax holiday as an incentive to new industry. In 2010 Anil, an industrialist, decided to take benefits to set up Amria Plastic Works (APW) in Noora village, about 20 km from Amria. While the factory was being built, Anil hired the required key labour and got them trained at the skill training centres at Amria. This act of his made the key personnel very loyal to APW. APW started production in 2011 with the labour drawn fully from Noora village. The villagers were very happy to get employment near their homes and were motivated by the key personnel to meet the production targets with high quality. APW started making large profits, a sizeable portion of which was used to improve the quality of life in Noora. By 2016, Noora could boast of a greener village and a renovated village temple. Anil liaised with the local MLA to increase the frequency of the bus services to Amria. The government also opened a primary health care centre and primary school at Noora in buildings constructed by APW. APW used its CSR funds to set up women's self-help groups, subsidize primary education to the village children and procure an ambulance for use by its employees and the needy. In 2019, there was a minor fire in APW. It was quickly extinguished as fire safety protocols were in place in the factory. Investigations revealed that the factory had been using electricity in excess of its authorized capacity. This was soon rectified. The next year, due to a nationwide lockdown, the requirement of production fell for four months. Anil decided that all employees would be paid regularly. He employed them to plant trees and improve the village habitat. APW had developed a reputation of high quality production and a motivated workforce. Critically analyse the story of APW and state the ethical issues involved. Do you consider APW as a role model for development of backward areas? Give reasons.

250 words · 20 marks

12 Migrant workers have always remained at the socio-economic margins of our society, silently serving as the instrumental labour force of urban economics. The pandemic has brought them into national focus. On announcement of a countrywide lockdown, a very large number of migrant workers decided to move back from their places of employment to their native villages. The non-availability of transport created its own problems. Added to this was the fear of starvation and inconvenience to their families. This caused, the migrant workers to demand wages and transport facilities for returning to their villages. Their mental agony was accentuated by multiple factors such as a sudden loss of livelihood, possibility of lack of food and inability to assist in harvesting their rabi crop due to not being able to reach home in time. Reports of inadequate response of some districts in providing the essential boarding and lodging arrangements along the way multiplied their fears. You have learnt many lessons from this situation when you were tasked to oversee the functioning of the District Disaster Relief Force in your district. In your opinion what ethical issues arose in the current migrant crisis? What do you understand by an ethical care giving state? What assistance can the civil society render to mitigate the sufferings of migrants in similar situations?

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2019

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1. Wisdom finds truth
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
2. Values are not what humanity is, but what humanity ought to be
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
3. Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
4. Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5. South Asian societies are woven not around the state, but around their plural cultures and plural identities
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
6. Neglect of primary health care and education in India are reasons for its backwardness
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
7. Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
8. Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2019

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art.
150 words · 10 marks

2 The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate.
150 words · 10 marks

3 Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity.
150 words · 10 marks

4 Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples.
150 words · 10 marks

5 Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.
150 words · 10 marks

6 Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?
150 words · 10 marks

7 Discuss the factors for localisation of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India.
150 words · 10 marks

8 What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

9 "Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

10 What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism?
150 words · 10 marks

11 Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s.
250 words · 15 marks

13 Explain how the foundations of the modern world were, laid by the American and French Revolutions.
250 words · 15 marks

14 What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?
250 words · 15 marks

15 How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism?

250 words · 15 marks

16 How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India?

250 words · 15 marks

17 How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.

250 words · 15 marks

19 What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space?

250 words · 15 marks

20 Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2019

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Do you think that Constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

2 "The Central Administrative Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

3 What are the methods used by the farmers' organisations to influence the policy-makers in India and how effective are these methods?

150 words · 10 marks

4 From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

5 What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism?

150 words · 10 marks

6 Despite Consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.

150 words · 10 marks

7 There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on non-food essential items squeezing their food-budget. - Elucidate.

150 words · 10 marks

8 Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects/Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors, and suggest measures for their effective implementation.

150 words · 10 marks

9 'The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment.

150 words · 10 marks

10 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'.

150 words · 10 marks

11 On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.

250 words · 15 marks

12 "Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power." In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power?

250 words · 15 marks

13 "The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process." Comment.

250 words · 15 marks

14 "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national law maker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

16 'In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages.'— Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

17 The need for cooperation among various service sectors has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of 'collaboration' and 'team spirit'. In the light of statements above examine India's development process.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process. - Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

19 'The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order.' Elaborate.

250 words · 15 marks

20 'What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions.' Explain with suitable examples.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2019

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 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.
150 words · 10 marks

2 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.
150 words · 10 marks

3 How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?
150 words · 10 marks

4 Elaborate the impact of National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.
150 words · 10 marks

5 How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively?
150 words · 10 marks

6 What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?
150 words · 10 marks

7 Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples.
150 words · 10 marks

8 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.
150 words · 10 marks

9 The banning of 'Jamaat-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 influence of OGWs.
150 words · 10 marks

10 What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.
150 words · 10 marks

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.
250 words · 15 marks

12 The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in the context of budget making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it.
250 words · 15 marks

13 What are the reformative steps taken by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective?

250 words · 15 marks

14 Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.

250 words · 15 marks

15 How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?

250 words · 15 marks

16 How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers?

250 words · 15 marks

17 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.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in the case of landslides.

250 words · 15 marks

19 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.

250 words · 15 marks

20 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.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2019

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples.
150 words · 10 marks

1(b) What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.
150 words · 10 marks

2(a) Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications.
150 words · 10 marks

2(b) "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
150 words · 10 marks

3(a) What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality?
150 words · 10 marks

3(b) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain?
150 words · 10 marks

4(a) Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.
150 words · 10 marks

4(b) There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

5(a) What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.
150 words · 10 marks

5(b) "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you". Do you agree with this view? Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

6(a) What do each of the following quotations mean to you? "An unexamined life is not worth living". - Socrates
150 words · 10 marks

6(b) "A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes."- M. K. Gandhi
150 words · 10 marks

6(c) "Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world." - A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 You are heading the rescue operations in an area affected by severe natural calamity. Thousands of people are rendered homeless and deprived of food, drinking water and other basic amenities. Rescue work has been disrupted by heavy rainfall and damage to supply routes. The local people are seething with anger against the delayed limited rescue operations. When your team reaches the affected area, the people there heckle and even assault some of the team members. One of your team members is even severely injured. Faced with this crisis, some team members plead with you to call off the operations fearing threats to their life. In such trying circumstances, what will be your response? Examine the qualities of a public servant which will be required to manage the situation.

250 words · 20 marks

8 Honesty and uprightness are the hallmarks of a civil servant. Civil servants possessing these qualities are considered as the backbone of any strong organization. In line of duty, they take various decisions, at times some become bonafide mistakes. As long as such decisions are not taken intentionally and do not benefit personally, the officer cannot be said to be guilty. Though such decisions may, at times, lead to unforeseen adverse consequences in the long-term. In the recent past, a few instances have surfaced wherein civil servants have been implicated for bonafide mistakes. They have often been prosecuted and even imprisoned. These instances have greatly rattled the moral fibre of the civil servants. How does this trend affect the functioning of the civil services? What measures can be taken to ensure that honest civil servants are not implicated for bonafide mistakes on their part? Justify your answer.

250 words · 20 marks

9 An apparel manufacturing company having large number of women employees was losing sales due to various factors. The company hired a reputed marketing executive, who increased the volume of sales within a short span of time. However, some unconfirmed reports came up regarding his indulgence in sexual harassment at the work place. After sometime, a woman employee lodged a formal complaint to the management against the marketing executive about sexually harassing her. Faced with the company's indifference in not taking cognizance of her grievance, she lodged an FIR with the Police. Realizing the sensitivity and gravity of the situation, the company called the woman employee to negotiate. In that she was offered a hefty sum of money to withdraw the complaint and the FIR and also give in writing that the marketing executive is not involved in the case. Identify the ethical issues involved in this case. What options are available to the woman employee?

250 words · 20 marks

10 In a modern democratic polity, there is the concept of political executive and permanent executive. Elected people's representatives form the political executive and bureaucracy forms the permanent executive. Ministers frame policy decisions and bureaucrats execute these. In the initial decades after independence, relationship between the permanent executive and the political executive were characterized by mutual understanding, respect and co-operation, without encroaching upon each others domain. However, in the subsequent decades, the situation has changed. There are instances of the political executive insisting upon the permanent executive to follow its agenda. Respect for and appreciation of upright bureaucrats has declined. There is an increasing tendency among the political executive to get involved in routine administrative matters such as transfers, postings etc. Under this scenario, there is a difinitive trend towards 'politicization of bureaucracy'. The rising materialism and acquisitiveness in social life has also adversely impacted upon the ethical values of both the permanent executive and the political executive. What are the consequences of this 'politicization of bureaucracy'? Discuss.

250 words · 20 marks

11 In one of the districts of a frontier state, narcotics menace has been rampant. This has resulted in money laundering, mushrooming of poppy farming, arms smuggling and near stalling of education. The system is on the verge of collapse. The situation has been further worsened by unconfirmed reports that local politicians as well as some senior police officers are providing surreptitious patronage to the drug mafia. At that point of time a woman police officer, known for her skills in handling such situations is appointed as Superintendent of Police to bring the situation to normalcy. If you are the same police officer, identify the various dimensions of the crisis. Based on your understanding, suggest measures to deal with the crisis.

250 words · 20 marks

12 In recent times, there has been an increasing concern in India to develop effective civil service ethics, codes of conduct, transparency measures, ethics and integrity systems and anti-corruption agencies. In view of this, there is a need being felt to focus on three specific areas, which are directly relevant to the problems of internalizing integrity and ethics in the civil services. These are as follows: 1. Anticipating specific threats to ethical standards and integrity in the civil services, 2. Strengthening the ethical competence of civil servants and 3. Developing administrative processes and practices which promote ethical values and integrity in civil services. Suggest institutional measures to address the above three issues.

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2018

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1. Alternative technologies for a climate change resilient India
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
2. A good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
3. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
4. Management of Indian border disputes—a complex task
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5. Customary morality cannot be a guide to modern life
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
6. 'The past' is a permanent dimension of human consciousness and values
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
7. A people that values its privileges above its principles loses both
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks
8. Reality does not conform to the ideal, but confirms it
   1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2018

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India.
150 words · 10 marks

3 Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.
150 words · 10 marks

4 Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?
150 words · 10 marks

5 Why is India taking keen interest in resources of Arctic Region?
150 words · 10 marks

6 Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.
150 words · 10 marks

7 What are the consequences of spreading of "Dead Zones" on marine ecosystem?
150 words · 10 marks

8 "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment.
150 words · 10 marks

9 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons.
150 words · 10 marks

10 How the Indian concept of secularism is different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

11 The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.
250 words · 15 marks

13 Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?
250 words · 15 marks

14 "The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas?
250 words · 15 marks

15 Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.

250 words · 15 marks

16 What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.

250 words · 15 marks

17 Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success.

250 words · 15 marks

18 'Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata.' Substantiate your view.

250 words · 15 marks

19 "Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian Society." Elucidate.

250 words · 15 marks

20 'Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation.' Argue by giving suitable illustrations.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2018

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India?

150 words · 10 marks

2 Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCS) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine.

150 words · 10 marks

3 Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force?

150 words · 10 marks

4 Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee.

150 words · 10 marks

5 "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play." Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise.

150 words · 10 marks

6 "Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate 'protection and prevention of degradation' to environment." Comment with relevant illustrations.

150 words · 10 marks

7 Appropriate local community-level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All' in India. Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

8 E-governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

9 "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

10 A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018.

150 words · 10 marks

11 Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine.

250 words · 15 marks

12 How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India.

250 words · 15 marks

13 India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.

250 words · 15 marks

14 How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects?

250 words · 15 marks

16 Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of the society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case.

250 words · 15 marks

17 How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India?

250 words · 15 marks

18 The Citizens' Charter is an ideal instrument of organizational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizens' Charter.

250 words · 15 marks

19 What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of "Trade War", especially keeping in mind the interest of India?

250 words · 15 marks

20 In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to this situation?

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2018

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 "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.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long-term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019.
150 words · 10 marks

3 What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap?
150 words · 10 marks

4 Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries?
150 words · 10 marks

5 Discuss the work of 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics.
150 words · 10 marks

6 What are the impediments in disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment?
150 words · 10 marks

7 What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India.
150 words · 10 marks

8 Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State?
150 words · 10 marks

9 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.
150 words · 10 marks

10 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.
150 words · 10 marks

11 How are the principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission in India?
250 words · 15 marks

12 How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India?

250 words · 15 marks

13 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?

250 words · 15 marks

14 How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma?

250 words · 15 marks

16 With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy.

250 words · 15 marks

17 How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna?

250 words · 15 marks

18 Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030). How is this framework different from Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005?

250 words · 15 marks

19 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?

250 words · 15 marks

20 India's proximity to 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?

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2018

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1(a) State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance.

150 words · 10 marks

1(b) Distinguish between "Code of ethics" and "Code of conduct" with suitable examples.

150 words · 10 marks

2(a) What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?

150 words · 10 marks

2(b) "The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability." Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

3(a) What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest.

150 words · 10 marks

3(b) "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." — Warren Buffett What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) "In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication." Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) With regard to morality of actions, one view is that means are of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bound by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies?

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration.

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) What do each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context? "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost every thing, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgment of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." — Abraham Lincoln

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." - Mahatma Gandhi

150 words · 10 marks

6(c) "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good." — Tirukkural

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

7 Rakesh is a responsible district level officer, who enjoys the trust of his higher officials. Knowing his honesty, the government entrusted him with the responsibility of identifying the beneficiaries under a healthcare scheme meant for senior citizens. The criteria to be a beneficiary are the following:

(a) 60 years of age or above.

(b) Belonging to a reserved community.

(c) Family income of less than ₹ 1 lakh per annum.

(d) Post-treatment prognosis is likely to be high to make a positive difference to the quality of life of the beneficiary. One day, an old couple visited Rakesh's office with their application. They have been the residents of a village in his district since their birth. The old man is diagnosed with a rare condition that causes obstruction in the large intestine. As a consequence, he has severe abdominal pain frequently that prevents him from doing any physical labour. The couple have no children to support them. The expert surgeon whom they contacted is willing to do the surgery without charging any fee. However, the couple will have to bear the cost of incidental charges, such as medicines, hospitalization, etc., to the tune of ₹ 1 lakh. The couple fulfills all the criteria except criterion 'b'. However, any financial aid would certainly make a significant difference in their quality of life. How should Rakesh respond to the situation?

250 words · 20 marks

8 As a senior officer in the Ministry, you have access to important policy decisions and upcoming big announcements such as road construction projects before they are notified in the public domain. The Ministry is about to announce a mega road project for which the drawings are already in place. Sufficient care was taken by the planners to make use of the government land with minimum land acquisition from private parties. Compensation rate for private parties was also finalized as per government rules. Care was also taken to minimize deforestation. Once the project is announced, it is expected that there will be a huge spurt in real estate prices in and around that area. Meanwhile, the Minister concerned insists that you realign the road in such a way that it comes closer to his 20 acres farm house. He also suggests that he would facilitate purchase of a big plot of land in your wife's name at the prevailing rate which is very nominal, in and around the proposed mega road project. He also tries to convince you by saying that there is no harm in it as he is buying the land legally. He even promises to supplement your savings in case you do not have sufficient funds to buy the land. However, by the act of realignment, a lot of agricultural land has to be acquired, thereby causing considerable financial burden on the government, and also displacement of the farmers. As if this is not enough, it will involve cutting down of a large number of trees, denuding the area of its green cover. Faced with this situation,

what will you do? Critically examine various conflicts of interest and explain what are your responsibilities as a public servant.

250 words · 20 marks

9 It is a State where prohibition is in force. You are recently appointed as the Superintendent of Police of a district notorious for illicit distillation of liquor. The illicit liquor leads to many deaths, reported and unreported, and causes a major problem for the district authorities. The approach till now had been to view it as a law and order problem and tackle it accordingly. Raids, arrests, police cases, criminal trials - all these had only limited impact. The problem remains as serious as ever. Your inspections show that the parts of the district where the distillation flourishes are economically, industrially and educationally backward. Agriculture is badly affected by poor irrigation facilities. Frequent clashes among communities gave boost to illicit distillation. No major initiatives had taken place in the past either from the government's side or from social organizations to improve the lot of the people. Which new approach will you adopt to bring the problem under control?

250 words · 20 marks

10 A big corporate house is engaged in manufacturing industrial chemicals on a large scale. It proposes to set up an additional unit. Many States rejected its proposal due to detrimental effect on the environment. But one State government acceded to the request and permitted the unit close to a city, brushing aside all opposition. The unit was set up 10 years ago and was in full swing till recently. The pollution caused by the industrial effluents was affecting the land, water and crops in the area. It was also causing serious health problems to human beings and animals. This gave rise to a series of agitations demanding the closure of the plant. In a recent agitation thousands of people took part, creating a law and order problem necessitating stern police action. Following the public outcry, the State government ordered the closure of the factory. The closure of the factory resulted in the unemployment of not only those workers who were engaged in the factory but also those who were working in the ancillary units. It also very badly affected those industries which depended on the chemicals manufactured by it. As a senior officer entrusted with the responsibility of handling this issue, how are you going to address it?

250 words · 20 marks

11 Dr. X is a leading medical practitioner in a city. He has set up a charitable trust through which he plans to establish a super-speciality hospital in the city to cater to the medical needs of all sections of the society. Incidentally, that part of the State had been neglected over the years. The proposed hospital would be a boon for the region. You are heading the tax investigation agency of that region. During an inspection of the doctor's clinic, your officers have found out some major irregularities. A few of them are substantial which had resulted in considerable withholding of tax that should be paid by him now. The doctor is cooperative. He undertakes to pay the tax immediately. However, there are certain other deficiencies in his tax compliance which are purely technical in nature. If these technical defaults are pursued by the agency, considerable time and energy of the doctor will be diverted to issues which are not so serious, urgent or even helpful to the tax collection process. Further, in all probability, it will hamper the prospects of the hospital coming up. There are two options before you: (i) Taking a broader view, ensure substantial tax compliance and ignore defaults that are merely technical in nature. (ii) Pursue the matter strictly and proceed on all fronts, whether substantial or merely technical. As the head of the tax agency, which course of action will you opt for and why?

250 words · 20 marks

12 Edward Snowden, a computer expert and former CIA systems administrator, released confidential Government documents to the press about the existence of Government surveillance programmes. According to many legal experts and the US Government, his actions violated the Espionage Act of 1917, which identified the leak of State secrets as an act of treason. Yet, despite the fact that he broke the law, Snowden argued that he had a moral obligation to act. He gave a justification for his "whistle blowing" by stating that he had a duty "to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them." According to Snowden, the Government's violation of privacy had to be exposed regardless of legality since more substantive issues of social action and public morality were involved here. Many agreed with Snowden. Few argued that he broke the law and compromised national security, for which he should be held accountable. Do you agree that Snowden's actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited? Why or why not? Make an argument by weighing the competing values in this case.

250 words · 20 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2017

Essay

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

Write two essays, one topic from Section A and one from Section B, in about 1000–1200 words each.

SECTION A

1 Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

2 Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

3 Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

4 Has the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world?
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

SECTION B

5 Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

6 Fulfilment of 'new woman' in India is a myth.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

7 We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

8 'Social media' is inherently a selfish medium.
1000–1200 words · 125 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2017

General Studies Paper I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times?
150 words · 10 marks

2 Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity.
150 words · 10 marks

3 Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century?
150 words · 10 marks

4 What problems were germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula?
150 words · 10 marks

5 How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth?
150 words · 10 marks

6 "In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development." Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

7 Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations.
150 words · 10 marks

8 How does the cryosphere affect global climate?
150 words · 10 marks

9 In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.
150 words · 10 marks

10 What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?
150 words · 10 marks

11 The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate.
250 words · 15 marks

12 Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy.
250 words · 15 marks

13 Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since the twenties of the last century.
250 words · 15 marks

14 Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects.

250 words · 15 marks

15 Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications.

250 words · 15 marks

16 In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India?

250 words · 15 marks

17 What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia?

250 words · 15 marks

18 The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What were the major issues and debates concerning women in that period?

250 words · 15 marks

19 Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India.

250 words · 15 marks

20 "The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems." Substantiate this statement with examples.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2017

General Studies Paper II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 "The local self-government system in India has not proved to be effective instrument of governance. " Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation.
150 words · 10 marks

2 Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India.
150 words · 10 marks

3 "Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people." Discuss.
150 words · 10 marks

4 How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as more powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years?
150 words · 10 marks

5 Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.
150 words · 10 marks

6 "To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs the identification of the beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes." Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.
150 words · 10 marks

7 Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society?
150 words · 10 marks

8 Hunger and poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement.
150 words · 10 marks

9 "China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia." In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour.
150 words · 10 marks

10 What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.
150 words · 10 marks

11 Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough "to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services"?

250 words · 15 marks

12 Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy.

250 words · 15 marks

13 The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two Houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reason thereof.

250 words · 15 marks

14 To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful?

250 words · 15 marks

15 Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer.

250 words · 15 marks

16 "The emergence of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the State from developmental activities." Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs.

250 words · 15 marks

17 "Poverty alleviation programmes in India remain mere showpieces until and unless they are backed up by political will." Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India.

250 words · 15 marks

18 Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment.

250 words · 15 marks

19 The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries.

250 words · 15 marks

20 Indian diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian diaspora in South-East Asia in this context.

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2017

General Studies Paper III

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory.

1 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?
150 words · 10 marks

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.
150 words · 10 marks

3 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?
150 words · 10 marks

4 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?
150 words · 10 marks

5 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.
150 words · 10 marks

6 Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea and severe burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments?
150 words · 10 marks

7 India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space missions. What are the main obstacles to launching a manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Examine critically.
150 words · 10 marks

8 Not many years ago, river linking was a concept but it is becoming a reality in the country. Discuss the advantages of river linking and its possible impact on the environment.
150 words · 10 marks

9 Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it.
150 words · 10 marks

10 The North-East 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.
150 words · 10 marks

11 One of the intended objectives of the Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energise and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective.
250 words · 15 marks

12 "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?

250 words · 15 marks

13 What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyse and suggest measures for inclusive growth.

250 words · 15 marks

14 What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilise the yield of the crops in the system?

250 words · 15 marks

15 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?

250 words · 15 marks

16 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?

250 words · 15 marks

17 '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?

250 words · 15 marks

18 On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on fourteen 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.

250 words · 15 marks

19 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.

250 words · 15 marks

20 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?

250 words · 15 marks

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) 2017

General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Time allowed: 3 hours | Maximum marks: 250

All questions are compulsory. Section B has case studies.

SECTION A

1 Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when

(a) official duties,

(b) public interest, and

(c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example.

150 words · 10 marks

2 Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service:

(a) Transparency

(b) Accountability

(c) Fairness and justice

(d) Courage of conviction

(e) Spirit of service

150 words · 10 marks

3 Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward.

150 words · 10 marks

4(a) One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example.

150 words · 10 marks

4(b) Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse.

150 words · 10 marks

5(a) "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." - Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country.

150 words · 10 marks

5(b) "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher." - A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse.

150 words · 10 marks

6(a) How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices?

150 words · 10 marks

6(b) Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate.

150 words · 10 marks

7(a) The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

7(b) Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some "enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority." Justify.

150 words · 10 marks

8(a) Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss.

150 words · 10 marks

8(b) Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times.

150 words · 10 marks

SECTION B

9 You are an honest and responsible civil servant. You often observe the following:

- **(a)** There is a general perception that adhering to ethical conduct one may face difficulties to oneself and cause problems for the family, whereas unfair practices may help to reach the career goals.
- **(b)** When the number of people adopting unfair means is large, a small minority having a penchant towards ethical means makes no difference.
- **(c)** Sticking to ethical means is detrimental to the larger developmental goals.
- **(d)** While one may not involve oneself in large unethical practices, but giving and accepting small gifts makes the system more efficient. Examine the above statements with their merits and demerits.

250 words · 20 marks

10 You are aspiring to become an IAS officer and you have cleared various stages and now you have been selected for the personal interview. On the day of the interview, on the way to the venue you saw an accident where a mother and child who happen to be your relatives were badly injured. They needed immediate help. What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action.

250 words · 20 marks

11 You are the head of the Human Resources department of an organisation. One day one of the workers died on duty. His family was demanding compensation. However, the company denied compensation because it was revealed in investigation that he was drunk at the time of the accident. The workers of the company went on to strike demanding compensation for the family of the deceased. The Chairman of the management board has asked for your recommendation. What recommendation would you provide to the management? Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the recommendations.

250 words · 20 marks

12 You are the manager of a spare parts company A and you have to negotiate a deal with the manager of a large manufacturing company B. The deal is highly competitive and sealing the deal is critical for your company. The deal is being worked out over a dinner. After dinner the manager of manufacturing company B offered to drop you to the hotel in his car. On the way to the hotel he happens to hit a motorcycle injuring the motorcyclist badly: You know the manager was driving fast and thus lost control. The law enforcement officer comes to investigate the issue and you are the sole eyewitness to it. Knowing the strict laws pertaining to road accidents you are aware that your honest account of the incident would lead to the prosecution of the manager and as a consequence the deal is likely to be jeopardized, which is of immense importance to your company. What are the dilemmas you face? What will be your response to the situation?

250 words · 20 marks

13 A building permitted for three floors, while being extended illegally to 6 floors by a builder, collapses. As a consequence, a number of innocent labourers including women and children died. These labourers are migrants of different places. The government immediately announced cash relief to the aggrieved families and arrested the builder. Give reasons for such incidents taking place across the country. Suggest measures to prevent their occurrence.

250 words · 20 marks

14 You are a Public Information Officer (PIO) in a government department. You are aware that the RTI Act, 2005 envisages transparency and accountability in administration. The act has functioned as a check on the supposedly arbitrarily administrative behaviour and actions. However, as a PIO you have observed that there are citizens who filed RTI applications not for themselves but on behalf of such stakeholders who purportedly want to have access to information to further their own interests. At the same time there are those RTI activists who routinely file RTI applications and attempt to extort money from the decision makers. This type of RTI activism has affected the functioning of the administration adversely and also possibly jeopardizes the genuineness of the applications which are essentially aimed at getting justice. What measures would you suggest to separate genuine and non-genuine applications? Give merits and demerits of your suggestions.

250 words · 20 marks