100 Ways UPSC Asks

A Comprehensive Theme-Wise Analysis (2013–2024)

Powered by

Margdarshan IAS

This document presents an in-depth, 100-themes Subject wise and topic -wise breakdown across all UPSC Mains papers - Essay, GS1, GS2, GS3, and GS4 (Ethics)-meticulously organized paper-wise, subject-wise, and theme-wise

We have decoded:

- Frequency of each theme over the past 11 years (2013–2024)
- Years in which each theme was asked
- **W** Bar-graph representations of the most repeated themes
- **O** Detailed trend analysis, examiner patterns, and theme recurrence insights

Our goal is to help aspirants decode UPSC's pattern, target high-return areas, and avoid over-investing time in low-weightage topics. This strategic analysis enables you to prioritize your preparation based on evidence — not guesswork

At Margdarshan IAS, we are committed to delivering an exam-oriented approach backed by data, trends, and smart preparation logic

Let this become your Roadmap to efficient Mains preparation



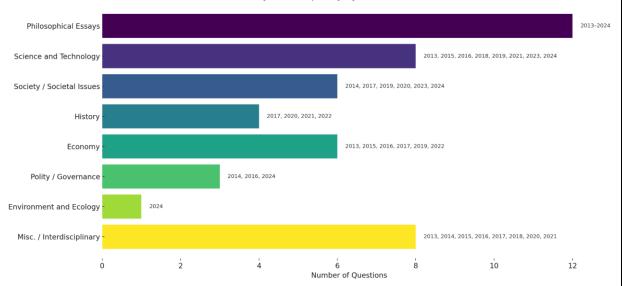


ESSAY

UPSC EssayTheme Summary (2013–2024)

Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
Philosophical Essays	12	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Science and Technology	8	2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
Society / Societal Issues	6	2014, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2023, 2024
History	4	2017, 2020, 2021, 2022
Economy	6	2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022
Polity / Governance	3	2014, 2016, 2024
Environment and Ecology	1	2024
Misc. / Interdisciplinary	8	2013, 2014, 2015, 20 <mark>16, 2017, 2</mark> 018, 2020, 2021

Essay PYQ Frequency by Theme (2013-2024)



TREND AND ANALYSIS

♦ 1. Dominance of Philosophical Essays

- Pattern: Consistently asked every year from 2013 to 2024, making it the most reliable theme.
- Observation: These essays test abstract thinking, ethical reasoning, and philosophical depth. UPSC increasingly prefers quotes or metaphors over direct philosophical topics.
- Trend: Shift towards personal reflection and value-laden ideas post-2020 (e.g.,















"Mindful manifesto...", "A smile is the chosen vehicle...").

♦ 2. Science & Technology as a Strategic Theme

- Pattern: Appears almost every alternate year; stronger presence in post-2015 papers.
- Observation: Focus has shifted from generic praise of S&T (e.g., 2013) to emerging tech (AI, cyberspace, research) and ethical dilemmas.
- Trend: Integration with philosophy, governance, and economy is increasing.

3. Society & Social Issues Reflect Ground Realities

- Pattern: Regularly featured, with 2023–2024 seeing strong revival of social justice, mental health, gender themes.
- Observation: Essays explore cultural critique, social inequality, and technology's impact
 on
- Trend: Themes like patriarchy, youth psychology, and education models are recurring.

4. History as a Contextual Lens

- Pattern: Limited but deeply philosophical or IR-linked when asked.
- Observation: Used to test perspective-building, especially with cultural or diplomatic undertones (e.g., NAM, civilization).
- Trend: History is often blended with science or philosophy now.

♦ 5. Economy – From Numbers to Equity

- Pattern: Frequently seen, particularly in 2015–2017 and 2019.
- Observation: Moved from economic reform and growth (Make in India, GDP vs GDH) to inclusivity, equity, and structural challenges (jobless growth, digital economy).
- Trend: Merged with ethics, sustainability, and governance post-2019.















6. Polity & Governance – Focus on Power & Ethics

- Pattern: Asked sparsely but always anchored in contemporary relevance (e.g., federalism, leadership).
- Observation: Essays explore accountability, decision-making, and power dynamics.
- ethics public administration. Trend: Increasingly linked and to

7. Environment & Ecology – Underrepresented Yet Critical

- Pattern: **Appeared** directly only 2024. once
- Observation: Though rare, it is strongly interdisciplinary (linked to civilization, sustainability).
- **Trend:** More likely to appear **indirectly** through philosophical or economic essays.

8. Rise of Interdisciplinary & Abstract Themes

- Pattern: Especially dominant post-2015.
- Observation: UPSC prefers essays that bridge multiple domains (e.g., tech + ethics governance).
- Trend: Essays now demand holistic thinking, not compartmentalized knowledge.

★ Overall Takeaway:

- Philosophical depth and interdisciplinary thinking are key to scoring high.
- Socio-ethical awareness, policy understanding, and contemporary examples are relevance.
- 2020s trend: Shift from issue-based to reflection-based and metaphorical essay prompts.





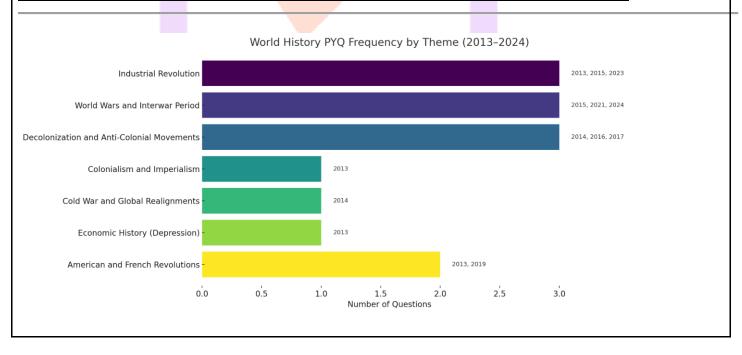






UPSC GS Paper 1: World History PYQ Analysis (2013–2024)

S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Industrial Revolution	3	2013, 2015, 2023
2	World Wars and Interwar Period	3	2015, 2021, 2024
3	Decolonization and Anti-Colonial Movements	3	2014, 2016, 2017
4	Colonialism and Imperialism	1	2013
5	Cold War and Global Realignments	1	2014
6	Economic History (Depression)	1	2013
7	American and French Revolutions	2	2013, 2019















☑ Explanation of Grouping:

- Questions on early industrial change and railways are grouped under Industrial
- Questions involving WWI, WWII, and interwar crises are grouped under World Wars and Interwar Period.
- Anti-colonial struggles and political decolonization movements are grouped under a unified Decolonization theme.
- Cold War realignments (like the Suez Crisis) are treated separately.
- Both American and French revolutions are grouped under Foundational Revolutions.

UPSC GS1 Modern Indian History PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Colonial Rule and Economic Impact	9	2014, 2015, 2017×2, 2018, 2019, 2022×2, 2024
2	Freedom Struggle: Gandhi & K Leaders	ey 8	2015, 2016×2, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2023
3	Revolt of 1857 and Other Mutin	ies 3	2014, 2016, 2019
4	Socio-religious Reform Movements & Social Change	3	2017, 2019, 2021
5	Freedom Struggle: Phases, Movements & Mass Mobilizatio	n 3	2017, 2020, 2024
6	Freedom Struggle: Contribution of Groups & Individuals	ns 4	2013×3, 2021
7	British Policies & Viceroyal Administration	2	2013, 2020





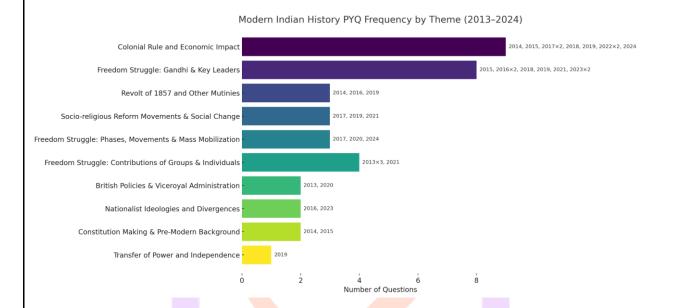








8	Nationalist Ideologies and Divergences	2	2016, 2023
9	Constitution Making & Pre-Modern Background	2	2014, 2015
10	Transfer of Power and Independence	1	2019



Explanation of Theme Consolidation:

- "Colonial Rule and Economic Impact" includes industrial decline, famines, tribals, migration, and British economic policies.
- "Freedom Struggle: Gandhi & Key Leaders" focuses on Gandhi, Tagore, Ambedkar, Bose, and women.
- "Revolt of 1857" and naval mutiny questions are grouped under rebellions and mutinies.
- "Socio-religious Reform" includes Brahmo Samaj, Indian Renaissance, and women's debates.
- "Freedom Struggle Phases" includes Quit India, post-1920s ideological shifts.
- "Contributors" includes moderates, foreigners, women, and Maulana Azad.
- "Policies and Viceroys" includes Curzon and Dalhousie.
- "Nationalist Ideologies" highlights ideological distinctions (e.g. Gandhi vs Tagore).











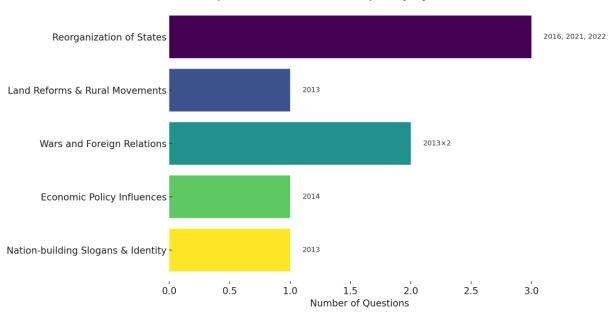


"Constitution Making & Background" includes Panipat and the Govt of India Act 1935.

UPSC GS1 Post-Independence India PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Reorganization of States	3	2016, 2021, 2022
2	Land Reforms & Rural Movements	1	2013
3	Wars and Foreign Relations	2	2013×2
4	Economic Policy Influences	1	2014
5	Nation-building Slogans & Identity	1	2013





☑ Explanation of Theme Classification:















- "Reorganization of States" includes integration of princely states and linguistic reorganization.
- "Land Reforms" covers Bhoodan-Gramdan as a grassroots movement.
- "Wars and Foreign Relations" includes Tashkent Agreement and Bangladesh war context.
- "Economic Policy Influences" includes USSR model influence on Indian planning.
- "Nation-building Identity" includes political slogans symbolizing development vision.

UPSC GS1 Indian Culture PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Art Forms & Architecture	11	2013, 201 <mark>4, 201</mark> 5, 201 <mark>9,</mark> 2020×2, 2022×3, 2024×2
2	Bhakti and Sufi Movements	3	<mark>2014</mark> , 2018, 2021
3	Buddhism and Buddhist Art	2	2016, 2020
4	Vedic & Ancient Civilizations	4	2014, 2015, 2023, 2024
5	Medieval Kingdoms & Dynasties	6	2013, 2016, 2017, 2022, 2023, 2024
6	Sources of Indian History	3	2013, 2018, 2020
7	Philosophy, Education & Institutions	2	2014, 2020
8	Geography and Environmental Influence	1	2023
9	Preservation & Heritage Awareness	1	2018



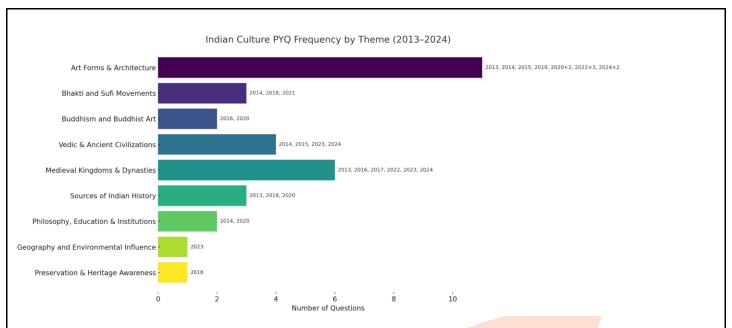












✓ Theme Clarification:

- Art Forms & Architecture includes Gandhara, Gupta, Chola, rock-cut, temple, sculpture, and dance forms.
- Bhakti and Sufi Movements cover ideological, literary, and societal impacts.
- **Buddhism** includes Pala art and Buddhist stupas.
- Civilizational Themes cover Indus Valley, Vedic transitions, and continuity with modern Indian society.
- **Medieval Kingdoms** include Cholas, Pallavas, Vijayanagar, Gupta, and Delhi Sultanate.
- **Sources** include Sangam, Persian texts, and foreign travelers.
- Education & Philosophy explores institutions like Taxila and art's philosophical grounding.
- **Geographical Factors** refer to environment shaping cultural patterns.
- **Preservation** reflects the urgency in protecting heritage.

UPSC GS1 Indian Society PYQ Summary (2013–2024)















S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Diversity, Pluralism & Uniqueness of Indian Society	11	2015, 2017, 2019, 2020×2, 2021, 2022×2, 2023, 2024×2
2	Family, Marriage & Social Institutions	4	2014, 2022, 2023×2
3	Population, Poverty & Developmental Issues	8	2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024×2
4	Women & Gender Issues	11	2013, 2014×3, 2018, 2019×2, 2021, 2023, 2024×2
5	Urbanisation, Migration & Smart Cities	11	2013, 2015×2, 2016×2, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
6	Globalisation and Its Social Impact	8	2013, 201 <mark>5, 201</mark> 6, 2018, 2 <mark>0</mark> 19, 2021, 2022, 2024
7	Caste, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism	20	2013, 2014×2, 2016×2, 2017×3, 2018×4, 2019×2, 2020×3, 2022, 2023, 2024×2
8	Social Empowerment & Tribal Issues	7	2015×2, 2016, 2021, 2022, 2024×2
9	Miscellaneous: Education, Governance, Federalism	3	2018×2, 2020
10	Digital India and Society	1	2020



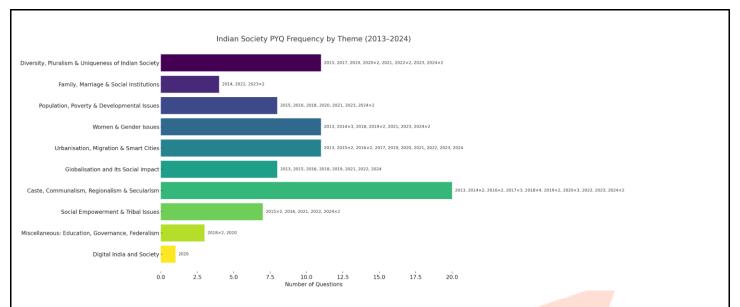












✓ Theme Clarifications:

- Diversity & Pluralism: Focuses on unity-in-diversity, cultural elements, and Indian society's uniqueness.
- Family & Marriage: Trends like WFH, mobile parenting, changing marital values.
- Population & Development: Issues like demographic winter, human development, poverty linkage.
- Women & Gender: Includes empowerment, sex ratio, patriarchy, gig economy, and suicide trends.
- Urbanisation: Migration, smart cities, IT impact, flooding, Tier 2 cities, infrastructure.
- Globalisation: Impact on identity, elderly, women, technology, and migration.
- Caste & Secularism: Fluid/static caste identity, communalism, regionalism, and secular debates.
- Social Empowerment: Dalit movements, affirmative action, tribal knowledge and policy.
- Miscellaneous: Aspirational districts, new states, digital education.

UPSC	GS1 Geography PYQ Them	e Summary (2013–2024)	
S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked	













1	Climatology	9	2013, 2014, 2016, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024×3
2	Cryosphere & Himalayan Ecosystem	5	2014×2, 2016, 2017, 2020
3	Geomorphology & Physical Geography	10	2013×3, 2014×2, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022
4	Monsoon Systems	3	2015, 2017, 2023
5	Oceanography	5	2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022
6	Natural Resources & Distribution	17	2013×2, 2014×2, 2015×2, 2016×3, 2017×3, 2018, 2020, 2021×2, 2022×3, 2023
7	Water Resources & Management	9	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
8	Economic Geography (Industries, Agriculture, Services)	10	2013×2, 2014×2, 2016, 2018×3, 2019×2, 2020, 2023
9	Geophysical Phenomena (Cyclones, Landslides, Volcanoes)	8	2013×3, 2014, 2021×2, 2022, 2024
10	Geographical Features & Regional Geography	3	2021, 2022, 2023
11	Environmental Geography & Ecosystems (Flora & Fauna)	10	2015×2, 2018, 2019×3, 2020×2, 2023





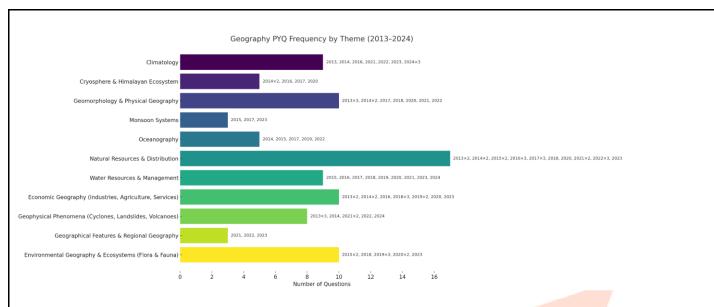












▼ Theme Clarifications:

- **Climatology** includes cloudbursts, El-Niño, air masses, auroras, and atmospheric phenomena.
- Cryosphere & Himalayas covers glacier melting, landslides, and regional climate impacts.
- **Geomorphology** involves tectonics, plate movement, rock types, and mountain alignment.
- Oceanography addresses currents, salinity, fisheries, and resource use.
- **Resources** include coal, oil, atomic energy, minerals, solar, wind, and agricultural products.
- Water Management spans river linking, water harvesting, freshwater scarcity, and floods.
- **Economic Geography** is about industrial location, agriculture, fisheries, and services like IRNSS.
- Geophysical Phenomena include volcanic activity, cyclones, landslides, and urban heat islands.
- Environmental Geography examines issues like coral reefs, mangroves, dead zones, and tourism impacts.











UPSC GS2: Indian Polity & Constitution PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

S.No.	Theme		Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Constitution Amendment	n: Features, es, Basic Structure	14	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016×3, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
2	Fundamenta Preamble	al Rights &	8	2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2022, 2023, 2024
3	Federalism Relations	& Centre-State	14	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020×2, 2021×2, 2023×2, 2024
4	Separation of Judiciary	of Powers &	7	2014, 2015, 2017, 201 <mark>8</mark> , 2019, 2020, 2023
5	Local Gover Devolution	nment &	9	2015×2, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
6	Comparison Constitution		7	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
7	Parliament 8	& State Legislatures	13	2013, 2014, 2017×2, 2018, 2019, 2020×2, 2021×2, 2022, 2023, 2024
8		ludiciary, CAG, neral, Tribunals,	13	2013, 2014×2, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019×2, 2021, 2022×2, 2023, 2024
9	Pressure Gr Society	oups & Civil	5	2013, 2017, 2019, 2021
10	Representat & Electoral I	tion of People's Act Reforms	10	2013, 2015, 2017×2, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022×2, 2024



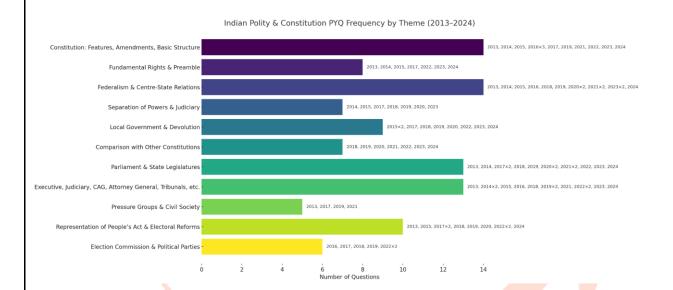








11	Election Commission & Political Parties	6	2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022×2



✓ Theme Clarifications:

- Theme 1 covers historical evolution, amendments (e.g. 69th, 101st), and basic structure debates (e.g. Coelho case).
- Theme 2 explores Article 21, privacy, freedom of speech, and UCC under DPSPs.
- Theme 3 includes Article 356, GST federalism, CBI consent, Finance Commissions, Article 370, and water disputes.
- Theme 4 discusses PILs, tribunals, judicial activism, and separation of powers doctrine.
- Theme 5 involves PRIs, ULBs, finances, women's representation, and Khap Panchayats.
- Theme 6 compares India with USA, UK, France on secularism, equality, judiciary, elections.
- Theme 7 covers Parliament's powers, Rajya Sabha, Joint Sessions, Committees, Speaker, MPs' role.
- Theme 8 includes CAG, Attorney General, Governor, NJAC, PILs, ordinance powers.
- Theme 9 includes farmers' groups, business associations, informal lobbying structures.
- Theme 10 focuses on electoral disputes, disqualification, RPA, simultaneous elections, EVM trust.
- Theme 11 covers ECI's MCC role, political centralization vs. autonomy, and party system.















UPSC GS2 Governance PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Constitutional, Statutory, Regulatory & Quasi-Judicial Bodies	15	2013×2, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018×2, 2020, 2021×2, 2022, 2023×2
2	Government Policies, Schemes & Interventions	10	2013×3, 2014×3, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022
3	Development Process & Development Industry (NGOs, SHGs, etc.)	11	2013, 2014, 2015 x 3, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
4	Transparency, Accountability & Citizens' Charters	10	2013×2, 2015×2, 2016×2, 2018, 2020, 2023, 2024
5	E-Governance & ICT-Based Governance	7	2013, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
6	Role of Civil Services in a Democracy	6	2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2024
7	Electoral Reforms & RPA (overlaps with Polity)	5	2015, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2024
8	Governance Challenges: Ethics, Corruption, Coordination	4	2014, 2015×2, 2016
9	Social Accountability & People's Participation	3	2016, 2020, 2024
10	Sectoral Regulatory Bodies (SEBI, IRDA, CCI, etc.)	3	2013, 2015, 2023





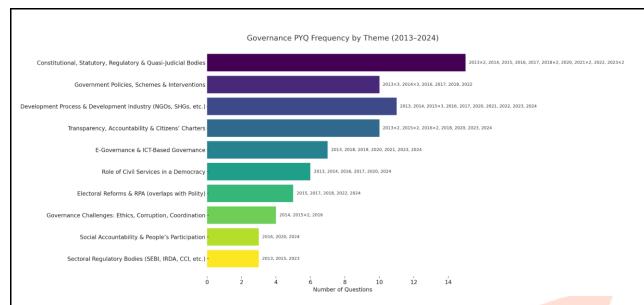












Theme Clarifications:

- Theme 1 includes NHRC, NCW, NCSC, Lokpal, CAG, Finance Commission, and quasijudicial/statutory bodies like CCI.
- Theme 2 covers Gati Shakti, DBT, FDI, WASH, Aadhaar vs NPR, Rail Tariff Authority, etc.
- Theme 3 includes SHGs, civil society, NGOs, charitable trusts, donor agencies, and their development roles.
- Theme 4 encompasses RTI, Whistleblower Act, Citizen's Charter, integrity issues, and Satyam scandal.
- **Theme 5** spans ICT-based governance models, DBT, service delivery, and the digital divide.
- Theme 6 assesses reforms needed in bureaucracy, cadre system, democratic accountability, and decentralization.
- Theme 7 (shared with Polity) includes electoral reforms, One Nation-One Election, and RPA provisions.
- **Theme 8** deals with policy coherence, implementation gaps, institutional bottlenecks.
- Theme 9 includes participatory governance, grassroots engagement, and democratic service delivery.
- Theme 10 discusses regulatory independence, SEBI-IRDA merger debates, and CCI's role in MNC oversight.

UPSC GS2 - Social Justice PYQ Summary (2013–2024)





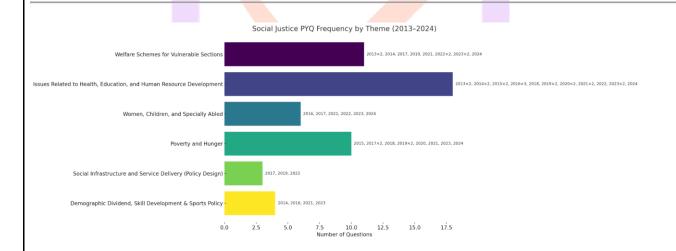








S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections	11	2013×2, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022×2, 2023×2, 2024
2	Issues Related to Health, Education, and Human Resource Development	18	2013×2, 2014×2, 2015×2, 2016×3, 2018, 2019×2, 2020×2, 2021×2, 2022, 2023×2, 2024
3	Women, Children, and Specially Abled	6	2016, 2017, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
4	Poverty and Hunger	10	2015, 2017×2, 2018, 2019×2, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
5	Social Infrastructure and Service Delivery (Policy Design)	3	2017, 2019, 2022
6	Demographic Dividend, Skill Development & Sports Policy	4	2014, 2016, 2021, 2023



☑ Theme Clarifications:

- Theme 1 includes legal aid (NALSA), Mid-Day Meal, Upliftment vs Urban Inclusion, restructuring of schemes, and awareness/participation issues.
- Theme 2 covers National Education Policy, public-private partnerships in health, vocational education, higher education reforms, RTE, and Amartya Sen's suggestions.













- **Theme 3** deals with NCW, NCPCR, Disability Rights Act 2016, maternal care, and patriarchy.
- Theme 4 explores multidimensional poverty, nutrition, UN-MPI, SHG-based poverty alleviation, and poverty estimation.
- **Theme 5** addresses systemic reform, social expenditure challenges, and implementation bottlenecks.
- **Theme 6** links skill with employment, the need for investment in HRD, and state-sponsored sports development.

UPSC GS2 – International Relations PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

S.No.	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	India & Its Neighborhood Relations	12	2013×3, 2015×2, 2016, 2022×2, 2024×2, 2023, 2014
2	Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings/Agreements	17	2013, 2014, 2015×2, 2016×2, 2017×2, 2018, 2019×2, 2020×2, 2021×3, 2022, 2023, 2024
3	Effect of Foreign Policies on India's Interest / Indian Diaspora	14	2013×2, 2014, 2015, 2017×2, 2018, 2019×2, 2020×2, 2021, 2023×2, 2024
4	Important International Institutions & Agencies (UN, WTO, IMF etc.)	13	2013×2, 2014×3, 2015, 2016×2, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2023, 2024





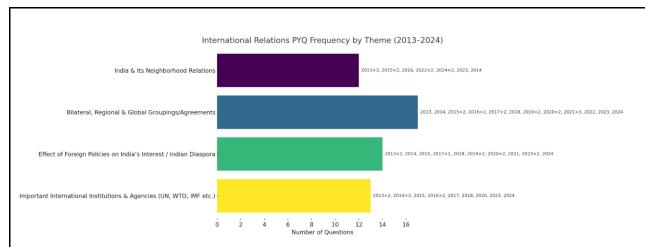












- India's Neighbors: Recurring themes like India-Sri Lanka, India-Pakistan, Maldives, and now Maldives + regional competition (China)—frequented in Prelims & Mains alike.
- Regional Blocs: UPSC emphasizes India's shift from SAARC → BIMSTEC, and newer blocs like 12U2, QUAD, AUKUS, and SCO.
- Global Politics Impacting India: Increasing coverage of US-China tensions, energy security, and supply chain realignments.
- International Institutions: Steady interest in UN bodies (UNSC, ECOSOC, UNESCO) and economic institutions (WTO, IMF, AIIB).











UPSC GS3 – Economy PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
Growth & Development	7	2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Mobilisation of Resources	4	2013, 2014, 2016, 2024
Employment	3	2014, 2016, 2023
GDP	2	2020, 2021
Inclusive Growth & Issues Arising From It	11	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
Government Budgeting	9	2013, 2017, <mark>2018</mark> , 2019, 2020, 2021
Land Reforms	1	2024
Effects of Liberalisation & Industrial Growth	7	2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024
Infrastructure & Investment Models	11	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Energy & Sustainable Development	2	2018, 2022
Food Processing & Related Industries	8	2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022



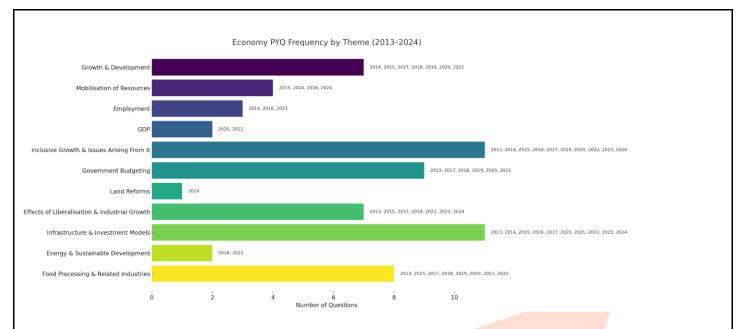












1. Shift in Focus Post-2016:

UPSC's economic questions show a clear pivot towards **inclusive growth**, **infrastructure**, and **budgetary reforms** in the post-GST and NITI Aayog era.

2. Inclusive Growth & Development:

This is the most asked theme, reflecting UPSC's strong emphasis on social equity, financial inclusion, and sustainable development. Topics like gender budgeting, DBT, and PMJDY recur.

3. Government Budgeting & Reforms:

Steady questions on **FRBM**, **GST**, and fiscal prudence reflect UPSC's interest in India's **macroeconomic stability** and public finance accountability.

4. Infrastructure and Investment Models:

The growing focus on **PPP models**, **transport**, and **urban policies** shows UPSC's attention to **practical developmental economics**.

5. Contemporary Linkages:

Themes like **labour codes**, **MSMEs**, **smart cities**, and **energy transition** align with **current policies and reforms** (e.g., Make in India, Skill India, Atmanirbhar Bharat).

UPSC GS3 – Agriculture PYQ Summary (2013–2024)















Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
Major Crops & Cropping Patterns	6	2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
Integrated Farming System	2	2019, 2022
Agricultural Revolutions & Missions	3	2016, 2017, 2018
Irrigation & Water Management	6	2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2024
Micro-Irrigation & Water Use Efficiency	2	2016, 2021
Agricultural Marketing & Supply Chain	3	2014, 2020, 2022
E-Technology & Digital Agriculture	3	2014, 2015, 2023
Farm Subsidies, MSP & PDS	8	2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024
Animal Rearing & Rural Economy	1	2015
Land Reforms in Agriculture	7	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2021, 2023, 2024



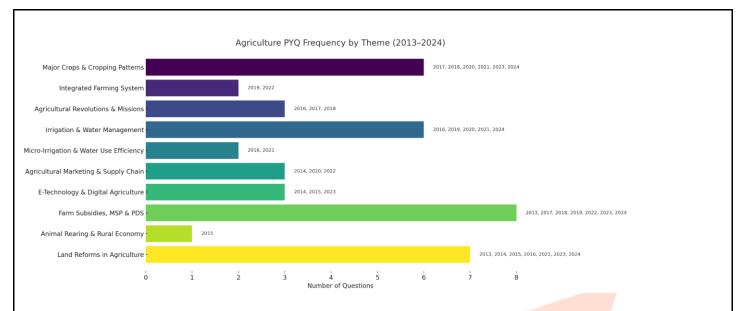












1. Persistent Emphasis on MSP & Subsidy Regimes:

UPSC frequently touches on Minimum Support Price (MSP), PDS, and agricultural subsidies, reflecting both domestic political sensitivity and international obligations (WTO).

2. Land Reforms—Still Relevant:

Despite being an older reform domain, land-related questions (e.g., land leasing, ceiling, and contract farming) remain frequent due to economic viability and rural equity concerns.

3. Technology & Irrigation as Recurring Concerns:

Themes around micro-irrigation, Digital India, and E-NAM show the rising priority on tech-integrated and water-efficient agriculture.

4. Farmer Income & Sustainability:

Issues like Integrated Farming Systems, crop diversification, and horticulture missions align with goals of doubling farmer income and ensuring sustainability.

5. Marketing Reforms & Supply Chains in Focus:

Frequent critiques of APMCs, bottlenecks in supply chains, and reforms like PMFBY indicate UPSC's focus on value chains and risk mitigation.

UPSC GS3 – Science and Technology PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
Space Science & Technology	7	2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024





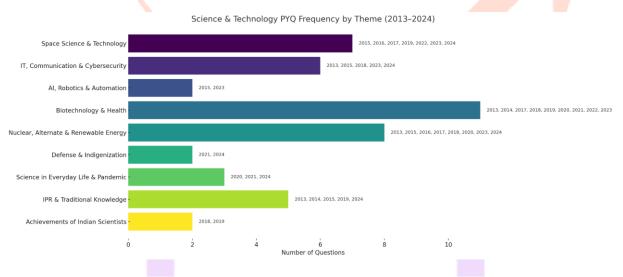








IT, Communication & Cybersecurity	6	2013, 2015, 2018, 2023, 2024
Al, Robotics & Automation	2	2015, 2023
Biotechnology & Health	11	2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Nuclear, Alternate & Renewable Energy	7	2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2023, 2024
Defense & Indigenization	2	2021, 2024
Science in Everyday Life & Pandemic	3	2020, 2021, 2024
IPR & Traditional Knowledge	5	2013, 2014, 2015, 2019, 2024
Achievements of Indian Scientists	2	2018, 2019



1. Consistent Push on Biotechnology:

UPSC places strong emphasis on biotechnology's application in health, agriculture, and societal welfare, including vaccine development, biofuels, and stem cell therapies.

2. S&T as Strategic Pillar:

Themes like ISRO's missions (Chandrayaan, IRNSS), Al in healthcare, and S-400 defense systems reveal India's focus on **strategic and cutting-edge technology**.

3. Rising Cybersecurity & Data Governance Focus:

With the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023) and earlier privacy frameworks (e.g., B.N. Srikrishna report), data protection is a growing domain in UPSC.

4. Renewable & Alternate Energy Trends:













Recurring questions on solar energy, LEDs, EVs, and green corridors showcase UPSC's alignment with climate tech and India's clean energy goals.

5. IPR & Traditional Knowledge Protection:

Questions on TKDL, Section 3(d), and commercialization bottlenecks reflect concerns about global IPR politics and indigenous innovation.

Would you like a merged mega-summary across GS3 economy, S&T, and environment for pattern comparison?

UPSC GS3 – Environment PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
Environmental Pollution & Mitigation	8	2013, 201 <mark>8, 202</mark> 0, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	5	20 <mark>14, 201</mark> 6, 2017, 2020, 2024
Mining & Erosion	3	2013, 2019, 2022
UNFCCC & Global Climate Action	3	2014, 2021
Wetland Conservation	2	2018, 2023
Climate Change & Global Warming	3	2017, 2022, 2023
Environment & Ecology (Misc.)	1	2022
Water Conservation & Biodiversity	4	2015, 2018, 2019, 2020



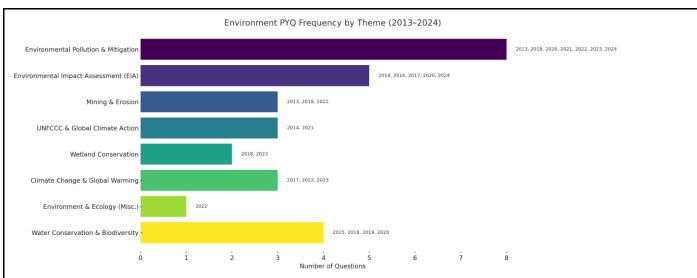












1. Pollution and Clean Air Priority:

A surge in questions around air pollution, river pollution, and waste disposal shows UPSC's emphasis on urban environmental challenges and policy efforts like NCAP.

2. Focused Interest on EIA & Governance:

Repeated references to EIA 2006/2020, rehabilitation, and NGO roles highlight UPSC's stress on environmental governance and accountability in development projects.

3. Climate Commitments Under Scrutiny:

Themes around UNFCCC, COP26, and carbon credit mechanisms reflect how India's international climate commitments are tested against domestic growth needs.

4. Rivers, Wetlands & Ecosystems:

Questions on Ganga conservation, Ramsar sites, and organic farming (Sikkim) show a growing interest in restoration ecology and nature-based solutions.

5. Natural Hazards and Mining Concerns:

Coastal erosion and sand mining remain persistent concerns, especially with coastal vulnerability rising under climate stress.

UPSC GS3 – Disaster Management PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
Disaster Management Frameworks & Resilience	7	2013, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2024
Urban Floods & Cloudbursts	4	2016, 2022, 2024







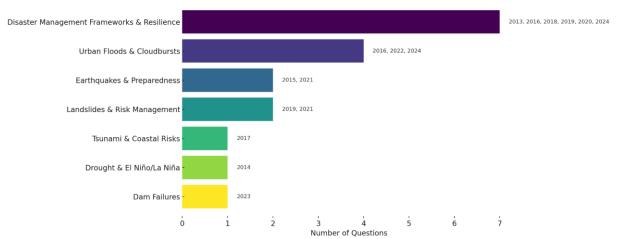






Earthquakes & Preparedness	2	2015, 2021
Landslides & Risk Management	2	2019, 2021
Tsunami & Coastal Risks	1	2017
Drought & El Niño/La Niña	1	2014
Dam Failures	1	2023





1. Shift from Reactive to Proactive:

UPSC now increasingly focuses on disaster risk reduction, resilience, and institutional frameworks like NDMA guidelines and Sendai Framework, reflecting India's policy modernization.

2. Climate-linked Disasters in Urban Settings:

Urban floods and cloudbursts are gaining frequency in UPSC, highlighting the intersection of climate change and urban vulnerabilities.

3. Disaster Typology Expanding:

Beyond earthquakes and tsunamis, recent questions also focus on dam failures, droughts, and coastal erosion, indicating a broadening scope of disaster awareness.

4. Risk Mapping & Zonation Tools:

Techniques like hazard zonation mapping and vulnerability assessment are emphasized as core tools for pre-disaster planning and mitigation.

UPSC GS3 – Security issues PYQ Summary (2013–2024)







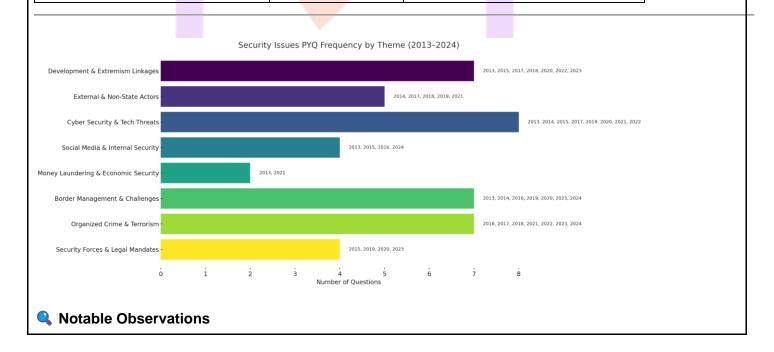








Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
Development & Extremism Linkages	7	2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023
External & Non-State Actors	6	2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
Cyber Security & Tech Threats	8	2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
Social Media & Internal Security	4	2013, 2015, 2016, 2024
Money Laundering & Economic Security	2	2013, 2021
Border Management & Challenges	8	2013, 2014, <mark>2016</mark> , 2019, 2 <mark>02</mark> 0, 2023, 2024
Organized Crime & Terrorism	8	20 <mark>16, 20</mark> 17, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Security Forces & Legal Mandates	4	2015, 2019, 2020, 2023















1. Tech-Driven Threats on the Rise:

A surge in questions on **cyber security**, **social media**, and **encrypted communication** reflects the growing **digital dimension of internal security**.

2. Persistent Left-Wing Extremism Focus:

UPSC continues to probe the **developmental linkages** of LWE, showing it's viewed not just as a law and order issue but a **governance and equity challenge**.

3. Border Management = National Security:

From **UAV** incursions to **BADP**, questions indicate growing attention to India's **long**, **porous**, and **politically sensitive borders**.

4. Terrorism & Organized Crime Nexus:

Themes like **narco-terrorism**, **terror funding**, and **transnational crime** now feature regularly, mirroring global security dynamics.

5. Legal & Institutional Oversight:

Frequent scrutiny of **UAPA**, **AFSPA**, and **NIA** reflects the tension between **state security** and civil **liberties**, a recurring UPSC concern.













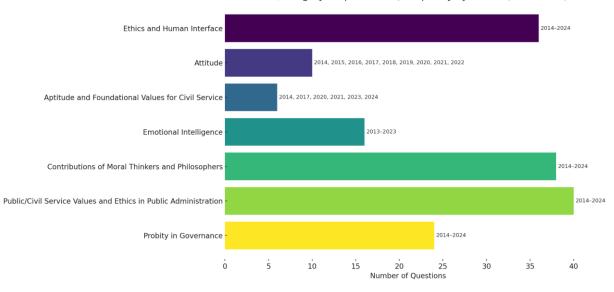


GS4

UPSC GS4 – Ethics , Integrity and Aptitude PYQ Summary (2013–2024)

S.No	Theme	Number of Questions	Years Asked
1	Ethics and Human Interface	36	2014–2024
2	Attitude	10	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
3	Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Service	6	2014, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
4	Emotional Intelligence	16	2013–2023
5	Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers	38	2014–2 <mark>024</mark>
6	Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration	40	2014–2024
7	Probity in Governance	24	2014–2024





Notable Observations:















- Foundational Themes Recur: Topics like Ethics and Human Interface, Public Service Values, and Probity in Governance dominate across all years, underscoring their significance for aspirants.
- Moral Thinkers: UPSC consistently emphasizes moral/philosophical depth, particularly Indian thinkers like Gandhi, Vivekananda, and Kalam — nearly every year includes quotations to interpret.
- Emotional Intelligence & Attitude: These soft-skill centric themes have gained traction post-2016, reflecting UPSC's focus on administrative behavior and interpersonal skills.
- Case-Based Ethical Reasoning: While not tabulated here, situational judgment questions in Section B of GS4 mirror these themes, especially under Integrity, Conflict of Interest, and Public Accountability.

Week	Theme	Subject
Week 1: 01-Jul to 07-Jul	Industrial Revolution	World History
	World Wars and Interwar Period	
	Decolonization and Anti-Colonial Movements	
	Colonialism and Imperialism	
	Cold War and Global Realignments	
	Economic History (Depression)	
	American and French Revolutions	
Week 2: 08-Jul to 14-Jul	Colonial Rule and Economic Impact	Modern Indian History
	Freedom Struggle: Gandhi & Key Leaders	













	Revolt of 1857 and Other Mutinies	
	Revolt of 1857 and Other Mutinies	
	Socio-Religious Reform Movements & Social Change	
	Freedom Struggle: Phases, Movements & Mass Mobilization	
	Freedom Struggle: Contributions of Groups & Individuals	
Week 3: 15-Jul to 21-Jul	British Policies & Viceroyal Administration	
	Nationalist Ideologies and Divergences	
	Constitution Making & Pre-Modern Background	
	Transfer of Power and Independence	
	Reorganization of States	Post-Independence India
	Land Reforms & Rural Movements Wars and Foreign Relations	_
Week 4: 22-Jul to 28-Jul	Economic Policy Influences	-
	Nation-building Slogans & Identity	_
	Art Forms & Architecture	Art & Culture
	Bhakti and Sufi Movements Buddhism and Buddhist Art	_
	Budunism and Budunist Art	













	Vedic & Ancient Civilizations	
Week 5: 29-Jul to 04-Aug	Medieval Kingdoms & Dynasties	
	Sources of Indian History	
	Philosophy, Education & Institutions	
	Geography and Environmental Influence	
	Preservation & Heritage Awareness	
	Diversity, Pluralism & Uniqueness of Indian Society	Indian Society
	Family, Marriage & Social Institutions	
Week 6: 05-Aug to 11-Aug	Population, Poverty & Developmental Issues	
	Women & Gender Issues	
	Urbanisation, Migration & Smart Cities	
	Globalisation and Its Social Impact	
	Caste, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism	
	Social Empowerment & Tribal Issues	













Week 7: 12-Aug to 18-Aug	Miscellaneous: Education, Governance, Federalism	
	Digital India and Society	
	Climatology	Coography
	Climatology	Geography
	Cryosphere & Himalayan Ecosystem	
	Geomorphology & Physical Geography	
	Monsoon Systems	
	Oceanography	
Mack 9: 10 Ave to 25 Ave	Natural Passurass & Distribution	
Week 8: 19-Aug to 25-Aug	Natural Resources & Distribution	7
	Water Resources & Management	,
	Economic Geography (Industries, Agriculture, Services)	
	Geophysical Phenomena (Cyclones, Landslides, Volcanoes)	
	(1)	
	Geographical Features & Regional Geography	
	Environmental Geography & Ecosystems (Flora & Fauna)	
	Livironinental Geography & Ecosystems (Flora & Fauna)	
Week 9: 26-Aug to 01-Sep	Constitution: Features, Amendments, Basic Structure	Polity
	Fundamental Rights & Preamble	













	Federalism & Centre-State Relations	
	reactanism & sentire state helations	
	Separation of Powers & Judiciary	
	· ·	
	Local Government & Devolution	
	Comparison with Other Constitutions	
	Parliament & State Legislatures	
Week 10: 02-Sep to 08-Sep	Executive, Judiciary, CAG, AG, Tribunals	
	Pressure Groups & Civil Society	
	Representation of People's Act & Electoral Reforms	Governance
	Representation of Feople's Act & Electoral Reforms	Governance
		7
	Election Commission & Political Parties	
	Election Commission & Political Parties	
	Constitutional, Statutory, Regulatory & Quasi-Judicial	
	Bodies	
	Covernment Policies Schemes & Interventions	
	Government Policies, Schemes & Interventions	
Week 11: 09-Sep to 15-Sep	Development Process & Development Industry (NGOs,	
week 11. 05-3ер to 13-3ер	SHGs, etc.)	
	Transparency, Accountability & Citizens' Charters	
	0.07 5 1.5	
	E-Governance & ICT-Based Governance	













	Role of Civil Services in a Democracy	
	Governance Challenges: Ethics, Corruption, Coordination	
	Social Accountability & People's Participation	
	Sectoral Regulatory Bodies (SEBI, IRDA, CCI, etc.)	
Week 12: 16-Sep to 22-Sep	Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections	Social Justice
	Issues Related to Health, Education, and HRD	
	Women, Children, and Specially Abled	
	Poverty and Hunger Social Infrastructure and Service Delivery	
	Demographic Dividend, Skill Development & Sports Policy	
Week 13: 23-Sep to 29-Sep	India & Its Neighborhood Relations	International Relations
	Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings/Agreements	
	Effect of Foreign Policies on India's Interest / Indian Diaspora	













		1
	Important International Institutions & Agencies	
	Growth & Development	Economy
	Mobilisation of Resources	
	Employment	
Week 14: 30-Sep to 06-Oct	GDP	
	Inclusive Growth & Issues	
	Government Budgeting	
	Land Reforms	
	Effects of Liberalisation & Industrial Growth	
	Infrastructure & Investment Models	
Week 15: 07-Oct to 13-Oct	Energy & Sustainable Development	
	Food Processing & Related Industries	
	Major Crops & Cropping Patterns	Agriculture
	Integrated Farming System	
	Agricultural Revolutions & Missions	
	Irrigation & Water Management	-













	Micro Irrigation 9. Water Hea Efficiency	
	Micro-Irrigation & Water Use Efficiency	
Week 16: 14-Oct to 20-Oct	Agricultural Marketing & Supply Chain	
	E-Technology & Digital Agriculture	
	Farm Subsidies, MSP & PDS	
	Animal Rearing & Rural Economy	
	Land Reforms in Agriculture	
	Space Science & Technology	Science & Tech
Week 17: 21-Oct to 27-Oct	IT, Communication & Cybersecurity	
	AI, Robotics & Automation	,
	Biotechnology & Health	
	Nuclear, Alternate & Renewable Energy	
	Defense & Indigenization	
	Science in Everyday Life & Pandemic	
	IPR & Traditional Knowledge	
Week 18: 28-Oct to 03-Nov	Achievements of Indian Scientists	
	Environmental Pollution & Mitigation	Environment













		I
	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	
	Mining & Erosion	
	UNFCCC & Global Climate Action	
	Wetland Conservation	
Week 19: 04-Nov to 10-Nov	Climate Change & Global Warming	
	Environment & Ecology (Misc.)	
	Water Conservation & Biodiversity	
	DM Frameworks & Resilience	Disaster Management
	Urban Floods & Cloudbursts	
	Earthquakes & Preparedness	
	Landslides & Risk Management	
Week 20: 11-Nov to 17-Nov	Tsunami & Coas <mark>tal</mark> Risks	
	Drought & El Niño/La Niña	
	Dam Failures	
	Development & Extremism Linkages	Internal Security
	External & Non-State Actors	
	Cyber Security & Tech Threats	
Week 21: 18-Nov to 24-Nov	Social Media & Internal Security	













Money Laundering & Economic Security	
Border Management & Challenges	
Organized Crime & Terrorism	
Security Forces & Legal Mandates	

















UPSCIAS MAINS 2025





LAUNCHING

M-A-RGSETU



FOR UPSC CSE 2026







