UPSC CSE Mains 2025 — Complete GS (1–4) + Essay Pack

All 5 Merit Papers from UPSC Mains 2025 (87 questions & essay prompts) with syllabus micro-topics and word limits. Free from preplord.com.

GS Paper 1 (History, Society & Geography) (20 Qs | Code: SLPM-G-GSA)

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Salient features of Harappan architecture

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Literature & Culture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Art & Architecture [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Sculptors filling the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Climate change and sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Non-farm primary activities & how they relate to physiographic features in India

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ecological and economic benefits of solar energy generation in India

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Tsunamis: how and where they are formed & their consequences with examples

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
How smart city in India addresses issues of urban poverty and distributive justice

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • History & Culture → Freedom Struggle [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethos of civil service in India standing for professionalism combined with nationalistic consciousness

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Indian Society → Globalization & Social Change [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Modern Indian History (1757–1947) [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and social reforms touching almost all subaltern classes

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → Post-Independence India [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India's consolidation process during early phase of independence (polity, economy, education, IR)

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • History & Culture → World History [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Enduring relevance of the French Revolution to the contemporary world

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Geographical explanation of distribution of off-shore oil reserves vs on-shore occurrences

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Effective use of AI and drones along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Geophysical Phenomena & Climate [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins due to tectonic movements

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Geography → Natural Resources & Industrial Location [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Distribution and density of population in Ganga River Basin (land, soil, water resources)

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Urbanization & Family [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Growing fast food industries despite increased health concerns — Indian experience

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Sustainable growth with environmental protection coming into conflict with poor people's needs

PREPLORD.COM UPSC CSE PYQ VAULT

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Indian Society → Diversity, Secularism & Communalism [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether tribal development in India centres around two axes: displacement and rehabilitation

GS Paper 2 (Polity, Governance, Social Justice & IR) (20 Qs | Code: SLPM-G-GSB)

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
'Corrupt practices' under RPA 1951 & whether disproportionate asset increase constitutes 'undue influence'

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Compare | Current-Affairs Linked]
Need for administrative tribunals vs court system & impact of 2021 tribunal rationalization reforms

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Compare President's power to pardon in India and USA, limits & 'preemptive pardons'

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Nature, powers and functions of J&K Legislative Assembly after J&K Reorganization Act, 2019

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Polity & Constitution → Constitutional & Statutory Bodies [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Attorney General of India: responsibilities, rights and limitations in guiding Union Government

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Social Justice → Vulnerable Sections [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Women's social capital complementing empowerment and gender equity

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
E-governance projects having built-in bias towards technology/back-end integration over user-centric design

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as anti-State actors rather than non-State actors

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India-Africa digital partnership achieving mutual respect, co-development & institutional partnerships

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Waning of globalization turning post-Cold War world into a site of sovereign nationalism

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Constitutional morality as fulcrum balancing judicial independence and judicial accountability

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Parliament & State Legislatures [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Procedural and substantive limitations on Parliament's amending power under Indian Constitution

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Evolution of collegium system in India; pros/cons of Supreme Court judge appointments in India vs USA

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
Evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations & impact of recent reforms on fiscal federalism

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → Pressure Groups, NGOs & Civil Society [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Environmental pressure groups & their role in awareness, policy influence & environmental protection

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Judiciary & Judicial Activism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Inequality in resource ownership as major cause of poverty — 'paradox of poverty'

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Federalism & Centre-State Relations [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Contemporary development models locating decision-making far from information and execution sources

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Governance → E-Governance & Citizen Charters [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
NCPCR addressing challenges faced by children in the digital era — existing policies & suggested measures

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • International Relations → Bilateral & Global Groupings [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Energy security as kingpin of India's foreign policy & Middle East influence — future integration

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Polity & Constitution → Elections & RPA [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
UN reform unresolved due to East-West imbalance & entanglement of USA vs Russo-Chinese alliance

PREPLORD.COM
UPSC CSE MAINS TYO VAULT

GS Paper 3 (Economy, Agri, S&T, Environment & Security) (20 Qs | Code: SLPM-G-GSC)

1 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Inclusive Growth, Poverty & Employment [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Distinguish HDI and Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) for India & why IHDI better reflects inclusive growth

2 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Challenges before Indian economy as world shifts from free trade/multilateralism to protectionism/bilateralism

3 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Factors influencing farmers' selection of high-value crops in India

4 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Agriculture → MSP, Subsidies & Marketing [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Scope and significance of supply chain management of agricultural commodities in India

5 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
India's contributions to ITER (fusion energy) & implications for future global energy

6 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Science & Tech → Biotechnology & Health Tech [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Achieving energy independence through clean technology by 2047 & crucial role of biotechnology

7 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Climate Change & Treaties [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) & potential role in tackling climate change

8 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Causes of seawater intrusion in coastal aquifers in India & remedial measures

9 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Manifestation of terrorism in India with contemporary examples & State counter-measures

10 • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
Government target to eliminate LWE by 2026 — meaning of LWE, impact on people & measures

11 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Budgeting, Fiscal Policy & Taxation [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Fiscal Health Index (FHI) for assessing states' fiscal performance & encouraging prudent fiscal policies

12 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Rationale, achievements & improvements for Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme

13 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Cropping Patterns & Farm Productivity [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India & government mitigation steps

14 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Agriculture → Food Processing & PDS [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Scope of food processing industries in India & government measures for generating employment

15 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Science & Tech → AI, IT & Emerging Tech [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Advancements of nanotechnology in agriculture & uplifting farmers' socio-economic status

16 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Economy → Infrastructure, Energy & Investment [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Challenges before India's semiconductor industry & salient features of India Semiconductor Mission

17 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Conservation, Biodiversity & Pollution [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Why mining is considered an environmental hazard & remedial measures

18 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Environment & Disaster Management → Climate Change & Treaties [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Review of India's climate commitments under Paris Agreement (2015), COP26 (2021) & updated 2022 NDC

19 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Extremism, Insurgency & Terrorism [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Internal security & peace process challenges in North-Eastern States + peace accords of past decade

20 • 15 Marks • 250 Words • Internal Security → Border & Maritime Security [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Vital role of maritime security for India's sea trade — maritime/coastal security challenges & way forward

GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: SLPM-G-GSD)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Key ethical dilemmas raised by social media in the present digital age

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Constitutional morality as product of civil education & rule of law — role in good governance & accountability

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Carl von Clausewitz quote ('War is a diplomacy by other means') in contemporary geopolitical conflict

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical dilemmas over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Thiruvalluvar quote: Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
William James quote: A human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Swami Vivekananda quote: The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Using reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework for social re-engineering via welfare schemes

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Major teachings of Mahavir & their relevance in the contemporary world

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Devotion to duty attaining highest perfection — responsibility and personal fulfilment as civil servant

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Civil servant as enabler and active facilitator of holistic development rather than regulator

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Measures to ensure value-based and compliance-based ethical work culture via code of ethics

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India securing 4th largest economy status (IMF) — accountability, stopping fund leakages & reaching 3rd largest

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Deputy Commissioner Vijay leading cloudburst disaster relief in northern hill district learns mother died in Kerala (only sibling in US) as heavy rains resume

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District administration proposing clearing ecologically sensitive old-growth forest for housing the homeless (DPSP) — ethical justification & alternatives

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
PWD Secretary Subash pressured by real-estate son Vikas to leak mega road project location AND nudged by PWD Minister to favour Minister's nephew

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Oil PSU Administrative Officer Rajesh (awaiting JAG promotion/ACR) asked by boss to buy ■35L stationery from specific vendor exceeding ■30L GFR limit; office suggests bill-splitting

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District Administrator overseeing MGNREGA uncovers predecessor's fraud in a Panchayat (unpaid workers, fake muster rolls, ghost works, siphoning)

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
NE border Divisional Commissioner Ashok notified at night of 200–250 fleeing civilians + ~10 armed uniformed foreign soldiers crossing border amid civil war while comms fail

PREPLORD.COM UPSC PREVIOUS YEARS PYQ VAULT

Essay Paper (Philosophical & Policy Prompts) (8 Qs | Code: SLPM-G-ESSY)

A1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Truth knows no color.

A2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Governance, Ethics & Leadership [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.

A3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Thought finds a world and creates one also.

A4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Best lessons are learnt through bitter experiences.

B1 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Muddy water is best cleared by leaving it alone.

B2 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
The years teach much which the days never know.

B3 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
It is best to see life as a journey, not as a destination.

B4 • 125 Marks • 1200 Words • Philosophical / Epigrammatic → Self, Mind & Philosophy [Essay | Static / Evergreen]
Contentment is natural wealth; luxury is artificial poverty.

PREPLORD.COM
UPSC CSE MAINS PYQ VAULT