UPSC with Saurabh Kaushik

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GS-III: ECONOMY

Previous Year Questions

UPSC Mains 2013 – 2024

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Economic Development

01. Indian Economy – Issues relating to Planning, Mobilisation of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Economy)	Year	Marks
GDP, Macroeconomic Trends & Growth Patterns	Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP?	2020	10
	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.	2019	10
	Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's gross domestic product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015.	2021	10
	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?	2017	10
	Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced a V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.	2021	15
	Economic growth in the recent past has been led by increase in labour activity. Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity.	2022	15
Employment, Unemployment & Demographic Dividend	The nature of economic growth in India in described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer.	2015	12.5
	While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability. What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain.	2014	12.5
	Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements.	2023	15
GST, Taxation & Planning Institutions (NITI Aayog)	Discussion the rationale for introducing Good and services tax in India. Bring out critically the reasons for delay in roll out for its regime.	2013	10
	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.	2019	10
	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?	2020	15
	How are the principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission in India?	2018	15

Monetary Policy, Digitalization & Emerging Economy Trends	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.	2024	**10**
	What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.	2023	**10**
	Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment?	2023	**15**
	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?	2022	**10**
Capital Formation, MSMEs, Manufacturing & Urban Development	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.	2020	**15**
	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.	2023	**10**
	Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms. Discuss with logical arguments.	2015	**12.5**
	What are 'Smart Cities? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.	2016	**12.5**

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02. Inclusive Growth and Issues Arising from It

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Economy)	Year	Marks
Financial Inclusion, PMJDY & CSR	With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new Companies Bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also discuss other provisions in the Bill and their implications	2013	**10**
	Is inclusive growth possible under market economy ? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India.	2022	**10**
	Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.	2016	**12.5**
Inclusive Growth: Concept, Capitalism & Challenges	Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.	2016	**12.5**
	What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyze and suggest measures for inclusive growth.	2017	**15**
	Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages shortsightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism driving inclusive growth in India? Discuss.	2014	**12.5**
Inclusive Growth: Infrastructure, Public Expenditure & Sustainability	Investment in infrastructure is essential for a more rapid and inclusive economic growth. Discuss in the light of India's experience.	2021	**15**
	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?	2024	**10**
	Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development.	2020	**10**
	It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement.	2019	**15**

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03. Government Budgeting

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Economy)	Year	Marks
Union Budget Analysis, Taxation & Tax-Expenditure	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.	2018	**10**
	One of the intended objectives of Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energize and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective.	2017	**15**
	What is meaning of the term tax-expenditure? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences budgetary policies of the government.	2013	**10**
Fiscal Discipline, FRBM & Public Expenditure Management	What are the reasons for introduction of Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.	2013	**10**
	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.	2019	**15**
	Distinguish between capital budget and revenue budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets.	2021	**10**
Gender Budgeting & Women's Empowerment	Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?	2016	**12.5**

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04. Food Processing and Related Industries in India – Scope & Significance, Location, Upstream-Downstream Requirements, Supply Chain Management

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Economy)	Year	Marks
Food Processing: Policy, Scope & Farmer Income	Elaborate on the policy taken by the government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.	2019	**15**
	Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India.	2022	**10**
	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?	2020	**10**
Supply Chain, Small Processing Units & Agri-Revolutions	What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming these bottlenecks?	2015	**12.5**
	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?	2017	**10**
	India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement.	2013	**10**

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05. Effects of Liberalisation on the Economy; Changes in Industrial Policy and Their Effects on Industrial Growth

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Economy)	Year	Marks
FDI, Gold Monetization & Industrial Liberalisation	Craze for gold in Indians have led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of Gold Monetization Scheme.	2015	12.5
	Discuss the impact of FDI entry into multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy.	2013	5
	Foreign direct investment in the defence sector is now said to be liberalised. What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long run?	2014	12.5
	Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India.	2016	12.5
	Though India allowed foreign direct investment (FDI) in what is called multi brand retail through joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI even after a year, has not picket up. Discuss the reasons.	2013	5
	Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indian. Are the competing with the MNCs satisfactorily?	2013	10
Labour Reforms, Export Strategy & Informalisation	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?	2024	15
	Account for the failure of the manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour intensive rather capital-intensive export.	2017	10
	How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?	2016	12.5
Post-Reform Industrial Growth & Agriculture-to-Services Transition	"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?	2017	15
	Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base?	2014	12.5
SEZs, Protectionism & Trade Policy	How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India?	2018	15

	There is a clear acknowledement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports. Recognizing this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs requires augmentation. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of SEZs with respect to taxation, governing laws and administration.	2015	**12.5**

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06. Infrastructure (Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways); Investment Models

Sub-Theme	UPSC PYQs (GS-III Economy)	Year	Marks
Renewable Energy: Solar, Wind & Nuclear Power	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?	2020	15
	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.	2022	15
	Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).	2016	12.5
	To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment costs and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for the thermal power producers and the related industry?	2015	12.5
	With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy.	2018	15
Energy Access, SDGs, Green Corridor & Hydropower	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.	2018	10
	Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problems of conventional energy.	2013	10
	What do you understand by run of the river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project?	2013	5
PPP Model & Infrastructure Investment	Adaptation of PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free from criticism. Critically discuss the pros and cons of the model.	2013	10
	Examine the developments of Airports in India through Joint Ventures under Public-Private Partnership(PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard.	2017	10
	Explain how private public partnership agreements, in longer gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsuitable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised?	2014	12.5
	Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructural projects ? Examine the role of PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India.	2022	10
Aviation, Airports & Urban Transport	International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive soverignity over the airspace above the territory. What do you understand by airspace? What are the implications of these laws on	2014	12.5

	the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggests ways to contain the threat.		
	What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements.	2024	**15**
	National urban transport policy emphasizes on moving people instead of moving vehicles. Discuss critically the success of various strategies of the government in this regard.	2014	**12.5**

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