MAHARASHTRA ENGINEERING SERVICES
Group A & B Combined Preliminary Examination

GENERAL STUDIES

with Special reference to Maharashtra

Comprehensive Theory
with Practice Questions and Previous Solved Papers

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Maharashtra Engineering Services, Group A & B Combined Preliminary Examination:
General Studies with Special reference to Maharashtra

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© All rights reserved by MADE EASY PUBLICATIONS. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form without the written permission from the publisher.
The compilation of this book *General Studies with Special reference to Maharashtra* is motivated by the desire to provide a concise book which can benefit students who are preparing for Maharashtra Engineering Services, Group A & B Combined Preliminary Examination.

This textbook provides all the requirements of the students, i.e. comprehensive coverage of General Studies topics and objective types questions articulated in a lucid language. This book not only covers the syllabus of Maharashtra Engineering Services in a holistic manner but is also useful for other competitive examinations. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book helps aspirants immensely.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors.

It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting in their efforts to publish this book.

With Best Wishes

**B. Singh**

CMD, MADE EASY Group
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with Special reference to Maharashtra

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General Studies

Geography

with

Special reference to Maharashtra
# Maharashtra: At A Glance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Date of formation</strong></th>
<th>May 1, 1960</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
<td>Mumbai and Nagpur (Winter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>3,07,713 sq.km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neighbouring States</strong></td>
<td>Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Chhatisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sea</strong></td>
<td>Arabian Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Present Governor</strong></td>
<td>C. Vidhya Sagar Rao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Minister</strong></td>
<td>Devendra Fadnavis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Justice</strong></td>
<td>Justice Pradeep Nandrajog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Secretary</strong></td>
<td>Shri Dinesh Kumar Jain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lokayukta</strong></td>
<td>Justice M. L. Tahaliyani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legislative Bodies</strong></td>
<td>Bicameral Assembly (i.e.; Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assembly Seats</strong></td>
<td>289 (including 1 nomination)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lok Sabha Seats</strong></td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rajya Sabha Seats:</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Political Parties</strong></td>
<td>Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Indian National Congress, Shiv Sena, BJP, CPI-M, Maharashtra Nav Nirman Sena, Peasants and Workers Party of India etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Language</strong></td>
<td>Marathi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra: At A Glance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero Mile Stone</td>
<td>The Geographical Centre of India is located in Nagpur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td>Godavari, Penganga, Bhima, Varna, Parvara, Mula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests and wildlife sanctuaries</td>
<td>Pench NP, Tadoba NP, Nagzira National Park, Nawegoan NP, Devlagaon NP, Gugamal NP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State animal</td>
<td>Giant squirrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State bird</td>
<td>Yellow-footed green pigeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State flower</td>
<td>Jarul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State tree</td>
<td>Mango</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major Cities/Places**

- **Mumbai**: Administrative capital of Maharashtra and also known as the financial and commercial capital of India.
- **Amravati**: Amravati is the 2nd largest and most populous city of Vidarbha after Nagpur. It is also known as Cultural Capital of Vidarbha because of its education facilities and cultural heritage.
- **Trombay**: Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, BARC: India’s first nuclear research facility is located here.
- **Tarapur**: The Tarapur nuclear power station houses two boiling water reactors (BWRs), each of 200MW, the first in Asia.
- **Jaitpur**: World’s largest Nuclear Power Plant is being set up here having a capacity of 9,900 MW. Six reactors are coming up here in “Nuclear Park”. The reactors are being made by the French company “AREVA”.
- **Tembhali**: Ten Adivasis from the tribal hamlet of Tembhali became the first to receive the Unique Identity Numbers from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi. Tembhali, with a population of 1,098, became the first “Aadhar” village in the country.
- **Pune**: State’s Cultural and Heritage capital. Pune has Head quarter of the Southern Military Command, National Defence Academy, The Armed Forces Medical College, CME. Pune is a major Information Technology Hub of India as well as a foremost destination for Automobile manufacturing and component Industry City.
- **Wardha**: Wardha is the sister of Sevagram. Both were major centres of the Indian Independence Movement. Annual meetings of Indian National Congress was held herein 1934. Mahatma Gandhi’s Ashram is here. In Wardha, there is a village called Panvar where Acharya Vinoba Bhave lived.
- **Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya (Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University)** is established by the Parliament of India and run directly by the Government of India in Wardha.
- **Nagpur**: It was the capital of Nagpur Province in 1853. In 1861, it was made capital of Central Province, then in 1903, it was made capital of a Provincial Assembly. In 1950 Nagpur became the capital of Madhya Pradesh. Nagpur was recommended the capital of Vidarbha state by Hon. Fazal Ali Commission during the reorganisation of the States. It is known as the “orange city”. It is the second Administrative Capital of Maharashtra. An International Cargo airport, MIHAN is coming up in the outskirt of the Nagpur City. Deekshabhoomi is a sacred monument of Buddhism. Here in Nagpur Babasaheb Ambedkar converted his followers to Buddhism. A great stupa is built at that place.
- **Shirpur**: India’s first gold refinery is at Shirpur.
- **Ramtek**: The town serves as the venue of Kalidasa festival, held every year in the month of November.
### Maharashtra: Census 2001 and Census 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>112,374,333</td>
<td>96,878,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>58,243,056</td>
<td>50,400,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54,131,277</td>
<td>46,478,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth</td>
<td>15.99%</td>
<td>22.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total Population of India</td>
<td>9.28%</td>
<td>9.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density/km²</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (km²)</td>
<td>307,713</td>
<td>307,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>82.34%</td>
<td>76.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literacy</td>
<td>88.38%</td>
<td>85.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literacy</td>
<td>69.87%</td>
<td>67.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rural and Urban Area comparison as per Census 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (%)</td>
<td>54.78%</td>
<td>45.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth</td>
<td>10.36%</td>
<td>23.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>952</td>
<td>903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio (0-6)</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Literacy</td>
<td>77.01%</td>
<td>88.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literacy</td>
<td>85.15%</td>
<td>92.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literacy</td>
<td>64.80%</td>
<td>75.75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top Population Growth as per Census 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>36.01 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>30.37 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Aurangabad</td>
<td>27.76 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Nandurbar</td>
<td>25.66 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Nashik</td>
<td>22.30 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cities of Maharashtra having High Literacy rate as per Census 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mumbai Suburban</td>
<td>89.91 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mumbai City</td>
<td>89.21 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>88.39 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Akola</td>
<td>88.05 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Amravati</td>
<td>87.38 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### High Density cities of Maharashtra as per Census 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mumbai Suburban</td>
<td>20980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mumbai City</td>
<td>19652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Thane</td>
<td>1157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kolhapur</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thermal Power Plants in Maharashtra
- Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station
- Tirora Thermal Power Station
- Amravati Thermal Power Plant
- Bhusawal Thermal Power Station
- Trombay Thermal Power Station
- Khaperkheda Thermal Power Station
- Parli Thermal Power Station
- Nashik Thermal Power Station
- Koradi Thermal Power Station
- Wardha Warora Power Plant
- Dahanu Thermal Power Station
- Paras Thermal Power Station
- CESC Chandrapur Thermal Power Station

### Famous Temples in Maharashtra
- Siddhivinayak Temple, Mumbai
- Mahalakshmi Temple, Mumbai
- Bhimashankar Temple, Pune
- Trimbhakeswar Temple, Nashik
- Kailash Temple, Ellora
- Walkeshwar Temple, Mumbai
- Mumbadevi Temple, Mumbai

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Maharashtra Engineering Services | Group-A & B Combined Preliminary Examination

Made Easy
Earth

We live on a beautiful planet called earth, along with a wide variety of plants, animals and other organisms. Our earth, however, is part of a vast universe. The universe is about 15 to 20 billion years old. The age of the earth is approximately 4 to 5 billion years. Our earth, with all its diversity along with other planets and their satellites, the sun, the moon, the many galaxies (huge groups of millions of stars) form the universe. Stars are huge balls of bright, hot glowing gases. The ‘Sun’ is also a star. It is the star nearest to earth – about 150 million kilometers away. A solar system consists of a star in the middle with a number of planets orbiting around it. The earth is a part of its solar system. It is one of the eight planets of the solar system that has the sun (a star) in the middle and the eight planets moving around it. Until recently solar system was believed to have nine planets. However, on the basis of the latest scientific assessment, Pluto, is no longer regarded as a planet of earth’s solar system. Earth is the only planet known to sustain life.

Conditions necessary for sustaining life

- **Presence of water:** During the evolution of the earth, water vapour in the primitive atmosphere condensed into liquid water. This gave rise to the formation of oceans, rivers and other fresh water bodies. Three-fourth of earth’s surface is covered with water. Water is a universal solvent and life originated in water. Two thirds of a living organism consists of water and 90 percent of cell content is also water. Biochemical reactions in living organisms require an aqueous medium. Therefore, water is important for the survival of living organisms.

- **Atmosphere:** The earth is enveloped by a gaseous atmosphere that supports life. The earth’s atmosphere consists of nitrogen (78%) and oxygen (21%), small amounts of carbon dioxide, water vapour, ozone and rare gases like argon, neon etc. Oxygen from the atmosphere is used by the living organisms during respiration. Oxygen is necessary to oxidize food for liberating energy required for various activities in the living organisms. Green plants utilize carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis.

- **Temperature:** The average temperature of the earth is 16°C. This is the most comfortable temperature for the living organisms to survive. Earth gets light from the sun, the star nearest to earth. It is the ultimate source of energy.

- **Buffering capacity of earth:** The most unique feature of the earth is its buffering action due to which a neutral pH (pH-7) is maintained in the soil and water bodies. The neutral pH is congenial for the survival and sustenance of living organisms.

## Interior of the Earth

The configuration of the surface of the earth is largely a product of the processes operating in the interior of the earth. Exogenic as well as endogenic processes are constantly shaping the landscape. Structure of earth’s interior is fundamentally divided into three layers – crust, mantle and core.
| Crust | • It is the outermost solid part of the earth, normally about 8-40 kms thick.  
|       | • It is brittle in nature.  
|       | • Nearly 1% of the earth's volume and 0.5% of earth's mass are made of the crust.  
|       | • The thickness of the crust under the oceanic and continental areas is different. Oceanic crust is thinner (about 5 kms) as compared to the continental crust (about 30 kms).  
|       | • Major constituent elements of crust are Silica (Si) and Aluminium (Al) and thus, it is often termed as SIAL (Sometimes SIAL is used to refer Lithosphere, which is the region comprising the crust and uppermost solid mantle, also).  
|       | • The mean density of the materials in the crust is 3 g/cm3.  
|       | • The discontinuity between the hydrosphere and crust is termed as the Conrad Discontinuity.  

| Mantle | • The portion of the interior beyond the crust is called as the mantle.  
|        | • The discontinuity between the crust and mantle is called as the Mohorovitch Discontinuity or Moho discontinuity.  
|        | • The mantle is about 2900 kms in thickness.  
|        | • Nearly 84% of the earth's volume and 67% of the earth's mass is occupied by the mantle.  
|        | • The major constituent elements of the mantle are Silicon and Magnesium and hence it is also termed as SIMA.  
|        | • The density of the layer is higher than the crust and varies from 3.3 – 5.4 g/cm3.  
|        | • The uppermost solid part of the mantle and the entire crust constitute the Lithosphere.  
|        | • The asthenosphere (in between 80-200 km) is a highly viscous, mechanically weak and ductile, deforming region of the upper mantle which lies just below the lithosphere.  
|        | • The asthenosphere is the main source of magma and it is the layer over which the lithospheric plates/ continental plates move (plate tectonics).  
|        | • The discontinuity between the upper mantle and the lower mantle is known as Repetti Discontinuity.  
|        | • The portion of the mantle which is just below the lithosphere and asthenosphere, but above the core is called as Mesosphere.  

| Core | • It is the innermost layer surrounding the earth's centre.  
|      | • The core is separated from the mantle by Guttenberg's Discontinuity.  
|      | • It is composed mainly of iron (Fe) and nickel (Ni) and hence it is also called as NIFE.  
|      | • The core constitutes nearly 15% of earth's volume and 32.5% of earth's mass.  
|      | • The core is the densest layer of the earth with its density ranges between 9.5-14.5 g/cm3.  
|      | • The Core consists of two sub-layers: the inner core and the outer core.  
|      | • The inner core is in solid state and the outer core is in the liquid state (or semi-liquid).  
|      | • The discontinuity between the upper core and the lower core is called as Lehmann Discontinuity.  
|      | • Barysphere is sometimes used to refer the core of the earth or sometimes the whole interior.  

MAHARASHTRA ENGINEERING SERVICES
Group A & B Combined Preliminary Examination

General Studies

Indian History
with Special reference to Maharashtra
The Revolt of 1857

In 1757, after the Battle of Plassey, the British laid the first step towards getting power in northern India. And in 1857 took place the major ‘Revolt’ which was a product of the character and policies of colonial rule after 1757, and after which noteworthy changes took place in the British policy of ruling over India. The cumulative effect of British expansionist policies, economic exploitation and administrative innovations over the years had adversely affected the positions of all—rulers of Indian states, sepoys, zamindars, peasants, traders, artisans, pundits, maulvis, etc.

The simmering discontent burst in the form of a violent storm in 1857 which shook the British Empire in India to its very foundations. The Revolt of 1857 was a prolonged period of armed uprising as well as rebellions in Northern and Central India against British occupation of that part of the subcontinent. Small precursors of brewing discontent involving incidences of arson in cantonment areas began to manifest themselves in January. Later, a large-scale rebellion broke out in May and turned into what may be called a full-fledged war in the affected region. This war brought about the end of the British East India Company’s rule in India, and led to the direct rule by the British Government (British Raj) of much of the Indian Subcontinent for the next 90 years.

Causes of 1857 Revolt

The issue of greased cartridges and military grievances has been over-emphasized, as the factor for the Revolt of 1857. However, the recent research has proved that the cartridge was neither the only cause nor even the most important. In fact, the multiple causes i.e., social-religious-political-economic worked together to produce the rebellion.

- **Social and Religious Causes:** The British had abandoned its policy of non-interference in the socio-religious life of the Indians. Abolition of Sati (1829), Hindu Widow Remarriage Act (1856). Christian missionaries were allowed to enter India and carry on with their mission of proselytizing. The Religious Disabilities Act of 1850 modified the traditional Hindu law. According to it, the change in religion would not debar a son from inheriting the property of his heathen father.

- **Economic Causes:** British rule led to breakdown of the village self-sufficiency, commercialisation of agriculture which burdened the peasantry, adoption of free trade imperialism from 1800, de-industrialization and drain of wealth all of which led to overall decline of economy.

- **Military Grievances:** The extension of British dominion in India had adversely affected the service condition of the Sepoys. They were required to serve in area away from their homes without the payment of extra bhatta. An important cause of Military discontent was the General Service Enlistment Act, 1856, which made it compulsory for the sepoys to cross the seas, whenever required. The Post Office Act of 1854 withdrew the free postage facility for them.

- **Political Causes:** The last major extension of the British Indian territory took place during the time of Dalhousie. Dalhousie announced in 1849, that the successor of Bahadur Shah II would have to leave the Red Fort. The annexation of Baghat and Udaipur were however, cancelled and they were restored to their ruling houses. When Dalhousie wanted to apply the Doctrine of Lapse to Karauli (Rajputana), he was overruled by the court of Directors.

- **Influence of Outside Events:** The revolt of 1857 coincided with certain outside events in which the British suffered serious losses—the First Afghan War (1838-42), Punjab Wars (1845-49), and the Crimean Wars (1854-56). These had obvious psychological repercussions. The British were seen to be not so strong and it was felt that they could be defeated.
Timeline of the Mutiny

Introduction of Pattern 1853 Enfield Musket
On the New Year day of 1857, a new Enfield (P 1853) rifle was issued in India to the 60th Queen's Royal Rifles in Meerut. The cartridges of this rifle had a paper cover that had to be bitten off before loading in the rifle. It was accepted by some British officials that the papers and the grease inside is composed of the beef and pig fat. This was taken as destroying their religion. On 22 January 1857, at the Dum Dum arsenal near Calcutta the natives expressed concern regarding the use of the greased cartridge required by the new rifle and a consequent threat to Hindu and Muslim religions. The military drills of the time needed the sepoys to bite off the cartridge, pour the gunpowder from within to down the barrel, then ram the cartridge, which included the bullet, then remove the ramrod, then bring the rifle to the ready and set the sights and fire.

The "user guide" said: “Whenever the grease around the bullet appears to be melted away, or otherwise removed from the cartridge, the sides of the bullet should be wetted in the mouth before putting it into the barrel; the saliva will serve the purpose of grease for the time being”. From January to May, the wave of dissatisfaction touched various British Cantonments. The most awful sentiments were in the cantonments of Meerut, Barrackpur and Ambala.

Use of Chapattis
All of a sudden, the English officials could see passing of the Chapattis, usually by the village chaukidars and watchmen throughout the north India. The first report was issued in February 1857 by Magistrate of Gurgaon that these Chapattis may be a portent of a general disturbance coming up and signify the joining of the people. The magistrate was true in his interpretation, but it was realized later only.

March 1857: Refusal to accept greased cartridge
By 9 March 1857, the Sepoys of the 19th Bengal Native Infantry at Behrampur refused to accept the greased cartridges. A court martial was done and the regiment was disarmed. On 23 March General Greg Anson, Commander in Chief, India, issued an order suspending the use and firing of the greased cartridges throughout India until a special report is received from Meerut.

29 March 1857 – Mutiny at Barrackpur – Mangal Pandey
At Barrackpur, Mangal Pandey of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry went on a rampage wounding the British Officers. The mutiny was basically a “One Man Show”. Mangal Pandey was hanged on 8 April 1857, thus becoming one of the first martyrs of mother India's liberation war that extended 90 years afterwards. One more officer Issuri Pandey was hanged on 11 April for not helping the British during the rampage. One Paltu Khan was promoted for his active duty towards stopping Mangal Pandey creates more havoc.

Mutiny at Meerut – 10 May 1857
85 Sepoys of the 20th and 11th Bengal Infantry regiments and 3rd Indian Light Cavalry mutinied. The broke out in open rebellion, shouted "Delhi Chalo", proceeded to Delhi, over threw the British Rule, massacred any European that came their way, Proclaimed Bahadur Shah Zafar as Emperor of India. Col. Ripley was killed at Delhi. The public welcomed the soldiers and supported the revolt. The son of Bahadur Shah Zafar, Mirza Zahiruddin was declared commander in chief, despite no military experience. Later the command at Delhi was taken by Bakht Khan, the nominal commander chief of the rebels at Delhi who later died in the battle in 1859.

The Mutiny Spreads – May 1857
On 12 May 1857, a company of the 81st infantry captured the fort of Govindgarh near Amritsar. The mutiny spread to Lahore where Mian Mir fought the mutineers and saved the Lahore from falling to the Mutineers. On 14 May 1857, Lord Canning issued orders for the 43rd Queen Regiment and 1st Madras Fusiliers to embark immediately to Calcutta. Lord Canning telegraphed Lord Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay to send British Forces immediately. He also sent transport to bring the British forces back from Pegu in Burma. On 16 May 1857, 50 Europeans rounded up in Delhi were massacred by the crowd. On 16 May, Lord Canning sent a letter to Lord Elgin at Singapore to send troops at Calcutta. The rebellion spread to Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur, Bareili, Banaras, and Jhansi very soon.

The siege of Cawnpore
Siege of Cawnpore is also known as “Bibighar Massacre or “Satichaura Ghat massacre”. Before
this event the British had approached Nana Sahib and 'convinced' him to support in case there is a mutiny at Kanpur. By June 1857, the number of the rebellions got 3000. The place was mistaken as safe by the British, European families began to drift into the entrenchment as the news of rebellion in the nearby areas reached them. The entrenchment was fortified. Nana Sahib entered as a friend of the British inside and declared that he was with the rebels. He proceeded with the soldiers to capture Cawnpore. He made the British officers surrender on a promise of safe passage to Allahabad. Cawnpore was in siege till 15 July 1857 and 200 Europeans including women and children were massacred. On 16 July the British forces arrived and Cawnpore was recaptured. Nana Sahib disappeared and then fled to Nepal in 1859.

**Mutiny at Lucknow: Begum Hazrat Mahal**

Begum Hazrat Mahal was the first wife of recently deposed Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. She led the rebels at Lucknow and was able to seize Lucknow. Her son Birjis Qadra was declared King of Awadh. But when the British were able to destroy the rebels, she fled to Nepal, where she took asylum and died in obscurity in 1879.

**Mutiny at Gwalior: Tantya Tope**

With the aid of the rebels at Gwalior he was able to compel General Windham hard at Cawnpore on the 27th and 28th of November 1857. But later was defeated by Sir Colin Campbell on the 6th of December. Together with the Rani of Jhansi he was besieged by Sir Hugh Rose in the Jhansi fort, but escaped and collected a force of 20,000 men which Sir Hugh defeated without relaxing the siege. After this he sought refuge in the jungles of Bundelkhand, and later captured and executed in 1859.

**Mutiny at Jhansi – Rani Laxmi Bai**

Jhansi was relatively calm in 1857, but British troops arrived under Hugh Rose and laid siege to Jhansi on 23 March 1858 and asked Laxmi Bai to surrender. She did not surrender and the fight began which continued for 2 weeks. Later her army was joined by Tantya Tope's troops, but the British were able to capture Jhansi by 31 March. Laxmi Bai escaped over the wall at night and fled from her city, surrounded by her guards. Along with her young adopted son Anand Rao, she decamped to Kalpi. Both Nana and Laxmibai moved on to Gwalior and occupied the fort of Gwalior. But on 17 June, 1858, she died in the battle. The British captured Gwalior three days later. Her father, Moropant Tambey, was captured and hanged a few days after the fall of Jhansi. Anand Rao, was given a pension by the British Raj.

**Mutiny in Arrah – Kunwar Singh**

A band of rebels was led by Kunwar Singh at Arrah in Bihar. Despite his old age (near 80) he had a good fight and harried British forces for nearly one year and remained invincible till the end. But he was defeated by William Taylor and Eyre and died in the battle.

### Suppression of the Revolt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Action/Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Lieutenant Hudson</td>
<td>Killed Bahadur Shah's sons and grandsons in Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Colonel James Neill</td>
<td>Supressed Banaras rebellion and put to death all suspected rebels and disorderly sepoys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Sir Colin Campbell</td>
<td>Final recovery of Kanpur on 6th December 1857. He captured Lucknow on 21st March 1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Henry Lawrence</td>
<td>Chief Commissioner of Awadh (died).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Vincent Eyre</td>
<td>Suppressed the revolt at Arrah in August 1857.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Hugh Rose</td>
<td>He killed Rani Laxmibai and suppressed the revolt at Jhansi.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAHARASHTRA ENGINEERING SERVICES
Group A & B Combined Preliminary Examination

General Studies

Indian Polity
Constitution

Today most countries in the world have a Constitution. While all democratic countries are likely to have a Constitution, it is not necessary that all countries that have a Constitution are democratic. In the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, it is mentioned that India is a democratic republic. The Constitution of any country serves several purposes.

Some of them are following:

- It lays down certain ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that citizens aspire to live in.
- It defines the nature of a country’s political system.
- It provides a set of rules and principles that all persons in a country can agree upon as the basis of the way in which they want the country to be governed.
- It lays down rules that guard the citizens against the misuse of power by the government.

Timeline for the making of the Indian Constitution:

- **1935**: Indian National Congress (INC), for the first time, officially demanded a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution of India.
- **1940**: Demand of the INC was finally accepted in principle by the British Government in what is known as the ‘August Offer’.
- **1942**: Sir Stafford Cripps came to India with a draft proposal of the British Government on the framing of an independent Constitution to be adopted after the World War II.
- **1946**: Cabinet Mission consisting of three members (Lord Pethick Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps and A V Alexander) arrived in India on March 24, 1946. The Cabinet Mission published its plan on May 16, 1946. The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan.
- **1946**: The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946. On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the ‘Objectives Resolution’ in the Assembly, unanimously adopted by the Assembly on January 22, 1947.
- **1949**: Constitution was declared as passed on November 26, 1949, and received the signatures of the members and the president.

### Historical Background of the Indian Constitution

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<td><strong>Rule</strong></td>
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<td>Regulating Act of 1773</td>
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### The Company Rule (1773–1858)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Pitt’s India Act of 1784 | • Commercial and political functions separated  
• Commercial affairs- Court of Directors  
• Political affairs- Board of Control  
• System of Double Government  
• Indian territories are called ‘British possessions in India’  
• British Govt- supreme control over Company’s affairs |
| Charter Act of 1813 | • Monopoly of company over trade in India ended, but retained the trade with China and the trade in tea.  
• A sum of one lakh rupees was to be set aside for education  
• Christian missionaries were also permitted to come to India and preach their religion. |
| Charter Act of 1853 | • Final step towards centralisation in British India.  
• Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor-General of India  
• Laws made under this act were called as Acts.  
• East India Company no more commercial body, became administrative body |
| Charter Act of 1833 | • Separated legislative and executive functions  
• Open competition system for recruitment of civil servants  
• It extended the Company’s rule  
• For the first time introduced local representation in the Indian (Central) Legislative Council. |
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### Crown Rule (1858–1947)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| GoI Act of 1858 | • Act for the Good Governance of India.  
• Governor General of India became Viceroy of India.  
• Ended the system of double government new office Secretary of State for India 15- member Council was framed. |
| Indian Councils Act of 1861 | • Beginning of representative institutions process of decentralisation new legislative councils in Bengal, North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) and Punjab.  
• Recognition to the ‘portfolio’ system.  
• Empowered the Viceroy to issue ordinances. |
| Indian Councils Act of 1892 | • Increased the number of members in the Central and provincial legislative councils.  
• Power of discussing the budget nomination of some non-official members. |
| Indian Councils Act of 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms) | • Increased the size of the legislative councils (from 16 to 60).  
• For the first time provided association of Indians with the executive Councils of the Viceroy and Governors.  
• System of communal representation  
• Separate representation of presidency corporations, chambers of commerce, universities and Zamindar |
| Government of India Act of 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms) | • Introduced ‘diarchy’.  
• First time introduced bicameralism and direct elections.  
• Extended the principle of communal representation.  
• New office of the High Commissioner for India in London.  
• Establishment of a public service commission separated.  
• Provincial budgets from the Central budget. |
Crown Rule (1858–1947)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Government of India Act of 1935 | • Establishment of an All-India Federation.  
• Abolished diarchy in the provinces and introduced ‘provincial autonomy’.  
• Adoption of diarchy at the Centre.  
• It introduced bicameralism.  
• Eextended the principle of communal representation establishment of a Reserve Bank of India  
• Establishment of Federal, Provincial and Joint Public Service Commissions. |
| Indian Independence Act, 1947 | • Ended the British rule in India  
• Partition of India  
• Abolished the office of Viceroy  
• Freedom to the Indian Princely States  
• Dropped the title of Emperor of India |

Salient features of the Constitution

- Lengthiest Written Constitution  
- Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility  
- Parliamentary Form of Government  
- Integrated and Independent Judiciary  
- Directive Principles of State Policy  
- A Secular State  
- Single Citizenship  
- Emergency Provisions  
- Drawn From Various Sources  
- Federal System with Unitary Bias  
- Synthesis of Parliamentary, Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy  
- Fundamental Rights  
- Fundamental Duties  
- Universal Adult Franchise  
- Independent Bodies  
- Three-tier Government

Indian Constitution had 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules at the time of commencement. Now Constitution of India has 448 articles in 25 parts and 12 schedules. The Parts of the Indian Constitution are given below:

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<td>Chapter IV-Special Directives</td>
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Economics and Economy

Economics is the study of making decisions in the presence of scarcity of resources in the economy. The primary aim of the economic activity is the production of goods and services with a view to make them available to masses.

Resources are limited, and we have to use these limited resources judiciously as well as equitably. Just in case of India, We have the 17.5% of the global population, but, only 2.42% of the global land and only 4% of the global water resources.

Thus, there is huge pressure on land and water resources. So, prudent economic policies are very much important for the sustainable development and inclusive growth. Human activities which are performed in exchange for money are called economic activities.

The primary aim of the economic activity is the production of goods and services with a view to make them available to masses. The environment that facilitates these activities is known as Economy.

Micro and Macro Economics

In micro economics we study the behaviour of an individual as a buyer and seller. So the economic decisions taken by a single individual become the subject matter of micro economics. Microeconomics focuses on the actions of individual agents within the economy, like households, workers, and businesses.

The economic decisions taken at the level of the economy as whole are subject matter of macroeconomics.

Macroeconomics looks at the economy as a whole. It focuses on broad issues such as the growth of production, the number of unemployed people, the inflationary increase in prices, government deficits, and levels of exports and imports. E.g.- National production/output, Gross domestic product, employment, Poverty, Inflation, Balance of Payment (BoP).

Sectors of Economy

Economic sectors/activities are broadly grouped into primary, secondary, tertiary activities. Higher services under tertiary activities are again classified into quaternary and quinary activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary sectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary activities are directly dependent on the environment as these refer to utilisation of earth's resources such as land, water, vegetation, building materials and minerals. It includes hunting and gathering, pastoral activities, fishing, forestry, agriculture, and mining and quarrying.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary sectors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary activities add value to natural resources by transforming raw materials into valuable products. Secondary activities, therefore, are concerned with manufacturing, processing and construction (infrastructure) industries.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tertiary sectors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary activities include both production and exchange. The exchange involves trade, transport and communication facilities that are used to overcome distance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quaternary sectors

Quaternary activities are specialized tertiary activities in the ‘Knowledge Sector’ which demands a separate classification. There has been very high growth in demand for and consumption of information based services from mutual fund managers to tax consultants, software developers and statisticians. R & D comes under this sector.

Quinary sectors

Quinary activities are services that focus on the creation, re-arrangement and interpretation of new and existing ideas; data interpretation and the use and evaluation of new technologies. Often referred to as ‘gold collar’ professions, they represent another subdivision of the tertiary sector representing special and highly paid skills of senior business executives, government officials, research scientists, financial and legal consultants, etc.

Factors of Production

It can be defined as the inputs used in the production of goods or services in order to make an economic profit. They include any resource needed for the creation of a good or service. The factors of production include land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship. These production factors are also known as management, machines, materials and labour, and knowledge has recently been talked about as a potential new factor of production. The availability of these factors of production and their judicious use is very critical to the development of any economy.

Types of Economy

On the basis of ownership of the factor of production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capitalist Economy</th>
<th>Socialist Economy</th>
<th>Mixed Economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Factors of production are owned and managed by private individuals and institutions.</td>
<td>• Factors of production are owned and managed by the State.</td>
<td>• In some sectors, Factors of production are owned and managed by private individuals and institutions and in some sectors, factors of production are owned and managed by the State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It has its origin in the famous work of Adam Smith—Wealth of Nations (1776)</td>
<td>• Private ownership of means of production is not allowed.</td>
<td>• Ex- India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ex- USA</td>
<td>• Ex- Former USSR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the basis of Level of Development

1. **Developed economy**: Developed countries have higher national and per-capita income, high rate of capital formation i.e. high savings and investment. They have highly educated human resources, better civic facilities, health and sanitation facilities, low birth rate, low death rate, low infant mortality, developed industrial and social infrastructures and strong financial and capital Market. In short, developed countries have a high standard of living. Examples of Developed countries are US, UK, Canada etc.

2. **Developing economy**: The national and per capita income is low in these countries. They have backward agricultural and industrial sectors with low savings, investment and capital formation. Although these countries have export earnings, but, generally they export primary agricultural products.
In short, they have a low standard of living and poor health and sanitation, high infant mortality, high birth and death rates and poor infrastructure. India is called Developing country.

3. Least Developed Countries (LDCs): The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is a list of developing countries that, according to the United Nations, exhibit the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development, with the lowest Human Development Index ratings of all countries in the world. The concept of LDCs originated in the late 1960s and the first group of LDCs was listed by the UN in its resolution 2768 of 18 November 1971.

On the basis of the shares of the particular sectors in the total production

1. Agrarian Economy: An economy is called agrarian if its share of the primary sector is 50 per cent or more in the total output (the GDP) of the economy. At the time of Independence, India was such an economy. But after the reforms of 1991, the share of the service sector in the GDP is continuously increasing, while the share of the agriculture in the GDP is decreasing. The primary sector’s contribution falling to almost 18 per cent of its total produce, while almost 49 per cent of the population depends on the primary sector for their livelihood. So, as an economy, India is no longer an agrarian economy, but, as a society, it is an agrarian society.

2. Industrial Economy: If the secondary sector contributes 50 per cent or more to the total produce value of an economy, it is an industrial economy. Higher the contribution, higher is the level of industrialisation. The western economies which went for early industrialisation earning faster income and developing early are known as developed economies. Most of these economies have crossed this phase once the process of industrialisation saturated.

3. Service Economy: An economy where 50 per cent or more of the produced value comes from the tertiary sector is known as the service economy. First lot of such economies in the world were the early industrialised economies. As the share of the GDP, India is a service economy.

On the basis of Income

The World Bank assigns the world’s economies into four income groups — high, upper-middle, lower-middle, and low. The classification is based on the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in US dollar. New thresholds are determined at the start of the Bank’s fiscal year in July and remain fixed for 12 months regardless of subsequent revisions to estimates. As of July 1 2018, the new thresholds for classification by income are:

1. **High Income Economy:** The economy in which GNI per capita is higher than the $12055 is known as the High Income Economy.

2. **Upper Middle Income Economy:** The economy in which GNI per capita is between $3,896 - $12,055 is known as Middle Income Economy.

3. **Lower Middle Income Economy:** The economy in which GNI per capita is between $3,895 - $996 is known as Lower Middle Income Economy. As of 2018, the per capita GDP (nominal) of India is $2,134; it comes under the lower middle income economy.

4. **Low Income Economy:** The economy in which GNI per capita is lower than the $995 is known as the Low Income Economy.

**National Income**

Though not comprehensive, Income level is the most commonly used tool to determine the well-being and happiness of nations and their citizens. National Income means the total value of goods and services produced annually in a country. There are a number of concepts pertaining to national income and methods of measurement relating to them.

1. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** GDP is defined as the total market value of all final goods and services produced within the country in a given period of time—usually a calendar year or financial year or a fraction like a quarter. Final goods are the goods, which are for the consumption purpose in the economy, while the intermediate goods are the goods, which are used to be for the further production or value addition. For example, if we purchase the milk, sugar and coffee powder for personal use, they become the final goods. But, when we purchase the same for the making the coffee for the purpose of selling the coffee in a Coffee store, then the milk, sugar and the coffee powder became the intermediate goods and the coffee would be the final goods. GDP can be real or nominal. Nominal GDP refers to the current year production of final goods and services valued at current year market prices. Real GDP
refers to the current year production of goods and service valued at base year prices. Base year prices are constant prices. For the current national income series introduced in 2015, the base year is 2011-12.

2. **Net Domestic Product (NDP):** The net domestic product (NDP) is an annual measure of the economic output of a nation that is adjusted to account for depreciation, calculated by subtracting depreciation from the gross domestic product (GDP). As the value of the depreciation cannot be zero or negative, the NDP will always be less than the GDP.

   \[ \text{NDP} = \text{GDP} - \text{Depreciation} \]

3. **Gross National Product (GNP):** GNP is a measure of the value of the output produced by the “nationals” of a country both within the geographical boundaries and outside. That is, all the output that the Indian citizens produce in a given year - both within India and all other countries make up the GNP of India. The value of GNP may be higher or lower than the GDP, depending upon the Net income from the abroad. The net income from the abroad comprises the Private Remittances, Interest on External Loans and External Grants (the net outcome of the external grants i.e., the balance of such grants which flow to and from India). Ultimately, the balance of all the three components of the ‘Income from Abroad’ segment may turn out to be positive or negative. In India’s case it has always been negative (due to heavy outflows on account of trade deficits and interest payments on foreign loans). It means, the ‘Income from Abroad’ is subtracted from India’s GDP to calculate its GNP.

   \[ \text{GNP} = \text{GDP} - (\text{Net income from abroad}) \]

4. **Net National Product (NNP):** In the production process a country uses machines and equipment. When there is depreciation, we have to repair or replace the machinery. The expenses incurred for this are called the depreciation expenditure. Net National Product is calculated by deducting depreciation expense from the gross national product (GDP).

   \[ \text{NNP} = \text{GNP} - \text{Depreciation} \]

   OR

   \[ \text{NNP} = \text{GDP} + \text{Income from Abroad} - \text{Depreciation} \]

5. **National Income (NI):** National Income is calculated by deducting indirect taxes from Net National Product (NNP) and adding subsidies. National Income (NI) is the NNP at factor cost.

   \[ \text{NI} = \text{NNP} - \text{Indirect Taxes} + \text{Subsidies} \]

### Per Capita Income (PCI)

NNP divided by the total population of a nation is known as the ‘per capita income’ (PCI) of that nation. That means, higher the population leads to lower per capita income for the same NNP. PCI (Per Capita Income) of India at current prices (2017-18) is estimated Rs. 1,11,782.

### GVA and GDP

Gross value added (GVA) is a measure of total output and income in the economy. It provides the rupee value for the amount of goods and services produced in an economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials that have gone into the production of those goods and services. It also gives a sector-specific picture like what is the growth in an area, industry or sector of an economy. While GVA gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers’ side or supply side, the GDP gives the picture from the consumers’ side or demand perspective. Both measures need not match because of the difference in treatment of net taxes. A sector-wise breakdown provided by the GVA measure can better help the policymakers to decide which sectors need incentives/stimulus or vice versa.

### Difficulties in Measuring GDP (Gross Domestic Product)

1. **Double counting problem:** Including the price of intermediate goods individually and with the final product.

2. **Household services:** The national income accounts do not include the ‘care economy’ - domestic work and housekeeping. Most of such valuable work rendered by our women at home does not enter our national accounting.

3. **Black money:** Illegal activities like smuggling and unreported incomes due to tax evasion and corruption are outside the GDP estimates. Thus, the parallel economy poses a serious hurdle to accurate GDP estimates.

4. **Statistical errors:** People measuring the economy not performing their duties with honesty or the standard they are using are not current to measure the accurate value of GDP.
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General Studies

Environment
Environment

In nature several communities of organisms live together and interact with each other as well as with their physical environment as an ecological unit. We call it an ecosystem. The term ‘ecosystem’ was coined by A.G. Tansley in 1935. An ecosystem is a functional unit of nature encompassing complex interaction between its biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components. For example: A pond is a good example of ecosystem.

Components of ecosystem

They are broadly grouped into: 1. Abiotic 2. Biotic components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abiotic components (Nonliving)</th>
<th>Biotic components (Living)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) <strong>Physical factors:</strong> Sun light, temperature, rainfall, humidity and pressure. They sustain and limit the growth of organisms in an ecosystem.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(ii) <strong>Inorganic substances:</strong> Carbon dioxide, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, sulphur, water, rock, soil and other minerals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(iii) <strong>Organic compounds:</strong> Carbohydrates, proteins, lipids and humic substances. They are the building blocks of living systems and therefore, make a link between the biotic and abiotic components.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(i) <strong>Producers:</strong> The green plants manufacture food for the entire ecosystem through the process of photosynthesis. Green plants are called autotrophs, as they absorb water and nutrients from the soil, carbon dioxide from the air, and capture solar energy for this process.</td>
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<td>(ii) <strong>Consumers:</strong> They are called heterotrophs and they consume food synthesized by the autotrophs. Based on food preferences they can be grouped into three broad categories. Herbivores (e.g. cow, deer and rabbit etc.) feed directly on plants, carnivores are animals which eat other animals (e.g. lion, cat, dog etc.) and omnivores organisms feeding upon plants and animals e.g. human, pigs and sparrow.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(iii) <strong>Decomposers:</strong> Also called saprotrophs. These are mostly bacteria and fungi that feed on dead decomposed and the dead organic matter of plants and animals by secreting enzymes outside their body on the decaying matter. They play a very important role in recycling of nutrients. They are also called detrivores or detritus feeders.</td>
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</table>

Functions of ecosystem

(i) Energy flow through food chain
(ii) Nutrient cycling (biogeochemical cycles)
(iii) Ecological succession or ecosystem development
(iv) Homeostasis (or cybernetic) or feedback control mechanisms Ponds, lakes, meadows, marshlands, grasslands, deserts and forests are examples of natural ecosystem. Many of you have seen an aquarium; a garden or a lawn etc. in your neighbourhood. These are man made ecosystem.
Types of ecosystems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural ecosystems</th>
<th>Man-made ecosystems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Totally dependent on solar radiation e.g. forests, grasslands, oceans, lakes, rivers and deserts. They provide food, fuel, fodder and medicines.</td>
<td>• Dependent on solar energy, e.g. agricultural fields and aquaculture ponds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ecosystems dependent on solar radiation and energy subsidies (alternative sources) such as wind, rain and tides. e.g. tropical rain forests, tidal estuaries and coral reefs.</td>
<td>• Dependent on fossil fuel e.g. urban and industrial ecosystems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ecology

‘Ecology may be defined as the scientific study of the relationship of living organisms with each other and with their environment.’ The term ecology was first coined in 1869 by the German biologist Ernst Haeckel. It has been derived from two Greek words, ‘oikos’, meaning home or estate and ‘logos’ meaning study.

The emphasis is on relationships between organisms and the components of the environment namely abiotic (non-living) and biotic (living). Ecology not only deals with the study of the relationship of individual organisms with their environment, but also with the study of populations, communities, ecosystems, biomes, and biosphere as a whole.

Species

A species is defined as; “a group of similar populations of organisms whose members are capable of interbreeding, and to produce fertile offspring (children)”. A tiger, a lion, a lotus and a rose are examples of different species. Every species has a scientific name, understood by people of all over the world. Humans belong to species of Homo sapiens. Only members of the same species can interbreed to produce fertile offspring. Every species has its own set of genetic characteristics that makes the species unique and different from other species.

Evolution

A valid theory of evolution was propounded by Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace in 1859. This theory has been extended in the light of progress in genetics and is known as Neo-Darwinism. It has the following features:

- Organisms tend to produce more offsprings that can be supported by the environment.
- Mutation (a change in genetic material that results from an error in replication of DNA) causes new genes to arise in a population. Further, in a sexually reproducing population, meiosis and fertilization produce new combination of genes every generation, which is termed recombination. Thus members of the same species show ‘variation’ and are not exactly identical. Variations are heritable.
- An evolutionary force which Darwin termed natural selection, selects among variations i.e. genes that help the organism to adopt to its environment. Such genes are reproduced more in a population due to natural selection.
- Those offspring which are suited to their immediate environment have a better chance of surviving, reaching reproductive age and passing on the suitable adaptations to their progeny.
- Evolution thus results in adaptation and diversity of the species.
Biome

A large community unit, characterized by a major vegetation type and associated fauna, found in a specific climatic region is a biome. Bimes refer basically to terrestrial areas. The aquatic systems like the seas, rivers etc. are also divided into distinct life zones on basis of salinity.

I. Study of physical and biological features of a particular biome.
II. Study of human activities affecting the earth like global climate, ozone hole etc.

Levels of ecological organization

1. Organisms: (Individual) basic unit of study.
2. Population: A group of organisms consisting of a number of different populations that live in defined area and interact with each other.
3. Community: A group of organisms consisting of a number of different species that live in an area and interact with each other.
4. Ecosystem: A communities of organisms and their physical environment, interacting as an ecological unit.

Types of study

- Study of the form physiology, behaviour, distribution and adaptation of organism in relation to environment.
- Study of interaction between populations and intraspecific relationships.
- Study of structure and composition of community and interspecific interactions between members of community.
- Study of the community in relation to the structure of its ecosystem-nutrients cycling, climate, energy flow etc. studied.
Niche and Organism

In nature, many species occupy the same habitat but they perform different functions. The functional characteristic of a species in its habitat is referred to as “niche” in that common habitat. Habitat of a species is like its ‘address’ (i.e. where it lives) whereas niche can be thought of as its “profession” (i.e. activities and responses specific to the species).

The term niche means the sum of all the activities and relationships of a species by which it uses the resources in its habitat for its survival and reproduction. A niche is unique for a species while many species share the habitat. No two species in a habitat can have the same niche. This is because if two species occupy the same niche they will compete with one another until one is displaced.

For example, a large number of different species of insects may be pests of the same plant but they can co-exist as they feed on different parts of the same plant. Another example is the vegetation of the forest.

The forest can support a large number of plant species as they occupy different niches: the tall trees, the short trees, shrubs, bushes and grasses are all part of the forest but because of varying heights they differ in their requirements for sunlight and nutrients and so can survive together.

The most important resources in the niches of animals are food and shelter while in case of plants, they are moisture and nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen).

Adaptation

Every organism is suited to live in its particular habitat. For example, the coconuts cannot grow in a desert while a camel cannot survive in an ocean. Each organism is adapted to its particular environment. An adaptation is thus, “the appearance or behaviour or structure or mode of life of an organism that allows it to survive in a particular environment”.

Presence of gills and fins are examples of adaptation in fishes to aquatic habitat. In aquatic flowering plants absence of wood formation and highly reduced root system are adaptations to aquatic environment. Adaptations have genetic basis and have been produced and perfected through evolution.

This means that the adaptions have developed over many generations to help a species survive successfully in its environment.

Examples of basic adaptations that help animals and plants to survive in their respective environments are followings:

- Shape of bird’s beak.
- The thickness or thinness of fur.
- Presence of feathers and wings in birds.
- Evergreen and deciduous nature of trees.
- Presence and absence of thorns on leaves and stems.

Extinction

Ever since life evolved on earth, new species better suited or adapted to the environment have appeared and older less successful forms have died or become extinct. Extinction is generally a natural occurrence. It means the dying out of a variety of or a species.

The primary reason for these extinctions is environmental change or biological competition. Extinction occurs when species cannot evolve fast enough to cope with the changes taking place in their environment. Many species have gone extinct during geological history of the earth. Fossils are the preserved remains of animals, plants, and other organisms that lived in the geological past.

Extinction may take place due to catastrophic natural phenomena such as tsunami, volcanoes etc. In recent time, human activities such as deportation, over exploitation, environmental pollution and environmental change are other factors responsible for extinction.

Deforestation for expansion of industries and human settlements has promoted economic growth but at the same time it has resulted in habitat loss for many wild plants and animals. Pollution has killed many an aquatic species.

Ecological succession

Biotic communities are dynamic in nature and change over a period of time. The process by which communities of plant and animal species in an area are replaced or changed into another over a period of time is known as ecological succession. Both the biotic and abiotic components are involved in this change.

This change is brought about both by the activities of the communities as well as by the physical environment in that particular area. The physical
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General Studies

Current Affairs
**Scheme of electoral bonds**

The electoral bonds scheme was announced in Union Budget 2017-18 with an aim for increasing transparency in political funding. It makes India first country in the world to have such unique bonds for electoral funding. These bonds are bearer instrument in nature of promissory note and interest-free banking instrument. These electoral bonds can be bought for any value in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 crore after fulfilling all existing Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and making payments from bank account. It will not carry name of payee.

The bond deposited by any eligible political party to its account shall be credited on the same day. No payment shall be made to any payee political party if bond is deposited after expiry of validity period. Eligible political parties can encash electoral bonds only through their bank accounts. Electoral Bonds are valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue. The cash donation has been capped at Rs. 2000 and beyond that donations are via electoral bonds.

**J & K and Article 35A**

An NGO, We the Citizens, challenged 35A in SC in 2014 on grounds that it was not added to the Constitution through amendment under Article 368. It was never presented before Parliament.

Article 35A is a provision in Constitution of India that allows the Jammu-Kashmir assembly to define permanent residents of the state. It was brought in by a Presidential order in 1954 to safeguard the rights and guarantee the unique identity of the people of Jammu-Kashmir. A three-judge bench of the court intends to consider if Article 35A infringes the Constitution's basic structure.

**National Register of Citizens for Assam**

NRC Assam is the register containing names of Indian Citizens in Assam. It will contain names of genuine Indian citizens and will help government to check illegal immigration in India. It was prepared in 1951 as non-statutory process by recording particulars of all persons enumerated during 1951 Census.


The Assam Accord signed between Central Government, State Government, All India Students’ Union (AASU) and All Assam Gan Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) in August 1985 following agitation (1979-85) against illegal foreigners had stipulated 24th March, 1971 as cut-off date for identification and deportation of illegal migrants from East Pakistan (Bangladesh). Accordingly, Citizenship Act, 1955 was amended by Parliament for inserting section 6A as special provisions for Assam.
Bru Refugees

The Centre and the state governments of Tripura and Mizoram have recently signed an agreement for repatriation of Bru community from Tripura to Mizoram. The central government will provide financial assistance for rehabilitation of Bru community members in Mizoram. The Bru militancy was a reactionary movement against Mizo nationalist groups. In 1997, the murder of a Mizo forest guard at the Dampa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram allegedly by Bru militants led to a violent backlash against the community. It forced several thousand people belonging to Bru community to flee to neighbouring Tripura.

Legal Entity for Animal Kingdom

The Uttarakhand High Court has declared the entire animal kingdom, including birds and aquatic animals, as a legal entity having rights of a “living person”. The court has invoked Article 21 of the Constitution - safeguarding the rights of humans, protects life. The court has clarified that the word “life” includes animal world.

According to the judgment, Legal Entity means “The entity acts like a natural person but only through a designated person, whose acts are processed within the ambit of law”. This means the animal kingdom could be represented by a custodian. It declared all citizens of Uttarakhand “persons in loco parentis” (in the place of a parent) giving them the responsibility to protect animals and ensure their welfare.

The high court, last year accorded the status of “living entity” to the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, a decision subsequently stayed by the Supreme Court.

Swayangsiddha

The West Bengal government has rolled out a scheme “Swayangsiddha” in different districts of the state to combat human trafficking. The aim of the scheme is to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage. Swayangsiddha, which means self-reliance, will be executed by the West Bengal Police.

As the per the NCRB data West Bengal has highest recorded case of trafficking among the States.

Door Step Delivery Scheme

Delhi Government has launched scheme for doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services like caste and marriage certificates, driving license and new water connections. It is fist home delivery scheme of various essential government services in the country. It will help to deal with corruption in delivery of essential government services and promote transparent governance.

Under this scheme, Delhi government will provide 40 services such as caste certificate, driving licence at doorstep of people in the first phase. Eventually, more services will be added to the list in later phases. These essential government services will be delivered by mobile sahayaks with fee of Rs 50.

Landmark Supreme Court Judgments

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<th>Judgments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sabarimala Temple Entry</td>
<td>The Supreme Court of India (SCI) has stated that women have the constitutional right to enter the famous Sabarimala temple in Kerala and pray like men without being discriminated against. The court was hearing a bunch of petitions that challenged the traditional ban on the entry of women between 10 and 50 years of age in the Sabarimala temple, which is dedicated to Lord Ayyappa. A 5-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, said that even if there was no law, women cannot be discriminated against with regard to offering prayer in a temple. As per the temple tradition, entry of women in the 10-50 age group is restricted in the shrine dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, who is considered a ‘Naishtika Brahmachari’ (perennial celibate).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judgments</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td><strong>Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code</strong></td>
<td>In a landmark Judgment Supreme Court of India has struck down 157 year old law which criminalizes consensual homo sexual acts between adults. The Five Judge Bench has declared Section 377 IPC unconstitutional, insofar as it criminalises consensual sexual acts of adults in private.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Aadhaar Verdict** | The five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on upheld most of the provisions of the Aadhaar Act by 4:1 Majority while hearing the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other. Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. The Aadhaar, issued by the UIDAI, seeks to establish a database of personal identity of every Indian resident, by assimilating their demographic and biometric information.  
**Key points of the judgment**  
- Majority of judges upheld the validity of Aadhaar, Justice Chandrachud dissented.  
- Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, allowing private entities to use Aadhaar for verification purpose, struck down.  
- Aadhaar - PAN Linkage mandatory.  
- No need of Aadhaar for CBSE, NEET, UGC and school admissions.  
- No need of Aadhaar for mobile connections and for opening bank accounts. |
| **Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code** | Supreme Court has unanimously struck down Section 497 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 that makes adultery punishable offence for men. AS per the judgement, 158-year-old Section 497 of IPC is unconstitutional and fell foul of Article 21 (Right to life and personal liberty) and Article 14 (Right to equality).  
It also declared Section 198(1) and 198(2) of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1974 which allows husband to bring charges against man with whom his wife committed adultery, unconstitutional. The Court however clarified that adultery will be a ground for divorce. It was also stated that if an act of adultery leads the aggrieved spouse to suicide, the adulterous partner could be prosecuted for abetment of suicide under Section 306 of the IPC. |
| **Right To Die With Dignity** | Supreme Court of India held that right to die with dignity is a fundamental right. The Bench also held that passive euthanasia and a living will also legally valid. The Court issued detailed guidelines in this regard. The Bench also held that the right to live with dignity also includes the smoothening of the process of dying in case of a terminally ill patient or a person in Persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery. |
| **Live Streaming of SC Proceedings** | The Supreme Court of India has allowed live streaming and video recording of court proceedings across the country. The top court stated that live streaming of court proceedings will bring accountability and transparency into the judicial system and serve the public interest. |
## Important Bills and Acts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bills &amp; Acts</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| **The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019** | • Aims to grant Indian citizenship to all persecuted religious minorities like Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Parsis from 03 neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.  
• The bill is applicable to all states and union territories of the country and the beneficiaries of the can reside in any part of the country. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed in Lok Sabha. | The protests have erupted in Assam against the passage of the bill. The people of Assam fear that the amendment bill undermines the Assam Accord of 1985. |
| **124th Constitutional Amendment Bill** | • The Bill states that people from the economically weaker sections of the society have largely remained excluded from attending the higher educational institutions and public employment on account of their financial incapacity to compete with the persons who are economically more privileged.  
• The Bill is brought into to fulfil the commitments under the DPSP listed in the Article 46 of the Constitution which urges the government to protect the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of society.  
• The Bill amends Article 15 of the Constitution to provide reservations to economically weaker sections for admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions  
• The Bill also amends Article 16 of the Constitution to provide reservations to people from economically weaker sections in government posts.  
• The Bill caps the reservation to economically weaker sections at 10%.  
• The Bill states that the criterion for the economically weaker sections would be notified by the State from time to time on the basis of family income and other indicators of economic disadvantage. | Signed by President Became 103rd CAA Gujarat-1st state |
| **Consumer Protection Bill, 2018** | • The Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions will be set up at District, State and National levels as per the bill passed.  
• The District Commissions will have the mandate to hear complaints having claim worth one crore rupees. In the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 this limit was 20 lakh rupees.  
• The limit of the Commissions’ at the State level enhanced from 1 crore rupees to 15 crore rupees.  
• Complaints above 15 crore rupees worth of claim will be settled by the National Commission.  
• The Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 has provisions for stringent punishments in the matters of food adulterations.  
• The Bill has the provisions to protect those consumers who use new digital technologies likes e-commerce and online shopping.  
• The Bill seeks to establish a central consumer protection authority (CCPA) which will be tasked with promoting, protecting and enforcing consumer rights. | The Lok Sabha has passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 on 20th December 2018, which will replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Bill seeks to enforce consumer rights and to offer a mechanism for complaint redressal related to the deficiencies in goods and services. |