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MAHEI CIVIL SERVICES INSTITUTE

MAION

MANIPUR'S FIRST DEDICATED UPSC/MPSC MAGAZINE

MAION CONTEST

FIRST PRIZE ₹ 2000X 1

SECOND PRIZE ₹ 1000X 2

THIRD PRIZE ₹ 500 X 3



HAPPY NINGOL CHAKOUBA

Inside:

- TOPIC OF THE Month-
(Arts and culture (Newspapers & Magazine 2024))
- NE/Manipur – Important schemes of NE India
- General Awareness of the Month
- CSAT – READING COMPREHENSION
- Self-Improvement - DISCIPLINE
- MAION CONTEST
- MPSC MAINS MOCK TEST – GS-III
- NEW FEATURE : COUNSELLING Q&A



**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH
ARVIND HANGLEM
AIR 83 UPSC CSE 2022**

English Translation of Gaitri Mantra

*"We meditate upon the divine light
of the creator, who pervades the
earth, the heavens, and all that
exists. May that divine light inspire
and enlighten our intellect and guide
us toward righteousness."*



From The Editor's Desk

As we welcome November, I extend my warmest wishes for Ningol Chakouba and Diwali. Ningol Chakouba celebrates the deep bond between married daughters and their parental families. It is a time when brothers invite their sisters home, rekindling love and strengthening family ties. Diwali, the triumph of light against darkness, brings with it the message of hope, joy, and renewal. May these festivals bring happiness to your homes and illuminate the path toward peace and unity.

Yet, we cannot ignore the plight of many Ningols, displaced and living in temporary shelters. The greatest gift we can offer them this year is not just a feast but justice, safety, and the promise of returning to the homes they cherish. May this Ningol Chakouba remind us of our responsibility to rebuild and restore what has been lost from our Ningols.

Looking back at October, we reflect on the significant event of Manipur's merger with India on October 15, 1949. This month, we present summaries of articles offering insights into the history and context of this event to foster a deeper understanding and wider discussions amongst us Manipuris.

Also, we've updated our MAION monthly contest rules: in case of a tie, preference will be given to the earliest submissions. We hope this adds excitement and fairness. Additionally, based on feedback and suggestions from Contest 1, we've reduced the number of questions to 20. All questions will now be drawn from the previous month's topics featured in newspapers and magazines, aligned with UPSC trends and standards. Also, this edition introduces two new features: An aspirants' Q&A counselling session, with insightful answers from our esteemed MAHEI faculty, focusing on key aspects of exam preparation. and exclusive interviews with selected and currently serving civil servant officials, offering invaluable guidance to aspirants.

Wishing you a thoughtful and inspiring November.

Warm regards,

MAHEI Civil Services Institute

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Topic of the Month

Art and Culture

(From newspapers and magazine sources)

1. Rani Phee

[The summary provided is based on an article by Mutua Bahadur, a distinguished curator, cultural researcher, and author of several works. This article "Lashing Phee and Rani Phee in Manipuri Textile History" was recently featured in the Imphal Review of Arts and Politics. You can access the complete article through the following link <https://imphalreviews.in/lashing-phee-and-rani-phee-in-manipuri-textile-history/>]



The article on "Lashing Phee and Rani Phee in Manipuri Textile History" provides a comprehensive overview of the evolution of textile traditions in Manipur, detailing the ancient practices, innovations, and impact on the region's economy and culture.

Ancient Weaving Practices:

From ancient times, weaving has been deeply integrated into the daily life and religious customs of the Meitei community. During the *Umang Lai Haraoba* festival, Meitei women, called *Maibis*, used traditional *loin looms* to weave fabrics, a craft that developed into a cultural practice. By 1074 CE, new weaving techniques emerged with the introduction of the *Pan Iyong* (throw shuttle loom), allowing the production of cotton threads and facilitating everyday clothing production.

Technological Advances:

Significant advancements came by the early 1900s, with the introduction of the *Phisakol* (fly shuttle loom), which increased the efficiency and output of fabric production. Manipur's abundant cotton cultivation supported this textile growth,

with varieties like White Cotton, Reddish Cotton, and Seldom Cotton becoming prominent. By the 2nd century CE, silk weaving had also become prevalent, aided by the rearing of mulberry silkworms. During the reign of Meidingu Loyumba (1074–1122 CE), textiles were specialized, with 33 sub-clans focusing on textile production and seven on coloring techniques.

Modern Development of the Textile Industry:

The early 20th century witnessed further innovations with the use of chemical dyes, which became available in local markets by 1905 and improved by 1930. Maharani Dhanamanjuri was pivotal in promoting Manipuri textiles through the establishment of an Art and Craft Institution in 1927, enabling exports to Europe, Australia, and Africa. This led to the growth of the handloom cottage industry, supported by the efforts of the wife of State Engineer E.M. Jolly. The fabric *Lashing Phee* emerged during this period, characterized by its unique stuffing of cotton into thread wrappings. Initially, *Lashing Phee* was available in simple designs, but it soon evolved with intricate patterns and diverse applications in blankets and clothing.

Contributions of Chungkham Rani Devi:

A key figure in Manipuri textile history was Chungkham Rani Devi, who introduced intricate silk weaving designs inspired by Mutua Bahadur's book "Manipuri Art ki Wari Singbul" (1973) and Phurailatpam Iboton Sharma's "Meitei Phijet Leiteng" (1974). Rani's textiles became widely popular among the affluent class and featured innovative designs such as *Meroi Chura*, *Moirang Phijin*, and *Ningtham Mayek*. Her hallmark creation, *Rani Phee*, involved stitching two complementary silk fabrics to create a single piece, leaving a lasting legacy in Manipuri textiles.

Legacy and Innovation:

Even after Rani Devi's death in 2012, her legacy continues. Weavers innovate new *Rani Phee* designs, ensuring the fabric's continued demand in both domestic and international markets.

This article beautifully highlights how the Manipuri textile industry has intertwined cultural traditions with modern advancements, emphasizing the roles of women and creativity in shaping this dynamic craft.

2. Detailed Summary of "Gifts from the Chalukyas"

Introduction: Northern Bias in Historical Narratives

The article begins by addressing a prevailing bias in Indian architectural history, which largely focuses on the Gupta period in northern India, often ignoring developments in the southern Deccan. This exclusion marginalizes the contributions of the southern regions, particularly the Chalukyas, who made significant advancements in architecture around the same time.

The Early Chalukyas and the Rise of Deccan Architecture

The Chalukya dynasty, based in Karnataka, emerged as a dominant force in temple architecture between 450 and 650 C.E., parallel to the Gupta dynasty's cultural contributions in the north. Their work laid the foundation for Hindu temple structures, with notable influences from earlier rock-cut shrines. Their early architectural experiments can be seen in places like Aihole and Pattadakal, which became important centers for temple-building.

Shift in Power and Influence:

From Aihole to Pattadakal Pulakesin I moved the Chalukya capital from Aihole to Vatapi (modern Badami), consolidating the Chalukyan empire's

control over northern Deccan by the mid-6th century. During this period, the Chalukyas constructed various cave temples in Badami, attracting international attention, including from Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang, who praised Pulakesin II's reign. Though primarily devoted to Brahmanical faiths (Shaivism and Vaishnavism), the Chalukyas showed religious tolerance towards Jainism and Buddhism.

The Architectural Milestones

1. Aihole – The Cradle of Temple Architecture

- The Chalukyas began their architectural experiments in Aihole, where some of the earliest Hindu temples were constructed. The Lad Khan Temple (around 450 C.E.), Durga Temple (6th century), and Meguti Jain Temple reflect early phases of temple development.

- Aihole's temples represent a blend of northern Indian (Nagara) and southern Indian (Vimana) styles, demonstrating an experimental phase in temple design.

2. Badami Cave Temples

- The Badami cave temples, dating from the early 6th century, are a hallmark of Chalukya architecture. There are four major caves—three Hindu and one Jain—representing different religious influences.

- **Cave 1:** Dedicated to Shiva, featuring a Nataraja with 18 arms in a cosmic dance pose.

- **Cave 2:** Dedicated to Vishnu, depicting Varaha rescuing Bhudevi.

- **Cave 3:** The largest, with detailed carvings of Vishnu avatars.

- **Cave 4:** A Jain shrine with Tirthankaras and a large Mahavira sculpture.

- These cave temples showcased sophisticated carvings, including celestial figures, animals, and mythical creatures, demonstrating mastery in rock-cut architecture.

3. Pattadakal – A World Heritage

Site

- By the mid-7th century, Pattadakal emerged as the new center of Chalukya temple-building activity. Known for its royal ceremonies, the temples at Pattadakal reflect a mix of northern Nagara and southern Dravidian architectural styles.

- **Virupaksha Temple:** Built by Queen Loka Mahadevi to commemorate the military victories of Vikramaditya II, the temple became a model for the Kailasa Temple at Ellora.

- **Mallikarjuna Temple:** Built by Vikramaditya II's second queen, it displays Dravidian influences.

- **Papanatha Temple:** A fusion of Nagara and Dravidian styles, showcasing evolving temple architecture.

- Pattadakal's temples highlight the Chalukyas' mastery in combining different architectural styles, and their rich carvings narrate stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas.

Key Architectural Features

- **Temple Layout:** Chalukya temples were typically composed of a pillared verandah, a large hall (mandapa), and a sanctum (garbhagriha). They incorporated both rock-cut and structural techniques.

- **Carvings and Sculptures:** The temples featured intricate carvings, including figures of gods like Shiva, Vishnu, Jain Tirthankaras, and mythological scenes from Hindu epics.

- **Religious Tolerance:** The Chalukyas supported multiple faiths—Brahmanical, Jain, and Buddhist—illustrated by the diversity in temple dedications.

Chalukya Influence and Legacy

- **Religious and Cultural Amalgamation:** The Chalukyas played a crucial role in promoting religious diversity and fostering artistic experimentation.

- **Pioneers in South Indian Temple Architecture:** Their experimentation at Aihole and Pattadakal laid the groundwork for later temple constructions, including the grand Kailasa Temple at Ellora.

Pre-Chalukyan Influence

The article suggests that Chalukya temples may have drawn inspiration from earlier brick structures, potentially dating back to the Satavahana period. Evidence from excavations indicates the existence of pre-Chalukyan temple architecture, which influenced the Chalukyas' experiments in stone architecture.

Relevance for UPSC CSE Preparation

Prelims:

- Focus on **temple architecture**, particularly the **Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal temples**, and their **unique features** (e.g., Nagara and Dravidian styles).

- Chalukya dynasty's **patronage of multiple faiths** (Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Jainism) and the **significant rulers** (Pulakesin I, Pulakesin II, Vikramaditya II).

- **World Heritage sites** like Pattadakal and their significance.

Mains:

- **GS Paper I (Indian Culture):** Discuss the **Chalukya contributions to temple architecture**, their religious tolerance, and cultural integration in South India.
- **Art and Architecture:** Compare the **Gupta and Chalukya architectural styles**, and evaluate the **impact of Chalukyan architecture on later temple styles** (e.g., Kailasa at Ellora).

3. Maharashtra notifies ancient rock art in Ratnagiri as 'protected monument'

The Maharashtra government has designated ancient geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments.' These artifacts, which date back to the Mesolithic era, depict various animals and hold significant historical value. Ratnagiri alone has over 1,500 such artworks across 70 sites, some of which are on Unesco's tentative World Heritage list.

MUMBAI: In a major move towards conservation, the state govt has notified geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments' under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960. The group of petroglyphs at Deud, Ratnagiri, dates back to the Mesolithic era (roughly 20,000-10,000 years ago), according to a notification by the culture department. Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are different types of ancient art forms, both involving the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces.

The petroglyphs depict a rhino, deer, monkey, donkey, and footprints, as per the notification. It said that this group of petroglyphs in the Konkan holds extraordinary importance as it represents the creations of Mesolithic humans; the total area around the monument to be protected is 210 sq metres. The newly protected petroglyphs are located on land owned by Prasad Shankar Apte and others.

Anthropologists estimate the petroglyphs to be around 10,000 years old. While seven -- one 17-ft long -- have been discovered in Umbarle village, Dapoli taluka, the eighth is in Borkhat village, Mandangad

taluka. Clusters of geoglyphs, a form of prehistoric rock art carvings, are spread along 900 km of the Konkan coast in Maharashtra and Goa. Although locals had known about some of these as cultural relics left by their ancestors, their initial discovery was formally recognized in 2012. Ratnagiri alone is home to more than 1,500 such artworks across 70 sites, seven of which are on the Unesco's tentative World Heritage list.

4. Garba of Gujarat

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed "Garba of Gujarat" on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session, held in Kasane, Botswana, from December 5 to 9, 2023. This recognition marks India's 15th inclusion on the list.

Garba, a ritualistic and devotional dance, is primarily celebrated during the nine-day Navaratri festival across Gujarat and India, honoring the feminine energy or Shakti. The dance is performed in homes, temples, village public spaces, urban squares, and large open grounds, making it a participatory community event.

Over the decades, Garba has become a vital component of Gujarati culture, extending its influence to the Indian diaspora worldwide. It is more than just a religious ritual—it fosters social equality by breaking down barriers of socio-economic status, gender, and sect divisions. Garba's inclusive nature continues to attract participation from diverse and marginalized communities, helping to strengthen social bonds and keep this vibrant living tradition alive.

5. When did humans first ride horses?

Here's why the answer to this question may be more complicated than previously thought:

A recent study questions the Kurgan hypothesis which suggests that humans

domesticated horses as early as the 4th millenium BCE.

A recent study challenges the widely accepted Kurgan hypothesis, which suggests that humans first domesticated horses around 3500 BCE. The Kurgan hypothesis, proposed in the early 20th century, posits that the Yamnaya people, who lived near the Black Sea, were the first to domesticate horses. These early humans allegedly used horses for transportation across Eurasia, spreading proto-versions of many modern languages, including English and French.

In 2023, researchers analyzing Yamnaya skeletons from around 3000 BCE claimed to have found evidence of horse riding, based on wear and tear in the bones, which seemed to support the Kurgan hypothesis. However, a new study led by Lauren Hosek introduces skepticism about these findings. Hosek and her team reviewed medical studies of modern equestrians and historical human remains, finding that the skeletal changes often attributed to horseback riding could result from other activities, such as riding carts, donkeys, or cattle.

The repetitive pressure caused by sitting in a flexed position, as in cart-riding, could lead to similar skeletal changes, making it difficult to definitively link the Yamnaya skeletons to horse domestication. Hosek emphasizes that human skeletons alone are insufficient evidence to prove early horseback riding. She argues for a more comprehensive approach, combining human skeletal data with genetic, archaeological, and horse remains to better understand the domestication timeline.

This new research complicates the previous understanding and suggests that the question of

when humans first began riding horses may be more nuanced than previously thought.

6. Recently approved *Classical Languages of India*

The criteria were revised in 2024 as follows:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years.
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
- Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
- The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots.

Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved to confer the status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages. Classical languages are regarded as the custodians of India's ancient and profound cultural legacy, preserving the rich history, literature, and traditions of their respective communities. By conferring this status, the government seeks to honor and protect the linguistic milestones of Bharat's diverse cultural landscape, ensuring that future generations can access and appreciate the deep historical roots of these languages. This move not only reinforces the importance of linguistic diversity but also acknowledges the vital role these languages play in shaping the nation's cultural identity.

The designation of a language as classical is intended to recognize its historical significance and its role as a guardian of Bharat's rich cultural and intellectual heritage. These languages have been essential in preserving and transmitting India's ancient knowledge systems, philosophies, and values across generations for thousands of years. By recognizing these

languages as classical, the government acknowledges their deep-rooted antiquity, vast literary traditions, and their invaluable contribution to the cultural fabric of the nation. This recognition highlights the significant cultural and linguistic contributions these languages have made to India’s heritage. It will not only elevate their stature but will also facilitate efforts toward the promotion, preservation, and further research of these languages, ensuring their continued relevance in the modern world.

Six Indian languages namely Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia were earlier accorded the status of Classical Language. Conferring the status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit,

Assamese and Bengali languages on October 03, 2024, bringing the total number of classical languages to 11.

Languages	Date of Recognition	Notification by Source	Notification Date
1. Tamil	October 12, 2004	Ministry of Home Affairs	October 12, 2004
2. Sanskrit	November 25, 2005	Ministry of Home Affairs	November 25, 2005
3. Telugu	October 31, 2008	Ministry of Culture	October 31, 2008
4. Kannada	October 31, 2008	Ministry of Culture	October 31, 2008
5. Malayalam	August 8, 2013	Ministry of Culture	August 8, 2013
6. Odia	March 1, 2014	Ministry of Culture	March 1, 2014

The Ministry of Home Affairs initially granted the status to Tamil and Sanskrit, and the Ministry of Culture took over the responsibility for further implementations and future recognitions. The Ministry of Culture established the Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) on November 1, 2004, to assess future proposals for the recognition of classical languages.

The Ministry of Education has taken various steps for advancing Classical Languages. In 2020, three Central Universities were established through an Act of Parliament to promote Sanskrit. The Central Institute of Classical Tamil was created to facilitate translating ancient Tamil texts, promoting research, and offering courses for university students and language scholars. To further enhance the study and preservation of Classical Languages, the Centres for Excellence for

studies in Classical Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia were established under the auspices of the Central Institute of Indian Languages in Mysuru. Additionally, several national and international awards have been introduced to recognize and encourage achievements in the field of Classical Languages. Other benefits provided by the Ministry of Education include National Awards for Classical Languages, university chairs, and centers dedicated to promoting Classical Languages.

The inclusion of languages as Classical Languages will create significant employment opportunities, especially in the academic and research sectors. Additionally, the preservation, documentation, and digitization of ancient texts in these languages will generate jobs in areas such as archiving, translation, publishing, and digital media.

Recognizing the languages as classical encourage scholarly research, preservation, and the revitalization of ancient texts and knowledge systems, which are essential to India's intellectual and cultural identity. Furthermore, it instills a sense of pride and ownership among the speakers of these languages, promoting national integration and aligning with the broader vision of a self-reliant and culturally rooted India.

In conclusion, the Union Cabinet's decision to confer Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali reflects a deep recognition of the invaluable role these languages have played in shaping India's cultural and intellectual heritage. This step not only acknowledges their historical and literary significance but also underscores the government's commitment to preserving and promoting India's linguistic diversity. The initiative is expected to foster academic and research opportunities, enhance global collaborations, and contribute to the nation’s cultural and economic growth. By safeguarding these languages for future generations, the government is reinforcing a broader vision of cultural self-reliance and national integration, in line with the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat and a culturally rooted India.

7. The San code

An African tribe issues a code of ethics for researchers. It's an opportunity again to question colonial roots of anthropology

The San code of ethics addresses the historical asymmetry and injustice where one group of humans, particularly Western researchers during the 19th and 20th centuries, objectified another. This objectification was part of the broader imperialist agenda, with Western scientists studying “natives” and using their findings to support pseudo-scientific theories such as eugenics. These theories were used to justify racial segregation in America, Nazi Germany, and apartheid South Africa.

Over time, academia has recognized and sought to correct these exploitative methods, but significant gaps remain in genuinely involving indigenous or marginalized communities in research. The San code, though not legally binding, offers a framework for addressing these long-standing issues by making the studied communities active participants in the research process, something decades of self-reflection have struggled to achieve. This shift aims to move beyond past wrongs and foster a more ethical, collaborative approach to research.

The San Code

The San peoples, widely known as ‘first’ or ‘indigenous’ peoples of Southern Africa, have been the object of much academic research over the past centuries. In recent years San leaders have, with increasing confidence, arrived at the conclusion that most academic research on their communities was neither requested, nor useful, nor protected in any meaningful way. In many cases dissatisfaction if not actual harm was the result.

In 2017, the South African San published the San Code of Research Ethics, which requires all researchers intending to engage with San communities to commit to four central values, namely **fairness, respect, care and honesty**, as well as to comply with a simple process of community approval. The Code was launched as part of the EU-funded TRUST project, which catalysed a global collaborative effort to stop ‘ethics dumping’, i.e. the application of double standards in research.

8. Mahatma Gandhi's views on Israel, Palestine

The Mahatma held deep sympathies for the historically persecuted Jewish people. But this did not translate to him supporting the formation of Israel in Palestine.

Mahatma Gandhi's views on Israel and Palestine were complex, shaped by his sympathy for the persecuted Jewish people, but he did not support the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. In a 1938 article in *Harijan*, Gandhi expressed his belief that Palestine belonged to the Arabs, just as England belonged to the English and France to the French. He sympathized deeply with the Jews, comparing their historical persecution by Christians to the treatment of untouchables by Hindus, and considered the Nazi persecution of Jews particularly egregious, even supporting the idea of a justifiable war against Germany to stop it.

Despite this sympathy, Gandhi opposed the Zionist movement's aim of creating a Jewish state. He believed that establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine, especially through British support, would lead to the oppression of Arabs and was fundamentally violent. Gandhi argued that Jewish settlement in Palestine should only happen with

Arab goodwill and not through force, such as British military power. He saw the Zionist cause as a violation of both the rights of the Arabs and the principle of non-violence.

Gandhi's stance did not shift even after the Holocaust. Though there is a claim that he expressed support for the Jewish cause in a 1946 conversation with his biographer Louis Fischer, Gandhi later clarified his position in *Harijan*, reiterating his opposition to the imposition of Jews on Palestine and denouncing the violent methods used by Zionist groups. Ultimately, Gandhi's opposition to a Zionist state remained consistent with his belief in non-violence and justice for all peoples.

9. Vaishnav Jan To

Mahatma Gandhi's favorite bhajan, "**Vaishnav Jan To**," was not merely a devotional song for him; it symbolized the virtues and moral principles that he upheld throughout his life. Written by the 15th-century Gujarati poet-philosopher Narsinh Mehta, the bhajan extols the qualities of a true Vaishnav (a devotee of Lord Vishnu), emphasizing selflessness, empathy, and humility.

The bhajan, which reflects the spirit of *jivada* (empathy for the suffering of others) and *ahimsa* (non-violence), resonated deeply with Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha and Sarvodaya. Its message of compassion and service to others without expectation aligned with Gandhi's mission for India's independence, which was grounded in non-violence, truth, and social justice. For Gandhi, this hymn became a guiding force in his life and was often sung during prayer meetings and gatherings, reinforcing the values of humility, public service, and spiritual dedication that were crucial to his leadership in the Indian freedom struggle.

"Vaishnav Jan To" also became emblematic of the moral ethos that inspired the Indian independence movement. It was more than a song—it was a reflection of Gandhi's belief that personal virtue should go hand in hand with public service. The hymn's focus on serving others without seeking reward mirrored Gandhi's advocacy for social justice and non-violent resistance.

Even beyond Gandhi's time, "Vaishnav Jan To" has continued to inspire generations. In 2019, during the celebration of Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, artists from over 124 countries came together to perform renditions of the hymn, showcasing its universal appeal and Gandhi's enduring legacy. The bhajan, performed by Indian legends such as Lata Mangeshkar and Pandit Jasraj, remains a symbol of the timeless values Gandhi cherished—values that continue to inspire people around the world today.

10. Haveli Sangeet:

A unique form of temple music rooted in the Bhakti tradition, particularly the Vaishnav Sampradaya, preserving over 5,000 years of musical traditions.

·**Origins:** Emerged from the Pushtimargiya Sangeet Parampara of the Vaishnav Sampradaya during the Bhakti movement, which revived ancient temple music during medieval times.

·**Nathdwara's Role:** The music flourished around Lord Shrinathji's temple in Nathdwara, Rajasthan, which is known as the seat of Pushtimarg, leading to the music being called "Haveli Sangeet" since temples were referred to as 'Havelis.'

Core Elements:

- **Ragas:** Haveli Sangeet incorporates raga-based singing with seasonal variations.

Ragas like Bhairav, Bilawal, Deshkar, and Sarang are used for various services (sewas).

- **Ashtayam Sewa:** A devotional service that marks different stages of the day with padas (hymns) sung in specific ragas. The eight sewas are Mangala, Shringar, Gwaal, Rajbhoga, Uthapan, Bhoga, Sandhya, Aarati, and Shayan.

Astachap Poets: Kumbhandas, Surdas, and others were among the Astachaps, composing padas in Brij Bhasha and Sanskrit, which are still sung in Dhrupad, Khyal, and Bhajan styles.

Court Influence: Over time, Haveli Sangeet's devotional aspects influenced court musicians, leading to its spread into Hindustani classical music across various gharanas. Many of the current bandishes in Hindustani music originated from Haveli Sangeet.

Cultural Legacy: Pandit Jasraj was instrumental in popularizing Haveli Sangeet outside temples, performing and recording compositions that brought the tradition to a wider audience.

Distinct Ragas and Instruments: Haveli Sangeet retains several unique ragas and ancient instruments like veenas and percussive instruments referenced in temple sculptures.

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- **Astachap Poets:** Kumbhandas, Surdas, and others were among the Astachaps, composing padas

in Brij Bhasha and Sanskrit, which are still sung in Dhrupad, Khyal, and Bhajan styles.

- **Court Influence:** Over time, Haveli Sangeet's devotional aspects influenced court musicians, leading to its spread into Hindustani classical music across various gharanas. Many of the current bandishes in Hindustani music originated from Haveli Sangeet.

- **Cultural Legacy:** Pandit Jasraj was instrumental in popularizing Haveli Sangeet outside temples, performing and recording compositions that brought the tradition to a wider audience.

- **Distinct Ragas and Instruments:** Haveli Sangeet retains several unique ragas and ancient instruments like veenas and percussive instruments referenced in temple sculptures.

11. Raja Parba

Raja Parba is a significant festival in Odisha that celebrates womanhood and highlights the role of women in society. The three-day event is centered around themes of women's well-being, environmental sustainability, and social change.

1. Celebration of Womanhood: The first day, The festival places women at the center, acknowledging their vital role in families and communities. It emphasizes self-care, pampering, and relaxation for women, subtly challenging traditional gender norms.

2. On "Pahili Raja," the first day of the festival, homes come alive with vibrant activity. Women, the true queens of this celebration, turn their spaces into colorful sanctuaries. The air is filled with the enticing aromas of traditional delicacies being prepared in the kitchens. Instead of the usual sounds of daily chores, laughter fills the atmosphere as women take the time to relax and indulge in self-care.

3. **Connection to Nature:** The second day, "Raja Sankranti," coincides with the arrival of the monsoon, symbolizing gratitude towards Mother Earth for the life-giving rains that promise a good harvest. The festival highlights respect for nature and sustainable practices.

4. **Sisterhood and Community:** "Doli Khela" or swing play is a major feature, where women dress in vibrant outfits, enjoy swings, and engage in joyful activities, symbolizing the bond of sisterhood. Men also participate, promoting equality and shared happiness within the community.

5. **Cultural Significance:** Raja Parba blends Odisha's rich heritage with a celebration of feminine power and community spirit, fostering a deeper respect for women and nature.

12. Madhubani Painting (also known as Mithila painting)

- **Origins:** Madhubani painting originated from the Mithila region of Bihar, India. It is said to have begun during the time of the ancient Indian epic, *Ramayana*, when King Janaka commissioned artists to depict his daughter Sita's bridal ceremony. This event laid the foundation for the art form, with women later painting similar depictions on walls and floors during festivals and ceremonies.

- **Global Recognition:** British Colonial Officer William G. Archer discovered Madhubani paintings in 1934, bringing them to international attention. The paintings evolved from being ephemeral artworks on walls to more permanent surfaces such as canvas and cloth, providing

a livelihood for rural women during times of drought.

Six key features of Madhubani Painting

- **Style and Technique:** Madhubani art is known for its vibrant colors, geometric patterns, and depictions of Hindu mythology, nature, and daily life. Paintings are divided into horizontal and vertical sections and include intricate line drawings. Despite the complexity, they maintain simplicity by using natural materials.
 - **Styles:** Madhubani painting includes various styles such as *Tantrik*, *Kohbar*, *Bharni*, *Godna*, and *Katchni*, each with unique characteristics and themes. These styles contribute to the diversity of the art form.
- **Significance for Maithili Women:**
 - **Cultural Identity:** Madhubani painting holds cultural significance for Maithili women, preserving their history and traditions. Through visual storytelling, women depict myths, legends, and religious scenes from Hindu epics. The art form is also a source of economic empowerment for rural women in Bihar, providing livelihood opportunities.
- **Themes and Colors:**
 - **Themes:** The paintings explore themes ranging from Hindu mythology and nature to rituals, daily life, and contemporary issues like gender equality and environmental conservation. Despite addressing modern themes, the essence of traditional Madhubani art is maintained.
 - **Styles and Colors:** Each style of Madhubani painting uses distinct color

schemes and strokes. For instance, the *Tantrik* and *Bharni* styles feature vibrant and intricate designs, while *Katchni* focuses on minimalist, monochrome strokes in black and white.

- **Noted Artists:**

Renowned Madhubani artists include *Sita Devi*, *Ganga Devi*, *Bharti Dayal*, *Leela Devi*, and *Shashi Kala Devi*. Their works reflect the diverse styles and themes of the Madhubani tradition.

- **Government Promotion:**

- **Government Initiatives:** To promote and preserve Madhubani art, the government has established cultural centers, provided financial aid for artists, organized training workshops, and documented efforts to ensure the art form's continuity.

- **Cultural Significance:**

- Madhubani painting represents both a cultural treasure of Bihar and an important part of India's artistic heritage. It serves as a symbol of cultural identity and empowerment for Maithili women, while evolving to address modern issues. Through government efforts and contributions from artists, the art form remains dynamic and continues to gain global appreciation.

- **Relationship between Madhubani painting and women**

Madhubani painting holds significant cultural importance as a traditional art form rooted in the Mithila region of Bihar, India. It is deeply tied to the region's folklore, mythology, and rituals, serving as a cultural repository passed down through generations. Historically, it was painted on the walls and floors of homes during special

occasions and festivals, reflecting the region's traditions and stories.

The relationship between Madhubani painting and women is profound, as women have been the primary custodians of this art form since its inception. It was traditionally passed down from mother to daughter, with each generation contributing its own unique touch while preserving its traditional motifs and techniques. This process empowered women, enabling them to express their creativity, preserve their cultural heritage, and establish themselves as successful artists.

In the modern era, women artists continue to dominate the Madhubani art scene, achieving national and international recognition. They have adapted to contemporary mediums like paper, canvas, fabric, and digital platforms, helping the art flourish globally. These artists also utilize social media and e-commerce to reach new audiences and sustain themselves, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic. While facing challenges in maintaining the balance between tradition and commercial demands, women artists continue to innovate while respecting the cultural roots of Madhubani painting.

13. UNESCO Creative Cities Network

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) acknowledged cities for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centred urban planning. With the latest additions, the Network now counts 350 cities in more than one hundred countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music.

Two Indian cities gained recognition: Kozhikode in Kerala was named a 'City of

Literature,’ and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh was designated a ‘City of Music.’

Note

Other Indian cities in the UCCN include:

- Jaipur: Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)
- Varanasi: City of Music (2015)
- Chennai: City of Music (2017)
- Mumbai: Film (2019)
- Hyderabad: Gastronomy (2019)
- Srinagar: Crafts and Folk Arts (2021)

Significance of Kozhikode and Gwalior

Kozhikode as the City of Literature:

- Kozhikode is the first Indian city to receive UNESCO’s ‘City of Literature’ title.
- It has a rich tradition of hosting literary events, including the Kerala Literature Festival, one of the largest in Asia.
- This recognition highlights Kozhikode as a hub for literary discussions and intellectual exchanges.
- The city boasts over 500 libraries and is home to several distinguished writers, such as S. K. Pottekkatt, Thikkodiyan, and P. Valsala Sanjayan, contributing to the richness of Malayalam literature.

Gwalior as the City of Music:

- Gwalior is the second Indian city to earn the ‘City of Music’ title, following Varanasi in 2015.
- Known as the birthplace of Tansen, a legendary musician in Emperor Akbar’s court, Gwalior has deep roots in Indian classical music.
- The city is the origin of the Gwalior Gharana, one of the oldest and most influential schools of Hindustani classical music.
- Gwalior hosts the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, one of India’s largest annual music festivals, drawing artists and music lovers from across the globe.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- Established in 2004, UCCN fosters cooperation among cities that recognize creativity as a key factor in urban development.
- It aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 11, which focuses on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- The network spans seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature, and music.

14. The Jnanpith Award 2024

Renowned Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar **Jagadguru Rambhadracharya** have been named recipients of the prestigious 58th Jnanpith Award. This recognition honors their immense contributions to Indian literature, each in their respective languages.

Gulzar, celebrated for his work in Hindi cinema and Urdu poetry, has earned numerous accolades throughout his career. His past honors include the *Sahitya Akademi Award* for Urdu (2002), the *Padma Bhushan* (2004), and the *Dadasaheb Phalke Award* (2013), India's highest award in cinema. Additionally, he has won multiple *National Film Awards*, recognized for his lyrical mastery in films like *Ijaazat* (1988) and *Lekin...* (1991). His work reflects the nuanced beauty of Urdu poetry, blending it effortlessly into popular culture through cinema and literature.

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya, a revered Sanskrit scholar and spiritual leader, has authored over 100 books and established the Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, a significant center for Hindu scholarship. His works in Sanskrit literature continue to inspire scholars and devotees alike. This Jnanpith Award is another milestone in his distinguished career, which includes contributions to both religious and educational fields.

Both laureates have left indelible marks on Indian culture, one through the art of poetry and cinema, and the other through Sanskrit literature and spirituality.

Sahitya Akademi Award Overview:

The **Sahitya Akademi Award**, established in 1954, is one of India's most prestigious literary honors, awarded annually by the **Sahitya Akademi** (India's National Academy of Letters). This award is presented for outstanding literary works in 24 recognized languages of India, including English and Rajasthani, which are not listed in the Constitution of India but are recognized by the Akademi.

Key Highlights:

- **Number of Awards:** Each year, 24 awards are given for original literary works, and an equal number of awards for translations across Indian languages.
- **Literary Prestige:** The Sahitya Akademi Award is the second-highest literary honor in India, following the **Jnanpith Award**.

Criteria for Award Selection:

1. **Indian Nationality:** The author must be an Indian citizen.
2. **Outstanding Contribution:** The work must significantly contribute to the language and literature in which it was written.
3. **In Case of Equal Merit:** When two or more works have equal merit, the author's overall literary contribution and reputation are also considered.

Other Sahitya Akademi Recognitions:

- **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar:** Awarded for significant contributions to children's literature, with a focus on works published in the last five years.
- **Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar:** Granted to authors aged 35 and under, recognizing young literary talent.

These awards not only honor literary excellence but also promote linguistic diversity and cultural heritage across India.

Jnanpith Award Overview

The **Jnanpith Award**, established in 1961 by the Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust, is one of India's most prestigious literary honors. It is awarded annually to an author for their outstanding contribution to literature in any of the Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, including English.

Key Facts:

1. **Inception:** The award was conceived in 1961 to commemorate the 50th birthday of Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain, the founder of the Bharatiya Jnanpith. The idea was shaped after extensive discussions with prominent Indian writers and scholars, with its primary objective being to honor remarkable literary work that symbolizes national prestige and international standards.

2. **First Award:** The first Jnanpith Award was presented in 1965 to **G. Sankara Kurup** for his contribution to Malayalam literature.

3. **Eligibility:** Initially, the award was conferred for a specific outstanding work, but since the 18th award (in 1982), the focus has shifted to recognizing the overall literary contribution of an author to Indian literature. As of the 49th award, works in English have also become eligible, alongside other Indian languages.

4. Selection Process:

- Recommendations are made by Language Advisory Committees for each language. These committees are made up of literary critics and scholars

who assess the entire body of work of potential awardees.

- The final decision is made by the **Selection Board**, which consists of eminent scholars and writers who deliberate based on the recommendations and ensure the objective evaluation of the authors' works.

5. **Prize:** The award consists of a **cash prize of ₹11 lakh**, a citation, and a bronze replica of the goddess **Vagdevi (Saraswati)**, symbolizing knowledge and wisdom.

6. **Prestige:** Over the years, the Jnanpith Award has become synonymous with literary excellence, fostering national integrity and showcasing the rich cultural diversity of Indian literature.

Notable Recipients:

- **Gulzar** (2023), renowned Urdu poet and lyricist.
- **Raghuvir Chaudhari** (2015), for his contribution to Gujarati literature.
- **Amitav Ghosh** (2018), the first English-language writer to receive the honor.

The Jnanpith Award stands as a symbol of the highest literary achievement in India, reflecting the vibrancy and complexity of its many languages and literary traditions. However, the award is open only for Indian citizens.

15. Indian film Awards overview

The remarkable journey of Indian cinema began in 1913 when the father of Indian cinema, **Dadasaheb Phalke**, created the first indigenous film, *Raja Harishchandra*. His passion and unwavering dedication to filmmaking paved the way for future generations, inspiring countless storytellers to push boundaries and elevate Indian cinema. To honor this legacy and encourage the

creation of high-quality storytelling, the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** confers the prestigious **National Film Awards** along with cinema's highest honor, the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** each year. The 70th National Film Awards were conferred on 8 October 2024 by Hon. President Draupadi Murmu.

Instituted in 1969 when presented to Devika Rani, the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema. Honoured with the highest award in the field of cinema, the recipients are recognized for their 'outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema'. The **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, India's highest honor in cinema, is presented annually by the President of India to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the growth and development of Indian cinema. The award consists of a Swarna Kamal, a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, and a shawl.

The following members were part of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee:

1. Ms. Asha Parekh
2. Ms. Khushbu Sundar
3. Mr. Vipul Amrutlal Shah

Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award 2022.

Legendary actor **Mr. Mithun Chakraborty** was honoured with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award** for the year **2022**. **Mithun Chakraborty**, also known as **Mithun Da**, is an iconic Indian actor, producer, and politician, recognized for his versatile roles and distinctive dancing style. Born Gourang Chakraborty on June 16, 1950, in Kolkata, West Bengal, he earned the National Film Award for Best Actor in his very first film, "Mrigayaa" (1976).

Mithun gained significant popularity in the 1980s with his role in "Disco Dancer" (1982), a film that became a major success both in India and internationally, establishing him as a dancing sensation.

Later, he won two more National Film Awards for his roles in Tahader Katha (1992) and Swami Vivekananda (1998). Over his extensive career, Mithun has acted in more than **350 films** across various Indian languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Odia, Bhojpuri, and Telugu. He is known for his diverse performances, ranging from action to drama and comedy, and has won several awards, including **three National Film Awards for Best Actor**.

16. Lachit Borphukan

Extraordinary heroism of **Lachit Borphukan**, the Ahom Commander-in-Chief, who led a historic victory against the Mughal army during the Battle of Saraighat. Despite being severely ill and leading a small, outnumbered force, Lachit displayed unmatched bravery, tactical genius, and patriotic fervor, defeating a vast Mughal force consisting of thousands of infantry, cavalry, archers, gunners, and a large naval fleet.

Lachit's remarkable victory over the Mughal commander Ram Singh, through guerrilla warfare and psychological tactics, is celebrated as a symbol of India's martial prowess. The Ahoms' naval skills and Lachit's leadership shattered Mughal morale, leading to their retreat. His uncompromising patriotism is exemplified by his decision to execute his own maternal uncle for negligence during the construction of a crucial defensive embankment.

Although his victory is one of the most significant military achievements in Indian history, Lachit's legacy remains relatively unknown. To honor his contribution, the National Defence Academy has named its "Best Cadet" award after

him, and a statue of Lachit stands at its entrance. The Assam government is working to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Lachit Borphukan's birth with national recognition, advocating for the inclusion of his story in academic curricula across India.

Obituary



The world of Indian classical dance mourns the loss of a true icon, **Yamini Krishnamurti**, who passed away at 83 in Delhi. Known as a pioneer in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, with equal mastery in Odissi, Krishnamurti leaves behind a legacy that has inspired generations of dancers.



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(JRF, UPSC Mains 3+)
5. **Sir Momocha** (CAPF 1 time Interview)
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Interview With Arvind Hanglem



- **Arvind Hanglem**, IAS 2023 batch; Manipur cadre
- Current Designation: **Assistant Commissioner, Thoubal**
- **AIR 83** UPSC CSE 2022

Q1. Congratulations on your current training as a CS in Manipur! To start off, could you share a little about your background and what inspired you to pursue a career in the civil services?

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Team Mahei & Da Luwang for inviting me to share my journey in this Q&A session. It's an honor to reflect upon the path that led me to the civil services and to perhaps inspire others along the way.

I hail from the humble environs of Imphal, Manipur. Life dealt me a heavy blow when I lost my father at the tender age of five (5), leaving my widowed mother to raise me single-handedly. Growing up, I intimately knew the face of poverty—the kind that doesn't afford you the luxury to chase dreams with ease. Yet, it was within this simplicity and struggle that I learned the values of humility, resilience, and determination.

My educational roots are firmly planted in my hometown. I completed my 10th standard at Imphal Public School (IPS), Canchipur under BOSEM, and my 12th at Millennium Institute of Sciences (MIS), Kwakeithel Mayaikoibi under COHSEM. With

aspirations reaching beyond the hills of Manipur, I ventured to Delhi to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Physics Honours from Sri Aurobindo College, Malviya Nagar, South Campus, University of Delhi. While preparing for the UPSC CSE, I also completed my Master's from IGNOU and am currently engaged in a sponsored Master's course at JNU Delhi.

The journey towards the UPSC CSE was anything but smooth. I faced the sting of failure not once, but three (3) consecutive times at the Prelims stage. Missing the cut-off by margins as slim as 1.5 and 2.5 marks in 2020 and 2021 was disheartening, to say the least. There were moments when the weight of these setbacks nearly convinced me to abandon this path entirely. However, the unwavering support and encouragement from my family and close friends reignited my resolve. I delved deep into introspection, meticulously analyzing where I had faltered. This period of self-examination was crucial—it transformed my weaknesses into strengths.

With renewed vigor, I approached the 2022 Prelims and cleared it with a comfortable margin above the general cut-off. Riding this wave of confidence, I navigated through the Mains and the Personality Test, ultimately securing an All India Rank (AIR) of 83 in the UPSC CSE 2022. This achievement wasn't just a personal victory; it was a testament to perseverance and the power of relentless effort.

My inspiration to join the civil services is woven from multiple threads. As a child from a modest family, I nurtured a distant dream of making a meaningful contribution to society. Initially, the concepts of the IAS and civil services were abstract to me, shadowed by limited exposure and awareness. My early ambitions leaned toward becoming a scientist—a theoretical physicist, to be

precise—given my academic background in physics. Yet, life has a way of steering us toward our true calling. The turning point came when I witnessed seniors and fellow Manipuris conquering the UPSC CSE. Their successes stirred something profound within me.

A sudden, compelling urge to serve in the civil services took hold—a desire to contribute to governance and administration at the highest levels. This aspiration was not just mine but resonated deeply with my family's hopes as well. It became clear that through hard work, dedication, and unwavering effort, I could achieve what once seemed elusive. From that moment on, there was no looking back. I poured everything I had into this pursuit, driven by the conviction that I could make a difference.

Q2. The Civil Services Examination is known for its rigorous nature. What were some of the biggest challenges you faced during your preparation, and how did you overcome the setbacks of early attempt failures?

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is indeed a rigorous journey—one that tests not just your intellect but the very core of your determination. It's often humorously dubbed the "Unpredictable Public Service Commission," a testament to the ever-shifting landscape that keeps every aspirant guessing. Anyone who's embarked on this path, whether they've reached the destination or not, would resonate with this sentiment.

I faced countless challenges along the way, more than words here could ever fully capture. Yet, I'll try to shed light on a few.

Firstly, the relentless uncertainty is perhaps the most daunting. You tread a path without any guarantee of reaching the end, and that

unpredictability feels like a gamble with your future. It's a weight that never truly lifts.

Secondly, life doesn't pause for your ambitions. Personal and family responsibilities tug at you, making it impossible to devote every moment to preparation. As days turn into years, you realize that while you're chasing a dream, time is slipping by—bringing with it the pressures of age and financial responsibilities. Even if the exam doesn't demand lavish expenditures, staying accountable and keeping your conscience clear becomes a balancing act.

Thirdly, the nagging question: If not UPSC, then what? I grappled with this repeatedly, especially after not clearing the Prelims three (3) times in a row. That lingering doubt can cast a long shadow over your confidence, instilling a fear that's hard to shake.

Academically, the challenges are just as intense. You constantly wonder if you're on the right track, if your studies align with what's needed, or if you've truly covered the vast syllabus. This uncertainty demands continuous introspection—a personal SWOT analysis to realign your efforts and strategies.

Despite these manifold challenges, I urge every aspirant not to be overwhelmed. Let these obstacles be stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks. Always circle back to that burning question: "Why did I start this journey?" Let the answer fuel your resolve. Stay true to your purpose, overcome each hurdle with grace, and keep your eyes firmly fixed on the horizon.

Q3. Is there any specific subject or topic (GS, optional, essay, etc.) you found particularly challenging? How did you approach it?

I believe that every paper carries its own set of challenges, though the magnitude of those

challenges can vary. It's difficult to pinpoint a specific topic or subject as particularly "challenging." However, the main hurdle for me emerged during the gap between the Prelims and the Mains—the so-called "trade-off" in allocating preparation time between General Studies (GS) papers and Optionals.

As someone once said, *"Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."* This period truly tested my resolve. Here's a brief layout specific to my journey, along with the approaches I adopted:

Subjects /Topics	Challenges identified	Approaches/Methodologies adopted
Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing the paper within the specified time limit, especially since I had to write in a different script for my optional subject. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined my writing process by removing unnecessary steps such as "overhead power line" to write faster. Substantiated my arguments with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Incorporating more relevant examples to convince the examiner from multiple angles, particularly in scientifically oriented papers like Theory of Linguistics. → Adding quotations in original archaic forms, especially in papers on Ancient & Medieval Manipuri Literature.
Essay	Brainstorming and structuring my arguments coherently. Diversifying points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making the two essays appear distinct in argument and structure, but not too drastically. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocated more quality time with the belief that <i>"You reap what you sow."</i> Sought constant feedback from peers and mentors while striving to maintain my originality in writing. Scheduled specific brainstorming sessions on alternate days for one (1) hour each, committing to writing four (4) essays per week.
GS Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision and time management trade-offs. 	Thankfully, I had a strong command over GS papers. With dedicated time, proper revision, and consistent practice, I managed to tackle them effectively before the Mains exam.

Q4. How did you manage stress and maintain a balance between mental health and the demands of preparing for the exam?

I think, one of the most significant pillars of support was my peer group. We formed a close-knit circle via a Telegram group and regularly held online

meetings through Google Meet to discuss Previous Years' Questions (PYQs) and current affairs. These sessions not only deepened our understanding but also kept us laser-focused, preventing unnecessary distractions, especially as the examination loomed closer. The camaraderie we shared was a beacon of light—a reminder that we were not alone in this journey. Together, we navigated the labyrinth of preparation, buoyed by mutual encouragement and collective wisdom.

Family, too, was an unwavering source of motivation. Whenever feelings of doubt or weariness crept in, I didn't hesitate to reach out to them. They stood by me unconditionally, offering words of encouragement and a safe space to express my fears. They never judged; instead, they lifted me up, reminding me of my strengths and the reasons I embarked on this path. Their faith in me was a constant reminder of the love and support that awaited beyond the pages of my books.

In seeking balance, I turned inward, embracing practices that nurtured my mental well-being. Daily meditation for 15-20 minutes became a sanctuary—a moment of peace where I could centre myself amidst the chaos. Practicing gratitude exercises shifted my focus from the pressures of the exam to the abundance of positives in my life. This mindfulness fostered resilience, allowing me to approach each day with renewed energy.

Journaling emerged as a therapeutic outlet. Pouring my emotions onto paper helped me process the highs and lows of preparation. It was a personal dialogue, a reflective space where I could acknowledge my progress and the challenges overcome. Each entry was a testament to the long journey I had undertaken—a reminder of my growth and the dedication fueling my aspirations.

Learning from past experiences, I consciously avoided setting unrealistic targets. In previous attempts, overambitious goals led to disappointment when they weren't met, exacerbating stress. This time, I embraced a more compassionate approach, setting achievable objectives that honored my well-being. This shift not only enhanced my productivity but also alleviated the pressure that often hampers performance.

I also reframed my relationship with mock test series. Rather than allowing them to define my self-worth, I viewed them as tools for growth—means to assess my understanding and identify areas for improvement. I recall scoring around 60-70 marks in VISION mock papers, yet ultimately achieving nearly 110 marks in the actual UPSC Prelims. This experience reinforced that mock tests are not definitive judgments of one's capabilities but opportunities to refine one's preparation. They became stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks.

So, it's all about shifting perspectives—seeing challenges not as insurmountable obstacles but as opportunities for growth.

Q5. Can you share any key lessons or insights you've gained from your foundation course or early training at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)?

Embarking on the journey as part of the IAS has been profoundly transformative. The Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) wasn't just an induction—it was an immersion into the essence of serving our nation.

One of the most impactful lessons was the power of unity in diversity. Joining the 98th Foundation Course with fellow civil servants from every corner of India, I witnessed how our varied backgrounds

melded into a shared commitment to the nation. Daily interactions and ice-breaking sessions weren't merely about building friendships; they were about fostering collaboration essential for effective governance.

The off-site training modules were equally enlightening. The 10-day Himalayan trek wasn't just a physical challenge—it symbolized the resilience required in public service. Each step reminded me of the determination needed to navigate the complexities of administration. The village visit immersed me in rural realities, underscoring the importance of empathy in policymaking. Understanding the daily lives of our fellow citizens taught me that effective administration begins with listening.

Participating in Aarambh 5.0 at Kevadia, Gujarat, expanded my horizons, emphasizing the need for innovative and forward-thinking governance. Transitioning into the Phase-I Professional Course deepened these insights, honing skills specific to the IAS role in governance, public policy, and administration.

The 60-day Bharat Darshan was perhaps the most impactful segment. Traveling across India, we experienced the nation's vastness and diversity firsthand. Visits to the Army, Navy, and Air Force installations instilled profound respect for our armed forces' dedication. Engaging with public sectors like ONGC and private innovators like Infosys highlighted the dynamic interplay driving national progress.

Through these experiences, a fundamental insight crystallized: as part of an "All India Service," our role is to unify this diverse nation. We're not just administrators; we're the threads weaving together India's rich tapestry. This realization underscored the immense responsibility we bear.

Another key lesson was the necessity of adaptability and continuous learning. Facing diverse challenges emphasized that flexibility and openness to new ideas are crucial in effective administration.

Q6. Being posted in Manipur, how has your perception of governance and administration changed compared to what you imagined during your preparation?

Well, I have only a few months of experience as a civil servant here, so it might be too early to comment on this as well. Nonetheless, I can point out few observations as well.

Firstly, there's a distinct difference between working in central government organizations and state organizations, particularly concerning resource availability and prioritization. In Manipur, I've noticed that administrative processes can seem somewhat scattered, largely due to infrastructural constraints.

Furthermore, the social hierarchy commonly observed in mainland cadres is less pronounced in the northeastern cadres, including Manipur. Here, there's a stronger sense of empathy and a more informal connection between senior officials and subordinates. The lines of hierarchy are present but foster a collaborative environment rather than a strictly hierarchical one.

While the governance structures and administrative mechanisms in Manipur are still evolving and may not yet be at their optimal efficiency, there's a collective effort to improve. The ongoing ethnic tensions since 3rd of May, 2023, have posed significant challenges and have, to some extent, reduced administrative efficiency. However, every officials including me are dedicated to streamlining and strengthening services to ensure that citizens face minimal bureaucratic hurdles.

Initiatives such as the implementation of the e-office system for communication within departments and directorates, as well as the e-district platform for public grievance redressal and certificate issuance, are notable milestones. These developments are enhancing public governance and improving service delivery mechanisms.

Q7. What has been your most memorable experience so far in your early days of official work as an IAS officer in Manipur?

One of the most profound and memorable experiences in my early days as an IAS officer in Manipur has been my visits to the relief camps. I even spent time living one (1) night at the Lamboikhongnangkhong Relief Camp in Imphal West, immersing myself in the daily realities of those displaced. Listening to their endless stories of horror, each narrated with raw emotion, was both heart-wrenching and humbling. People from different places and backgrounds shared varied tales, yet they all had the same plea: ***"Ebungo, Ema d yum haninge, yum do udaba kuire."*** I often found myself without an answer, still pondering and searching for a solution.

In my role as Assistant Commissioner in Thoubal, I frequently visit relief camps to oversee welfare mechanisms. One afternoon, while attending a skill development workshop, I met two women who left an indelible mark on me with their unwavering spirit. Both had become internally displaced due to the ethnic conflict and were residing in one of the relief camps. Despite the immense hardships they faced, hope still glimmered in their eyes.

One of them embraced the opportunity to engage in the skill-building activities organized at the camp. With dedication and passion, she honed her craft in Kauna and crochet products, eventually becoming a master trainer. Her expertise not only benefited her

own sense of purpose but also inspired many other women in the camp to learn and develop new skills. The other woman's resilience and determination were equally inspiring, symbolizing the strength that can arise from adversity.

I carry with me the stories of Thoubal—the pains, the joys, the resilience. In quiet moments, I reflect on the courage of these women, whose determination exemplifies the profound impact one can have when duty is performed with compassion. Their stories have given me a ray of hope, a reminder that even in the darkest times, the human spirit can shine brightly.

Perhaps hope is something that cannot be lost. Maybe time is the only healing factor, and we must all wait patiently for it to mend the wounds. These experiences have not only shaped my perception of my role but have also reinforced my commitment to serving with empathy and dedication. They serve as a constant reminder of why I chose this path—to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Q8. From your experience so far, what would you say are the most crucial qualities for an IAS officer, especially working in a state like Manipur?

From my experience so far, the most crucial qualities for an IAS officer working in a state like Manipur are deeply rooted in empathy, integrity, and objectivity. These qualities are not just abstract ideals but practical necessities in a region rich with diversity, history, and unique challenges.

Empathy & Compassion stands at the forefront. Manipur is a tapestry of various communities, each with its own stories, struggles, and aspirations. To serve effectively, an officer must genuinely understand and feel the pulse of the people. This means going beyond official reports and statistics to connect personally with individuals and

communities. It's about listening to their stories, acknowledging their hardships, and recognizing their dreams.

Integrity is indispensable. In a role where decisions can significantly impact lives, maintaining the highest ethical standards is essential. Integrity builds trust—not just between the officer and the community, but also within the administrative system. It ensures that actions are guided by honesty and a steadfast commitment to the greater good, rather than personal gain or external pressures.

Objectivity is equally important. Manipur's complex socio-political landscape requires decisions that are fair, unbiased, and based on factual evidence. An officer must navigate through various opinions, emotions, and potential conflicts of interest to arrive at solutions that are just and equitable for all parties involved.

Building personal connections is another vital quality. By forming genuine relationships with the people we serve, we bridge the gap between administration and community. This connection fosters mutual respect and opens channels for more effective communication. It helps in understanding the unspoken needs and sentiments that often don't make it into official documents.

Field observation is a practice I hold in high regard. There's an immense difference between understanding a situation from behind a desk and witnessing it firsthand. Visiting villages, interacting with locals, and observing the conditions on the ground provide insights that no report can capture. It's about stepping into the world of those we aim to help, seeing their challenges up close, and understanding the context of their lives.

Moreover, it's crucial to realize that every piece of data we handle represents real people—a

community, a family, an individual with hopes and fears. Statistics are not just numbers; they're narratives of society's fabric. Recognizing this human element adds a profound sense of responsibility to our work. It reminds us that our decisions have tangible effects on people's lives, and therefore, we must approach our duties with both care and diligence.

Q9. Looking back, what advice would you give to UPSC aspirants from Manipur or other Northeast states who are currently preparing for the exam?

Looking back on my journey, the most profound advice I can offer to UPSC aspirants from Manipur and other Northeast states is this: **Never underestimate your potential.**

It's easy to feel overshadowed by the resources and exposure that students in Delhi or other metropolitan cities might have. You may question your own abilities, thinking that your background or limited opportunities put you at a disadvantage. But trust me, as someone who has walked this path, the UPSC examination is a great equalizer. It doesn't discriminate based on where you come from or the circumstances you've faced. The rigorous process humbles everyone, breaking down egos and challenging preconceived notions.

Your background does not define you, nor does it limit your potential. In fact, your unique experiences and perspectives are your strengths. They equip you with resilience, adaptability, and a deeper understanding of the diverse fabric of our nation.

Always remember, ***your life is not just about you; it's about the millions of lives you can touch positively.*** By pursuing this path, you're not only striving for personal success but also embracing the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the world. That, my friend, is a life worth living.

Q10. Lastly, how do you envision your role as an IAS officer in shaping the future of Manipur? What are your long-term goals for the state?

Well, I see a tapestry of possibilities unfurling—a chance to be a catalyst for transformative change over the next 35 years. This vast expanse of time is not just a career span; it's a canvas upon which I hope to paint a legacy of progress, unity, and empowerment for this remarkable state.

Manipur, a land steeped in rich culture and indomitable spirit, stands at a crossroads where challenges meet boundless potential. My early experiences here have woven into me an understanding of the unique intricacies and profound strengths that define this region. With this insight, I am committed to dedicating my life to harnessing these strengths and addressing the challenges with unwavering resolve.

At the heart of my vision lies a focused commitment to the **3Es: Enhancing Employment, Education, and Empowerment.** I believe these pillars are the bedrock upon which we can construct a future that not only uplifts but also unites.

Enhancing Employment: My aim is to ignite the engines of economic growth by fostering entrepreneurship and supporting small and medium enterprises tailored to Manipur's unique context. By promoting skill development programs that resonate with local talents and global opportunities, we can create sustainable livelihoods. The resilience I witnessed in individuals like the women from the relief camps—who transformed adversity into opportunity through skill-building—inspires me to believe in the untapped potential waiting to be unleashed.

Education: Education is the beacon that illuminates the path to a brighter future. I am devoted to enhancing access to quality education, especially in

remote and underserved areas. By investing in educational infrastructure, innovative teaching methods, and teacher training, we empower the youth to become architects of their own destinies. An educated generation is the most potent force for change, capable of breaking cycles of poverty and driving societal advancement.

Empowerment: True empowerment transcends economic and educational realms; it is about instilling confidence and agency within every individual. I aspire to implement policies that promote social inclusion, gender equality, and community participation. By fostering an environment where voices are heard and contributions valued, we can build a society rooted in mutual respect and collective progress.

Beyond these pillars, I recognize that the wounds of ethnic tensions require healing that only empathy and inclusive development can provide. It is imperative to address not just the visible fractures but also the underlying currents that fuel division.

Environmental stewardship is another cornerstone of my mission. The pristine beauty of Manipur's landscapes is a heritage we owe to future generations. I am committed to advocating for sustainable development practices that harmonize progress with ecological preservation. By balancing growth with green initiatives, we ensure that advancement does not come at the expense of the environment. My long-term goal is to help shape a Manipur that thrives on the strengths of its people—a state where employment opportunities are abundant, education is a right realized by all, and empowerment is woven into the very fabric of society. And also constantly reminding us the deep philosophy behind the following childhood poem,

*"Amamba ahing houkhare;
Nongpok Chingkhei thoklakle;*

*Ema gi ebungo nungshiba;
Namat namai tathoklo;
Lairik Laishu Pathoklo;
Ngna eba yenglage"*

Q.11. Your words for MAHEI and her students...and MAION readers

My heart fills with gratitude and admiration for **Team MAHEI** and all the aspirants it nurtures. May MAHEI continue to stand tall, upholding its noble motto of "**Knowledge with Integrity.**" This institution is more than just a coaching centre; it's a beacon of hope and a catalyst for transformation for countless individuals in Manipur.

I've had the privilege of knowing Da Luwang personally—a mentor whose unwavering support, dedication, and motivation have been a guiding light through the most challenging times. The aspirants of Manipur are truly fortunate to have someone like him by their side. His commitment doesn't just educate; it empowers. It enables students to shed their hesitations and doubts, allowing them to embrace their true potential with confidence.

MAHEI provides a unique platform where aspirants can open up freely, fostering an environment that encourages growth and self-discovery. The camaraderie among like-minded individuals and the formation of supportive peer groups act as powerful catalysts, honing each aspirant's abilities and propelling them toward their goals. In such a nurturing atmosphere, dreams don't just survive—they thrive.

I'm equally thrilled about "**MAION**", one of MAHEI's remarkable initiatives. This publication is not just a magazine; it's a monthly journey into the heart of Manipur and the Northeast. Its intent goes beyond covering syllabus and exam aspects; it

dives into personality development and holistic growth, focusing on the all-around development of its readers.

With contributions from dedicated faculty members of MAHEI, the magazine offers a rich tapestry of relevant articles, summaries of important topics, and original content that resonates with the themes of each month. It's designed to be more than a study aid; it's a source of inspiration and reflection.

I firmly believe that **MAION** will be an invaluable companion for aspirants. It not only aligns with their preparation but also provides a window for much-needed personal time—opportunities to read, reflect, and absorb the vast knowledge it offers.

Remember, you're not just preparing for an exam; you're shaping your future and, in turn, contributing to the tapestry of our society. Stand strong, stay inspired, and let your light shine brightly for all to see.



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- GS-1 PREPARATION AND REVISION
- ROLE OF CSAT AND HOW TO PREPARE

2nd SESSION

- OPEN AND FREE FLOW INTERACTIVE SESSION

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MAHEI CIVIL SERVICES INSTITUTE

North-East India

Important Institutions, Schemes in Northeast States of India

1. Important Institutions, Schemes concerning Northeast states

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** is the only ministry in India with a specific territorial jurisdiction, dedicated to coordinating development efforts in the North Eastern Region. Initially formed as a department in 2001 and upgraded to a full-fledged ministry in 2004, its primary role is to improve coordination between the North Eastern state governments and various Central Ministries and Departments. The Ministry focuses on addressing the region's unique developmental challenges while allowing the respective ministries to remain responsible for implementing schemes and programs within their areas.

DoNER implements several flagship initiatives such as the **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)**, **Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC)**, **Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)**, **North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS)**, and **Special Development Packages**. In October 2022, the Union Cabinet approved the **Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)**, with an outlay of ₹6,600 crore for the remaining period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26).

While the Ministry's budget is primarily designed for gap-filling schemes and projects, it also actively collaborates with non-governmental and multilateral stakeholders to support and drive development across the region.

The **North Eastern Council (NEC)** was established under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1971**, initially serving as an apex advisory body to promote balanced and coordinated development and to facilitate effective coordination among the seven states of the North Eastern Region. Following an amendment to the NEC Act in December 2002 (notified on June 23, 2003), **Sikkim** was included as the eighth member state, and the NEC was entrusted with the role of a statutory **regional planning body** for the North Eastern Region.

The **Council** consists of the **Governors** and **Chief Ministers** of the member states, along with three members nominated by the **President of India**, as per clause (iii) of Section 3 of the North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 1971. The **Union Home Minister** serves as the **ex-officio Chairman**, and the **Minister of DoNER** acts as the **ex-officio Vice-Chairman** of the NEC.

The **NEC Act** was amended by Parliament in 2002 (Act No. 68 of 2002). The term "**North Eastern Areas**" now refers to the states of **Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim**, and **Mizoram**. The **Council** consists of the **Governors** and **Chief Ministers** of these states, along with three members appointed by the **President of India**. The **President** is also responsible for nominating the **Chairman** of the Council, who does not need to be selected from the existing members. The **North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002** mandates the NEC to function as a **regional planning body** for the region.

The Centre Sector(CS) Schemes are those which deal with the subjects in the Union List and are funded and implemented by Central Ministry/Department or its agency. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are those schemes which do not pertain to the subjects in the Union List but which are funded directly by Central Ministries/Departments and are implemented by States

or their agencies irrespective of their pattern of financing.

Important Schemes of NER:

1. PM-DevINE Scheme

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE), was announced as a new Central Sector scheme, with 100% Central funding, in the Union Budget 2022-23 with initial list of seven projects and an initial allocation of Rs. 1500 crore. The approval of the Cabinet was accorded for the PM-DevINE scheme on 12 October, 2022. The scheme has an outlay of Rs. 6,600 crore for the 4 year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (remaining years of the 15th Finance Commission period).

The objectives of PM-DevINE scheme are to: (i) fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti; (ii) support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER; (iii) enable livelihood activities for youth and women; and (iv) fill the development gaps in various sectors.

2. Schemes of the NEC

The Union Cabinet held in January 2020 approved earmarking of 30 percent of North Eastern Council's (NEC's) allocation for new projects under the existing "Schemes of North Eastern Council" for focused development of deprived areas; deprived/neglected sections of society and emerging priority sectors in the North eastern States.

The "Schemes of the NEC" has now become a Central Sector Scheme on 100% funding by Government of India.

A Central Sector scheme named "Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC), fully funded by the Government of India, was under implementation

since 10th Finance Commission period and was continued till 31.03.2022 to fill up gaps in overall development of the Region. Schemes of NEC (2022-26) continued unaltered with critical gap interventions in multiple sectors for speedy and holistic development of NER.

3. North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)

The North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) was approved during 2017-18 and was implemented till 31.03.2022. During the process of extension of the NESIDS w.e.f. 01.04.2022, the erstwhile NESIDS has been restructured into following two components viz. NESIDS (Roads) & NESIDS (Other than Road Infrastructure).

a. NESIDS (Roads)

This component subsumes the project sanctioned (but not yet completed) under its predecessor following schemes:

(i) North East Road Sector Development Schemes (NERSDS)

(ii) Road/ Bridges projects of NESIDS.

It is administered by the **North Eastern Council (NEC)**

b. NESIDS (OTRI) component subsumes the projects sanctioned (but not yet completed) under its predecessor following schemes:

(i) Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)

(ii) North East Special Infrastructure Development Schemes (NESIDS)

iii) Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

It is administered by the Ministry of DoNER.

4. Expenditure under 10% Gross Budgetary Support for NE Region

As per the extant policy of the Government, all non-exempted Central Ministries / Departments (currently 54) are mandated to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for North Eastern Region (NER).

5. The Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme

The Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme came into existence in 1998 under then Planning Commission. Subsequently, it was transferred to DoNER in 2001. Since inception of the Scheme, various projects were sanctioned across sectors for development of North Eastern Region as per Scheme guidelines framed for the purpose and revised from time to time.

The objective of NLCPR Scheme is to fill up the gap in infrastructure sector of the North Eastern Region through sanctioning the projects prioritized by the State Governments. Ministry gets Annual Budgetary Allocation from Ministry of Finance for funding the projects under NLCPR Scheme. Funds under the scheme are shared between the Central and State Governments on 90:10 basis. The approved funds under the scheme are released in three installments in the ratio of 40:40:20 for the projects sanctioned prior to the revised guidelines 2016 based on the commensurate physical and financial progress of the projects.

After coming to existence a new Central Sector Scheme in December, 2017 namely, “North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme”

(NESIDS) in place of NLCPR Scheme, no new project is taken up for funding under the NLCPR Scheme. However, funding for ongoing projects under the Scheme will be continued till March, 2020 for their completion.

6. The Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

The Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), formulated in the Fifth Five Year Plan to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in the development of some hill areas, was implemented by the erstwhile Planning Commission in two hill districts of Assam-North Cachar (now Dima Hasao) and Karbi Anglong. The said scheme was discontinued w.e.f. 2015-16 onwards. Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) in North Eastern Region is the mandate of M/o DoNER, as per the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961.

7. Improved Startup Ecosystem

MDoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) collaborated to establish the North East Venture Fund (NEVF), marking a significant milestone as the first dedicated venture fund for the North East Region, endowed with a corpus of ₹100 crore. Since its inception in April 2017, NEVF has played a pivotal role in developing a dynamic startup ecosystem in the region and has extended investment support to 67 startups amounting to ₹98.17 crore. Its noteworthy achievements encompass several NEVF-funded startups surpassing ₹100 crore in valuation, generating 10,000 + direct and indirect employment opportunities in the North East. Building on the success of NEVF, NEDFi has facilitated the creation of state-specific venture funds, with commitment for contributions towards the proposed corpus of each fund and fund

management. This initiative has led to the establishment of funds such as “Manipur Startup Venture Fund” a ₹30 crore initiative for startups in Manipur in collaboration with the Government of Manipur, and “NRL Ideation Angel Fund”, boasting a corpus of ₹40 crore in association with Numaligarh Refinery Ltd, a subsidiary of Oil India Ltd. Similar initiatives is underway in collaboration with the Governments of Assam, Tripura, Sikkim and other states from NER. Further, NEDFi has given in principal commitment of ₹25 crore to Government of Assam for their venture fund and also intends to contribute ₹15 crore in Government of Tripura fund.

MANIPUR

Manipur Merger Agreement 1949

[This article offers a detailed summary of *"Revisiting the Issue of Manipur Merger, 1949"* by Dr. Lal Dena, originally published in the *Imphal Review of Arts and Politics*. Dr. Lal Dena is a retired professor of history at Manipur University and the former Vice Chancellor of Sangai International University, Manipur. For the complete original article, please refer to the link provided below <https://imphalreviews.in/revisiting-the-issue-of-manipur-merger-1949/>]

As World War II concluded and India neared its independence, political turbulence began to emerge in Manipur, with growing demands for responsible governance. In response, Maharaja Bodhachandra Singh took a significant step by dissolving the Manipur State Durbar and forming an interim council. This council, comprised of representatives from both the valley and the hill regions, was to be headed by his younger brother, Maharaj Kumar Priya Brata Singh (P.B. Singh), until a popular government could be established. In December 1946, the Maharaja further initiated the creation of a constitution-making committee, comprising 21 members, including representatives

from various regions such as Churachandpur, Mao, Tamenglong, and Ukhrul. This committee, chaired by F.F. Pearson, the former president of the Manipur State Durbar, crafted the Manipur State Constitution (MSC) of 1947, which was adopted on July 26, 1947.

Under this new constitution, the Manipur State Legislative Assembly (MSLA) was formed, consisting of 53 members elected through adult franchise, along with one member nominated by the Maharaja. The assembly was granted supreme decision-making authority, and the council of ministers held executive power, marking the dawn of an independent Manipur. However, the state's political future, particularly in relation to India, remained uncertain.

The first general election in Manipur took place in June and July of 1948, under the newly established constitution. The election results were as follows:

- Manipur State Congress Party (MSCP): 13 seats
- Krishak Sabha Party: 5 seats
- Praja Shanti: 12 seats
- Socialist Party: 3 seats
- Hill Independents' Union: 18 seats

After prolonged negotiations, a coalition government was eventually formed, led by the Praja Shanti ministry (non-Congress), with support from one nominee of the Maharaja. Captain M.K. Priya Brata Singh became the Chief Minister, alongside ministers Major R. Khathing, Teba Kilong, A. Ibotomba Singh, Dr. N. Leiren Singh, A. Gourabiddhu Singh, and Md. Alimuddin. T.C. Tiankham was elected as Speaker, and T. Bokul as Deputy Speaker. During this period, Maharaja Bodhachandra Singh adopted the role of a

constitutional monarch, adhering to the advice of his council of ministers.

Despite the establishment of this democratic government, the future relationship between Manipur and India remained unsettled. Recognizing the shifting political landscape, the Government of India decided to appoint a dewan (similar to a prime minister) in Manipur. A letter to this effect was issued on July 2, 1947. Initially, P.B. Singh held both the positions of Chief Minister and dewan.

In March 1949, Assam's Governor, Sri Prakasa, visited Manipur, assuring the Maharaja that the Indian Union had no intentions of intervening in Manipur's internal affairs or pressing for a merger. He emphasized that the state's unique identity would be preserved, with its relationship with India limited to military defense. However, contrary to his initial assurance, Prakasa later recommended appointing Major General Rwal Amar Singh as the new dewan, despite the Maharaja's objections. The new dewan assumed authority over Manipur's administration, including law and order, hill area governance, and ministerial portfolio distribution. The Maharaja protested, citing that the new constitution did not permit the appointment of a dewan, but his objections were ignored, and R.A. Singh took office.

This period also saw increasing instability, with the Manipur State Congress Party (MSCP) strongly advocating for the state's merger with India. On India's Independence Day in 1947, the MSCP announced its plan to initiate a movement for Manipur's integration into the Indian Union. The government of Manipur, led by Captain Priya Brata Singh, resisted this, holding firm to the view that Manipur should remain sovereign, with the Maharaja serving as its constitutional head.

The MSCP, with support from the central government's agent (the dewan), actively worked to undermine the Manipur government, accusing it of failing to safeguard the state from alleged communist threats from Burma. They also claimed that nationalist leader Hijam Irabot Singh, who had gone underground, was in league with Burmese communists. Irabot's stance was rooted in his commitment to preserving Manipur's sovereignty, influenced by both nationalism and leftist ideology.

In April 1949, the MSCP sent a delegation to the All India Congress Committee, advocating for Manipur's immediate merger with India. Despite these mounting pressures, the Manipur government failed to effectively counter the Congress's agenda or bring the merger issue to the legislative assembly for discussion.

The Manipur Legislative Assembly convened on September 29, 1949, under the leadership of Speaker T.C. Tiankham, it declared the draft merger agreement invalid. However, by this time, the situation had progressed too far to halt the process. (On 21 September 1949 Maharaj Bodhachandra, private secretary Gourahari and ADC Anand Mohan went to government house and formally signed the Manipur merger agreement. On 15 October 1949 the government of India officially announced that Manipur had become a part of India.) The merger was met with regret by many. Professor Senjam Mangi Singh, who argued that the political climate in Manipur at the time was not strong enough to resist such a move. The people of Manipur had not been sufficiently informed or consulted, and no significant protests occurred in Imphal during this crucial period.

The merger, essentially a treaty between two sovereign states—Manipur and India—was, according to legal experts like A. Nilamani Singh, not valid without the mandate of the people. Singh

contended that a decision of such magnitude, affecting an independent kingdom's fundamental rights, should have been subjected to a plebiscite. Additionally, it was pointed out that the Maharaja had exceeded his constitutional powers, as outlined in the Manipur State Constitution of 1947. Singh further concluded that if the people of Manipur felt that the state had been forcibly annexed, they retained the right to revolt and reclaim their sovereignty.

In retrospect, many view the merger of Manipur with India as an extension of India's expansionist policy. It has often been compared to Aesop's fable of the lamb and the wolf, with Manipur cast as the helpless lamb. Today, there is a growing sentiment encouraging the people of Manipur to reflect on the events of 1949 and derive important lessons from this chapter in their history.

The Text of the MERGER Agreement as it is

[N.B. This is a direct copy-paste from the given link from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session1/IN/COHR_IND_UPR_S1_2008_anx_Annex_V_ManipurMergerAgreement.pdf]

Agreement made this twenty-first day of September 1949 between the Governor General of India and His Highness, the Maharajah of Manipur. Whereas in the best interests of the State of Manipur as well as of the Dominion of India it is desirable to provide for the administration of the said State by or under the authority of the Dominion Government.

It is hereby agreed as follows:

Article I

*His Highness the Maharajah of Manipur hereby cedes to the Dominion Government full and exclusive authority, jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to the governance of the State and agrees to transfer the administration of the State to the Dominion Government on the **fifteenth day of October 1949** (there in after referred to as "the said day"). As from the said day the*

Dominion Government will be competent to exercise the said powers, authority and jurisdiction in such manner and through such agency as it may think fit.

Article II

His Highness the Maharajah shall continue to enjoy the same personal rights, privileges, dignities, titles, authority over religious observances, customs, usages, rites and ceremonies and institutions in charge of the same in the State, which he would have enjoyed had this agreement not been made.

Article III

His highness the Maharajah shall with effect from the said day be entitled to receive for his lifetime from the revenue of the State annually for his Privy Purse the sum of Rupees three lakhs free of all taxes. This amount is intended to cover all the expenses of the Ruler and his family, including expenses on account of his personal staff and armed guards, maintenance of his residences, marriages and other ceremonies, etc. and the allowances to the Ruler's relations who on the date of execution of this agreement were in receipt of such allowances from the revenues of the State, and will neither be increased nor reduced for any reason whatsoever. The Government of India undertake that the said sum of Rupees three lakhs shall be paid to His Highness the Maharajah in four equal installments in advances at the beginning of each quarter from the State treasury or at such other treasury as may be specified by the Government of India.

Article IV

His Highness the Maharajah shall be entitled to the full ownership, use and enjoyment of all private properties (as distinct from State properties) belonging to him on the date of this agreement. His Highness the Maharajah will furnish to the dominion Government before the first January 1950, an inventory of all the immovable property, securities and cash balance held by him as such private property. If any dispute arises as to whether any item of property is the private property of his highness the Maharajah or State property, it shall be

referred to a Judicial Officer qualified to be appointed as a High Court Judge, and the decision of that officer shall be final and binding on both parties. Provided that his Highness the Maharajah's right to the use of the residences known as "Redlands" and "Les Chatalettes" in Shillong, and the property in the town of Guwahati known as "Manipuri Basti" shall not be questioned.

Article V

All the members of His Highness's family shall be entitled to all the personal rights, privileges, dignities and titles enjoyed by them whether within or outside the territories of the State, immediately before the 15th August, 1947.

Article VI

The Dominion Government guarantees the succession, according to law and custom, to the gaddi of the State and to his highness, the Maharajah's personal rights, privileges, dignities, titles, authority over religious observances, customs usages, rites and ceremonies and institutions in-charge of the same in the State.

Article VII

No enquiry shall be made by or under the authority of the Government of India, and no proceedings shall lie in any Court in Manipur, against His highness the Maharajah whether in a personal capacity or otherwise in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him or under his authority during the period of his administration of that State.

Article VIII

The Government of India hereby guarantees either the continuance in service of the permanent members of the Public Services of Manipur on conditions which will be not less advantageous than those on which they were serving before the date on which the administration of Manipur is made over to the Government of India or the payment of reasonable compensation.

The Government of India further guarantees the continuance of pensions and leave salaries sanctioned by His Highness the Maharajah to servants of the State who have retired or proceeded on leave preparatory to

retirement, before the date on which the Administration of Manipur is made over to the Government of India.

The Government of India shall also undertake to make suitable provisions for the employment of Manipuris in the various branches of Public Services, and in every way encourage Manipuris to join them. They also undertake to preserve various laws, customs and conventions prevailing in the State pertaining to the social, economic and religious life of the people.

Article IX

Except with the previous sanction of the Government of India no proceedings, civil or criminal, shall be instituted against any person in respect of any act done or purporting to be done in the execution of his duties as a servant of the State before the day on which the administration is made over to the Government of India. In confirmation whereof Mr. Vapal Pangunni Menon, Adviser to the Government of India in the Ministry of States, has appended his signature on behalf and with the authority of the Governor General of India and His Highness Maharajah Bodh Chandra Singh, Maharajah of Manipur has appended his signature on behalf of himself, his heirs and successors.

sd/

Bodh Chandra Singh,
Maharajah of Manipur.

sd/

V.P. Menon,
Adviser to the Government of India,
Sri Prakash
Governor of Assam,
Shillong
September 21, 1949.

General Awareness

1. School Fagathansi Mission

The "School Fagathansi Mission" was introduced in May 2019 to give thrust towards the improvement of Government schools, both in terms of physical and manpower infrastructures and performance of students towards learning outcomes under the following parameters:

a) The Mission is conceptualized as a holistic approach to improving the School Education sector in the State.

b) To Garner the trust of the people towards Government Schools so that both performance and enrolment increases. Each school should be able to accommodate preferably 600 -1000 students or should have the capacity to grow to accommodate these students.

c) Conversion of composite schools with different class structures comprising of the Primary Classes to Class X/ XII.

d) With a view to introduce Pre-primary Section, co-locating nearby Anganwadi Centers, in consultation with the Social Welfare Department, which are in close proximity to the identified schools under the School Fagathansi Mission.

e) Teachers posted in these schools shall serve a minimum period of 3 (three) years and continuance in the school shall be based on their performance, commitment and other criteria set by the Department for the purpose. Selection of qualified, dedicated and highly motivated teachers shall be based on interviews at the beginning of the academic session from amongst available Government school teachers through open Notification. This is to ensure the availability of teachers on a sustained basis and garner the confidence of students and parents.

f) The number of teachers to be posted in these schools shall be within a minimum and maximum range

and under no circumstances the number of teachers shall not be lesser or more than the range notified.

g) Infrastructural gaps like classrooms, decent school campus, laboratories, smart classrooms, provision of comfortable and sufficient school furniture, outdoor Gymnasium, separate toilets for boys and girls, drinking water facilities, electrification, etc. meeting basic standards as per RTE and other relevant norms shall be provided.

h) Involvement of local stakeholders in the whole Mission is necessary for the improvement of School Education. The management of these schools shall be under the Chairmanship of the concerned Member of the Legislative Assembly along with officials of District administration, Zonal Education Office, teachers of the school, parents and local educationists.

The "School Fagathansi Mission" shall initially be implemented in the 60 (sixty) schools as which were identified by taking into consideration the average academic performance and enrolment trend in the last 3 (three) academic sessions. Prospects for further growth in enrolment and availability of proper school campuses are additional indices in the prioritization process.

2. COLLEGE FAGATHANSI MISSION

The Department of Higher Education, Government of Manipur launched in January 2024, the 'COLLEGE FAGATHANSI MISSION' to ensure the availability of all the basic requirements for imparting quality higher education in the Government Colleges of Manipur by 2030. The scheme is to be implemented by the Directorate of University & Higher Education, Government of Manipur.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME:

1. To provide necessary physical infrastructure to the Government Colleges including classrooms, Laboratory equipment, IT hardware, students' facilities and furniture for achieving quality higher education.

2. To provide necessary learning materials and resources including e-resources for ensuring effective learning by the students.

3. To provide an adequate number of teaching and non-teaching staff for imparting quality higher education to the students.

4. To train and build the capacity of the faculty members as well as non-teaching staff through appropriate Faculty Development Programmes and Trainings;

5. To open more programmes and Courses in the UG/PG levels as required meeting the demands of the present-day job market.

6. To equip the students with appropriate knowledge on employment opportunities and future progression through counselling and workshops

7. To provide appropriate Skill and Vocational education/Training to the students to increase employability.

THE SCHEMES COMPONENT:

An amount of Rs. 60 crores (10 cr under the State budget and 50 cr under SACI FY 2023-24) will be allocated for implementation of the Scheme in the FY 2023-24. Twenty-Four (24) Colleges are selected in the First Phase for implementation of the Scheme based on equitable distribution and the specific needs of the colleges. Under the Scheme, each College shall be provided with a package of up to Rs. 2.5 Crore to create physical infrastructure, IT augment, books, lab equipment, e-resources, training, capacity building etc. Further, fund allocation will be given in different phases from the other available budget heads to bring the much-needed upgradation of amenities in the HEIs.

DURATION OF THE SCHEME:

The Scheme shall continue till such time all the Government colleges of the state are covered under it. However, the core priority of the scheme is to ready all the government colleges to meet the basic mandate of NEP 2020 by the year 2030. A college selected under the Scheme shall implement it within two years from the date of sanction of the fund.

FUND/BUDGET OF THE SCHEME:

A new suitable Head of Account for the Scheme shall be created in the B.E. 2023-24 under Demand 10 (Education). Strengthening of these colleges will also be done through the various programmes and initiatives taken up by the department under the state budget.

MODE OF IMPLEMENTATION:

- i. The Scheme is to be implemented in the Government Colleges of Manipur phase-wise. Twenty Four (24) colleges are selected under the first phase of the Scheme based on equitable distribution and the specific needs of the colleges. A committee headed by the Director (University & Higher Education) and consisting of representatives of the Higher & Technical Education Department, Government of Manipur and two eminent academicians of the rank of Professors of colleges/universities shall propose the list of such colleges for approval of the Government.
- ii. The Scheme will be monitored by a 'Scheme Monitoring Committee' which will make periodic visit to the colleges and call periodic reports during the implementation of the Scheme in the colleges. The Scheme Monitoring Committee (SMC) shall consist of the following members:
 - Administrative Secretary of Higher Education, Government of Manipur
 - Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary of Higher Education, Government of Manipur
 - Director (IJHE), Government of Manipur
 - Chief Engineer, Education Engineering Wing (Edu-S)
 - A nominee of Finance Department Government of Manipur
 - An eminent educationist not below the rank of Associate professor of a

College/University nominated by the Government

- IQAC Coordinator of the College
- A representative of the Education Engineering wing (Edu-S)
- A Guardian representative nominated by the principal

iii. The Scheme will be implemented by a "Scheme

- Implementation Committee" consisting of the following
- Nominee of the Director (UHE), Government of Manipur
- Principal of the College
- Vice-Principal or a senior teacher of the college nominated by the principal

iv. A complete proposal duly recommended by the Committee shall be submitted to the Government for approval and sanction of the required funds under the Scheme.

v. A separate Bank Account/Scheme Account shall be opened for the transaction of fund under the Scheme.

vi. A detailed Work Completion Report and Utilization Certificate of the fund utilized shall be submitted to the Government by the end of the year from the date of sanction of the fund.

vii. The Department of Higher Education, Government of Manipur shall fill at least up to 75% of the vacancies of the teaching as well as non-teaching staff of the college selected under the Scheme. The teaching and non-teaching staff posted at a college where the Scheme is implemented shall not be transferred out of the college from the date of selection of the college under the Scheme till the completion of the Scheme in respect of the college.

1. An adequate physical infrastructure including amenities of the students for imparting good quality higher education should be in place in the college by the end of the Scheme period.

2. The teaching and non-teaching staff of the colleges should be adequately trained to impart quality multidisciplinary higher education by the end of the Scheme period.

3. Adequate and up-to-date learning materials/ resources should be procured /developed for imparting good quality higher education to the students.

4. Use of and access to learning resources including e-resources by the teachers as well as students should improve by 20% by the end of Scheme period.

5. The total enrolment of the college should improve at least by 5% by the end of the second year of the Scheme period.

6. The daily attendance of the students in the classes should improve by 20% by the end of the Scheme period.

7. The dropout rate of the colleges should have reduced at least by 5% at the end of the Scheme period.

8. The performance of the students in the final Semester/University Examination should have improved at least by 5% at the end of the Scheme period.

9. The placement rate of the students including enrolment for higher education should improve at least by 5% at the end of the second year of the Scheme period.

SCHEME OUTCOME:

At the end of two years of implementation of the Scheme, the following outcomes are targeted for achievement:

CSAT**Mastering Reading Comprehension:
A Complete Guide for Aspirants****By Team MAION**

Reading comprehension (RC) is an essential skill for any aspirant, especially for competitive exams like UPSC, where the ability to quickly grasp the core message of a passage is crucial.

Whether it's understanding policy debates, social issues, or economic discussions, a strong foundation in RC will help you both in exams and beyond. This article will cover the basics of RC, how to handle short and long editorials, the importance of vocabulary, scientifically proven principles of reading, and a question-based approach to tackling RC passages.

1. Basics of Reading Comprehension

At its core, reading comprehension is about extracting the central message of a passage. The passage's main idea acts as its backbone, while supporting ideas provide context, examples, and evidence. Let's break down the elements of RC:

A. Main Idea

The main idea is the primary point or concept the author is trying to convey. It's the essence of the passage. To identify it, ask, "What is the author's main message?" Example Passage & quote; In today's fast-paced world, maintaining a balance between work and personal life is becoming increasingly difficult. The pressures of a demanding career often leave little time for family, hobbies, or relaxation. As a result, stress levels are rising, and many people are experiencing burnout

Main Idea: The challenge of balancing work and personal life is leading to increased stress and burnout.

B. Supporting Ideas

Supporting ideas elaborate on the main idea by providing evidence, examples, or data. While reading, it's essential to distinguish between the core message and the examples used to reinforce it. Example Continued

A survey conducted in major cities found that over 70% of employees reported feeling overwhelmed by their workload. In addition, the rise of remote work, while offering flexibility, has blurred the boundaries between work and leisure, contributing further to this imbalance.

Supporting Ideas:

- A survey shows 70% of employees feel overwhelmed.
- Remote work has blurred work-life boundaries, contributing to stress.

C. Transition Words

Transition words are essential for understanding the logical flow of the passage. They indicate shifts, contrasts, or connections between ideas.

Types of Transition Words:

- Addition: furthermore, in addition, also.
- Contrast: however, nevertheless, but.
- Cause/Effect: therefore, because, as a result.
- Example: for example, for instance.

Example with Transitions

Many believe that technology makes life easier. However, recent studies suggest that excessive use of technology can lead to social isolation. For example, a study found that individuals who spend more than five hours a day on social media are more likely to experience anxiety.

- **Main Idea:** Excessive use of technology can lead to social isolation and anxiety.
- **Supporting Ideas:** A study shows heavy social media use correlates with anxiety.
- **Transition Words:** However signals a contrast.

For example introduces supporting evidence.

2. Using Newspaper Editorials for Practice

Newspaper editorials are an excellent resource for RC practice, as they cover diverse subjects and vary in length and complexity. Let's explore how to approach them:

A. Short Editorials

Start with short editorials from papers like The Times of India or The Economic Times. These tend to be 300–500 words and focus on a single topic.

When reading:

- Identify the main argument quickly.
- Look for how the author supports their stance with facts or opinions.
- Pay attention to transition words that indicate shifts in thought.

Example:

An editorial discussing the impact of inflation might open with the economic challenges inflation poses, provide data on rising prices, and conclude with suggested government policies to control it.

B. Longer Editorials

As you build confidence, move on to longer editorials in The Hindu or The Business Standard. These pieces often cover more complex subjects such as governance, international relations, or economic policies. When reading longer articles:

- Break the passage into sections.
- Summarize each section in your own words.
- Note any shifts in tone, especially when the author discusses pros and cons.

Example:

An article on agricultural reforms may begin by discussing the need for modernization, explain various government schemes, and critique their effectiveness.

3. The Role of Vocabulary in Reading Comprehension

A strong vocabulary is critical for understanding RC passages, especially in competitive exams. Many aspirants struggle with unfamiliar words, which can cloud their understanding of a passage. Here's how to approach it:

- **Contextual Clues:** If you encounter a difficult word, look at the surrounding sentences to infer its meaning.
- **Regular Reading:** Reading newspapers, editorials, and books will naturally expand your vocabulary. Make a habit of noting down new words and their meanings.
- **Word Lists:** Create or refer to specialized word lists for exams that emphasize frequently used words.

Example:

The government's fiscal prudence is essential for maintaining economic stability. If "fiscal prudence" is unfamiliar, the surrounding

context (economic stability) helps you understand that it refers to careful financial management.

4. Scientifically Proven Principles of Reading

Reading comprehension is not just about absorbing information; it involves cognitive processes that can be improved with specific strategies. Here are a few scientifically backed principles that can enhance your RC skills:

A. Active Reading

Engage with the text as you read by asking questions, predicting what will come next, and summarizing key points. This improves retention and understanding.

B. Chunking

Break down longer texts into smaller sections or “chunks.” This helps your brain process information more efficiently. After reading each chunk, pause and summarize it in your own words.

C. Spaced Repetition

Research shows that reviewing material at intervals improves long-term retention. When practicing RC, review challenging passages after a few days to reinforce what you’ve learned.

5. The Question-Based Approach to RC

A strategic approach to RC is to read with a purpose. By asking yourself questions as you read, you can better focus on the key ideas of the passage.

A. Before Reading

Ask:

- What is the passage likely about (based on title or introduction)?

- What type of information am I looking for (argument, data, example)?

B. While Reading

Ask:

- What is the main point the author is trying to make?
- How does this paragraph support the overall argument?

C. After Reading

Ask:

- What is the passage’s main idea?
- How do the supporting details reinforce this idea?
- Are there any opposing arguments or points of contrast?

6. Practice and Perseverance

Mastering reading comprehension takes time and consistent practice. Start with easier passages from sources like The Times of India and The Economic Times, and gradually move on to more complex editorials in The Hindu and The Business Standard. Pay attention to vocabulary, actively engage with the text, and use transition words to navigate through the argument.

Passage 1:

Climate change is not just an environmental problem but a social one as well. It disproportionately affects those who are already vulnerable—people in poorer regions, small farmers, and coastal communities. As global temperatures rise, these populations face increased risks of droughts, floods, and food insecurity. Mitigating climate change is not only a matter of

reducing carbon emissions but also addressing the social inequities that exacerbate its impacts.

- **Main Idea:** Climate change is a social issue, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations.
- **How to Identify:** The author highlights climate change's broader effects beyond just the environment, emphasizing the social impact.
- **Key Sentence:** "It disproportionately affects those who are already vulnerable."
- **Transition Word:** "Not only...but also" indicates the dual focus of reducing emissions and addressing social inequities.

Passage 2:

In the digital age, access to information has become easier than ever before. Yet, paradoxically, misinformation has also increased. The widespread availability of unverified information, especially through social media, has led to a growing problem of 'fake news. 'Therefore, while technology has democratized access to knowledge, it also demands more critical thinking skills from users to discern truth from falsehood.

- **Main Idea:** While technology provides easy access to information, it also leads to more misinformation, requiring critical thinking.
- **How to Identify:** The passage contrasts the benefits and drawbacks of technology concerning information access.
- **Key Sentence:** "Therefore, while technology has democratized access to knowledge, it also demands more critical thinking."

- **Transition Word:** "Yet" and "therefore" signal the shift from discussing benefits to highlighting problems.

Passage 3:

Over the past century, the role of women in the workforce has changed dramatically. From being largely confined to domestic roles, women are now present in almost every profession. However, gender inequality persists, particularly in terms of wages and leadership opportunities. Although there has been significant progress, the struggle for gender equality in the workplace is far from over.

- **Main Idea:** Women's role in the workforce has changed, but gender inequality still exists.
- **How to Identify:** The author traces the historical change in women's roles while pointing out the persistent challenges.
- **Key Sentence:** "However, gender inequality persists."
- **Transition Word:** "However" signals a contrast, showing that despite progress, issues remain.

Practice Exercises

Passage I

The recent surge in crude oil prices has prompted nations worldwide to reevaluate their energy policies.

Rising demand and supply chain disruptions have pushed prices to unprecedented levels. However, this crisis also presents an opportunity for countries to shift towards renewable energy sources. Governments are now

more inclined to invest in solar, wind, and hydropower, which can reduce dependency on fossil fuels. By accelerating the adoption of clean energy technologies, nations not only mitigate the effects of price volatility but also contribute to a greener and more sustainable future.

- **Which of the following can be logically inferred from the passage?**

- a. Renewable energy is the only solution to price volatility in the energy sector.
- b. Governments have historically been slow to invest in renewable energy until a crisis arises.
- c. The recent surge in crude oil prices is mainly due to policy failures of governments.
- d. Countries will immediately stop using fossil fuels after the current oil crisis.

- **The author assumes which of the following to be true?**

- a. The current rise in crude oil prices is temporary and reversible.
- b. Governments have the political will to shift significantly toward renewable energy.
- c. Fossil fuel dependency is unsustainable in the long run.
- d. Solar and wind energy are not sufficient to meet global energy demands.

- **The author's argument about the opportunity to invest in renewable energy reflects which of the following?**

- a. Optimism about the potential of clean energy to solve economic crises.

- b. Pessimism regarding government's ability to solve the oil crisis.
- c. A belief that market forces alone can drive the adoption of renewable energy.
- d. Skepticism about the effectiveness of renewable energy investments.

- **What underlying assumption can be identified in the passage?**

- a. Countries with higher oil reserves are less interested in renewable energy.
- b. A shift towards renewable energy will require international collaboration.
- c. The oil crisis will persist for decades unless addressed immediately.
- d. Renewable energy adoption will directly reduce oil price volatility.

Passage II

As cities continue to grow at an exponential rate, the demand for urban housing has skyrocketed. Unfortunately, the rapid pace of urbanization has led to a shortage of affordable housing options. Many developers, in their pursuit of profit, focus on luxury projects rather than creating homes for the economically weaker sections. This disparity not only aggravates the housing crisis but also contributes to social inequality in cities. The government must step in with policies that incentivize affordable housing projects and ensure that every citizen has access to a decent living environment.

- **What can be inferred about the author's view on the role of developers in the housing crisis?**

- a. Developers are solely responsible for the lack of affordable housing.
- b. Developers focus on luxury projects because they are more profitable.

- c. Developers do not understand the demand for affordable housing.
- d. Developers need government support to build affordable housing.
- **Which assumption underlies the author's argument about government intervention?**
 - a. Private sector initiatives alone cannot solve the housing crisis.
 - b. The government already has policies that support affordable housing.
 - c. The housing crisis is primarily a result of population growth.
 - d. Developers are opposed to government regulations on housing projects.
- **The passage suggests which of the following about the social implications of the housing crisis?**
 - a. Social inequality in cities is primarily caused by the lack of affordable housing.
 - b. The focus on luxury housing is likely to lead to urban unrest.
 - c. Affordable housing is the only way to reduce inequality in cities.
 - d. Social inequality can be mitigated through economic reforms unrelated to housing.
- **Which of the following would weaken the author's argument about the need for government intervention?**
 - a. Evidence that private developers are already investing in affordable housing.
 - b. A decline in urban population growth rates.
 - c. Rising profits for luxury real estate developers.
 - d. Reports showing that affordable housing are not in demand.

Passage III

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and coastal cities are

particularly vulnerable. Rising sea levels, increased storm surges, and unpredictable weather patterns pose significant risks to infrastructure and human life. Despite these threats, many governments have been slow to adopt comprehensive climate adaptation strategies. This delay could prove catastrophic, especially for countries with densely populated coastlines. Immediate action, including the construction of sea walls, improved drainage systems, and disaster preparedness programs, is crucial to safeguarding coastal communities from the inevitable consequences of climate change.

1. **Which of the following is a reasonable inference from the passage?**
 - a. Governments are unaware of the specific threats posed by climate change.
 - b. Coastal cities are likely to be abandoned if adaptation strategies are not implemented.
 - c. The delay in government action is primarily due to financial constraints.
 - d. Coastal cities face more immediate risks from climate change than inland areas.
2. **What assumption does the author make about climate adaptation strategies?**
 - a. They are the only viable solution to the risks posed by rising sea levels.
 - b. Governments will act only when faced with catastrophic consequences.
 - c. Adaptation strategies are expensive but necessary for coastal cities.
 - d. Climate change can be entirely reversed through these strategies.
3. **Which of the following reflects the author's logical reasoning regarding government inaction?**
 - a. Governments are slow to act because climate change does not affect all cities equally.

- b. Governments have yet to understand the urgency of climate change impacts.
- c. Governments are focused on reducing emissions rather than adapting to climate risks.
- d. Governments have adopted short-term measures but lack comprehensive strategies.

4. If it were found that the frequency of storm surges has decreased in recent years, how would that affect the author's argument?

- a. It would weaken the argument for immediate climate adaptation strategies.
- b. It would strengthen the need for improved drainage systems.
- c. It would have no impact on the argument, as rising sea levels remain a concern.
- d. It would lead to a reevaluation of coastal cities; vulnerability to climate change.

Passage IV

The Indian economy has shown resilience in the face of global challenges, including trade disruptions and inflationary pressures. However, to sustain long-term growth, it is crucial to address structural issues such as labor market inefficiencies and regulatory bottlenecks. Reforming labor laws, improving ease of doing business, and encouraging innovation in key sectors will be critical for India's economic future. The government must prioritize these reforms to ensure that the country remains competitive in an increasingly interconnected global economy

Tougher Questions:

1. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the relationship between labor market

reforms and long-term economic growth in India?

- a. Labor market reforms are secondary to other structural changes needed.
- b. Long-term growth will stagnate without labor market reforms.
- c. Labor market inefficiencies have had no significant impact on India's economy so far.
- d. India's labor market is already efficient, and reforms are unnecessary.

2. What assumption underpins the author's recommendation for improving the ease of doing business?

- a. Businesses face significant challenges due to existing regulatory frameworks.
- b. Regulatory bottlenecks are the primary cause of India's economic slowdown.
- c. Global competition is less of a concern than internal economic reforms.
- d. The current ease of doing business index is a poor indicator of economic performance.

3. The author's argument that reforms in key sectors will be critical reflects which of the following?

- a. A belief that innovation alone can drive economic growth.
- b. A recognition that internal factors are more important than external pressures.
- c. A view that India's current growth is unsustainable without reform.
- d. A concern that trade disruptions will have long-lasting impacts on growth.

4. If the government were to prioritize reforms in the financial sector rather than labor laws, how would that impact the author's overall argument?

- a. It would weaken the focus on the labor market inefficiencies as a key area of reform.
- b. It would support the author's broader claim about regulatory bottlenecks.
- c. It would undermine the need for innovation in key sectors.
- d. It would shift the emphasis from long-term to short-term economic solutions.

Conclusion

Improving reading comprehension is an essential skill for every aspirant. By focusing on the main and supporting ideas, paying attention to transition words, building vocabulary, and practicing regularly with newspaper editorials, you can strengthen your RC skills. Incorporate scientifically proven principles like active reading, chunking, and spaced repetition to enhance your understanding and retention. Ultimately, a question-based approach will guide you in reading with purpose and extracting the core message of any passage.

Happy reading and best of luck in your preparation!

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Self-Improvement Topic and Book Review of the Month

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is the cornerstone for success in the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE). It provides structure, consistency, and focus in a preparation journey that spans months, often years. Discipline ensures adherence to a study plan, helping aspirants manage vast syllabi, maintain regular revisions, and practice answer writing. It keeps distractions at bay and instils perseverance through setbacks, like failed attempts or difficult topics. Beyond just academics, discipline cultivates emotional resilience, time management, and healthy routines—essential for maintaining mental and physical well-being. Ultimately, disciplined effort transforms aspirations into achievable goals.

Book Review

1. Summary of *Discipline Equals Freedom* by Jocko Willink

The book *Discipline Equals Freedom* by Jocko Willink emphasizes that discipline is the key to achieving goals. Success, whether in physical, mental, or personal endeavors, requires constant discipline, which must come from within and be sustained daily without excuses. It demands giving up instant gratification for long-term success and involves emotional and mental control.

Key Concepts:

- **Discipline from Within:** Success comes from self-discipline and constant effort, not external motivation. It requires emotional control and the ability to make tough decisions.

- **Overcoming Procrastination:** Success involves consistently doing what is right, even when it's uncomfortable. Procrastination is minimized by imposing a 24-hour rule to act before the urge fades.
- **Fear as a Motivator:** Fear of failure should drive action, not hinder it. Progress is made through small, consistent steps.
- **Health and Fitness:** A disciplined lifestyle includes a balanced diet, avoiding processed foods, and focusing on fitness. Injury prevention and workout routines are essential, even when traveling.

Leadership and Life Lessons:

Willink connects discipline to freedom, arguing that discipline in all areas—exercise, nutrition, mental well-being—leads to success and joy. Emotional detachment helps in decision-making, while too much confidence or doubt can be obstacles. Discipline must be nurtured continually and comes from self-driven actions, not rewards or societal pressures.

Practical Advice:

The book includes workout plans and emphasizes clear, measurable goals. Discipline leads to productivity and happiness by minimizing distractions and focusing on essential tasks. Willink also reminds readers that the key to success is action—thinking, planning, and motivation are secondary to actually doing.

Conclusion:

Discipline is a tool anyone can develop to achieve success, regardless of background. The book concludes with a simple message: "Do"—take action, avoid excuses, and stay disciplined in every aspect of life.

MORE ON DISCIPLINE

Summaries and practical insights from some of the best articles on using discipline to achieve goals and targets:

1. "The Power of Discipline" by *James Clear* (author of *Atomic Habits*)

- **Summary:** James Clear emphasizes that success is more about consistency than motivation. Discipline helps individuals stick to good habits long enough for them to become automatic. His concept of "The 2-Minute Rule" (making habits as easy as possible to start) is a powerful approach to building discipline gradually.
- **Practical Takeaways:**
 - Start small: Break down goals into manageable steps, like reading one page of a book daily if you're trying to develop a reading habit.
 - Focus on systems, not just goals: Discipline in creating a process is more important than obsessing over the end result.
 - Build habits around triggers: Use environmental cues to initiate disciplined behavior.

2. "The Psychology of Self-Discipline" by *Psychology Today*

- **Summary:** This article explores the psychological mechanisms behind self-discipline, focusing on the importance of delayed gratification. People with high self-control don't resist temptation but avoid it altogether by making decisions easier through planning.
- **Practical Takeaways:**
 - Use precommitment strategies: Lock yourself into your goals by setting up

conditions where you're less likely to deviate (e.g., turning off distractions during study hours).

- Set specific, realistic goals: Avoid vague targets like "be healthier." Instead, specify actions like "run 3 times a week for 30 minutes."
- Track your progress: Monitoring small wins boosts motivation and reinforces discipline.

3. "The Science of Self-Control" by *Inc. Magazine*

- **Summary:** This article highlights research on how self-control can be strengthened like a muscle. Key points include the importance of self-awareness and how to break down long-term goals into short-term, achievable tasks.
- **Practical Takeaways:**
 - Practice mindfulness: Awareness of your emotional triggers helps prevent reactive behaviors that disrupt discipline.
 - Use rewards wisely: Small, meaningful rewards help reinforce disciplined actions, but avoid over-rewarding.
 - Incorporate "if-then" planning: Pre-plan how to handle temptations (e.g., "If I feel tired after work, then I will walk for just 10 minutes instead of skipping the workout entirely").

4. "Discipline Equals Freedom" by *Jocko Willink* (Retired Navy SEAL)

- **Summary:** Willink asserts that discipline, rather than motivation, leads to freedom. Discipline allows you to consistently follow through on

commitments, removing the need for willpower to make daily decisions.

- **Practical Takeaways:**

- Morning routines: Start the day with a structured routine, such as waking up early, exercising, and organizing your day. This builds momentum and encourages disciplined habits throughout the day.
- Practice extreme ownership: Take full responsibility for your actions and outcomes, avoiding excuses.
- Create non-negotiable rules: Set up specific, uncompromising rules for your goals, like no social media until work is completed.

5. "How to Develop Self-Discipline" by Mark Manson (author of *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F**k*)

- **Summary:** Manson explains that self-discipline requires emotional resilience, understanding that discomfort is a part of growth. The more you endure small challenges, the more disciplined you become.
- **Practical Takeaways:**
 - Focus on emotional management: Learn to handle discomfort without avoidance. For example, facing anxiety during tough tasks builds long-term resilience.
 - Use the "80/20 Rule": Focus on the 20% of actions that will produce 80% of your results. This prevents burnout and increases efficiency.
 - Remove temptations: Discipline starts with an environment that reduces distractions and temptations, such as working in a clutter-free space.

6. "The Role of Discipline in Goal Setting" by *Forbes*

- **Summary:** The article discusses how discipline plays a key role in successful goal-setting and execution. It contrasts discipline with motivation, suggesting that while motivation fades, discipline sustains action.
- **Practical Takeaways:**
 - Break down goals into micro-goals: Create daily or weekly goals that cumulatively lead to larger achievements.
 - Time-blocking: Allocate specific periods in the day dedicated solely to focused work, which reduces procrastination.
 - Reflect regularly: Set time for self-reflection to review progress and make adjustments if needed.

7. "How to Cultivate Self-Discipline in 10 Days" by *Medium*

- **Summary:** This article provides a practical guide to developing self-discipline over 10 days. Each day focuses on building a new habit or changing behaviour.
- **Practical Takeaways:**
 - Day 1-3: Identify triggers and remove distractions that derail discipline.
 - Day 4-6: Create small, easy-to-follow routines for consistency.
 - Day 7-10: Practice gratitude and reward yourself after completing disciplined actions to reinforce the behaviour.

8. "The Willpower Instinct" by *Kelly McGonigal*

- **Summary:** Based on psychological research, McGonigal argues that willpower is finite but can be replenished through self-care and mindfulness practices. It emphasizes managing energy, rather than focusing on constant exertion.
- **Practical Takeaways:**
 - Practice self-care: Sufficient sleep, good nutrition, and relaxation restore willpower reserves and keep discipline strong.
 - Limit decision fatigue: Reduce the number of decisions you make daily by automating simple choices (e.g., pre-planning meals or work outfits).
 - Use visualization: Picture yourself successfully completing disciplined actions to stay on track.

Evoking calm: Practicing mindfulness in daily life helps

9. Three simple mindfulness options to help with concentration, distraction, and everyday stress.

It's easy to say you simply don't have time to be mindful. With so much going on in daily life, who has time to stop and be present? But everyone has at least 10 minutes to spare to practice mindfulness.

The point of these brief, daily reflections is to help you tap into calmness whenever life gets too hairy. Practicing everyday mindfulness can also improve your [memory and concentration skills](#) and help you

feel [less distracted](#) and better able to manage stress. And [mindfulness tools](#) have been successfully incorporated into treatments for [anxiety and depression](#).

There is more than one way to practice mindfulness. Still, any mindfulness technique aims to achieve a state of alert, focused, relaxed consciousness by deliberately paying attention to thoughts and sensations without passing judgment on them. This allows the mind to focus on the present moment with an attitude of acceptance.

Three easy mindfulness exercises to try

Here are three simple exercises you can try whenever you need a mental break, emotional lift, or just want to pause and appreciate everything around you. Devote 10 minutes a day to them and see how the experience changes your outlook. It's time well spent.

Simple meditation

A quick and easy meditation is an excellent place to begin practicing mindfulness.

- Sit on a straight-backed chair or cross-legged on the floor.
- Focus on an aspect of your breathing, such as the sensations of air flowing into your nostrils and out of your mouth, or your belly rising and falling as you inhale and exhale.
- Once you've narrowed your concentration in this way, begin to widen your focus. Become aware of sounds, sensations, and ideas. Embrace and consider each without judgment.
- If your mind starts to race, return your focus to your breathing. Then expand your awareness again.
- Take as much time as you like: one minute, or five, or 10 — whatever you're comfortable with.

Experts in mindfulness meditation note that the practice is most helpful if you commit to a regular meditation schedule.

Open awareness

Another approach to mindfulness is "open awareness," which helps you stay in the present and truly participate in specific moments in life. You can choose any task or moment to practice open awareness, such as eating, taking a walk, showering, cooking a meal, or working in the garden. When you are engaged in these and other similar routine activities, follow these steps.

- Bring your attention to the sensations in your body, both physical and emotional.
- Breathe in through your nose, allowing the air to fill your lungs. Let your abdomen expand fully. Then breathe out slowly through your mouth.
- Carry on with the task at hand, slowly and with deliberation.
- Engage each of your senses, paying close attention to what you can see, hear, feel, smell, and taste.
- Try "single-tasking," bringing your attention as fully as possible to what you're doing.
- Allow any thoughts or emotions that arise to come and go, like clouds passing through the sky.
- If your mind wanders away from your current task, gently refocus your attention back to the sensation of the moment.

Body awareness

Another way to practice mindfulness is to focus your attention on other thoughts, objects, and sensations. While sitting quietly with your eyes closed, channel your awareness toward each of the following:

- **Sensations:** Notice subtle feelings such as an itch or tingling without judgment, and let them pass. Notice each part of your body in succession from head to toe.
- **Sights and sounds:** Notice sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touches. Name them "sight," "sound," "smell," "taste," or "touch" without judgment and let them go.
- **Emotions:** Allow emotions to be present without judging them. Practice a steady and relaxed naming of emotions: "joy," "anger," "frustration."
- **Urges:** When you feel a craving or an urge (for instance, to eat excess food or practice an unwanted behavior), acknowledge the desire and understand that it will pass. Notice how your body feels as the craving enters. Replace the wish for the craving to go away with the specific knowledge that it will subside.

Disclaimer

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MAION Magazine Contest



Rules:

1. **Eligibility:** The contest is open to all readers of MAION Magazine, regardless of age, location, or subscription status.

2. **Qualification Criteria:** Only participants who score **above 70%** will be eligible for prize consideration. Each question carries **2 marks**, and there will be **negative marking**, similar to the UPSC Prelims. For each incorrect answer, **33% of the marks** (i.e., **0.66 marks**) will be deducted. Accuracy is key, so answer carefully!

3. **Entry Submission:** Entries can be submitted either via email to maheicivilservices@gmail.com or in person at the **MAHEI Office, Kwakeithel**. In both cases, participants must clearly include their **purchase receipts** (either physical or digital). For online submissions, the email subject line must read **"MAION Contest"** followed by the specific **contest number**. **The last date for submission is the 20th of every month**. Late entries will not be considered.

4. **Prize Selection & Announcement:** Winners will be selected based on a **merit list**. In the event that multiple participants scoring the same mark, preference will be given to the earliest submissions. Winners will be revealed in the next episode, along with the correct answers. Prize collection will require both a valid **proof of identity** and the **purchase receipt** of the magazine (either physical or digital).

5. **Final Decisions:** All decisions made by the MAION Magazine contest team are final and binding. No appeals or revisions will be entertained once the winners are declared.

6. **Additional Terms:** The contest is void where prohibited by law. Participants must ensure their submissions are received by the stated deadline, as late entries will not be considered.

Q.1) Regarding the recently launched PM Internship Scheme, which of the following criteria is correct?

- a) This is a 12-month internship program tailored for Indian nationals aged 21 to 24 who are currently enrolled in full-time education at recognised schools, colleges, or universities and are not engaged in full-time employment.

- b) The PM Internship Scheme will provide a monthly stipend through the participating companies' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions, with Rs 500 and Rs 4,500 from the government.
- c) Insurance cover will be provided to every intern under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- d) The companies selected for this pilot were identified based on their corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure over the past three years.

Q.2) Consider the statements from the "State of Global Water Resources" report by the World Meteorological Organization:

1. 2023 marks the second consecutive year where every region with glaciers worldwide reported ice loss.
2. Glaciers experienced the greatest mass loss recorded in the past five decades.
3. The year 2023 marked the hottest on record, driven by the shift from La Niña to El Niño and the positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which contributed to extreme weather conditions.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All
- d) None

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. La Niña conditions have always consistently contributed to an increase in the Global Mean Sea Level (GMSL).
2. According to the State of the Global Climate 2023, the long-term rate of sea-level rise has

more than doubled when comparing the periods 1993–2002 with 2014–2023, since the start of satellite record.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Q.4) Regarding India's 2016 Model BIT and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism, which of the given statements is correct?

- a) India's 2016 Model BIT does not retain the traditional ISDS mechanism for dispute resolution, instead introducing a similar alternative mechanism.
- b) India's 2016 Model BIT cannot be the basis for India's renegotiation of existing BITs.
- c) 2016 Indian Model BIT includes the requirement that foreign investors must pursue local remedies for a minimum of five years before initiating international arbitration.
- d) The Model BIT includes a broad definition of investment, a comprehensive Fair and Equitable Treatment (FET) provision, includes the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) clause, and covers all taxation measures under the BIT.

Q.5) Regarding the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), which of the given statements is incorrect?

- a) The instruments negotiated at UNCITRAL involved an international process with various participants, including UNCITRAL member states, non-member states, and

invited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

- b) India's membership in UNCITRAL is scheduled to expire in 2028.
- c) UNCITRAL is NOT a part of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- d) Each member country of the Commission is allocated a quota that is generally based on its relative standing in the global economy.

Q.6) The Monetary Policy Report is published by

- a) NITI AAYOG
- b) RBI
- c) Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)
- d) Finance Ministry

Q.7) The term 'Inchoate Crime' or 'Inchoate Offense,' recently in the news was in association with

- a) A judgment emphasizing the urgent need to establish institutional safety measures for medical professionals, following the murder and alleged rape of a doctor in Kolkata.
- b) A judgment addressing the challenge of caste-based discrimination in prisons.
- c) A judgment on whether viewing child sexual exploitation and abuse material is punishable under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.
- d) A judgment determining the legality of Mr. Arvind Kejriwal's arrest and his entitlement to bail in the CBI case.

Q.8) In reference to the recent judgment on the constitutional challenge to Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A, which grants Indian citizenship to immigrants who

arrived in Assam between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971.

2. The directions issued in **Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India (2005 INSC 287)** should be followed for the deportation of illegal migrants who entered after 1971.
3. The judgment noted that while unchecked migration could amount to external aggression, Section 6A does not promote unrestricted migration but rather provides a regulated approach for granting citizenship to migrants who entered before 1971, which does not constitute external aggression.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All
- d) None

Q.9) The Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) is located in

- a) *Byalalu*
- b) Port Blair
- c) Sriharikota
- d) Thiruvananthapuram

Q.10) Which of the following countries is NOT a participant in China's Belt and Road Initiative?

- a) Maldives
- b) Bhutan
- c) Myanmar
- d) Nepal

Q.11) Regarding the UNIFIL, The UN peacekeeping mission which has been operating along the "Blue Line" which separates Lebanon and Israel since the 1970s, which of the given statements is NOT correct?

- a) UNIFIL comprises military personnel, local civilians, and international civilians as its members.
- b) Historical maps, some dating back nearly a century, indicate that the Blue Line is a permanent border rather than a temporary "line of withdrawal".
- c) UNIFIL peacekeepers assist the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) through training to enhance the LAF's presence in southern Lebanon, enabling them to eventually assume the security responsibilities currently managed by peacekeepers.
- d) At present, Indonesia is the biggest contributor to UNIFIL with over 1,200 uniformed personnel.

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The Article 342 of the Constitution refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 366(25) of the Constitution.
2. The President may with respect to any State after consultation with the Government of the state thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Q.13) Review the popular uprisings of the latter half of the 19th century and select the option that is INCORRECTLY paired.

- a) Sido and Kanhu - Santhal Rebellion
- b) Chakra Bisoi – Khonds of Ghumsar
- c) Tomma Dora - Koya rebellion
- d) Sambhunath Pal – Deccan Riots

Q.14) Which of the following places did Gandhi visit during his 1915-1916 tour?

- 1. Rangoon
- 2. Sindh
- 3. Banaras
- 4. Madras
- 5. Hardwar

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) All of the above

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The moral value of democracy lies in the principle of majority rule and not in the principle of equality that underpins it.
- 2. For Gandhi, Varna is an indication of a duty that has been handed down to each one of us by our forefathers.
- 3. Citizenship is exclusively a passive membership of a political community, entitling individuals to legal rights without requiring active participation.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All
- d) None

Q.16) This lake, located in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, lies on the northern slope of the Harmukh mountain. It serves as the source of the Sharab Kohl canal, which supplies

water to the fountains in the Mughal Gardens. The lake also drains into the Lidar River, the largest tributary of the Jhelum. Name the lake.

- a) Sokh and Dokh Lakes
- b) Tarsar Lake
- c) Wular Lake
- d) Marsar Lake

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the Chotanagpur Plateau region of India:

- 1. Chotanagpur region is rich in natural resources, especially forests and minerals, and is often referred to as the 'Ruhr of India.'
- 2. Teak, Sal, Mahua, Sabai (Kus) grass, catechu (Katha) are important trees grown in this region.
- 3. Rivers of the Chotanagpur Plateau, flowing over flat plateaus, exhibit youthful characteristics with steep-sided narrow valleys, gorges, and numerous rapids and waterfalls.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Q.18) Monetary policy changes influence economic activity and specifically affect price levels through which of the following?

- 1. The interest rate
- 2. The exchange rate
- 3. The credit
- 4. The asset price
- 5. The expectations

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only

- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) All of the above

“Unfortunately, no entries qualified for the **MAION contest 1** this time, as none met the required 70% benchmark.”

Q.19)

Assertion (A): Expenditure on subsidies is part of government expenditure and does not lead to the creation of any effect.

Reason (R): Revenue expenditure, including subsidies, does not reduce the liability of the government.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true.

N.B. To download **answer key** with explanation of MAION CONTEST 1 please visit the link below or scan the QR Code.

<https://www.maheicivilservices.com>



Q.20)

Assertion (A): The export multiplier depends on the marginal propensity to save (MPS) and marginal propensity to import (MPM), which have an inverse relationship with the multiplier.

Reason (R): Imports increase with national income, while exports are independent of the level of domestic national income.

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

ALL THE BEST

Counselling Q & A

Q1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of preparing for the UPSC/MPSC Civil Services Examination from Manipur, especially for aspirants facing financial or other constraints preventing them from going to Delhi? - *by Aspirants from our counselling sessions*

Aspirants preparing for the Civil Services Examination from Manipur, particularly those who cannot afford to go to coaching hubs like Delhi due to financial or other limitations, experience both advantages and disadvantages in their preparation journey.

Disadvantages:

1. **Limited Access to Renowned Coaching and Faculty:** While Manipur is making steady progress in establishing quality coaching institutes and implementing government programs to support exam preparation for SC/ST and other aspirants, top-tier coaching centers and faculty are primarily concentrated in Delhi. However, the growing availability of online resources from leading institutions and expert faculty in Delhi has significantly reduced the need for relocation. Aspirants can now access expert lectures, study materials, and mentorship through online platforms, making high-quality resources more accessible than ever before.

2. **Less Competitive Atmosphere:** The competitive atmosphere in cities like Delhi fosters constant peer learning, where even casual conversations revolve around preparation. In Manipur, this dynamic is less pronounced, which may reduce the intensity of the preparatory environment.

3. **Social Commitments and Distractions:** Aspirants in Manipur often have to juggle social and family obligations, which can fragment their

study time. In contrast, aspirants in Delhi can fully focus on their preparation without such distractions.

Advantages:

1. **Personalized Mentoring:** In Manipur, aspirants often benefit from one-on-one guidance from mentors and exam-experienced faculty, which allows for personalized feedback and attention.

2. **Lower Living Costs:** Aspirants in Manipur do not face the financial strain of high rent, food, and living expenses, unlike in Delhi, making it more affordable to prepare over the long term.

3. **Healthier Environment:** Manipur offers a calmer and less polluted environment, which can contribute positively to mental and physical well-being during preparation.

Bridging the Gap: To overcome the limitations, aspirants in Manipur should focus on:

1. **Maximizing the use of available resources** like libraries and online platforms.

2. **Reducing non-exam-related social obligations** to create a more focused study routine.

3. **Forming dedicated study groups** or even relocating closer to libraries or other study-friendly environments to mimic the immersive preparation atmosphere found in larger cities. By adopting these strategies, aspirants from Manipur can bridge the gap and optimize their chances of success in the Civil Services Examination. However, for those who can afford to travel to Delhi and have suitable circumstances, it is advisable to consider making the move to take full advantage of the opportunities available there.

Q2. Should I enroll in a full-fledged UPSC IAS course during my first or second year of college?

A common query from aspirants seeking admission and counselling early in their graduation journey.

Our sincere advice is to prioritize your graduation and focus on becoming a well-rounded, educated individual. Strive for academic excellence while also building essential qualities like leadership, teamwork, and communication by engaging in activities such as sports, debates, and organizing events during your college years. Starting rigorous civil services coaching, which demands a dedicated commitment to classes, tests, and preparation, from the first year may interfere with these important aspects of personal growth. Instead, consider joining smaller courses to improve your English—both writing and speaking—as well as interview and communication skills. These foundational abilities will not only help you in the UPSC Civil Services exam but also in personal and professional development. However, you can begin indirect preparation by cultivating an interest in reading newspapers, magazines, and other resources to develop your general awareness. This helps improve your knowledge and understanding of various global developments with depth and clarity, beyond exam-focused study. Such habits, developed for the sake of gaining insights rather than purely for exams, will be extremely beneficial when you start dedicated Civil Services preparation in the future.

(If you have any queries regarding any aspect of exam preparation, please feel free to reach out to us via email at maheicivilservices@gmail.com. We will do our best to provide you with thoughtful and helpful responses.)



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Time Allowed:
Three hours

SECTION I

The Section contains 5 questions. Each question is to be answered in not more than 75 words. Each question carries 5 marks each.

(5 x 5 = 25 marks)

1. Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)
2. Capital Budget vs Revenue Budget
3. National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)
4. Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS)
5. PM Gati Shakti

SECTION II

The Section contains 5 questions. Each question is to be answered in not more than 150 words. Each question carries 10 marks each.

(5 x 10 = 50 marks)

1. Discuss the strategic importance of allowing increased FDI in India's space sector.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act in maintaining fiscal discipline.
3. Critically examine the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in developing India's infrastructure.
4. Give an account of the working of India's Faceless Income Tax Assessment. What are the advantages of the system?
5. What is Angel tax? Analyse the impact of this tax on the Start-up ecosystem.

SECTION III

The Section contains 5 long-type questions. Each question is to be answered in not more than 200 words. Each question carries 12.5 marks each. (8 x 12.5 = 100 marks)

1. Enumerate the key proposals for the draft digital competition bill. Compare and contrast it with EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA).

2. Discuss the role of liberalization in transforming India's economy from a closed to an open market. What have been the key changes in industrial policy during this period, and how have they influenced economic growth?

3. How has India defined poverty over the years? Discuss the approaches and methods used in measuring poverty. What are the key data sources and methodologies employed in this process?

4. With the advent of the gig economy, traditional employment patterns are undergoing significant changes. Discuss the opportunities and challenges this presents for the Indian labor market. Also, analyze the implications of the gig economy on India's labor market structure.

5. Discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by integrating diverse energy sources into a unified national grid. How can India ensure grid stability and reliability while pursuing the 'One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency' initiative?

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MAION

MAHEI CIVIL SERVICES INSTITUTE



TOPIC OF THE MONTH

PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE

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DECEMBER EDITION

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE

DECEMBER EDITION