



The Civil Services Society
Of India

SANKALP JOURNAL

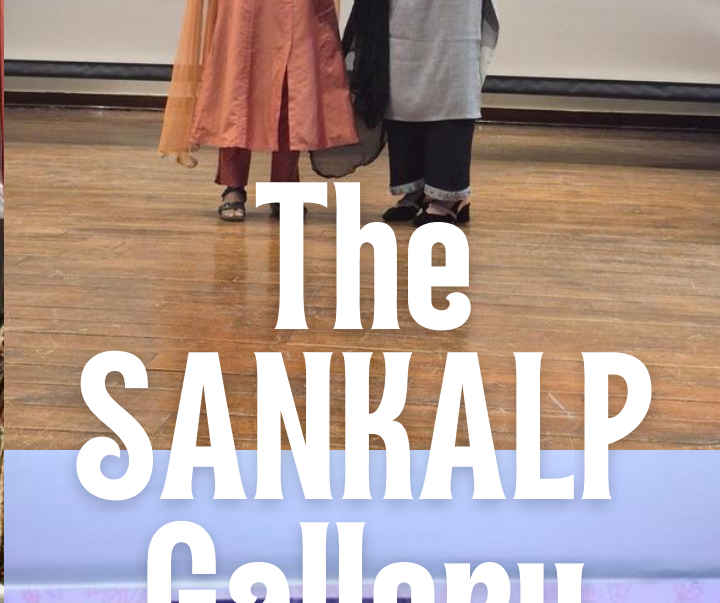
THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE
2025-26



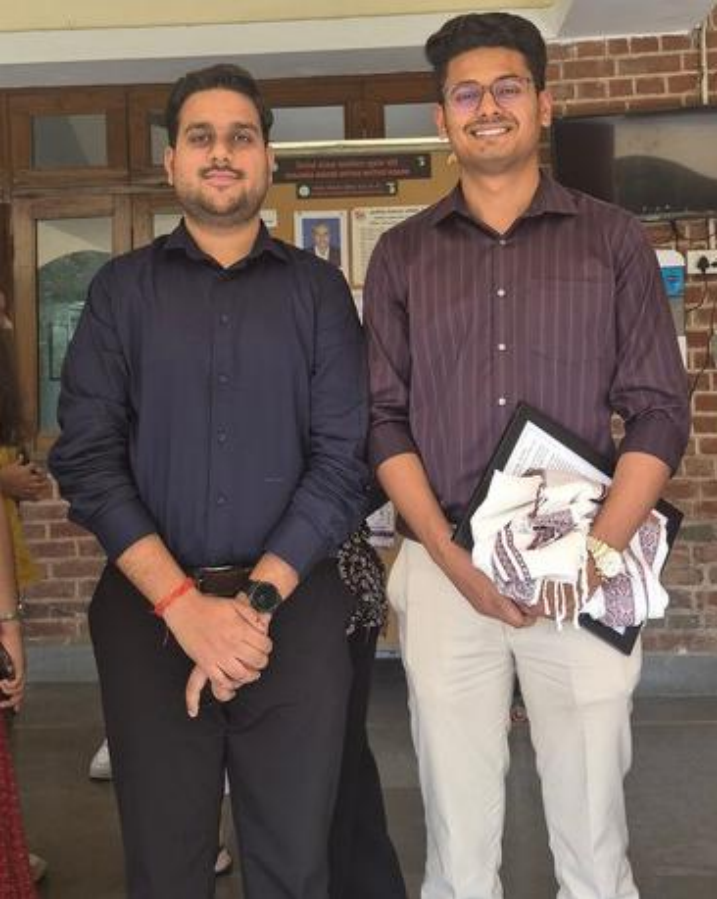
VOLUME 2

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The SANKALP Gallery



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Vineeth	Sagar
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Mehak	Tulika
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Letter From The President

Holding the position of President at Sankalp taught me what it actually means to take charge of something, not just represent it. Every task, decision, and outcome came with a level of responsibility that required focus and consistency.

During my time in this role, I understood that situations don't always go as planned. There are delays, confusion, and pressure, and in those moments, I had to stay composed and take clear decisions. It pushed me to think practically instead of reacting emotionally.

Leading the team also gave me a better understanding of how people work differently. Instead of trying to control everything, I learned to guide, trust, and step in only when required. This helped in maintaining both efficiency and a positive environment.

Another important learning for me was handling responsibility without excuses. When things went wrong, I had to accept it and work on fixing it rather than avoiding it. This mindset has made me more aware and careful in my approach.



PRESIDENT
Shagun
Sharma

"Leadership is defined by
accountability, integrity, and the
ability to take responsibility for
every outcome"

Letter From The Vice President

Serving as the Vice President of Sankalp was an experience that went far beyond the title. It gave me real responsibility and helped me understand how things function behind the scenes. I learned that managing a society requires strong coordination, clear communication, and quick decision-making. Facing challenges taught me to stay calm, think practically, and focus on solutions instead of reacting.

Working closely with the team showed me that leadership is not about control, but about support and alignment. Seeing members take initiative and grow in confidence was one of the most rewarding parts of this journey. This role has made me more disciplined, patient, and confident, and it has played a significant role in my personal and professional growth.



**VICE
PRESIDENT
Akanksha
Sharma**

“At Sankalp, I learned that leadership is less about the title and more about taking responsibility, being there for your team and growing with every challenge.”

Letter From The Chief Executive Secretary

My journey with Sankalp has been a spectacular rollercoaster—one that started with a lot of curiosity and absolutely zero knowledge about how college societies worked. Sankalp was the very first society I joined. Before long, I found myself in the thick of it as a core member of the Organizing and PR & Sponsorship teams.

Eventually, I was handed the incredible opportunity to serve as the Head of the newly created Technical Team. Building that from the ground up paved the way for my time as Joint Secretary, and finally, brought me to where I am today as your Chief Executive Secretary. As Chief Executive Secretary, I act as the communicative bridge connecting our President and Vice-President with all our dedicated department heads and Joint Secretaries.

To the new members and juniors: embrace the rollercoaster. The true Sankalp experience isn't just about the titles you hold; it's found in the late-night planning, the last-minute event turnarounds, and the teamwork it takes to pull it all off.



**CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY**
**Umesh
Yadav**

"Meaningful change doesn't come
from big ideas alone, but from
consistently working towards them
with a sense of purpose."

Letter From The General Secretary

My role as General Secretary of Sankalp Civil Services Society of India, I carry with me not just memories, but a deep sense of pride and gratitude. Working alongside such passionate College Representatives, Campus Representatives, and Campus Ambassadors across the nation has been an enriching journey—one that constantly reminded me of the power of collective vision and youth-driven change.

Each one of you has been more than a representative; you have been the torchbearers of Sankalp's mission, spreading awareness, inspiring aspirations, and building a community committed to public service. Your dedication, resilience, and belief in the idea of a better India have been the true driving force behind everything we achieved together.

As I step forward into a new phase, I do so with complete confidence that this network will continue to grow stronger, reach further, and inspire many more. Remember, leadership is not about position, but about purpose—and you all have already embodied that spirit.

“I believe change doesn't wait for perfect moments- it grows through the effort we choose to put in every single day.”



**GENERAL
SECRETARY**
**Kalpana
Pathak**

Letter From The Joint Secretary

Being a Joint Secretary gave me the chance to handle both organising and PR & sponsorship together, which wasn't always easy but definitely worth it. I was involved in planning events, coordinating with the team, and making sure things ran smoothly. At the same time,

I reached out to sponsors, handled communication, and worked on building connections that could support our initiatives.

This role pushed me out of my comfort zone and taught me how to manage multiple responsibilities without losing focus. I learned how important clear communication and teamwork are, especially when things don't go as planned. Over time, I became more confident, organised, and better at handling pressure, and it really helped me grow both personally and professionally.



**JOINT
SECRETARY**
Aashna Kaur

“I believe real progress comes from pushing boundaries, embracing growth and creating impact along the way.”

Letter From The Joint Secretary



**JOINT
SECRETARY
Shubhya
Pandey**

I'm someone who believes in growth with purpose, balancing curiosity, creativity, and responsibility in everything

I do. A thinker, a feeler, and a quiet observer of everything unsaid, I thrive in spaces that challenge me to think deeper and do better.

Whether it's engaging in meaningful discussions or working with people, I find meaning in collaboration and shared ideas. As the Joint Secretary of Sankalp Society, I strive to turn this mindset into meaningful action and impact.

"I've learned that not everything has to be loud to be meaningful - sometimes the quietest growth shapes us the most."

Advisory Council



From the

ADVISORY BOARD HEAD

Nishtha Negi

Life gives us multiple opportunities to thrive and progress in gaining experiences worth learning, it is always in our hands to effectively utilize them to enrich ourselves and equally outgrow our old unproductive patterns or habits. Take the opportunity as a blessing, efforts as the inputs and progress as the output.

My journey with Sankalp has been a three-year-long one, where I started from being a member of this society to gradually scaling to the position of member of the Advisory Council in these years. From the receiver end to the initiator side, I have worked as the member, Core team Associate, College Representative and then eventually the General Secretary of this organization in the previous tenure of 2024-25. Serving as the Advisor this tenure has been nothing short of ardent diligence and tenacious efforts in the growth of this society.

Setbacks were faced, but the spirit persevered.

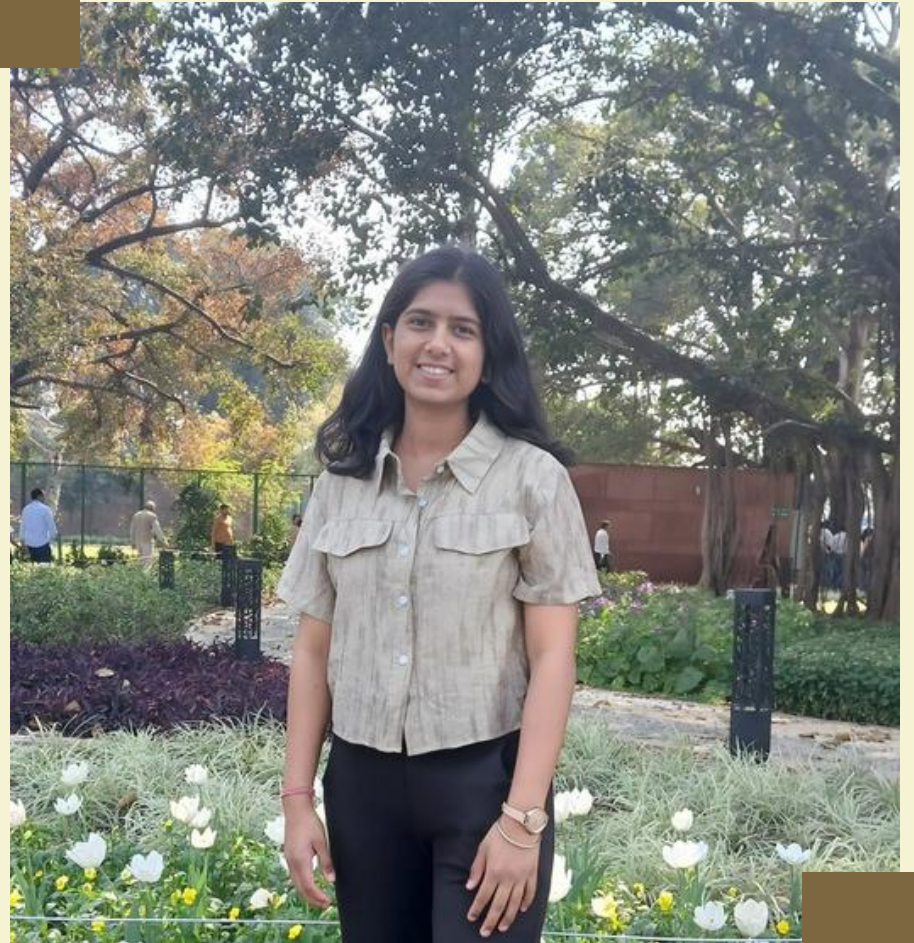
This society has started from an idea of a small group of UPSC aspirants, who wished to provide the best to other fellow aspirants across Delhi University; it now connects more than thousands of students across different states of India through their varied channels of communication. Wishing all the members best of luck for their careers; may Sankalp serve as the foundational block of guidance and inspiration. All the aspirants and members of this organization, difficulties come, but remember, you are always greater than your ups and downs.

As the profound saying goes,
"Be Stronger than Your Excuses."

Content Heads

As Content Team Head at Sankalp, I managed UPSC-related content, including writing, editing, reviewing, and task allocation. I led a diverse team, ensuring quality and timely delivery. This role strengthened my leadership, communication, and organizational skills while helping me grow through teamwork, responsibility, and hands-on experience. Being the Content Head has been much more than just holding a position for me. It has been an experience full of learning, challenges, teamwork, and growth, and I'm truly grateful for everything it has taught me.

ABHILASHA JAIN



MONALISA

I served as Deputy Head of the Content Team, collaborating to create and refine content while ensuring quality and consistency. The role strengthened my organisation, responsibility, and communication skills as I managed deadlines and coordination. Overcoming challenges improved my patience, teamwork, and adaptability, while exposure to diverse perspectives broadened my understanding.

Creative Heads

Being a part of this society for the past two years has been a journey of growth, learning, and self-discovery. What started as curiosity gradually turned into commitment, and eventually, a responsibility I am proud to carry as the Creative Head. Along the way, I've explored ideas, faced challenges, and learned how to turn vision into reality through collaboration and persistence. This role is not just a position for me, but a reflection of the experiences, creativity, and passion I've built over time. As I step into this responsibility, I hope to continue creating work that represents both individuality and the spirit of our society.

VRINDA SHARMA



BHUMIKA

As Co-Creative Head of Sankalp – The Civil Services Society, I plan and execute creative work for speaker sessions, festivals, and publications. I design posters, thumbnails, certificates, and the annual magazine layout while ensuring visual consistency and quality. Collaborating with teams under deadlines has strengthened my leadership, coordination, time management, and communication skills across digital and offline projects.

Social Media Heads

I've always believed that social media is where vision meets reality. Leading the *social media team* at Sankalp was a masterclass in creative agility. My days were defined by high-energy brainstorming sessions and the constant challenge of "coping up" with an ever-evolving digital landscape. It wasn't just about the aesthetic; it was about ensuring that the vital updates our aspirants needed reached them in the most engaging way possible. Turning big ideas into thumb-stopping content was a fabulous journey that I truly loved.

EKTA RAO



*AMISHA KUMARI
MAURYA*

My journey at Sankalp has been deeply enriching, evolving from a team member to Deputy Head of Social Media. Managing digital initiatives, creating content, and collaborating with seniors like Nishtha Di enhanced my skills, confidence, and leadership. This experience has shaped my growth, creativity, and sense of responsibility.

Organising Heads

HRISHITA AGARWAL

As the go-to Organising team leader at Sankalp, I serve as the central link between our vision and its execution. Beyond managing events and coordinating flagship sessions like Samvaad, I've taken the initiative to transform our team into a "creative hub" where ambitious ideas are efficiently turned into reality. What I love most about this role is the ability to architect experiences—providing the steady support and direction needed to turn individual potential into collective success for our UPSC aspirant community. It was a fabulous journey and a great experience indeed.



KAYNA SINGH

Serving as Deputy Head of the Organising Team in Sankalp-The Civil Services Society Of India involved coordinating events, managing team communication, and ensuring smooth execution. I bridged leadership and members, delegated tasks, and handled challenges. This role strengthened my leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills while contributing to impactful, well-organized society events.

PR & Sponsorship Heads

GEETANSHU

Serving as PR & Sponsorship Head with 2 years of experience, I managed partnerships, outreach, and sponsorship deals. My journey built strong leadership, communication, and event management skills. While events were successful, I identified improvements in planning, sponsorship processes, MOUs, and coordination, contributing to my overall growth and efficiency.



UPAWAN KUMAR

Served as Deputy Head – PR & Sponsorship, managing public relations, building stakeholder connections, and securing sponsorships through negotiation and outreach. Drafted proposals and official communication, coordinated with teams for event execution, ensured sponsor deliverables, and contributed to outreach strategies, demonstrating strong communication, leadership, and negotiation skills.

Technical & Tarang Heads

As Technical Head of Sankalp, I managed digital platforms, online sessions, and communication systems to ensure smooth, accessible initiatives. I handled technical challenges under pressure, strengthening problem-solving and adaptability. This role enhanced my leadership, technical, and teamwork skills while contributing to impactful events supporting civil services aspirants.

PIYUSH RAJ



TARUN

As Head of Tarang – the Weekly Discussions, I led and coordinated interactive discussion sessions that encouraged the exchange of ideas and diverse perspectives. I ensured that every session remained engaging, inclusive, and meaningful, creating a comfortable environment where participants could confidently share their thoughts and learn from one another. Through this role, I strengthened my leadership, communication, and coordination skills while contributing to a culture of open dialogue and collaborative learning within the society.

Campus Representatives

Serving as the North and Off Campus Representative at Sankalp, I coordinate and mentor CRs, ensuring effective communication and smooth execution of activities. Over three tenures, I have developed strong leadership, communication, and management skills, while gaining valuable experience in teamwork, accountability, adaptability, and organizational coordination.

SHALU SINGH



UJJWAL BAJPAI

Served as South Campus Representative at Sankalp Society, coordinating between the core team and College Representatives. I mentor CRs, ensure smooth execution of activities, and drive engagement. This role has strengthened my leadership, communication, and management skills while teaching me accountability, adaptability, and teamwork.

National Campus Representative

My journey with Sankalp – Civil Services Society reflects leadership, growth, and impact. From College Representative to National Campus Representative, I expanded outreach, recruited and mentored ambassadors, and managed the UPSC Circle channel. Alongside academic roles, NSS service, and a municipal internship, I developed strong leadership, communication, and governance skills.

GAURVI JAISWAL



Samvad Head



Led the Samvad Cell, overseeing end-to-end planning and execution of webinars. Managed communications, conceptualized event themes, and coordinated team efforts. Delegated tasks, guided members, and ensured smooth operations while drafting professional invitations and briefs, demonstrating leadership, adaptability, and strong organizational skills.

AANCHAL DEWANGAN

College Representative

2025 - 2026



OM Shukla
Acharya Narayan Dev College



Srishti Singh
ARSD



Pranjal Yadav
Aryabhatta College



Pearl Garg
Aryabhatta College



Sakshi
Bharti College



Abhishek Kuntal
Bhimrao Ambekar College



Vidant Misra
College of Vocational Studies



Deepak Kumar
Deen Dyal Upadhyay College



Sintu kumar
Deshbandhu College



Janhvi Yadav
DRC

College Representative

2025 - 2026



Lipika
DRC



Aryan Singh
Dyal Singh College



Ashish Biswa
Faculty of Law



Kumkum Chaudhary
Hindu College



Dipanshu Raj
Hindu College



Aditi
IPCW



Akashi Gupta
IPCW



Raiyana Jellani
IPCW



Rishu
Kalindi College



Daksh Parmar
KMC

College Representative

2025 - 2026



Aashirwad Singh
KMC



Jahana
Lakshmibai College (W)



Harshita Bhagvat
LSR



Deepshikha
Maitreyi college



Samdisha
Miranda House



Saniya
Miranda House



Charvi Aggarwal
MLNC



Kanika
MLNC

College Representative

2025 - 2026



Shashwat Tripathi
MLNC EVENING



AMAN KUMAR
MLNC EVENING



Arti
Ramjas College



Tanishq
Ramjas College



Lucky Gangwar
Ramjas College



Palak Shrivastava
RLA College



Yuvraj
Satyawati College



Nimishi Chadda
Satyawati College Evening



Minakshi
Shivaji College



Vikash
Shivaji College

College Representative

2025 - 2026



Zohra Fatima
SPM College



Sania Sayal
SPM College



Akshat Nanavati
Sri Aurobindo College



Vedant Misra
SRCC



Prince
Zakir Hussain College



CONTENT TEAM



Daksh Parmar
Kirori Mal College



Siddhi Chaudhary
Ramjas College



Aditi Yadav
Miranda House



Maitreyee Singh
Deshbandhu College



Vure Vineeth
Dyal Singh Evening College



Suhani Priya
Janki Devi Memorial College



Deepti
Miranda House



Aarti
Ramjas College



Samriddhi Mishra
Satyawati College



Tulika Sharma
Kirori Mal College



Mehak Maurya
Ramjas College



Ananya Shibu
Ramjas College



Ritik Kumar
Dyal Singh College



Sagar Sahu
Shivaji College

CREATIVE TEAM



Palak Verma
*Cluster University
Jammu*



Anshika
IPCW



Gauravi
Maitreyi College



Khushboo
SPMC



Palak
IPCW



Riya
*Acharya Narendra
Dev College*



Khushi
*Sri Venkateswara
College*



**Sandeep
Rawat**
Ramjas College



Yamini
IPCW



Saudagar Sahu
Ramjas College

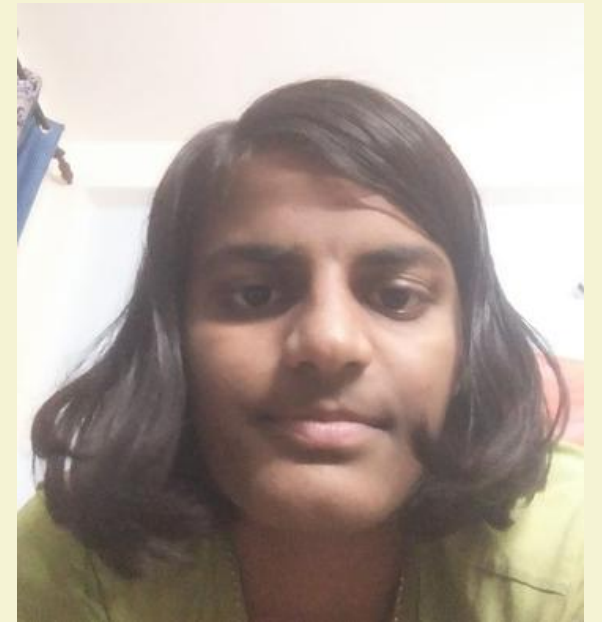
SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM



Shobha Kumari
SPMC



Nandani Pardhan
SPMC



Shrishti Singh
ARSD



Vamika Minz
IPCW



Raiyana Jellani
IPCW



Prem Bajaj
Satyawati College

PR & SPONSORSHIP TEAM



Sanskriti Sharma
KMC



Surbhi Sahu
Barkatullah
University



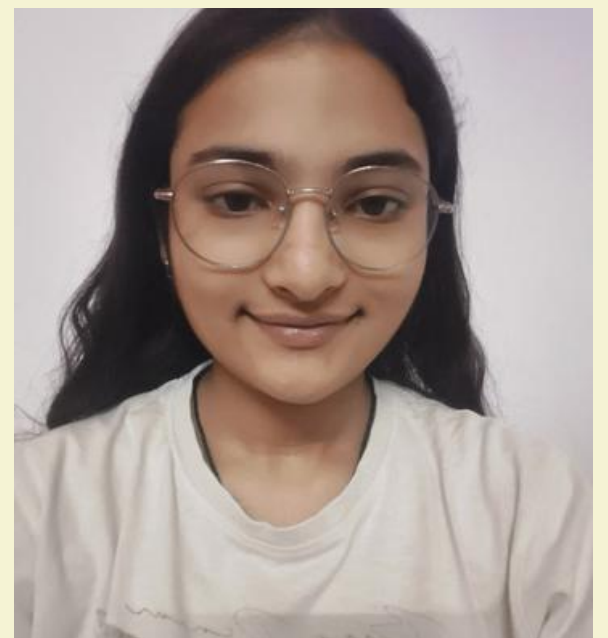
Naincy
Maitreyi College



Anshul
Maitreyi College



Pawan Bharti
Dyal Singh College
(Evening)



Dev Prabha
Maitreyi College

TECHNICAL TEAM



Ayush Rajak
Aryabhatta College



Amisha
SPMC



Maitreye Singh
Deshbandhu College



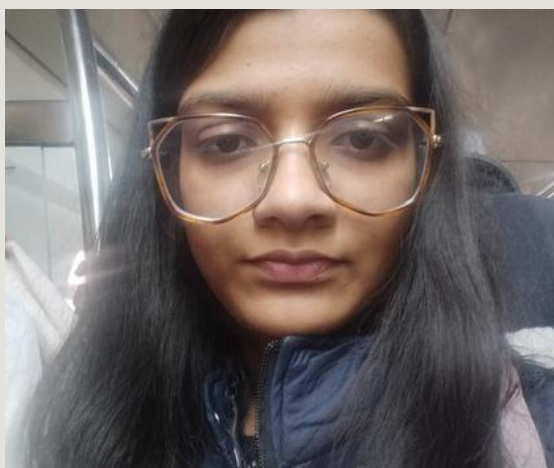
Himani
Miranda House



Sidhi Gupta
IPCW



Dipanshu Raj
Hindu College



Shreya Singh
Daulat Ram College

ORGANISING TEAM



Aanchal Dewangan
Gargi College



Shreya
DRC



Ronit
MLNC



Tanishq
Ramjas College



Krish Gola
MLNC



Akshrika
IPCW



Ridham
DRC



Divya Yadav
Hindu College



Lipika
DRC



Rishabh
CVS



Riddhima
Ramjas College



Siya Sinha
DRC

ORGANISING TEAM



Piyush Raj

Aryabhatta College



Avinash

Aryabhatta College



Parul

IPCW



Ishu

MLNC



Aditya Raj

Ramjas College



Riya Rawal

LSR



Hridya

LBC



Yuvraj

Satyawati College



Shubhi

DRC



Samdisha

Miranda House



Riya

LSR



Janhavi

Institute of Home
Economics

ORGANISING TEAM



Zohra
SPMC



Swarnima
Miranda House



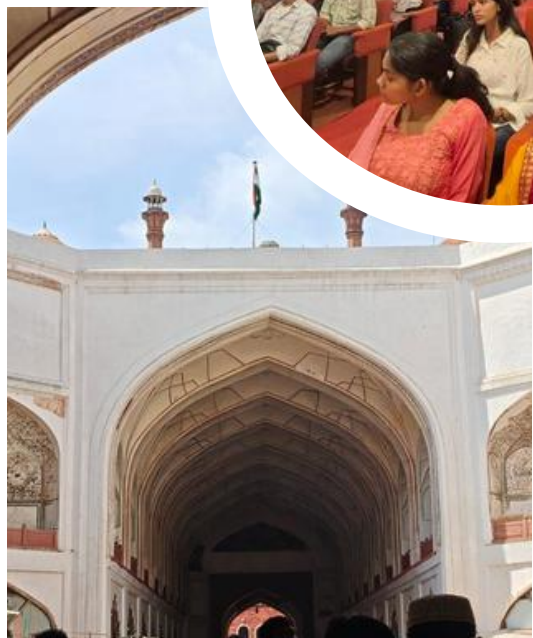
Kiran
LBC



Somya Singh
IPCW



2025-26 VISION BOARD





VISION & MISSION



Vision:

To build a community of motivated and socially responsible students who aspire to become civil servants, ensuring that every individual, regardless of resources, gets a fair and equal opportunity to prepare for UPSC. The vision is to nurture individuals who prioritize the nation and society, while developing leadership, responsibility, and awareness. It also aims to create an environment that inspires discipline, consistency, and a strong sense of purpose among students.

Mission:

To guide and mentor students through every stage of their civil services preparation by providing structured support, including quality study material, workshops, and regular doubt-solving sessions. The mission focuses on fostering a strong culture of peer learning, organizing impactful seminars, discussions, and expert talks on relevant topics. It also aims to build confident, ethical, and responsible individuals who are not only exam-ready but also prepared to contribute meaningfully to society.

Initiatives & Activities



SAMVAD : The Speaker Session

The Samvad Series connects aspirants with UPSC rank holders, experts, and mentors, offering valuable insights into the preparation journey beyond books. Speakers share strategies, challenges, and experiences across Prelims, Mains, and Interview, helping aspirants understand preparation techniques, answer writing, and time management. Its interactive format allows participants to ask questions and receive guidance, while real-life success stories provide strong motivation. By bridging aspirants with achievers, the Samvad Series helps build confident, informed, and motivated candidates.

PRASHNOTRI : Weekly Quizzes

Prashnotri is a weekly quiz initiative that tests knowledge, reinforces learning, and promotes regular revision. Based on weekly content, it aids self-assessment and performance tracking. Conducted within a fixed time frame, it builds discipline and time management skills. Participants apply concepts and current affairs, improving retention and recall. It fosters healthy competition and motivates better performance. Results and scoreboards help track progress and identify areas for improvement. By making learning interactive, Prashnotri enhances conceptual clarity and builds exam temperament for real exam conditions.



TARANG : Group Discussions

Tarang – Sunday Discussion Forum is a weekly platform that develops critical thinking, articulation, and confidence through discussions on contemporary national and global issues. It follows a structured format with speeches, discussions, panel questioning, and conclusion rounds, enabling participants to express views, engage with diverse perspectives, and respond to counterarguments.

Tarang aids UPSC interview and group discussion preparation by improving public speaking, logical reasoning, and confidence. By promoting respectful dialogue, it transforms passive learners into active thinkers with strong communication skills and an analytical mindset.

Curated Study Materials

Curated Content Dissemination at Sankalp provides structured, syllabus-oriented study material, bridging static subjects and current affairs for holistic preparation. Static content builds strong concepts, while current affairs ensure relevance and context. This integrated approach enhances understanding and application.

The material is simplified and well-organized, making it easy to revise while saving time and avoiding confusion. Regular dissemination ensures continuity and reinforces learning, helping aspirants tackle both objective and analytical questions effectively.



SAMVAD SESSIONS

SPEAKERS

Dr. Apala Mishra secured All India Rank 9 in UPSC CSE 2020 and was allotted the Indian Foreign Service (2021 batch). She is currently undergoing/has undergone diplomatic training and is associated with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. She gained recognition for scoring one of the highest marks in the UPSC personality test. With an academic background in engineering and medical sciences, she is known for her insights on UPSC interview preparation, answer writing, and maintaining consistency across multiple attempts, along with a balanced approach to studies.



DR. APALA MISHRA (IFS)



RISHAB (IAS)

Rishab (IAS) is an IAS officer of the 2019 batch (based on CSE 2018) who secured All India Rank 23 in UPSC CSE 2018. He is currently serving in the Tamil Nadu cadre, including roles such as Deputy Secretary in the Finance Department. He is known for his analytical approach and for guiding aspirants on integrating optional subjects with General Studies, structured answer writing, and efficient preparation strategies.

Pari Bishnoi is a 2020 batch IAS officer (AGMUT cadre) who secured All India Rank 30 in UPSC CSE 2019. She has served in field postings such as Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) in Gangtok, Sikkim, working closely on grassroots administration and public service delivery. Coming from a disciplined academic background, she is known for her perseverance and structured preparation strategy. Her insights focus on consistency in preparation, answer writing, and understanding ground-level governance challenges faced by administrators.



PARI BISHNOI (IAS)



AJAY JAIN (IAS)

Ajay Jain, IAS is a senior officer of the 1991 batch, Andhra Pradesh cadre. He is currently serving as Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Housing Department. Over his career, he has held key positions such as Principal Secretary in Energy and Urban Development and leadership roles in state power utilities like APGENCO and APTRANSCO. With extensive experience in both field administration and state-level policymaking, he is known for his insights on public policy implementation, infrastructure development, and governance efficiency, particularly in bridging the gap between policy design and execution.

OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKERS



**VINAY
NANGIA**



**IPS SUMEET
MEHARDA**



**IAS TANUSHREE
MEENA**



**IFS SAMPADA
TRIVEDI**



**IPS ANUKRITI
SHARMA**



**IAS SHRADDHA
GOME**

OUR PAST SPEAKERS



KIRAN BEDI



IFS APALA MISHRA



IAS UTKARSH KUMAR



IAS KRITI CHACHRA



DEEPAK GUPTA



IAS SONAL GOEL

OUR PAST SPEAKERS



ANIL SWAROOP



SANJEEV CHOPRA



IAS SIVAKSHI DIXIT



IFS HIMANSHU SINGH



VIVEK ATRAY



IAS KANIKA GOYAL

Navodaya' 26

Annual Flagship Event: Highlights



"Where aspirations met opportunities, and ideas transformed into inspiration."



Date: 27th April 2026



Venue: Miranda House

Navodaya '26, the annual flagship event of Sankalp The Civil Services Society of India, witnessed an **overwhelming response with 650+ registrations and 550+ participants**. The event commenced with an inspiring inauguration ceremony, setting the tone for a day filled with learning, motivation, and celebration.

The **Speaker Session** by **Shubhra Ranjan** offered valuable insights into UPSC preparation, answer writing, consistency, and strategic planning. Her guidance motivated students to approach their preparation with clarity and confidence.



An engaging **Quiz Competition** encouraged participation and healthy learning, witnessing enthusiastic involvement from students throughout the event.

To conclude the event, a **Prize Distribution Ceremony** was organised to honour winners and participants for their achievements and active contribution, **making Navodaya '26 a memorable success**.



The **Toppers Talk Session** featuring **Shubhra Roy and Ishitwa Anand** focused on preparation strategies, time management, overcoming challenges, and maintaining consistency. Their experiences provided practical guidance and inspiration to aspirants.

The event also showcased **vibrant Cultural Programmes**, where students enthusiastically participated in music, dance, and performances, adding energy and excitement to the celebration.



TOP Performers

DEDICATION • HARD WORK • SUCCESS



Prashnotri

Rank 1- Deepanshu Yadav,
DU/RLC/2025/005

Rank 2- Shashwat Tripathi,
DU/MLNCE/2025/012

Rank 3- Sheetal,
DU/RJC/2025/074

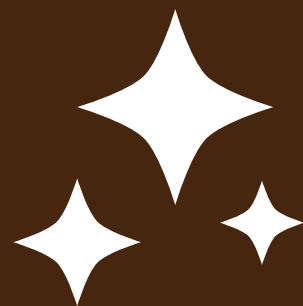
Rank-4 - Pragati,
DU/LBC/2025/012



Tarang

Prince Kumar,
DU/ZHC/2025/004





Best Core Heads (2025-2026)



Aanchal Dewangan

Samvad Cell



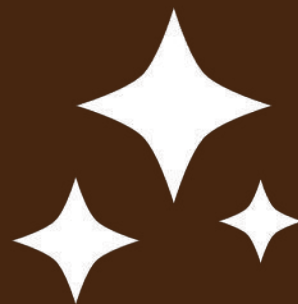
Amisha Kumari Maurya

Social Media Head



Abhilasha Jain

Content Head



Best Associate Members (2025 - 2026)



Naincy

PR & Sponsorship Team



Raiyana Jellani

Social Media Team



Vure Vineeth

Content Team



Top Performing Associate Member (2025 - 2026)



Deepti

Content Team



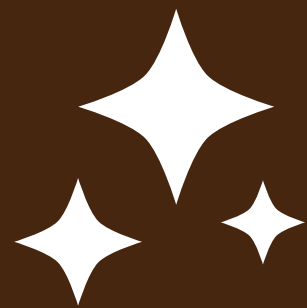
Tanishq

Organising Team



Shreya Singh

Technical Team

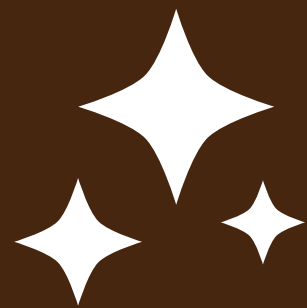


Best Campus Representative (2025 - 2026)



Shalu Singh

NORTH & OFF CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE



National Campus Representative (2025 - 2026)



Gaurvi Jaiswal

(DOON UNIVERSITY)



Best College Representatives (2025-2026)



Pranjal Yadav

Aryabhatta College

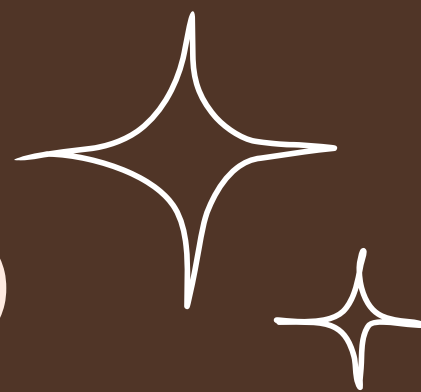


Dipanshu

Hindu College



Top Performing College Representatives (2025-26)



SAMDISHA

Miranda House



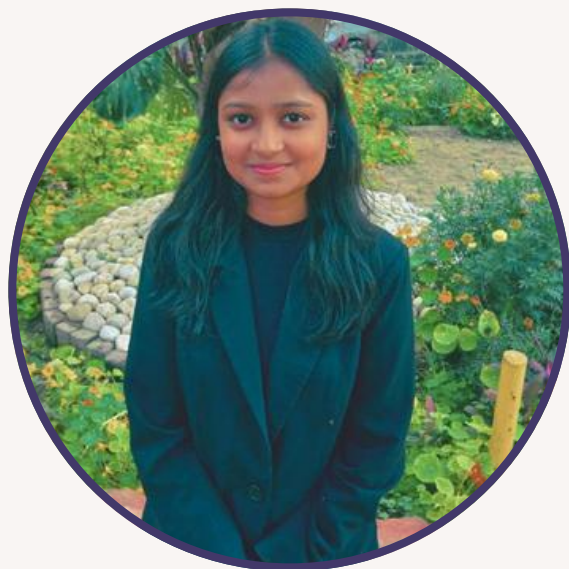
YUVRAJ

Satyawati College



AKASHI GUPTA

Indraprastha College
For Women



KANIKA JINDAL

Motilal Nehru College
(Morning)



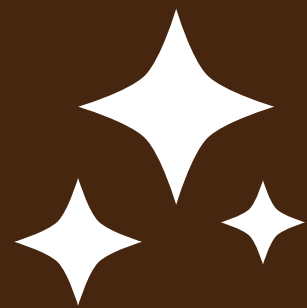
PEARL GARG

Aryabhatta College



**SHASHWAT
TRIPATHI**

Motilal Nehru College
(Evening)



Organising Excellence Award

(2025 - 2026)



Hrishita Agarwal

ORGANISING TEAM HEAD



Digital Media Excellence Award (2025 - 2026)



Ekta Kumari

SOCIAL MEADIA TEAM HEAD



Rising Star Awards (2025-2026)



Ritik Kumar

Content Team



Hridya Verma

Organising Team

ers, marshalling to the signal...
but the halo of old romance was still there
Now came the sound of hoofs, the
when dark horses and riding like

ENGLISH SECTION





MIRROR: THE RESEMBLANCE

It enters the world from just a small seed
Just like a young girl who's starting to read;
Gaining height, it starts making new friends
And the girl plays the whole day without an end.
Slowly, slowly knowing about the past ages,
The girl one by one tries to cross the different stages,
The little plant day-by-day grows and grows,
And the little girl about the world knows and knows.
When the ability comes in the plant
And the little girl is granted maturity,
The curtains of the hidden face of life then open.
The real evils try to weaken them.
'We'll fight and we'll win!'
They both feel this within.
To remove the fear that was increasing in excess,

They both decide to achieve the badge of success.
Maybe either in heavy rain or non-stop winds,
The plant never gets uprooted or ruined.
And the girl who studies day and night to achieve her aim,
Gifts her parents with love, pride and fame.
Now the plant starts to provide juicy fruits
And the girl continues to cross the hurdles in her route.
The plant is now beautiful, tender and full of life,
Gorgeous, strong and successful the girl becomes.
Their minds and strength do not at all differ,
'Excellent in their work'—they prefer.
Without losing any of their hope,
They both are always ready to cope with problems.



Hrishita Agarwal
BCom(H), Lakshmibai College



Something all your own

What if what I dream to be, what my
whole existence aims to become, isn't my
reality?

That question hit me today.

I sat with it.

Took a deep breath, full of fear, full of
ambivalence, and wondered,

What if the version of me I've always
chased was never real?

What if all my life, what I've wanted to be
is just an imagination?

A beautiful story I softly told?

A wishful thought, a tender lie,

My younger self would hold?

I asked myself with trembling heart,

With tears that knew no end,

"What if the life I chase so hard
is not the one I'm meant to spend?"

I broke down.

Hours of crying, feeling small,
drowning in self-doubt, low self-esteem,
battling a thousand racing thoughts.

But somewhere, in that chaos,
a thought gently surfaced,
It didn't try to silence the pain, it rested.
It simply hushed the fear and pride, and
said,

"But if you look back,
isn't your reality something you once
couldn't even dream of?"
Maybe it's something bigger than that.

In that moment something shifted.
Suddenly, it wasn't about dreams, or
reality, or the pressure to become.

Because maybe, just maybe,
what I'm living today,
is the dream of that little girl inside me,
the one who just whispered,
"You know, we made it this far."

And all I could think of,
the only thought that made me stay,
was this:

"You hoped for stars. You asked for
wings.

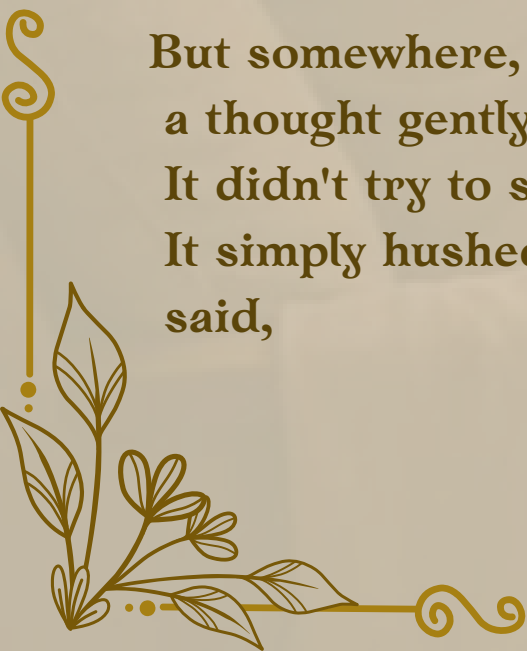
With all this, you've grown."

"What lives in you is not a dream,
It's something all your own."

And somehow, those words
didn't just pull me out of the dark,
didn't just gave a hope for my future,
they made me alive again,
right here, right now, in the present..

Shubhya Pandey

Bsc Physical Science with Chemistry,
Ramjas College





Silent Struggle

Not all battles are fought in the open,
Not all victories seek a crown;
Some take shape in silent corners
Where dreams refuse to bow down.
In the quiet of midnight hours,
Across pages heavy with thought,
Lives a steady, silent courage
That no setback leaves distraught.
It lingers in weary eyes,
In notes rewritten time and again,
In every fall that builds resolve,
In every loss that strengthens the gain.
For service is not merely a position,
Nor authority adorned with pride;
It is the will to stand for justice
When the world stands aside.
It is a promise, deep and enduring,
A flame no storm can erase—
To rise, to serve, to transform
With patience, purpose, and grace.
Let the world measure success in ranks,
In numbers, titles, and acclaim;
The truest victory lies within—
In a purpose beyond all fame.
And when at last the dawn arrives
After nights both long and steep,
It will not just be a dream fulfilled,
But a vow you chose to keep.

Ashmit Chauhan
B.A. Program (His. + Pol. Sci.),
Aryabhatta College

LIFE : FULL OF POSSIBILITIES

The journey of life being so tender
About it we know so slender;
It's never ending knowledge so delicate
There's more and more to accumulate.

Nobody knows what the future holds for us
The revolutions may be dark or glorious.
The life's reality still being wrappen,
Only the Almighty knows when what will happen.

Life always diverts its adventurous route
We ought to work or run with our steps being smooth,
Innocence is the state of mind for life's reality
We can even anytime face its stage of immortality.

May it be the time of young or old?
The story of life is still being untold.
All generations try to learn about it
Some fail and some chase something a bit.

Acting as a devil might play on your emotion,
Or sometimes like a fairy who'll help you achieve the passion.
In times of difficulties it may give you pain,
Or by your successive works you may gain.

Life can make you either happy or sad
Never lose hope and choose the bad;
The beautiful life has a variety of innumerable possibilities,
You just need to work hard and pay your responsibilities.

Hrishita Agarwal
BCom (H) ,Lakshmibai College

RETHINKING EDUCATION

97.8%, 94.6%, 8.5 CGPA. My scores in class 10th, 12th and college respectively. I vividly remember these scores, but the very education I received to earn them, that I can hardly recall.

Growing up, my household treated marks the way we often treat religion: with reverence, ritual, and a faint undercurrent of fear. While never explicitly “pressured”, as a 9 year old, I understood the value of academic excellence - the approval of my mentors, glee of my parents and the quiet disdain of classmates. But there was more. In this unpredictability of life, learning was predictable. I understood, instinctively, that education in India is not a mere phase. It is a transaction. You give the system the answer it expects; it gives you a number in return. And I had perfected the exchange.

The thing I didn't perfect- uncertainty and failure. I realised I had spent thirteen years without any deliberation of my life goals beyond the examiner's impression of my answer sheet. After high school, my peers had failed, experimented, and explored. And now, they had a sense of what they wanted, or at least, what they didn't. Whereas my ambition had a ceiling - attain the highest percentage.

Psychologist Benjamin Bloom spent his career arguing that remembering - the education system's sine qua non - sits at the bottom of human cognition. Above it, largely untouched by the system, were analysis, judgment, and creation. I had climbed every rung the system offered and arrived, at eighteen, still at the ground floor of actual thinking.

So I began again. Not with an ambition to win, but to be curious. About life, people, and myself. Asking questions without the greed of scores. Sitting with doubt instead of racing to solve it. I am, for the first time, less interested in what I can score

and more interested in what I can build, question, and contribute. I am pursuing Psychology and Philosophy not merely out of professional ambition, but so that I can finally quench all the curiosity about life I stifled when it didn't fit the word limit of the answer sheet. My take away - true success is tolerance for uncertainty. And despite the uncertainty, never losing the ability to question. Because questions bring you much closer to experiencing life than the perfect answer ever could.

Ritisha
BA Programme
Mata Sundri College for Women

THE WEIGHT OF SIGNATURE: HOW ONE DECISION CAN CHANGE A THOUSAND LIVES

A signature may seem like nothing more than ink on paper, a mere stroke of the hand. But in reality, it carries the weight of an entire economy—of standards of living, prevailing inequalities, and the hopes of millions of people.

An economy is not just a collection of graphs and numbers; rather, it is shaped by a diverse population with individuals belonging to different income groups. Income, in turn, directly affects the standard of living. This diversity inevitably brings inequalities in income distribution. The impact of such inequalities is not limited to statistics; it is visible in everyday life. For some, access to quality education, healthcare, and opportunities is readily available, while for others, even basic services such as food and clean drinking water remain out of reach. People belonging to the upper class can easily afford goods and services, whereas vulnerable groups often have to compromise or sacrifice even for basic necessities.

Policies framed at the top level do not always translate effectively into real-life benefits. A policy that appears beneficial at a broader level may have varied consequences depending on socio-economic conditions. Multiple layers of policy implementation often make it difficult to execute the intended framework effectively. This, in turn, affects the quality of life of millions striving to earn their livelihoods. Their voices are represented by those who act as decision-makers in shaping policies.

However, the real impact of policies depends largely on the decisions taken by those responsible for their implementation. The gap between policy formulation and execution often arises due to administrative challenges, lack of adequate resources, and insufficient understanding of ground realities. As a result, policies that are well-designed in theory may fail to deliver desired outcomes in practice. This disconnect further widens the gap between different sections of society.

A single decision can have either positive or negative repercussions for the population. In such a scenario, the responsibility of decision-makers becomes extremely significant, as their choices directly impact lives. Those entrusted with implementing policies hold immense power. The development of a country lies in the empowerment of all its people, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups. Therefore, a signature that may appear routine actually holds the power to determine access to basic necessities such as food, sanitation, and clean drinking water.

In such circumstances, it becomes important for decision-makers to focus not only on efficiency but also on empathy and ethical responsibility. Understanding ground realities and people's struggles is crucial for building a strong policy framework that truly benefits society.

Thus, a signature is never merely ink on paper. It represents responsibility, authority, and the power to influence lives. In a country as diverse yet unequal, every decision carries consequences that extend beyond what is visible. A single signature, therefore, holds the potential to shape opportunities, determine access to basic needs, and ultimately influence the future of countless individuals. True governance lies in ensuring that such power is exercised with awareness, sensitivity, and a commitment to the welfare of all.

Maitreyee Singh

BA(H) Economics, Deshbandhu College

INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY: IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

In the contemporary world, foreign policy is no longer framed behind closed doors. With the rise of the internet and globalization, citizens are more aware and actively influence international decision-making. Earlier, especially in the 20th century, knowledge about global affairs was limited to educated elites and urban populations. Public pressure on foreign policy was minimal, and voting behavior was largely driven by domestic concerns.

Today, however, the world has become a “global village.” Citizens closely follow international developments and assess how they affect national dignity, economy, and diplomacy. This increased awareness has made foreign policy more democratic but also more complex. Governments now have to balance strategic interests with public sentiment, which can sometimes be emotional or nationalistic. As a result, foreign policy formulation has become more challenging. Governments cannot act solely on strategic calculations; they must also consider public opinion, media narratives, and political consequences.

Example: During matches between India and Bangladesh, aggressive celebrations, social media reactions, and media debates created public pressure in both countries. This public sentiment pushed political voices to respond, briefly giving a diplomatic tone to a sporting event, showing how people can influence foreign relations. The BCCI has been criticized for yielding to political pressure rather than acting as a neutral sporting body. The act of the Board of Control for Cricket in India clearly depicts the pressure from the people and the inadequacy of institutions to act neutrally.

Today, there is also a debate about Indian foreign policy and its stand on the US–Israel–Iran tensions. Critics argue that silence in this instance is not neutral; if such acts pass without principled objection from the world’s largest democracy, the erosion of international norms becomes easier and normalized. They also point out why countries in the Global South would trust India to defend their territory tomorrow if it hesitates today to defend principles.

Civilizational ethos is not a slogan for ceremonial diplomacy; it implies a commitment to justice and dialogue, even when doing so is inconvenient. Whereas supporters like Shashi Tharoor argue that India's restraint in the US–Israel–Iran tensions is pragmatic and rooted in strategic autonomy. They maintain that such caution allows India to protect national interests and retain diplomatic flexibility, rather than getting drawn into polarized conflicts.

Increasing uncertainty intensifies pressure and calls for a more cautious and democratic approach, and today Indian foreign policy is struggling along this trajectory. It is facing difficulties and is going through a challenging phase of adjustment. Interestingly, every policy is an outcome of the context, and judgment is based on the actions of the government. The decisions taken today will be written in history and will determine how fair they were...

Janhvi Yadav

BA(H) Political Science , Daulat Ram College

BENDING STEEL FRAME OF INDIA

On April 21, 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel described the Indian civil services—particularly the IAS—as the “Steel Frame” of India while addressing probationers at Metcalfe House, New Delhi. The phrase symbolized the strength, integrity, and responsibility entrusted to these officers in sustaining governance.

A barrister and a key architect of India’s unity, Patel’s role in integrating princely states reflected exceptional administrative vision. When he called civil services the “steel frame,” it underscored their role as the backbone of the nation. However, nearly eight decades later, there is a growing perception that this steel frame is gradually bending.

Despite criticisms and the normalization of corruption in public discourse, civil services have produced exemplary officers. Sukumar Sen, India’s first Chief Election Commissioner, successfully conducted the first general elections despite massive illiteracy and logistical challenges. T. N. Seshan transformed the Election Commission into a powerful institution by strictly enforcing the Model Code of Conduct. Ashok Khemka and Armstrong Pame, in recent times, have upheld administrative integrity under difficult circumstances. Yet, recent developments raise serious concerns. Reports of electoral malpractice, questions around institutional independence, and allegations of corruption—even among those associated with ethics in administration—highlight a troubling contradiction. This raises doubts about the effectiveness of ethics training in the Civil Services Examination, particularly General Studies Paper IV.

Policy trends also invite scrutiny. Laws like the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 raise concerns about the weakening of transparency mechanisms like RTI. On the economic front, issues such as trade imbalances and currency depreciation demand attention, yet often remain overshadowed. This leads to a fundamental question: why is the steel frame bending? Is it due to political pressures, post-retirement incentives, or personal ambitions? More importantly, should it bend at all? Civil servants occupy a unique position in governance. Unlike elected representatives, who change periodically, bureaucrats provide continuity and are central to policy formulation and implementation. At a time when, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR 2024 report), a significant proportion of legislators face criminal charges, the integrity of civil services becomes even more crucial.

If the steel frame weakens, the consequences for governance and public trust can be severe. Therefore, civil servants must rise above personal interests and remain committed to constitutional values and public welfare. At the same time, citizens must exercise their democratic responsibility wisely, as electoral choices shape the system they critique. One should always remember that they are in service of “India”—Indian Administrative Service, not Government of “Indian Administrative Service”; Indian Police Service, not Government of “Indian Police Service”; Indian Foreign Service, not Government of “Indian Foreign Service”; Indian Revenue Service, not Government of “Indian Revenue Service.”

As Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in his iconic Parliament speech—

“Sarkarein aayengi jaayengi, partiyan banengi bigadengi... lekin yeh desh rehna chahiye.”

The strength of India depends on whether its steel frame remains firm—or continues to bend.

Vinayak Tiwari

M.A. in Media & Communication

Doon University, Dehradun.

BAL VIVAH MUKT BHARAT: PROTECTING CHILDHOOD, SECURING THE FUTURE

In July 2025, Kathavachak (storyteller) Aniruddhacharya triggered significant controversy and backlash for his remarks suggesting that girls should be married at age 14, claiming they "blend well into the family" claiming that unmarried women over 25 often have "loose character" or "impure" intentions.

Child Marriage Restraint Act in 1929 (Sarda Act), followed by an amendment in 1949, and replacement of 1929 act by the Prohibition of Child Marriage act in 2006 marks decades of efforts to prevent child marriage cases in India, yet these types of comments reflect child marriage as not just an issue of cases but of mental entrapment. Child marriage as an institution is perpetuated by patriarchal norms that neglects socio-economic-biological-psychological inferences. Courts in India have repeatedly recognized that Child marriage is a human rights concern that creates a continuum of harm and preserves the discriminatory, submissive, stereotyped role of women. In 2024–25, data from 416 districts shows about 1,351 child marriages were stopped and 122,000 prevented through legal and community interventions.

Child Marriage as a socio-economic phenomenon

It is imperative to perceive child marriage as a social custom rather than a social problem to analyse its deeper nuances and roots. When we place child marriage in a sociological understanding, we realise that it is propagated due to social phenomena like preserving virginity and innocence of the girl child, resorted as a method to protect girls from sexual exposure or harassment. It is also based on the belief that girls are a 'burden' and their marriage is a 'relief', marriage being the ultimate destination of life.

In the economic sense, child marriage is seen more prominently in the marginalized sections. National Family Health Survey 2015-2016 shows serious socio-economic disparities in child marriage (percentage of girls marrying below 18 years was as high as 44 percent in lower income strata of the society). We also see a rural-urban divide in child marriage cases as the NFHS-4 data (2015-16) showed 31.5% of women in rural areas married before 18, compared to 17.5% in urban areas. Child marriage as an institution is further reestablished due to economic relation in our country, e.g. the lower income strata primarily labour driven manifests multiple children therefore early marriages (women's work being confined to reproduction, source of cheap family labour) and due to prevalent dowry practices where with age, (related to fertility and health misconceptions) the dowry rates increase and therefore to have an affordable dowry, girls are married early. Consequently, child marriage thrives in economically disadvantaged groups

Legal and policy barriers

When we elaborate on the shortcomings of government and administrative efforts to curtail child marriage, we observe that in India, under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, a child has been defined as "a person who, if a male, has not completed twenty-one years of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age." This act also declares that any marriage solemnised between children below the legal age limit is null and void. Yet, child marriage is still widespread across the nation. States like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar still have an average age of marriage below the legal age of eighteen for females. Cultural and social norms are slow to develop and the administrative apparatus denies girls alternatives to marriage and remedies.

This is further complemented by poor enforcement of laws (inefficient bureaucracy at the grass root levels), lack of awareness of laws and ubiquity of child marriages that make it difficult to abnormalize or criminalise

them therefore limited capacity and willingness of officers to report child marriages or take mitigative actions. Legal prohibition alone cannot dismantle deeply internalized patriarchal norms and cultural inertia often outweighs legal reforms.

Grave repercussions of child marriage

The consequences of child marriage are serious and far-reaching. Firstly, they are deprived of the basic educational and employment rights constraining their potential and ambitions, as they get so involved in their domestic lives that stepping out of domestic responsibilities and challenging the conservative captive becomes a formidable challenge thereby trapping generations of women into a cyclical pattern of poverty.

When girls are married young, they become vulnerable to exploitative labor, poverty, physical and sexual violence, and a range of reproductive and sexual health concerns. According to a report by United Nations Population Fund, Girls below 18 years of age are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than women aged between 20-24. Child marriage increases the risk of intimate partner violence (IPV) including physical and sexual violence, compared with later marriages, because younger brides often lack power, agency, and the ability to negotiate. Several studies indicate that girls married before age 15 are significantly more likely to experience violence, including sexual coercion or marital rape, than those married later.

Child brides often face a high risk of depression, anxiety, subjugation, as early marriage cuts short education, social life and decision-making ability. A study found that girls married young experience immobility, isolation from peers, constant pressure which contributes to poor mental health.

States where child marriage is most prevalent are also those who have high populations. Child marriage in India has grave implications for population control as adolescent brides are likely to have high fertility and hence unwanted pregnancies.

Conclusion

Despite initiatives like 'Beti-Bachao, Beti- Padhao', and Dhanlakshmi Scheme and Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat to reduce rates, about 23% of girls in India are still married before the age of 18. Therefore, it's important that we recognize the structure of child marriage as an institution deeply embedded in our society and work towards promoting awareness programs for norm-changing interventions, providing better alternatives to women, increasing girl's education and, strengthening legal enforcement, provide incentives to improve marriage registrations. With consistent efforts and endeavor, the government and the public can work collectively and decisively to make Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat not just an ambition but a lived reality.

Nimisha Thakur
BA(H) Political Science
Kamala Nehru College

GEOPOLITICS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EARTH'S RICHES

Geopolitics can be referred to the use of political power by different nations to gain access over the strategic geographical locations, which are endowed with various types of natural resources, such as precious minerals, fossil fuels, forests and wildlife etc. As the world continues to get more interconnected in the recent times due to increased globalization, the control and access to natural resources has become a central theme in the global geopolitical dynamics. From the Middle East War over the control of Suez Canal to the Iran-Iraq war over the control of Khuzestan, the geopolitical games over the dominance of resource rich regions have been going on since time immemorial. In a world where the demand for various natural resources continues to rise, taking a grasp on how these resources influence international relations is more critical than ever. Resources have fueled numerous conflicts, alliances and economic growth for centuries. Therefore, developing a deeper understanding about them is necessary to broaden our perception on such themes and how they are affecting our day to day lives.

The history of how Geopolitics and Natural resources influence each other goes back to the ancient times when civilizations fought for control over key resources like fertile land, water and precious minerals. For example, The Roman annexation over the territories of North Africa for grains and Spain for silver. However, the Industrial Revolution brought this issue at a global platform, wherein the control over resources, especially oil, became a driving factor in global power expansion. During the Cold War too, the geopolitical tensions were not confined to political ideologies but also about the control of vital resources. This was noticed when both US and the then Soviet Union sought to gain control over the resource rich regions of Middle East and Central Asia.

In the 21st century, due to increased globalization, natural resources still continue to shape the economic and global power dynamics especially in terms of economically powerful nations using their strategic techniques to gain access over the resource rich regions. China has now emerged as a global player in this game, as it is using its trade and investment strategies to gain access over Sub Saharan African regions. That said, as the concerns over climate change and environment sustainability has been on the rise, the overall global dynamics of nations' control over resources are shifting.

Nowadays, due to the heavy rise of resource depletion along with climate change, many international organizations and regional organizations are working together to elevate the tensions between countries regarding resource exploitation and this is being addressed through multilateral agreements, technological innovations and economic cooperation. That said, this will not be enough to stop geopolitical tensions. For example, if we dive into the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that was adopted in December 2022, and how it could spark geopolitical tensions, we get to know a bigger perspective on issues like conflicts between conservations efforts and country's economic interest and how nations that depend on natural resources like oil, gas, and agriculture might hold these conservation measures as a threat to their development.

Again that being mentioned, in the recent years, countries are accepting on how co-operation at this time is essential to combat global environmental challenges despite the geopolitical tensions. From the geopolitical perspective, the progressively growing depletion of natural resources has led to some shift in international relations. Countries now realize that environmental issues transcend geographical boundaries and cooperation is needed now more than ever.

In conclusion, we can say that while geopolitical tensions between nations might come in the way of their cooperation, the urgency to address global environmental issues will continue to drive countries together. International and regional organizations such as the IUCN (international union for conservation of nature), WTO (world trade organization), EU(European union), OPEC(organization of petroleum exporting countries), ASEAN (association of Southeast Asian Nations), IRENA(international renewable energy agency), GEF (Global Environment facility) will play the defining role in limiting geopolitical tensions and actually working to save our precious natural resources. New forms of cooperations in the globalized economy will reduce the existing geopolitical rivalries and earth's riches will see better days because at the end of the day, saving earth's riches is not a task for any one nation alone, but is a shared responsibility of all the nations of the world.

Sagar Sahu
BA(H) Political Science
Shivaji College



The Distance between two lamps..

By ten o'clock, the collectorate had settled into its familiar rhythm—a slow, collective breathing of waiting and movement. The corridors filled with people clutching ribbon-tied files, their edges softened by repeated handling. Each person carried not just documents, but urgency—requests for pensions, compensations, certificates—small lifelines disguised as paperwork.

Near the enquiry window, a man reread the same notice, as if the answer might change. A woman stood quietly with a sleeping child on her shoulder, her eyes fixed on the pension counter. Around them, names were called, stamps struck paper, and files moved—slowly, almost reluctantly.

The building seemed designed for waiting. It absorbed impatience, stretched time, and held hope in suspension.

Among the many who came and went, Kamla Devi remained constant.

Every Thursday, she arrived and sat in the same chair near the pension desk. It wobbled slightly, but she never adjusted it. She preferred that spot—close enough to observe, far enough not to appear demanding. Her sari was always neatly pinned, her folder carefully arranged. The staff recognized her presence even when they did not recall her name.

Her file was simple: Family Pension Claim — Pending.

Two stamps remained—one for service verification, another for accounts clearance.

On paper, they were barely an inch apart.

In her life, that inch had stretched into eight months.

Eight months of repeated visits. Of saving bus fare, borrowing rice, delaying medicines. No one had denied her claim. But no one had completed it either. The file moved, paused, returned, and waited again—caught in a system where responsibility was shared so widely that it was owned by no one.

Rohan Mehta, the Assistant Collector, had joined four months earlier. Fresh from training, he believed in efficiency, clarity, and timelines. He disliked the phrase “come next week,” knowing how easily it became permanent.

He had first noticed her file during a routine review of pending pension cases. It stood out—not for complexity, but for its repetition. Remarks changed, dates updated, yet the status remained the same: pending.

Weeks passed. The file did not move.

One Thursday evening, as the office thinned, he noticed her still sitting—waiting without restlessness, as if patience itself had become her routine.

“Who is she?” he asked.

“Pension case, sir. Comes every week.”

“Why pending?”

“Stamp not done.”

The answer was simple. Too simple.

The next week, he called her in.

She entered quietly, placing her folder on his desk with careful hands. Inside, everything was orderly—certificates, service records, affidavits, bank details. A faded photograph rested between the papers: her husband in uniform, his expression steady, worn by years of labor.

“What did your husband do?” he asked.

“Sanitation worker, sahib. Thirty-two years.”

“And the pension?”

She hesitated slightly. “Since his death... I have been coming.”

“Why every Thursday? We will inform you.”

She looked at him—not with complaint, but clarity.

“Sahib, when poor people wait at home, no one knows if they are patient or forgotten. If I stop coming, they will think it can wait. And if it can wait, it will be buried. I don’t know your rules. But I understand forgetting. That is why I come.”

Her words were steady.

“I am not asking for favour. I only want his years not to be lost between tables.”

Something shifted.

Until then, delay had been an administrative issue for Rohan—numbers, reports, inefficiencies. Now, it felt different. Personal. Human.

The next morning, he traced the file.

The issue was straightforward: the municipal office had not completed final service verification. Without it, accounts could not proceed. No refusal, no rejection—just inaction. Calls had been made, reminders issued, but nothing concluded.

He called again. No result.

So he went himself.

In a dim records room, among dust-covered registers, the service file was found. Complete enough. The discrepancy was minor—something that could have been resolved in a day.

“Technically, we were waiting,” someone said.

“Technically,” he replied, “she has waited eight months.”

He stayed until the verification was signed.

Back at the collectorate, he ensured the file reached accounts. The process moved quickly now—sanction prepared, approval granted.

Two stamps.

That was all it took.

The next Thursday, Kamla Devi returned, as she always did.

He handed her the envelope. “Your pension is approved.”

She looked at it for a moment, as if confirming it was real.

“Approved?” she asked softly.

“Yes.”

She folded the paper carefully.

“I kept his pen,” she said. “He signed every document with it. I will place this beside his photo.”

There was no celebration. Just quiet completion.

After she left, Rohan remained at his desk.

The files around him no longer felt like routine work. Each one seemed to hold a story paused mid-way, waiting not for policy - but for attention.

He realized then that delay was not merely inefficiency.

It was distance.

Distance between entitlement and access.

Between policy and reality.

Between those who wait - and those who decide.

And sometimes, the longest distance of all

is not measured in miles -

but between two stamps

Moaizim Majeed
Bsc Economics and Data Science
SKUAST (Kashmir)

DIGITAL COLONIALISM: THE AI POWER GRAB

Artificial intelligence (AI) is touted as a driver of world advancement, fixing everything from global warming to health inequities. But behind its utopian promise is a more sinister truth: AI is being used as a tool of digital colonialism, a contemporary form of ancient exploitation. This phenomenon involves the application of technology by great powers and corporations to extract resources, dominate infrastructure, and dominate markets—usually at the expense of marginalized communities. To break this system, we must deconstructively analyze how AI worsens global inequalities and reimagines colonial relations in the digital era.

What is Digital Colonialism?

Digital colonialism is not just a metaphor; it's a structural shift in the way power functions internationally. Whereas conventional colonialism functioned through land conquest and extraction of bodily labour, digital colonialism uses extraction of information, algorithmic domination, and technological reliance in efforts to surveil dominance.

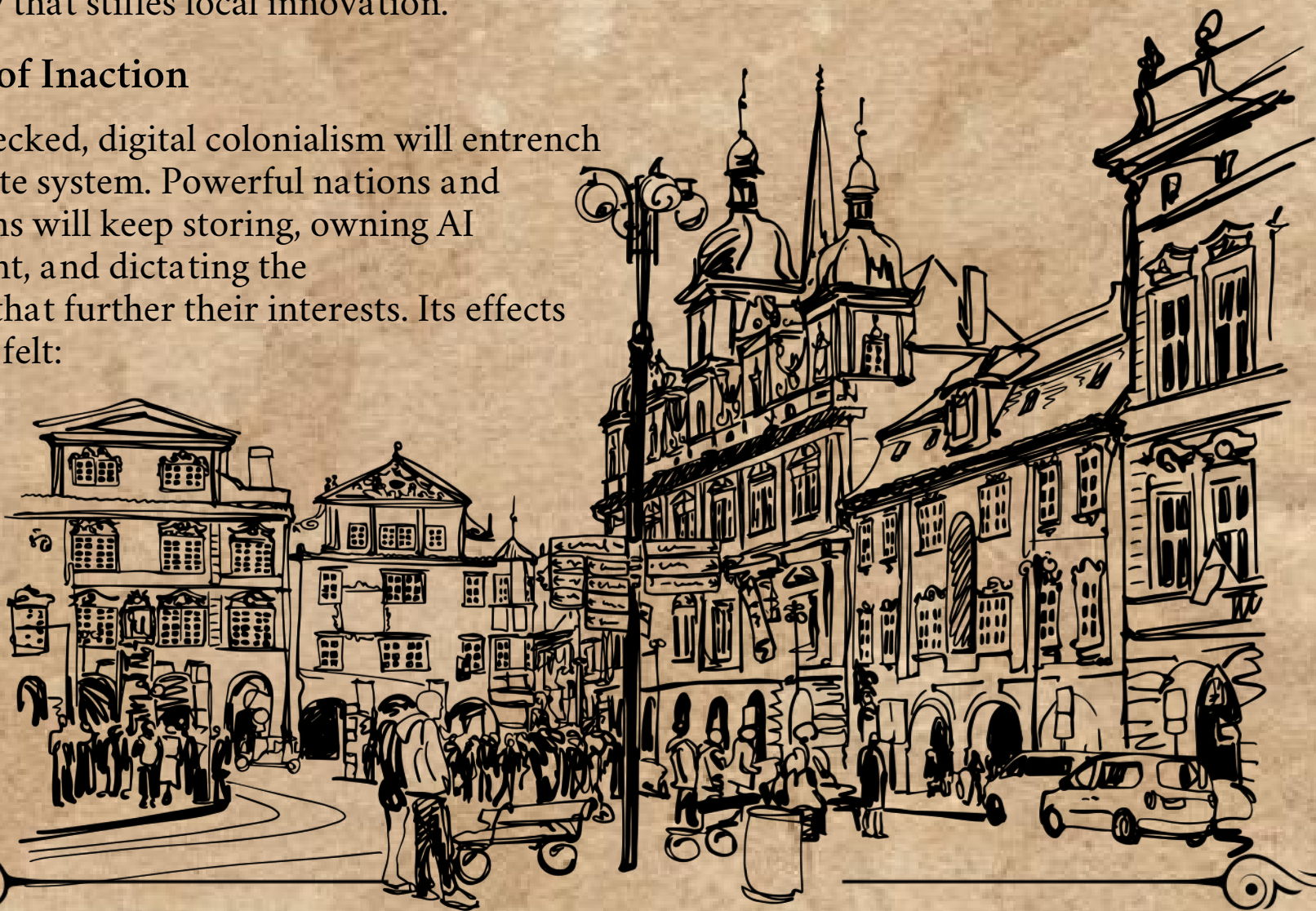
Key Mechanisms

1. Data as the New Oil: Similarly, colonizers used to harvest natural resources, and tech companies harvest information—frequently without users' knowledge—from people in the Global South. Data is used to power AI systems that create foreign actors' revenues.
2. Infrastructure Control: Amazon, Google, and Microsoft control cloud computing, while undersea internet cables (controlled by Western companies) determine who gets access to the digital economy.
3. Monopolistic Platforms: Social media and AI platforms (such as Meta's platforms and ChatGPT) establish global standards, displacing local ones and undermining cultural sovereignty.

For example, in Africa, 80% of digital infrastructure is controlled by non-African powers, leading to a dependency that stifles local innovation.

The Cost of Inaction

If left unchecked, digital colonialism will entrench a global caste system. Powerful nations and corporations will keep storing, owning AI development, and dictating the narratives that further their interests. Its effects are already felt:



Economic Dispossession,
Extinction of Cultures,
Collapse of Democracies.

An Action Plan Against the Risks

1. Policies of Redemptive Data
2. Decentralizing AI Development
3. Global Solidarity

The Moral Imperative

The struggle against digital colonialism is the struggle for 21st-century independence. As Cameroonian technology activist Rebecca Enonchong puts it, "Data is the DNA of our future—if we let others own it, we surrender our right to exist on our own terms." This is not a technical but a humanitarian issue. Just as previous movements ended colonial empires and apartheid, this generation needs to break digital domination.

The future requires courage and imagination. Governments need to rein in Big Tech, corporations need to embed ethical AI paradigms, and individuals need to insist on transparency. By placing marginalized communities at the center of AI creation and redistributing technological power, we can build a future where innovation benefits humanity—and not empire.

The choice is clear: perpetuate a system that enriches the few, or build one that empowers the many. The algorithms of justice await their code.

Conclusion: Reclaiming the Digital Future

Digital colonialism is not a theoretical danger—it is a real, structural reality reconfiguring power relationships in the age of AI. The historical analogy to ancient colonialism applies: extractive regimes, erasure of cultures, and increased dependency. But in contrast to the traditional colonial empires, digital colonialism operates by business algorithms, pipelines of data, and hidden networks beyond the control of conventional accountability. To turn the system on its head, we need to fight back its machinery and recast AI as a force of freedom, rather than bondage.

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VB-KHETI

Wiksit Bharat — Kisan Hitt Entrepreneurship and Training Initiative

India's agricultural crisis is not a crisis of land or water — it is a crisis of knowledge. With 44% of the workforce in agriculture contributing only 18% to GDP, and nearly 40% of farmers unaware of basic protections like MSP, the root cause is clear: untrained farmers disconnected from markets, modern techniques, and government schemes. VB-KHETI transforms farmers from subsistence cultivators into entrepreneurs of the soil — not through sympathy or subsidies, but through structured knowledge, market access, and genuine empowerment.

Recommendation 1 — University–Farmer Partnership Model (Core Policy)

The heart of VB-KHETI is a structured, recurring, community-embedded knowledge partnership between agricultural universities and farming communities, mediated by gram panchayats and district administration. Final-year and postgraduate agricultural university students conduct mandatory monthly training camps at assigned gram panchayats as part of their compulsory field practicum, moderated by the Gram Pradhan and block-level agriculture officer who serve as institutional bridges ensuring continuity and accountability. Each session covers a distinct theme — important themes repeated periodically to onboard newly enrolled farmers — ensuring no farmer is left behind regardless of when they join. This is a mutual learning model: students bring academic knowledge while farmers contribute generations of practical wisdom, giving students a ground-level reality check no classroom can replicate. Student participation earns academic credit, merit recognition, and refreshments — while also serving as a meaningful welfare and character-building initiative enabling students to drive grassroots change.

1. **Farmer Incentive Architecture:** Farmers demonstrating measurable progress receive: preferential loans with reduced collateral and lower interest rates; free quality genetic seeds for the next season; organic greenhouse kits; priority government scheme enrollment; better input availability; and direct market linkages to organised retail chains and exporters. Attendance-based performance is tracked through AgriStack — publicly recognised within the village community — and free food and refreshments at every camp ensure consistent participation.
2. **Training Modules:** Crop diversification and rotation; organic farming and certification pathways; contract farming rights and legal literacy; climate change adaptation; horticulture and floriculture; allied activities including mushroom cultivation and beekeeping; government scheme awareness including PM-KISAN and PMFBY; and direct market linkage with organised retail chains like Reliance Fresh and Big Basket. New themes are introduced every month, with lessons tailored to regional and seasonal needs incorporated dynamically.
3. **Market Access Integration:** High-performing farmers are connected through AgriStack verified digital profiles to APEDA-registered exporters, Farmer Producer Organisations, and organised retail chains — transforming training from abstract knowledge into concrete income opportunity.

National Farmers' Conference: The Government of India shall conduct an Annual National Farmers' Conference bringing together best-performing farmers nationwide for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and sharing of globally proven agricultural best practices.

Additional Recommendations

AgriStack Enhancement: AgriStack upgraded with AI-powered, voice-assisted, touch-and-speak functionality in regional languages; subsidised smartphones at ₹1,000–₹2,000 distributed through panchayat channels ensuring universal digital access.

2. Drone-Based Crop Mapping: Annual drone surveys by district agriculture offices establishing baseline crop distribution and soil health data — providing objective metrics to evaluate VB-KHETI's impact over time.
3. Contract Farming Protection: Gram panchayats empowered as first-tier arbitration bodies for contract farming disputes, protecting farmers from exploitative agreements and price volatility.
4. Strengthening Extension Infrastructure: Krishi Vigyan Kendras revitalised with adequate funding; better quality seeds and inputs ensured at last mile; existing schemes actively communicated through VB-KHETI training camps.

Expected Outcomes and Impact Assessment

Training combined with an entrepreneurial mindset shift produces six measurable outcomes: crop diversification with reduction in cereal monoculture; reduced fertiliser dependency saving government subsidy burden; direct market access translating knowledge into income growth; contract farming adoption protecting farmers from price volatility; climate resilience through adaptation training; and bridging the 40% MSP awareness gap through scheme literacy. Success is measured through five KPIs tracked via AgriStack and drone data: crop diversification rate per district; organic farming hectares certified annually; contract farming agreements registered; scheme utilisation percentage in participating panchayats; and farmer household income growth over three to five years. Challenges including student resistance, low farmer turnout, and digital connectivity gaps are mitigated through academic incentives, performance-linked rewards, and phased rollout beginning with BharatNet-covered panchayats.

NITI Aayog Alignment

- SDGs: Advances SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through crop diversification, organic farming, and reduced chemical input use.
- AI and Technology: AgriStack's voice-assisted, touch-and-speak interface makes AI inclusive and accessible for low-literacy farmers in regional languages.
- Education: Compulsory student practicum bridges theoretical agricultural education and ground-level application, strengthening India's agricultural education ecosystem.
- Women Empowerment: Allied activities like floriculture, mushroom cultivation, and beekeeping expand female economic participation through women-led household enterprises.
- Poverty Alleviation: Performance-linked incentives, preferential loans, and direct market linkage increase farmer household income — addressing rural poverty at its root.
- Health: Promotion of organic farming and reduction of chemical pesticide use improves food safety and community health nationwide.
- Environment and Climate Action: Crop rotation, water conservation, reduced fertiliser dependency, and climate adaptation training reduce agriculture's ecological footprint.
- Social Justice and Inclusive Growth: Voice-enabled digital access and panchayat level delivery ensure growth reaches the most marginalised farmers first.

Conclusion

"Sarvaarambhah Krishi Moolah" — Agriculture is the root of all endeavours.

— Kautilya, Arthashastra

VB-KHETI activates existing institutions — agricultural universities, gram panchayats, AgriStack, BharatNet, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras — building a self-sustaining ecosystem of knowledge, accountability, and market access without new bureaucratic structures. Its goal is unambiguous: to transform India's farmers from subsistence cultivators dependent on government subsidies into self-reliant agricultural entrepreneurs — and build the foundation of Viksit Bharat 2047.

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हिंदी साहित्य..





नारी

नारी धरती रूप है
नारी वृक्ष समान है
हमने जिनसे जीना सीखा
नारी वो पहचान है॥

नारी धूप छाँव है
जीवन की तू नाव है
तोड़ के सदियों की जंजीरे
तुमने दिखाई राह है॥

नारी शंखनाद है
जीवन की बुनियाद है
उपवन की कोमल छाया बनकर
इस जग को तूने संवारा है॥

नारी तू ना अबला है
विघ्नों की तू सबला है
परिवर्तन और प्रगति की डोर से
संसार को तुमने बदला है॥

-संजीव कुमार
पीएचडी (राजनीति विज्ञान)
इलाहबाद विश्वविद्यालय

पहेली

बदला सा लगता है ज़माना
कभी अपना सा लगता,
कभी पराया बना देता।

कभी उदासी, तो कभी खुशियाँ देता,
कभी सवालों का जवाब बन जाता,
कभी खुद पहेली बन जाता।

कभी लगता दुनिया जीत ली,
कभी खुद से नफ़रत करवाता।
न जाने किस राह ले जाता,
न जाने कैसा सफ़र करवाता।

जिसका न शुरुआत बताता,
न अंजाम का ठिकाना।
सफ़र से ज़्यादा, बोझ बन जाता।
सिर्फ उलझनों में रखता,

सिर्फ दूर से खूबसूरत लगता।
एक छोटी सी उम्मीद में जीने देता।

बदला सा लगता है ज़माना
जिसकी न आने की आहट,
न जाने का पता।
कभी अपना सा लगता,
कभी पराया बना देता।

आकांक्षा शर्मा

बी.कॉम (प्रोग्राम), दौलत राम कॉलेज

डिजिटल युग

स्क्रीन की दुनिया में खो गया है जीवन,
पर अंतर्मन की गहराई ढूँढ रही अपनापन।
भीड़ में गुम हर चेहरे में होड़ है,
हर हाथ में दिखता अब स्क्रीन टच फोन है।

नज़रें टिकती हैं स्क्रीन पर,
और उंगलियां चलती जाती हैं,
और भावनाएं, वो तो अब इमोजी बन जाती हैं।

हर दिन अपडेट होते स्टेटस,
एक दिखावा युक्त जिंदगी है,
लोगों से तुलना करने की होड़ में,
अब वो पहले वाली मासूमियत कहाँ है।

चैट में हाय-हेलो की बाढ़ है,
और दिल में एक खालीपन का व्यापार है।

घर में सबके उपस्थित होने पर भी
महसूस होता है कोई साथ नहीं,
क्योंकि हर सदस्य खोया है
इस स्क्रीन में कहीं।

माँ की पुकार भी अब धीमी सुनाई पड़ती है,
क्योंकि कानों में पहले
नोटिफिकेशन की घंटी बजती है।

फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम पर हजारों दोस्त मिलेंगे,
पर जो वक्त पड़े पर काम आए,
ऐसा शायद कोई मिल न पाए।

स्टेटस पर मुस्कुराते हुए चेहरे,
और लोगों के भीतर मन में अंधेरा,
क्योंकि वर्तमान युग में
हर दिल बन बैठा है एक डिजिटल बसेरा।

रील स्कॉल करते हुए
अब बीत जाते हैं दिन,
इस डिजिटल दुनिया के माध्यम से
लगता है हमारा समय
हमसे रहा है छीन।

लाइक की गिनती करते हुए
दिल का सुकून कहीं खो सा गया है,
पोस्ट तो वायरल हुई,
पर अपनापन कहीं सो सा गया है।

ज्ञान भरा है डिजिटल बुक्स में भी,
पर दादी-नानी की कहानियों सा
वो मज़ा कहाँ।

वो दोपहर की छुट्टियों वाली गर्मी,
वो मित्रों संग मिलकर खेलना,
खाना, मेले जाना,
सब एक स्वप्न सा हो गया।

साथ बैठ परिवार संग
चाय पीने का सुकून था कभी,
अब वीडियो कॉल की झिलमिल में
वो बात नहीं रही।

खेल का वो आंगन
अब अपने आप में सिमट गया,
बच्चों का बचपन भी
अब स्क्रीन से लिपट गया।

कहते हैं डिजिटल युग में
हर चीज हो गई है आसान सी,
पर दिलों की भावनाएं
अब हो गई हैं अनजान सी।

कभी थोड़ा वक्त
खुद के लिए भी निकाल,
बैठ और खुद से बात कर,
फोन को बंद करके
स्वयं से एक सच्ची मुलाकात कर।

योगिता
बी.ए.प्रोग्राम
एस.पी.एम.सी

अंतरिक्ष की उड़ान

प्रस्तावना:

प्राचीन समय में अंतरिक्ष तक पहुँचना एक काल्पनिक बात थी। लेकिन आज यह सबके लिए पहुँचनीय है। आज मनुष्य ने अपने ज्ञान के बल पर तकनीकी विकास द्वारा इसे आसान बना दिया है। भारत ने इसमें बेहतरीन योगदान दिया है। अब अंतरिक्ष मिशन भारतीयों के लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत बन गए हैं। भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) के नेतृत्व में भारत के अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम ने देश को वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित कर दिया है। 1975 में पहले भारतीय उपग्रह 'आर्यभट्ट' का ऐतिहासिक प्रक्षेपण किया गया। देश ने पीएसएलवी (PSLV) के जरिए लागत प्रभावी उपग्रह प्रक्षेपणों में अग्रणी भूमिका निभाई है। और 400 से अधिक विदेशी उपग्रहों को कक्षा में पहुँचाया है। 15 फरवरी, 2017 को पीएसएलवी ने एक ही प्रक्षेपण के दौरान 104 उपग्रहों को कक्षा में सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित करके विश्व रिकॉर्ड बनाया। आज देश की पहचान एक वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष शक्ति के रूप में होती है।

प्रमुख उपलब्धियाँ:

इसरो के कुछ ऐसे प्रमुख मिशन जिनके कारण भारत एक वैश्विक अंतरिक्ष शक्ति के रूप में उभरा:

- चंद्रयान-1: 22 अक्टूबर, 2008 को भारत ने अपना पहला चंद्रयान प्रक्षेपित किया। इसने चंद्रमा के ध्रुवों पर जल अणुओं की मौजूदगी की पुष्टि की।
- चंद्रयान-2: 22 जुलाई, 2019 को इसे प्रक्षेपित किया गया। इसमें एक ऑर्बिटर, लैंडर और रोवर शामिल थे। हालाँकि लैंडर की सॉफ्ट लैंडिंग नहीं हो पाई, लेकिन यह वैज्ञानिक डेटा संग्रह के मामले में सफल रहा।
- चंद्रयान-3: 14 जुलाई, 2023 को इसे प्रक्षेपित किया गया। यह भारत के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि साबित हुआ क्योंकि इसने चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव के पास सफलतापूर्वक लैंडिंग की। ऐसा करने वाला भारत पहला देश बना। इसके माध्यम से चंद्रमा की मिट्टी और पर्यावरण के बारे में वैज्ञानिक ज्ञान को बढ़ावा मिला।
- मंगलयान (MOM): चंद्रमा से परे, मंगल ग्रह पर भारत का पहला मिशन 'मंगल परिक्रमा मिशन' 5 नवंबर, 2013 को पीएसएलवी-सी25 के जरिए प्रक्षेपित किया गया। इसने 24 सितंबर, 2014 को मंगल ग्रह की कक्षा में प्रवेश किया। भारत ऐसा करने वाला पहला एशियाई देश और दुनिया का चौथा देश बन गया।
- आदित्य एल-1 (Aditya L-1): पहला सौर मिशन - सूर्य के बाहरी हिस्से 'कोरोना' का अध्ययन करने के लिए 2 सितंबर, 2023 को पीएसएलवी-सी57 रॉकेट द्वारा इसे प्रक्षेपित किया गया। 6 जनवरी, 2024 को यह पृथ्वी से 1.5 मिलियन किमी दूर L-1 के चारों ओर एक कक्षा में स्थापित हुआ।
- अंतरिक्ष डॉकिंग और सर्विसिंग (स्पैडेक्स - SPADEX): 16 जनवरी, 2025 को भारत निम्न पृथ्वी कक्षा (LEO) में उपग्रह डॉकिंग प्रक्रिया को सफलतापूर्वक करने वाला चौथा देश बन गया। इसने डॉकिंग, अनडॉकिंग, ईंधन भरने और पेलोड स्थानांतरण में भारत की क्षमता का प्रदर्शन किया।
- निसार (NISAR - 2025): यह पहला ऐसा मिशन है जिसे इसरो और नासा ने संयुक्त रूप से विकसित किया है। इस उपग्रह को 30 जुलाई, 2025 को प्रक्षेपित किया जाएगा। इसका उद्देश्य भारतीय और अमेरिकी विज्ञान समुदायों में साझा हित वाले क्षेत्रों में भूमि और बर्फ के विरूपण, भूमि पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र और समुद्री क्षेत्रों का अध्ययन करना है।

आगे की राह:

इसरो लगातार काम कर रहा है:

- गगनयान मिशन: गगनयान कार्यक्रम को लगभग ₹9,023 करोड़ के वित्तीय परिव्यय के साथ स्वीकृत किया गया है। यह भारत की पहली स्वदेशी मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान पहल है जिससे भारतीय अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को पृथ्वी की निचली कक्षा में भेजा जाएगा। इसके तहत तीन अंतरिक्ष मिशनों को भेजा जाएगा, जिनमें से दो मिशन मानव-रहित होंगे जबकि एक मानव-युक्त मिशन होगा। यह मिशन 5-7 दिनों के लिए पृथ्वी से 300-400 किमी की ऊँचाई पर निम्न भू-कक्षा में पृथ्वी का चक्कर लगाएगा।

चंद्रयान-4: चंद्रयान-3 की सफलता के आधार पर चंद्रयान-4 में 9,200 किलोग्राम का उपग्रह होगा। इस मिशन में चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर नमूना संग्रह और आगे के प्रयोग शामिल होंगे।
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन: इसे 2035 तक पूरा करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है, जिसके तहत आम भारतीय भी अंतरिक्ष यात्रा कर सकेंगे। और 2040 तक चंद्रमा पर भारतीय यात्रियों को पहुँचाने का भी लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

निष्कर्ष:

अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी में भारत की प्रगति, इसरो द्वारा संचालित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों और निजी नवप्रवर्तकों द्वारा समर्थित, तकनीकी आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में एक एकीकृत राष्ट्रीय प्रयास को दर्शाती है। भारत सरकार इस पर मजबूती से कार्य कर रही है। 2013-14 में स्पेस मिशन का बजट ₹5,615 करोड़ था लेकिन 2025-26 में इसे बढ़ाकर ₹13,416 करोड़ कर दिया गया है। 350 से अधिक स्टार्टअप इस समय भारत में हैं जो सैटेलाइट और लॉन्च वाहनों को बनाने का कार्य कर रहे हैं, जो भारत की अंतरिक्ष शक्ति में लगातार वृद्धि कर रहे हैं।

शिवानी अग्रवाल
बी.ए. (ऑनर्स) राजनीति विज्ञान
दौलत राम महाविद्यालय

एक सफर....

एक सफर... जिसने मुझे

‘म’ बनाया

छोटी-सी शुरुआत से चली थी म,
आँखों में सपने ललए, दिल में यकीन था कहीं,
रास्ते भले थोड़े मशककल थे मगर,
हर किम पर खिु पे यकीन और हौसला था यही।
दिल्ली विकिविद्यालय की भीड में खिु को पाया,
हर नए चेहरे में एक अपना-सा साया।
लमरींंडा हाउस ने लसर्फ पढाया नहीं,
बशल्क मुझमें छुपा ‘म’भी जगाया।
ककताबों से ज़ियाा श् गी ने लसखाया,
हर बार गगरकर भी मस्कुराकर उठना लसखाया।
कभी डर लगा, कभी मन घबराया,
पर हर बार खिु को आगे बढाया।
िोस्तों की हँसी, कैँ टीन की चाय,
छोटी-छोटी बातें, पर यिों सबसे प्यारी बन गईं।
कभी असाइनमेंट, कभी सपनों की उडान,
इनहीं लम्हों में बसता है मेरा सारा जहान।
आज जब ये र्यरिल का पल आया,
हर लम्हा जैसे दिल में समाया।
ये आँत नहीं, एक नई शुरुआत है,
जहाँ हर यिा मेरी सबसे बडी ताकत है।
चलते-चलते बस इतना कहना है,
ये सर्र कभी ना भूलना है।
जो कुछ सीखा, जो कुछ पाया,
उसी ने मझु ‘म’ बनना लसखाया।

अदिति यादव

बी.ए. (इतिहास + राजनीति विज्ञान)

मिरांडा हाउस

शिक्षा का महत्व

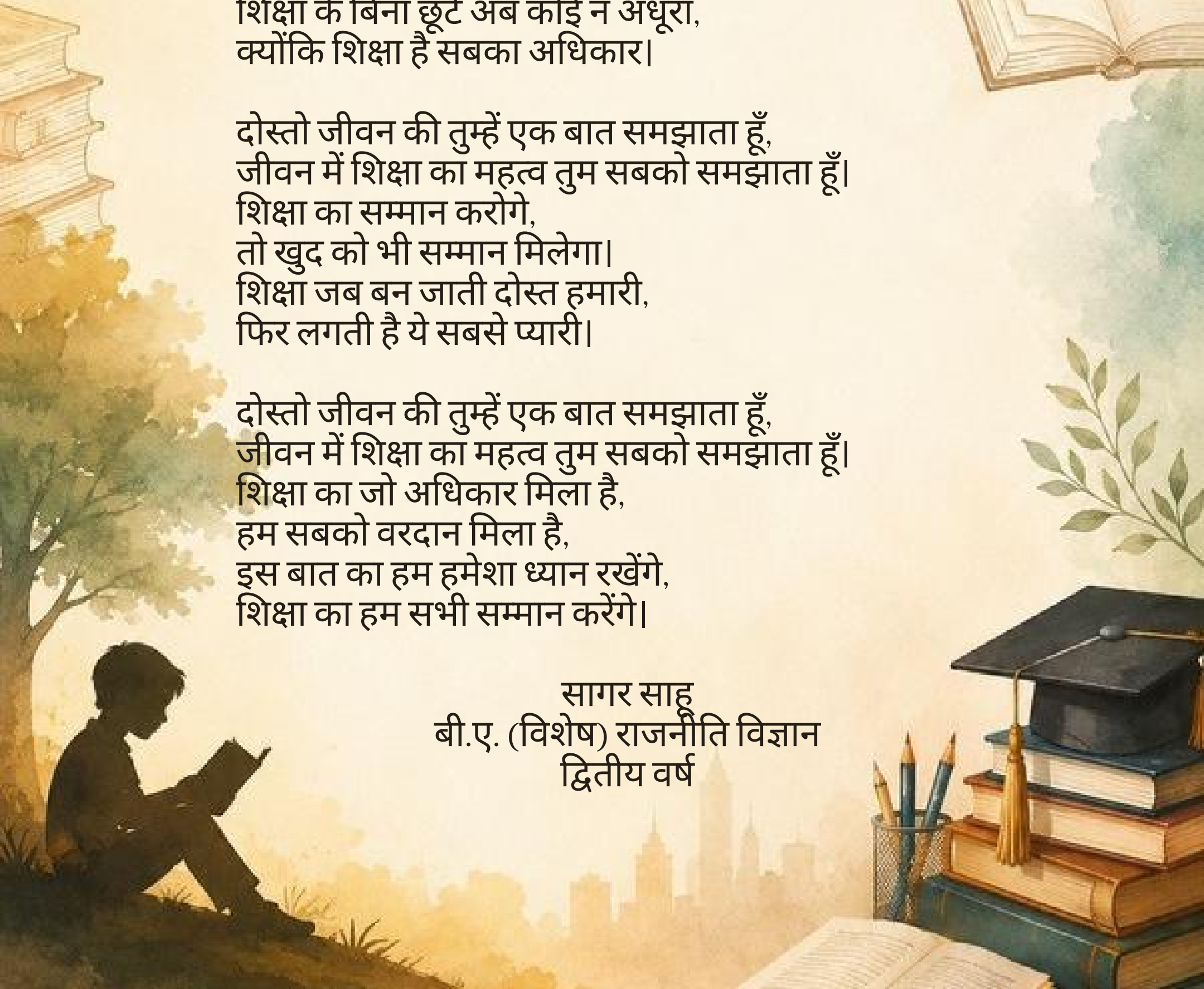
दोस्तो जीवन की तुम्हें एक बात समझाता हूँ,
जीवन में शिक्षा का महत्व तुम सबको समझाता हूँ।

शिक्षा है सबका अधिकार,
शिक्षा देती सबको ज्ञान,
शिक्षा से पाते हम मान, शान और ज्ञान,
शिक्षा के बिना छूटे अब कोई न अधूरा,
क्योंकि शिक्षा है सबका अधिकार।

दोस्तो जीवन की तुम्हें एक बात समझाता हूँ,
जीवन में शिक्षा का महत्व तुम सबको समझाता हूँ।
शिक्षा का सम्मान करोगे,
तो खुद को भी सम्मान मिलेगा।
शिक्षा जब बन जाती दोस्त हमारी,
फिर लगती है ये सबसे प्यारी।

दोस्तो जीवन की तुम्हें एक बात समझाता हूँ,
जीवन में शिक्षा का महत्व तुम सबको समझाता हूँ।
शिक्षा का जो अधिकार मिला है,
हम सबको वरदान मिला है,
इस बात का हम हमेशा ध्यान रखेंगे,
शिक्षा का हम सभी सम्मान करेंगे।

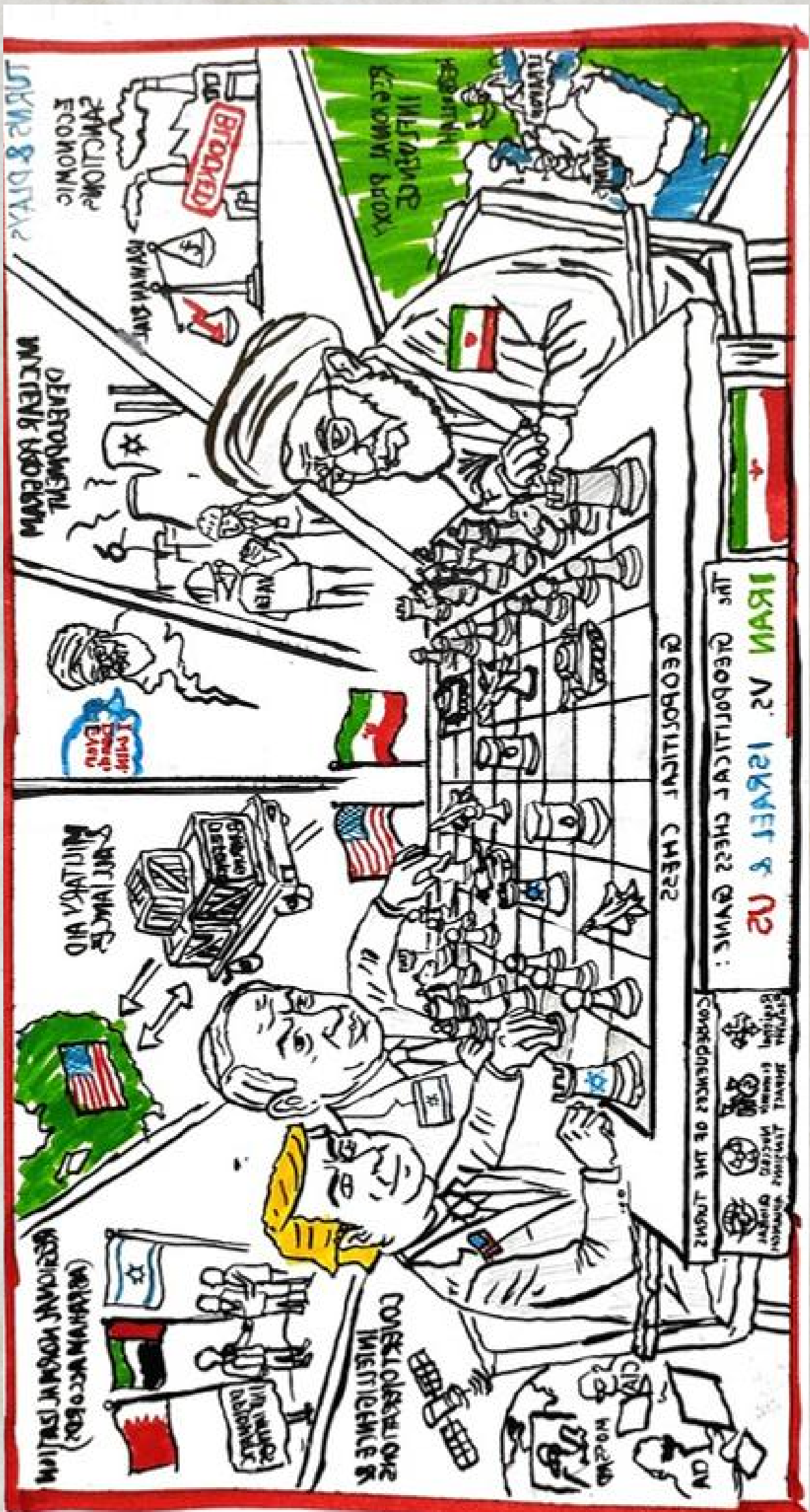
सागर साहू
बी.ए. (विशेष) राजनीति विज्ञान
द्वितीय वर्ष



CARICATURES SKETCHES ARTS



CARICATURE



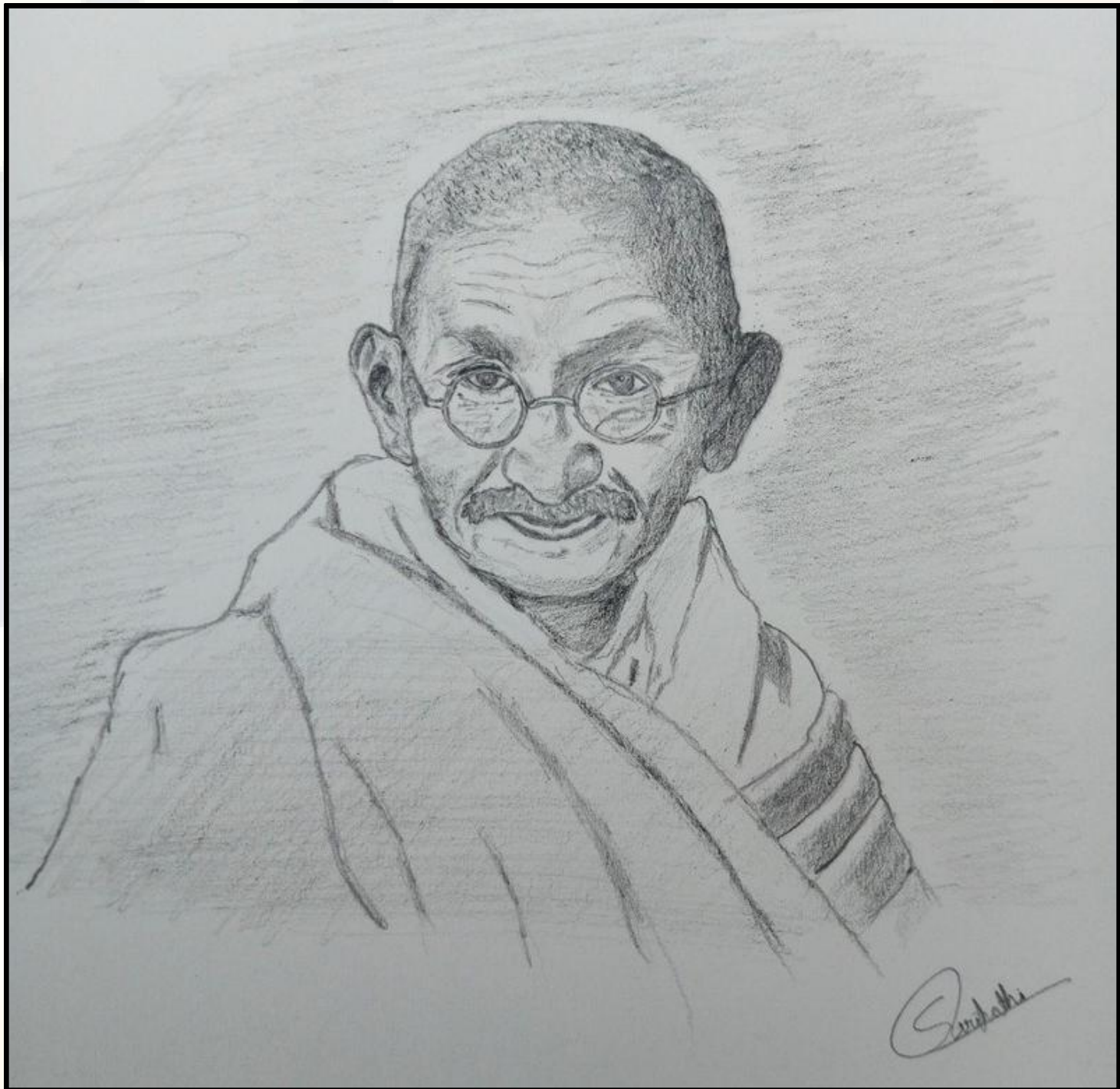
Amisha Kumari Maurya
B.A. program(Eco+Pol. Sci.)
Indraprastha College for Women

Buddha Mandala Art



Before transforming the world, one must first understand it. This artwork depicts the Bodhi Tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment. The meditating figure symbolizes inner reflection and the pursuit of wisdom, reminding us that true insight arises through patience and contemplation. In the context of public service, it reflects the idea that genuine leadership must be rooted in dharma, ethical awareness, and clarity of thought. Just as the Bodhi Tree grows from deep roots into wide branches, effective governance emerges from strong moral foundations and extends toward the welfare of society.

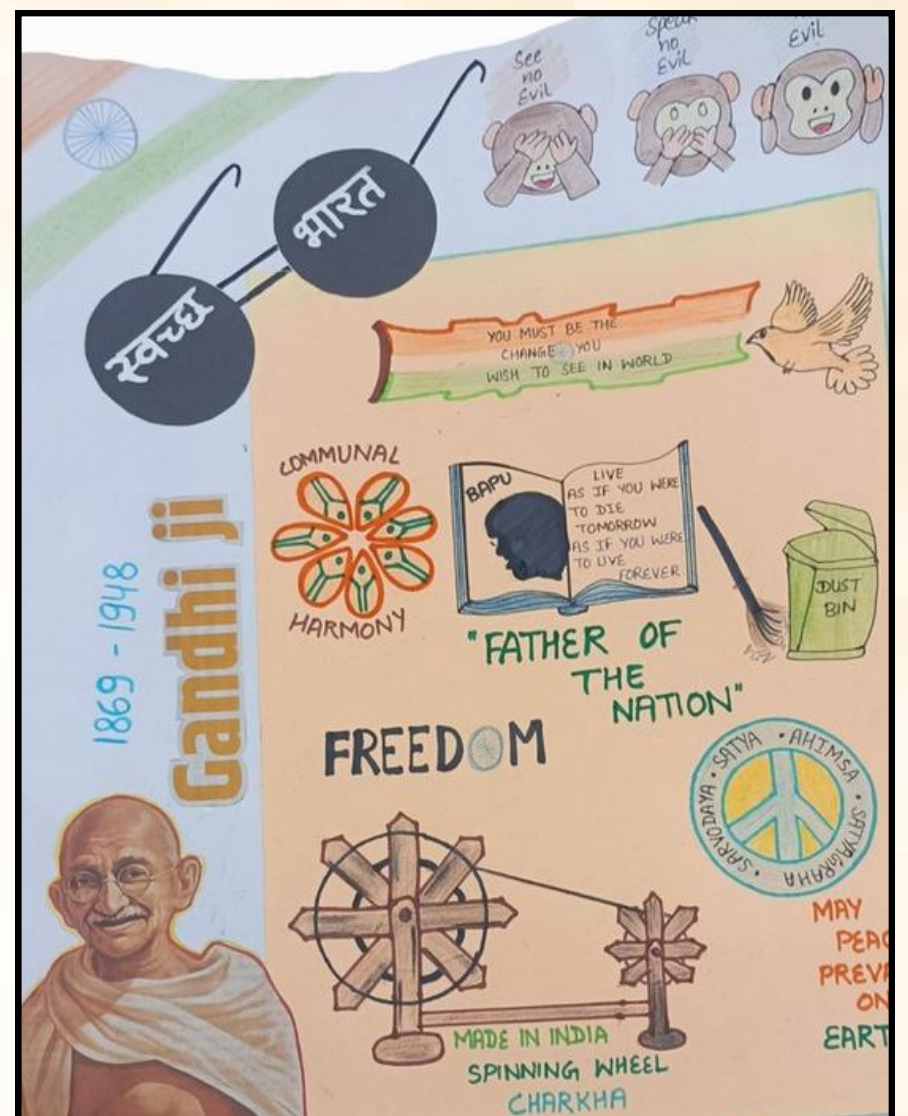
Kiran Kumari
BA Program(Philosophy + Sociology)
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2nd year, BA PROGRAM (POL+HIS)
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Komal
BA(H) Political Science
Kalindi College



Komal
BA(H) Political Science
Kalindi College



QUIZ ZONE

UPSC Prelims Questions

From Previous Year Papers



1. Consider the following statements:

- I. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in India are less than 0-5 t CO₂/capita.
- II. In terms of CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion, India ranks second in Asia-Pacific region
- III. Electricity and heat producers are the largest sources of CO₂ emissions in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and III only
- (b) II only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I, II and III

2. With reference to the planet Earth, consider the following statements:

- I. Rain forests produce more oxygen than that produced by oceans.
- II. Marine phytoplankton and photo-synthetic bacteria produce about 50% of world's oxygen.
- III. Well-oxygenated surface water contains several folds higher oxygen than that in atmospheric air.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II
- (b) II only
- (c) I and III
- (d) None of the above statements is correct

3. The first Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, a music training school, was set up in 1901 by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar in

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Gwalior
- (c) Ujjain
- (d) Lahore

4. Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the 'Pradeshika', 'Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the

- (a) village-level administration
- (b) district-level administration
- (c) provincial administration
- (d) level of the central administration

5. Consider the following statements in respect of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

I. The Congress declared the attainment of 'Swaraj' by all legitimate and peaceful means to be its objective.

II. It was to be implemented in stages with civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes for the next stage only if 'Swaraj' did not come within year and the Government a resorted to repression.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

6. Consider the following statements:

I: The atmosphere is heated more by incoming solar radiation than by terrestrial radiation.

II: Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are good absorbers of long wave radiation.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both I and II are correct and II explains I
- (b) Both I and II are correct, but II does not explain I
- (c) I is correct, but II is incorrect
- (d) I is incorrect, but II is correct

7. Which one of the following launched the Nature Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific?

- (a) The Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (b) The Asian Infrastructure Invest-ment Bank (AIIB)
- (c) The New Development Bank (NDB)
- (d) The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

8. Consider the following statements: Statement I: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change is frequently discussed in global discussions on sustainable development and climate change.

Statement II: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change sets out the principles of carbon markets.

Statement III: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change intends to promote inter-country non-market strategies to reach their climate targets.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

9. Consider the following airports:

- 1. Donyi Polo Airport
- 2. Kushinagar International Airport
- 3. Vijayawada International Airport

In the recent past, which of the above have been constructed as Greenfield projects?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

10. With reference to "water vapour", which of the following statements is/are correct?

I. It is a gas, the amount of which decreases with altitude.

II. Its percentage is maximum at the poles.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

11. Consider the following description:

I. Annual and daily range of temperatures is low.

II. Precipitation occurs throughout the year.

III. Precipitation varies between 50 cm-250 cm.

What is this type of climate?

- (a) Equatorial climate
- (b) China type climate
- (c) Humid subtropical climate
- (d) Marine West coast climate

12. With reference to "Coriolis force", which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It increases with increase in wind velocity.
2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

13. On June 21 every year, which of the following latitude(s) experience(s) a sunlight of more than 12 hours ?

1. Equator
2. Tropic of Cancer
3. Tropic of Capricorn
4. Arctic Circle

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 2 and 4

14. One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denotes that region?

- (a) Amazon Basin
- (b) Congo Basin
- (c) Kikori Basin
- (d) Rio de la Plata Basin

15. Consider the following statements:

- I. A bill amending the Constitution requires a prior recommendation of the President of India.
- II. When a Constitution Amendment Bill is presented to the President of India, it is obligatory for the President of India to give his/her assent.
- III. A Constitution Amendment Bill must be passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha by a special majority and there is no provision for joint sitting.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and II only
- (c) I and II only
- (d) I, II and III

The background of the image is a light beige brick wall. Scattered across the wall are several white puzzle pieces. Some pieces are at the top, some at the bottom, and one is in the middle right. The puzzle pieces have a slight 3D effect with dark brown shadows. The title text is centered in the middle of the image, overlaid on the puzzle pieces and the brick wall.

Puzzles & Riddles



UPSC RIDDLES

We are caught inside a mystery, veiled in an
enigma, locked inside a riddle.

1. I am not a right, yet courts respect me. I am not enforceable, yet governments fear ignoring me. I live in Part IV, guiding the State silently. Who am I?

2. I am part of the Constitution, Yet I was not there in 1950. I deal with villages and cities, Bringing democracy closer to people. Who am I?

3. I am called the guardian of the Constitution. I can strike down laws. I am powerful, yet not elected. Who am I?

4. I am an invisible line, Yet I decide who governs. Cross me, and your government falls. Who am I?

5. I was born in 1992 in Rio. I deal with life in all its forms. Countries meet under me every few years. Who am I?

6. I am not a body, yet I shape policy. I replaced something that once planned the nation. I promote cooperative federalism. Who am I?

7. I am an emergency, But not for war. I affect money, Not fundamental rights directly. Who am I?

8. I am debated every year. I contains receipts and expenditures. Without my approval, nothing can be spent. Who am I?

9. I am neither a tax nor a penalty. I am taken for public purpose. The Constitution speaks of me, But with conditions of fairness. Who am I?

10. I am a boundary in the Himalayas, Agreed in 1914. Still debated a century later. Who am I?

11. I was not written in the Constitution, Yet I limited Parliament's power. Born in 1973, I protect the soul of the document. Who am I?

12. I am an amendment, Passed during crisis. I strengthened the Centre, And weakened liberties. Who am I?

13. I am a scheme, not a right. I guarantee work, not charity. I operate mostly in villages. Who am I?

14. I am not mentioned in Fundamental Rights, Yet courts read me into Article 21. Without me, liberty is incomplete. Who am I?

15. I am advisory, not binding. Yet ignoring me invites political risk. I connect states and the Union. Who am I?

16. I am a wind that reverses, I decide harvests and hunger. When I fail, the economy trembles. Who am I?

Eight friends — Aisha, Bhavya, Charvi, Diya, Esha, Farah, Gauri and Hina — went shopping for handbags.

Each bought a handbag from a different brand:

Gucci, Prada, Chanel, Zara, H&M, Baggit, Caprese and Lavie.

Each handbag was of a different colour:

Red, Blue, Black, White, Green, Yellow, Pink and Brown.

No two people bought the same brand or colour.

- The one who bought Gucci purchased a Red handbag.
- The one who bought Prada purchased a Blue handbag.
- The one who bought Chanel purchased a Green handbag.
- The one who bought Zara purchased a White handbag.
- The one who bought H&M purchased a Pink handbag.
- Diya bought from Baggit.
- Esha bought from Caprese.
- Farah bought the Yellow handbag.
- Charvi did not buy a Brown or Black handbag.
- Aisha did not buy Red, Green or Pink.
- Gauri did not buy from Prada.
- The one who bought the Brown handbag did not shop at Lavie.
- Either Bhavya or Hina bought from Lavie, but not both.
- Bhavya did not buy the Blue handbag.
- Hina did not buy from Zara or H&M.

Question 1

Who bought the Green handbag?

- A. Bhavya
- B. Charvi
- C. Hina
- D. Gauri

Question 2

Which of the following combinations is correct?

- A. Diya – Baggit – Black
- B. Farah – Gucci – Red
- C. Esha – Caprese – Brown
- D. Aisha – Zara – White

Question 3

Who bought the Lavie handbag?

- A. Bhavya
- B. Hina
- C. Gauri
- D. Cannot be determined

Question 4

What is the colour of the handbag bought by Aisha?

- A. White
- B. Black
- C. Brown
- D. Blue

Question 5

Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Hina bought Chanel
- B. Gauri bought Gucci
- C. Bhavya bought Lavie
- D. Charvi bought Prada

Question 6

Which brand did Gauri buy?

- A. Gucci
- B. Prada
- C. Chanel
- D. Zara

The Story Of Handbags



TEST YOUR IQ.

1. Statements:

All roses are flowers.
Some flowers are red.
No red thing is white.

Conclusions:

- I. Some roses are red.
- II. Some flowers are not white.
- III. No rose is white.

Options:

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Only II and III
- D. Only II

2. Aman walks 12 m north, turns right and walks 5 m. He then turns right and walks 12 m. Finally, he turns left and walks 3 m. How far is he from the starting point?

- A. 5 m
- B. 8 m
- C. 3 m
- D. 2 m

Answer: B. 8 m

3. Statement: "To reduce pollution, private vehicle usage should be discouraged in metro cities."

Assumptions:

- I. Private vehicles contribute significantly to pollution.
- II. Discouraging private vehicle usage will reduce pollution.

Options:

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

Answer: C. Both I and II

4. In a class, Ritu ranks 15th from the top and 18th from the bottom.

How many students are there in the class?

- A. 31
- B. 32
- C. 33
- D. 34

5. There are six members in a family: A, B, C, D, E and F.

A is the brother of B.
C is the daughter of B.
D is the husband of C.
E is the mother of B and grandmother of F.
F is the son of C.

Question:

How is A related to F?

- A. Father
- B. Grandfather
- C. Uncle
- D. Brother

6. In a certain code:

NATION → MZSHNM

COUNTRY → BNTMSQX

How will PEOPLE be written?

- A. ODNOKD
- B. ODOKOD
- C. ODOKND
- D. ODNOKD

7. P, Q, R, S and T are sitting around a circular table facing towards the centre. Who among them is sitting to the immediate right of R ?

I. Q is sitting between P and T, and T is sitting to the immediate right of S.

II. Q is second to the left of R and is second to the right of S.

- (a.) R
- (b.) S
- (c.) Q
- (d.) T

8. What was the day of the week on 4th June, 2002 ?

- (a.) Monday
- (b.) Sunday
- (c.) Friday
- (d.) Tuesday

9. How many times are the hour hand and the minute hand of a clock at right angles during their motion from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. ?

- (a.) 9
- (b.) 18
- (c.) 10
- (d.) 20

10. FAK IEM LIO ?

- (a.) OMQ
- (b.) OPQ
- (c.) MNO
- (d.) NOP

11. Factory : Siren

- (a.) Library : Book
- (b.) House : Room
- (c.) Motor Car : Engine
- (d.) Clock : Alarm

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. B
- 5. C
- 6. A
- 7. B
- 8. D
- 9. B
- 10. A
- 11. D

Passage Based Questions



The history of renewable energy suggests there is a steep learning curve, meaning that, as more is produced, costs fall rapidly because of economies of scale and learning by doing. The firms' green innovation is path-dependent: the more a firm does, the more it is likely to do in the future. The strongest evidence for this is the collapse in the price of solar energy, which became about 90% cheaper during the 2010s, repeatedly beating forecasts. Moving early and gradually gives economies more time to adjust, allowing them to reap the benefits of path-dependent green investment without much disruption. A late, more chaotic transition is costlier.

Questions

1. With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- I. Path-dependent green investments will eventually most likely benefit growth as well as public finances in a country like India.
- II. If other green technologies follow the same pattern as that of solar energy, there will most likely be an easy green transition.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) I and II both
- d) Neither I nor II

2. Which one of the following statements best reflects the central idea of the passage?

- a) Economies of scale is essential for transition to green growth.
- b) Modern technological progress is intensely linked to path-dependent innovations.
- c) Countries with large economies are in a better position to adopt green technologies.
- d) Timing plays a crucial role in the case of green technology development.



MAP BASED

Questions



Q1. Andes mountains pass through how many of the following countries?

- I. Bolivia
 - II. Brazil
 - III. Colombia
 - IV. Ecuador
 - V. Paraguay
 - VI. Venezuela
- (a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) Only five

Q2. The Pamir Knot is the junction of five mountain ranges. Which of the following is/are not one of them?

- 1. Kunlun Mountains
- 2. Zagros Mountains
- 3. Karakoram Mountains
- 4. Kirthar Mountains
- 5. Hindu Kush Mountains

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 4 and 5 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 5 only
(d) 2 and 4 only

Q3. Consider the following pairs:

- I. Mallorca : Italy
- II. Normandy : Spain
- III. Sardinia : France

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All the three
(d) None

Q4. The longest border between any two countries in the world is between:

- (a) Canada and the United States of America
(b) Chile and Argentina
(c) China and India
(d) Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

Q5. How many of the following countries have a border with the North Sea?

- I. Finland
 - II. Germany
 - III. Norway
 - IV. Russia
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Q6 Consider the following water bodies: [2025/A-23]

- I. Lake Tanganyika
- II. Lake Tonlé Sap
- III. Patos Lagoon

Through how many of them does the equator pass?

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

Q7) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Red Sea receives very little precipitation in any form.
- 2. No water enters the Red Sea from rivers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q8) Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding Makassar Strait?

- 1. It separates Borneo (Kalimantan) and Celebes Island.
- 2. It connects Celebes Sea with Java Sea.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- 1 only(a)
2 only(b)
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Through how many of the following water bodies does the equator pass?

- I. Lake Tanganyika
- II. Lake Tonlé Sap
- III. Patos Lagoon

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

10. Arrange the following Gulfs in east to west order:

- 1. Gulf of Oman
- 2. Gulf of Aden
- 3. Gulf of Thailand
- 4. Persian Gulf

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1-3-2-4
(b) 3-4-1-2
(c) 3-1-4-2
(d) 3-1-2-4



MAP BASED

Questions



11. From the excavations of which ancient site, information has been gathered regarding brisk trade relations between India and Rome, during the early centuries of Christian era :

- (a) Madurai
- (b) Tamralipti
- (c) Tondi
- (d) Arikamedu

12. Which one of the following ports was known as Poduke to the author of 'The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea'?

- (a) Arikamedu
- (b) Tamralipti
- (c) Korkai
- (d) Barbaricum

13. In the course of pilgrimage, Emperor Ashoka visited the following places. Which route did he follow. Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- Gaya 1.
- 2. Kapilavastu
- 3. Kushinagar
- 4. Lumbini
- 5. Sarnath
- 6. Shravasti

Code :

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (b) 1, 3, 4, 2, 5 and 6
- (c) 4, 5, 6, 3, 2 and 3
- (d) 4, 2, 1, 5, 6 and 3

14. Which one territory of the following was not a part of Ashoka's empire?

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Kalinga

15. Matsya Mahajanapada of 6th Century B.C. was located on:

- (a) Western Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Bundelkhand
- (d) Rohilkhand

16. It is the isolated UK Overseas Territory and the world's most remote human settlement.

It has been recently declared the largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean under the UK's Blue Belt Programme.

Which of the following is described above?

- (a) Tristan da Cunha
- (b) Falkland Islands
- (c) Bermuda
- (d) British Virgin Islands

17. What was the ancient name of Ujjain?

- (a) Taxila
- (b) Indraprastha
- (c) Avantika
- (d) None of the above

18. Consider the following statements with respect to Mining in India,

1. Non-ferrous minerals are abundantly found in North-Western and South-Western Plateau Mineral Belts of the country.

2. Manganese is found mainly in the Dharwar rock system in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

19. Consider the following Tiger Reserves,

- 1. Melghat Tiger Reserve
- 2. Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve
- 3. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
- 4. Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Arrange the above in a north to south direction.

- (a) 3, 4, 2, 1
- (b) 3, 2, 4, 1
- (c) 1, 4, 2, 3
- (d) 4, 3, 1, 2

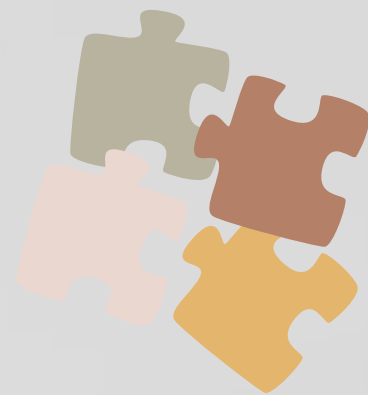
20. Which of the following Sangam ports were situated on the western coast? Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- 1. Korkail
- 2. Puhar
- 3. Tondi
- 4. Mushiri

Code:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 4 and 1 only

SUDOKU



INSTRUCTIONS

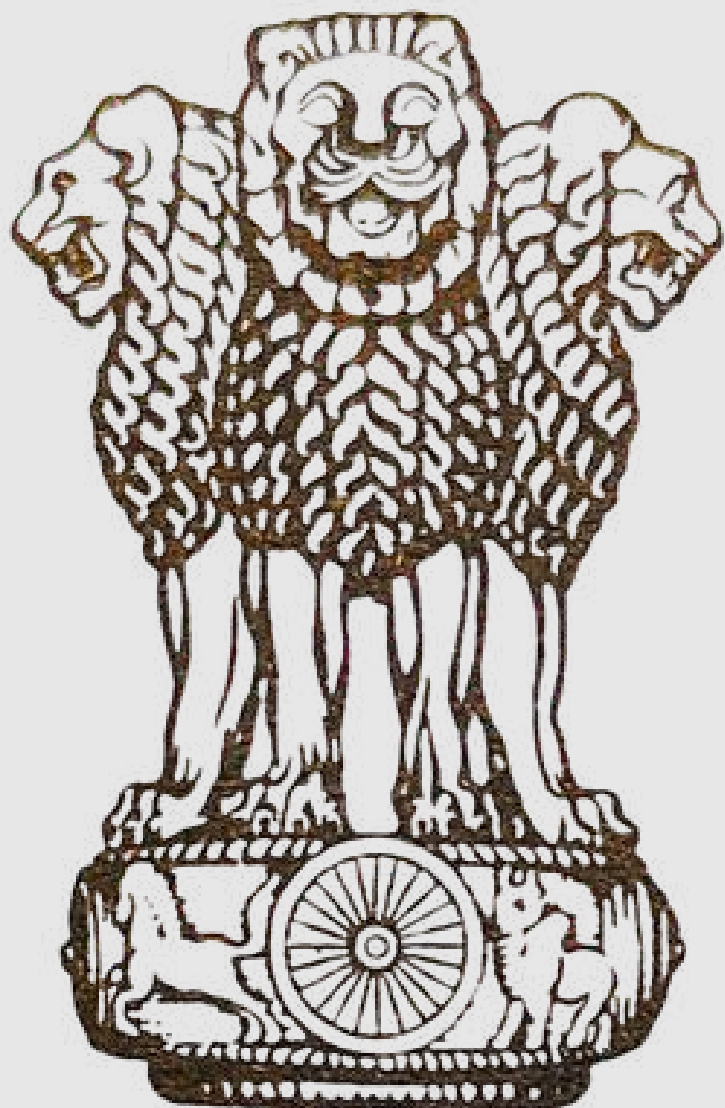
Use the numbers 1 to 9 to complete the Sudoku.
Only use each number once in each row, column and grid.

6	5	4						
			5	2	1		6	7
	1		9					
	8	5	1					2
		9			2		7	1
			3				8	
8	2	3		1	4	9	5	6
	9	6		3		1	4	
	4			9	8	7		

Solution

3	2	7	8	6	9	1	4	5
8	1	4	5	3	2	9	6	7
6	5	9	4	7	1	3	2	8
4	8	6	9	3	5	2	7	1
1	7	2	3	5	6	4	8	9
2	5	7	8	4	6	9	1	3
9	2	3	6	1	5	7	8	4
7	4	9	1	6	8	3	5	2
5	3	8	2	7	4	9	6	1

UPSC
UNION PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION



सत्यमेव जयते

2023-2026

UPSC TREND ANALYSIS

Analyzing the trends from 2023 to 2026 reveals a distinct shift in the UPSC Civil Services Examination toward analytical depth and inter-disciplinary integration. While the "Core Four" (Polity, History, Economy, Geography) remain the backbone, the method of questioning has evolved.

1. Prelims Subject-Wise Weightage (2023-2026)

The weightage has shown significant volatility in dynamic subjects like Environment and Science & Technology, while the Core Four maintain a steady floor.

SUBJECT	2023	2024	2025	2026	KEY TREND ANALYSIS
Polity	14	15	13	14-16	Highly stable; shift toward governance and landmark judgments.
Economy	14	14	15	13-15	Move from theory to application of banking and digital infrastructure
History	13	12	14	15-18	Ancient and Medieval increasing. Art and culture is highly unpredictable
Geography	09	18	12	15-18	Massive growth in map- based and environmental phenomenon related questions

Environment	21	15	16	13-15	Remains the highest individual yield, focus on conventions
S&T	05	13	10	7-8	High focus on Ai , biotech and space mission

2. The Evolution of Difficulty (2023–2026)

- **The End of "Simple" Elimination:** Starting in 2023, the introduction of "How many of the above statements are correct?" (Only one/Two/Three/All) effectively neutralized traditional elimination techniques. By 2026, this format has become standard, requiring absolute conceptual clarity rather than just partial knowledge.
- **CSAT Bottleneck:** The CSAT (Paper II) has seen a steady increase in difficulty, with Quant questions now often aligning with CAT-level logic. This has turned CSAT into a "rejection filter" rather than just a qualifying hurdle.

3. Mains Trends: The "Analytical Pivot"

- The Mains examination has moved away from descriptive "What is X?" questions toward "Critically evaluate the impact of X on Y."
- GS Paper I: Indian Society and Geography have become dominant. Historical questions now frequently ask for the contemporary relevance of ancient figures or movements.
- GS Paper II & III: These papers are now almost entirely Current Affairs integrated. For 2026, topics like Federalism, Digital Data Protection, and Climate Finance are central themes.
- GS Paper IV (Ethics): A shift toward complex case studies involving "Grey Areas"—where there is no clear right or wrong—testing a candidate's pragmatic decision-making rather than just moral theory.

4. Strategic Outlook for 2026

- Static-Dynamic Integration: Successful candidates are no longer studying subjects in silos. For example, a 2026 strategy requires linking Constitutional Provisions (Polity) with Historical Evolution (History) and Current Supreme Court Rulings.
- Current Affairs Horizon: The "one-year rule" for current affairs is fading. Trends suggest UPSC is now picking themes from a 24-30 month window, especially for Science and Environment.
- Resource Management: With the explosion of digital content, 2026 trends favor those who stick to "Limited Resources, Maximum Revision" (the 1:10 rule: 1 book, 10 revisions).

UPSC SYLLABUS AT A GLANCE :

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is a three-tier process designed to test both the breadth of your knowledge and the depth of your analytical ability.

Phase 1: The Preliminary Examination (Objective)

The Prelims serve as an elimination round. Only Paper I is used to determine the cut-off; Paper II is qualifying.

PAPER	FOCUS AREAS	CRITERIA
GS PAPER 1	History (Ancient, Medieval, modern), Geography, Polity, Economy, Environment/ Ecology, General Science and Current Affairs	Merit- based (100 questions/ 200 marks)
GS PAPER 2 (CSAT)	Reading Comprehension, Logical reasoning, Basic numeracy (class 10th level) and decision making.	Qualifying (33% required)

Phase 2: The Mains Examination (Written)

Nine papers in total. Qualifying Papers (not counted for merit):

- Paper A: One Indian Language (from the 8th Schedule)
- Paper B: English

- Merit-Ranking Papers (250 marks each):

1. Essay
2. General Studies I (Indian Heritage & Culture, History, Geography of the World & Society)
3. General Studies II (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, International Relations)
4. General Studies III (Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security, Disaster Management)
5. General Studies IV (Ethics, Integrity, Aptitude)
6. Optional Subject Paper I
7. Optional Subject Paper II

Phase 3: Personality Test (Interview)

Conducted by the UPSC Board. Evaluates general awareness, analytical ability, communication skills, and suitability for public service.





CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL



NORTH AMERICA

- Canada's Fast-Track Immigration for H-1B Holders: Canada launched targeted visa pathways to attract skilled professionals from the US.
- United States Withdraws from the World Health Organization (January 2026).
- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was captured by US forces on 3 January 2026 and the US moved to control and market Venezuela's oil reserves (world's largest ~303 billion barrels)
- The United States approved \$200 million assistance to Baltic nations under the Baltic Security Initiative (3 February 2026)
- India–US Interim Trade Agreement (ITA) Framework (February 2026): Both nations agreed on a framework for an Interim Trade Agreement, a precursor to the full Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).
- A \$12 billion strategic reserve initiative “Project Vault” (US Critical Minerals Reserve) launched to reduce dependence on China, backed by US EXIM Bank funding
- The United Nations Environment Programme released the “State of Finance for Nature 2026” report, revealed a 30:1 imbalance between harmful and protective investments
- US involvement in the 2026 Iran- Israel conflict began with joint strikes on 28 February 2026, triggering Iranian retaliation and escalating into a regional crisis affecting global energy security.

SOUTH AMERICA

- COP30 Climate Summit was hosted by Brazil (November 2025), nearly 200 countries participated under the UNFCCC framework to discuss climate finance, carbon reduction commitments and forest conservation strategies.
- Argentina's economic crisis (2025–26) saw high inflation and currency decline, leading to continued International Monetary Fund engagement and weakening investor confidence
- Countries under MERCOSUR explored deeper economic integration to reduce dependence on Western markets.
- Chile accelerated lithium extraction under its National Lithium Strategy, aiming to become a key supplier for the global electric vehicle (EV) industry.
- Venezuela–Guyana border tensions over Essequibo oil rich region with military posturing and diplomatic negotiations.
- Frequent leadership changes and protests weakened governance structures in Peru.
- Colombia advanced peace efforts through renewed talks with armed groups under its “Total Peace” policy

EUROPE

- EU launches Legal Gateway Office in India (Jan 2026), a one-stop hub for facilitating legal migration of Indian professionals.
- Spain, first European country to ban social media for Under 16 .
- Switzerland to host AI Summit 2027 (Geneva); UAE to host 2028 edition.
- NATO strengthened its eastern flank through NATO Enhanced Forward Presence (EFP) with increased troop deployments and defence commitments.
- Europe advanced AI regulation discussions building on the proposed EU AI Act framework

- Global Risks Report 2026 by World Economic Forum identified risks of climate change, geo-economic confrontation and misinformation.
- Volcano erupted at Piton de la Fournaise (French territory) twice after 2 years of inactivity
- REPowerEU Plan is Europe's Energy Diversification Strategy to reduce dependence on Russian gas

AFRICA

- Military regimes in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso strengthened cooperation under the Alliance of Sahel States.
- Conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo intensified as M23 rebels expanded control in mineral-rich eastern regions.
- Ethiopia faced internal tensions despite peace under the Pretoria Peace Agreement continuing into 2025–26.
- India extended a \$200 million Line of Credit to Angola for defence cooperation.
- China expanded infrastructure and mining investments in Africa under the Belt and Road Initiative.
- Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area boosted intra-African trade integration (2025–26).
- COP32 to be hosted by Ethiopia in 2027.
- India and Seychelles launched the SESEL framework focusing on maritime security and development (Feb 2026).

ASIA

- China conducted large-scale military drills around Taiwan under “Joint Sword-2026” exercises (Jan 2026), escalating Taiwan Strait tensions.
- India and China held Corps Commander-Level Talks (Dec 2025, Chushul–Moldo) to address the ongoing LAC standoff.
- India and Japan strengthened ties during the India–Japan Annual Summit (Tokyo, Jan 2026) focusing on Indo-Pacific cooperation.
- North Korea carried out multiple ballistic missile launches violating UN sanctions.
- China's economy slowed to around ~4–4.5% growth.
- India–Malaysia enabled cross-border payments through UPI–DuitNow linkage (Feb 2026) boosting fintech cooperation.
- Nepal saw Gen Z-led protests drive political change, leading to the formation of a new coalition government under Prime Minister Balendra Shah.
- Progress continued on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor enhancing Asia-Europe trade connectivity.
- Asia recorded the highest disaster-related fatalities globally as per World Meteorological Organization report.
- South Korea's former President was sentenced to life imprisonment in a corruption case (Jan 2026).
- Supply chain diversification accelerated under “China+1 strategy” adopted by Asian economies .

AUSTRALIA

- Under AUKUS Pillar II, Australia expanded collaboration in AI, cyber warfare, and quantum technologies.
- Australia enforced stricter digital regulations, including a social media ban proposal for under-16 users (Dec 2025).
- Australia accelerated defence cooperation under AUKUS with \$2.8 billion investment in nuclear submarine infrastructure (Feb 2026).
- Palau conducted the world's first live underwater cabinet meeting broadcast to highlight climate change threats (2025).
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) strengthened regional cooperation on climate resilience and security .
- New Zealand advanced its Net Zero 2050 target under the Climate Change Response Act 2002, strengthening emissions reduction policies.
- Australia remained the world's largest lithium producer (~50% global supply) supporting EV battery demand.
- Australia–India First Nations Business Mission strengthened cooperation in mining and renewable sectors

INDIA'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- India promoted NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) as a regional alternative to GPS in strategic collaborations.
- India prepared to assume presidency of BRICS (2026), prioritising sustainability, digital economy, and Global South cooperation.
- India strengthened maritime cooperation under its SAGAR Vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region) across the Indian Ocean Region
- India championed the LiFE Initiative (Lifestyle for Environment).
- India advanced the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) as a transformative connectivity and trade architecture linking Asia, Europe, and West Asia
- India promoted de-dollarisation at BRICS platform



CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL



POLITICAL / GOVERNANCE

- Specifies obligations of Data Fiduciaries, classification of Significant Data Fiduciaries, consent-based data processing architecture, and state exemptions—raising concerns over surveillance versus privacy balance.
- Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls: Involves house-to-house verification, deletion of duplicate or shifted voters, and integration with digital databases—leading to concerns regarding wrongful deletions and migrant disenfranchisement.
- Delimitation Freeze (till 2026) Debate: Based on the 42nd and 84th Constitutional Amendments, population-linked delimitation raises concerns of North–South representation imbalance and federal equity.
- One Nation One Election: Committee Recommendations Includes phased synchronisation model, constructive vote of no-confidence, and proposal for a common electoral roll.

JUDICIARY & LEGAL

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita: Replaces IPC
Introduces provisions on organised crime, expands definition of terrorism, and incorporates community service as punishment—marking a shift from colonial legal framework.
- Electoral Bonds Scheme: Supreme Court Judgment
Declared unconstitutional for violating Article 19(1)(a) (right to information), mandating disclosure of political funding sources.
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam: Recognises electronic records—including metadata, server logs, and digital signatures—as primary evidence in legal proceedings.
- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2026: Implementation Issues
Criticised for District Magistrate-based certification process, conflicting with self-identification principles laid down in the NALSA judgment.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

- Production Linked Incentive Scheme: Expansion (14 Sectors) Covers electronics, pharmaceuticals, telecom, and solar modules; incentives linked to incremental sales and domestic value addition.
- Open Network for Digital Commerce: Architecture Based on open protocol model separating buyer, seller, and logistics interfaces—reducing platform monopoly in e-commerce.
- India Semiconductor Mission: Provides fiscal support up to 50% of project cost for semiconductor fabs, ATMP units, and chip design ecosystem.

ENVIRONMENT

- National Green Hydrogen Mission:
Targets 5 MMT annual hydrogen production by 2030, promoting electrolyser manufacturing and positioning India as an export hub.
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):
Aims at 20–30% reduction in PM_{2.5} levels, expanded to more cities
- Ramsar Sites Expansion: India surpasses 75+ Ramsar-designated wetlands, strengthening conservation of ecologically significant ecosystems.
- Heatwave Classification (IMD Criteria): Declared when temperature $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ in plains with deviation $\geq 4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ from normal, triggering

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ISRO: Gaganyaan Mission includes TV-D1 abort test, crew escape system validation, and human-rating of LVM3 launch vehicle.
- IndiaAI Mission: Focuses on GPU infrastructure, public datasets, and development of a domestic AI innovation ecosystem.
- 5G Standalone (SA) Deployment: Enables low latency, network slicing, and advanced IoT applications compared with non-standalone systems.
- National Supercomputing Mission: Development and deployment of PARAM series supercomputers across research and academic institutions.

DEFENCE

- Agnipath Scheme: Structure
Introduces 4-year short-term military service with 25% retention, aiming at a younger and leaner force.
- Theatre Command Model:
Proposes integrated tri-service commands (land, air, maritime) for improved joint operational capability.
- Defence Exports:
Surpasses ₹20,000 crore, including export of missiles, radars, and naval platforms.

FINANCE

- UPI Globalisation: Integration with international payment systems enables seamless cross-border digital transactions.
- Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC): Retail and wholesale pilots using token-based and account-based models expand digital currency adoption.
- SEBI Regulations: Focus on algorithmic trading norms, disclosure standards, and investor protection mechanisms.
- Inflation Targeting Framework: RBI maintains inflation at $4\% \pm 2\%$ band using monetary tools like repo rate adjustments.

EDUCATION

- National Education Policy 2020: Key Features
Introduces 5+3+3+4 structure, multidisciplinary education, and Academic Bank of Credits for flexible learning this comes into implementation
- Common University Entrance Test (CUET):
Centralised admission system reducing dependence on board examination marks.
- National Digital University:
Offers flexible, online degree programmes with multiple entry-exit options.
- Skill India Digital Platform:
Integrates skill courses, certifications, and employment linkage for workforce readiness.
- Pratibha Setu Initiative:
Facilitates sharing of details of non-recommended UPSC candidates with employers to enhance recruitment opportunities.



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THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE

2025-26



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