

PANORAMA

CURRENT EVENTS ANALYSIS BATCH

Synergy's Current Events Analysis batch for UPSC and MPSC

Successful 12th year of batch

Features

1. Weekly current affairs analysis and discussion batch
2. For both, UPSC and MPSC
3. Current events analysis of specific subjects will be covered by respective subject faculties (Single faculty will not conduct the complete batch)
4. Comprehensive coverage of syllabus with emphasis on National, International news
5. Special coverage related to Maharashtra for MPSC students
6. Weekly printed and updated study material
7. Fortnightly Tests on current affairs
8. Personal mentoring by faculties, focus on answer writing and content development
9. Debates and discussions on important topics, useful for Essay preparation and Interview
10. Special crash course before MPSC Prelims and Mains exam
11. Available in both Offline and Online mode
12. Access to recordings of missed lectures

Schedule:

English Batch

- Starts on 6th August 2022
- On every Saturday at 5 PM

Marathi Batch

- Starts on 7th August 2022
- On every Sunday at 9 AM

Coverage

Current affairs related to syllabus for UPSC and MPSC will be covered under following heads:

- ✓ GS 1 - History and culture
- ✓ GS 1 - Geography
- ✓ GS 1 - Social Issues and Social Justice
- ✓ GS 2 - Polity and Governance
- ✓ GS 2 - International Relations and Institutions
- ✓ GS 3 - Economy
- ✓ GS 3 - Agriculture
- ✓ GS 3 - Environment and Disaster management
- ✓ GS 3 - Science and Technology
- ✓ GS 3 - Security
- ✓ GS 4 - Ethics
- ✓ MPSC - Maharashtra Coverage

Sources

Basic sources for analysis of current affairs are:

- ✓ Indian Express
- ✓ The Hindu
- ✓ Frontline
- ✓ PIB
- ✓ Yojana
- ✓ PRS
- ✓ Different government websites
- ✓ Important International and national organisations such as UNDP, UN, WB, WTO etc.
- ✓ Loksatta, Maharashtra Times (For Maharashtra related news)

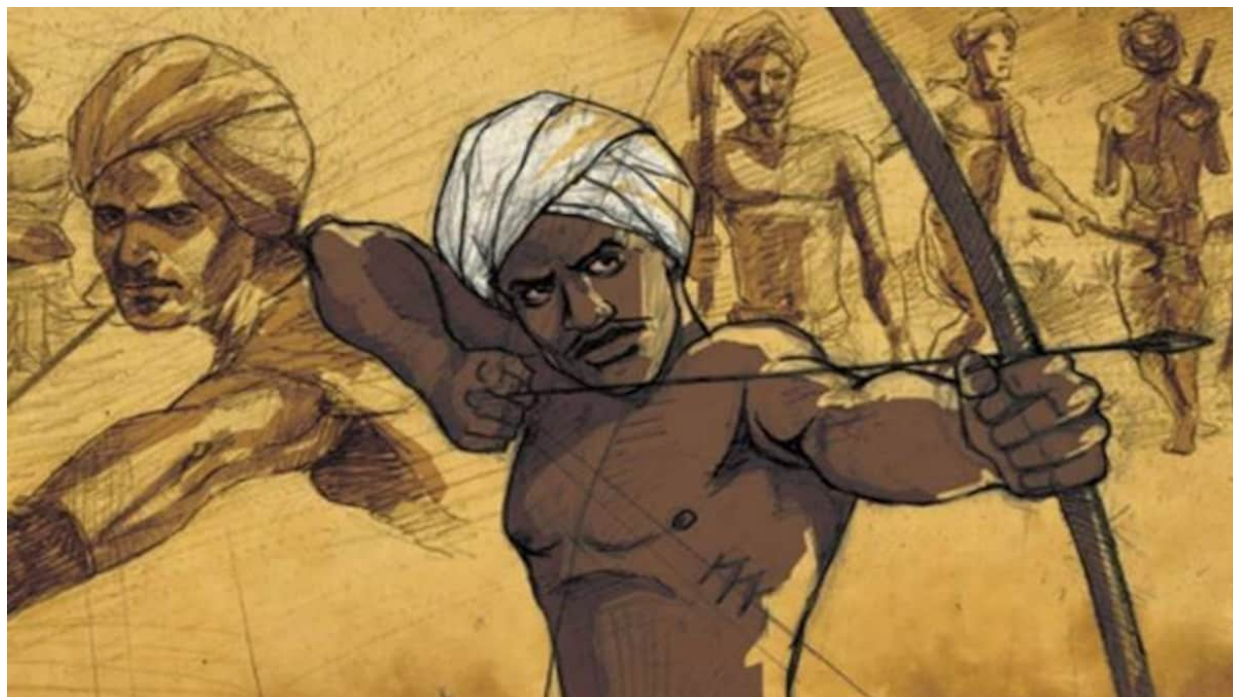
Please note that news from these sources will be analysed as per the Syllabus of both UPSC and MPSC, and Previous Years Questions being asked in UPSC and MPSC. Accordingly faculties at Synergy will prepare the content for each lecture.

SAMPLE NOTES

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Tribal Revolts

✓ President Murmu invoked following four tribal revolts in her inaugural speech



Santhal Revolution:

In 1832, the East India Company created **Damin-i-koh region** in the forested belt of Rajmahal hills, Jharkhand and invited the Santhals to settle there. Over the time, the Santhals found that they were losing the land they had worked on and brought under cultivation because of oppressive provisions of **Permanent Settlement Act of 1793**.

Heavy taxes were levied by Company government and money had to be borrowed to pay off debts, so money lenders started exploiting Santhal tribals with very high interest rates, their lands were confiscated because of their inability to pay the debt.

In 1855, over 10,000 Santhals were mobilised by their leaders, **Kanho Murmu, Chand Murmu, Bhairab Murmu and Sidho Murmu**, to revolt against the East India Company over oppression by revenue officials, zamindars, and corrupt moneylenders.

The revolt was suppressed heavy handedly by the British and Santhal Pargana was created with special laws.

Paika Rebellion:

In several recent descriptions, the 1817 Paika Rebellion in Odisha's Khurda is referred to as the "**original**" first war of Indian Independence.

The Paiks were the traditional landed militia and enjoyed rent free land tenures for their military service and policing functions on a hereditary basis.

Conquest of Odisha by the British in 1803 and dethronement of Raja of Kurda had greatly reduced the prestige and powers of the Paiks.

Extortionist land revenue policy of the Company, rise in prices of salt, abolition of cowrie currency and the requirement of payment of taxes in silver caused resentment among zamindars, peasants and common masses.

The Paikas set fire to government buildings in Banapur, killed policemen, looted the treasury, and killed several British officials.

Paikas fought bloody battles at several places, but the colonial army gradually crushed the revolt.

Kol Revolt:

The Kols, tribal people from the Chhota Nagpur area, rose in revolt against the British in 1831.

The trigger here too was gradual takeover of tribal land and property by non-tribal settlers who were aided by new land laws.

The simmering discontent over economic exploitation of the original inhabitants, led to an uprising led by **Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat and Madara Mahato** among others.

The Kols were joined by other tribes like the **Hos, Mundas and Oraons**.

The tribals fought with traditional weapons taking the battle to colonial forces who finally overpowered them with modern weaponry.

The uprising, which spread to areas like Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Palamau, and Manbhum and continued for almost two years before being snuffed out, mainly targeted colonial officials and private money-lenders.

Bhil Uprising:

After the British intruded into the **Bhil territory in Maharashtra's Khandesh** region, the tribals pushed back fearing exploitation under the new regime in 1818.

The revolt was led by their leader, Sewaram and was brutally crushed using the British military might.

SOCIAL ISSUE

UN' World Population Prospects 2022

Important findings of the report:

1. India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.
2. World population will reach 8 billion this year.
3. The world's population continues to grow, but the pace of growth is slowing down. In 2020, the global growth rate fell under 1% per year for the first time since 1950.
4. Rates of population growth vary significantly across countries and regions. More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.
5. The population of older persons is increasing both in numbers and as a share of the total. The share of the global population aged 65 years or above is projected to rise from 10% in 2022 to 16% in 2050.

Report highlights that countries with ageing populations should take steps to adapt public programmes like improving the sustainability of social security and pension systems and by establishing universal healthcare and long-term care systems.

6. A sustained drop in fertility has led to an increased concentration of the population at working ages (between 25 and 64 years) ie. Demographic Bulge, creating an opportunity for accelerated economic growth per capita. To maximize the potential benefits of a favourable age distribution, countries need to invest in the development of their human capital by ensuring access to health care and quality education at all ages and by promoting opportunities for productive employment and decent work. Over the next few decades, international migration will be the sole driver
7. of population growth in high-income countries.

Demographic Dividend:

According to UNFPA, Demographic Dividend is an economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population age structure, mainly when the share of the working age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working age share of the population. India has 62.5% of its population in the age group of 15–59 years which will be at the peak around 2036 when it will reach approximately 65%. With the passage of time, the share of the older population rises and that of the working age population begins to fall and hence the dividend is available for a specific period of time, called as 'the window of demographic opportunity'.

Realisation of the benefits of potential demographic dividend is not automatic and presents many challenges. Without proper policies, the increase in the working-age population may lead to rising unemployment, fueling economic and social risks, can lead to demographic disaster.

Countries like Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, China have successfully reaped the Demographic Dividend, and achieved incredible economic growth by adopting forward-looking policies and programmes to empower the youth in terms of their education, skills and health choices.

Advantages of Demographic Dividend

- ✓ It brings better economic growth due to higher working age population and lower dependent population. This is the result of increased labour force, rise in women's workforce, increase in savings rate and rise of aspirational class.
- ✓ Demographic dividend has historically contributed up to 15 % of the overall growth in advanced economies such as Japan.
- ✓ It results into rapid industrialisation and urbanisation because of higher number of employment seeking population.

Challenges of reaping the Demographic Dividend:

- ✓ Issues of skill development
- ✓ Lack of enough employment opportunities
 - Majority jobs are in informal sector which has low productivity, more than 45% of labour force engaged in agriculture.
 - Service sector has high productivity but employment generation potential is less and requires specific skills.
 - Industrial sectors lacks growth and not able to create enough employment opportunities.

- ✓ Poor health outcomes ie. High IMR, high MMR, Malnutrition, lack of access to sanitation, prevalence of communicable diseases.
- ✓ Inadequate capacity of public health care infrastructure.
- ✓ Infrastructure and quality issues with public education
- ✓ Women constitute near about half of India's demographic dividend, but their labour force participation is just 20%, employed mostly in unorganised sector.

Solutions:

Human resource capabilities development is precondition for harnessing demographic dividend.

1. Improving public health care infrastructure and increasing capacity.
2. Improving public education infrastructure.
3. Investment in skill development (Skill India, PMKVY, Strengthening existing ITIs)
4. Structural changes needed in economy, India need to develop its manufacturing sector as it is labour intensive to remove extra labour force from low productivity agriculture.
5. Increasing productivity of agriculture by investing in agriculture related infrastructure like micro irrigation facilities, cold storage facilities, food processing units, logistics facilities etc.
6. Need for policy coordination between States on various emerging population issues such as migration, ageing, skilling, female workforce participation and urbanisation.
7. Need special efforts to increase women's effective participation in labour force by focusing on some key areas like improving their employability, providing affordable child care facilities, flexible employment opportunities, by bridging gender pay gap, improving working conditions etc.

ECONOMY

Culture of freebies

The recent speech by the Prime Minister called for ending “revdi” i.e. freebies culture.

Volume of subsidies:

The total volume of subsidies came down from 13 percent of GDP in 1987–88 to a little over 10 per cent. State governments provide the bulk of these subsidies, mainly for social services like education and health.

The central government accounts for less than 30 per cent of total subsidies, provided mainly for economic services including food.

There are two kinds of subsidies:

1. Merit subsidies
2. Demerit Subsidies (Freebies)

Merit Subsidies

Merit subsidies are those which are required in public interest. Merit subsidies account for only a third of total subsidies. These include:

- ✓ Food subsidies save the vulnerable section of the population from hunger.
- ✓ Basic education and health services have large benefits for society beyond the benefit accruing to the immediate recipient of the service
- ✓ Expenditure on water supply and sanitation, where again the benefit to society is much larger, for example prevention of infectious diseases.

Demerit Subsidies (Freebies)

Freebies are the goods and services provided by the government to the citizens, free of cost or at a subsidised rate. Examples of freebies are free or subsidised electricity, free laptops and bicycles provided to the students, subsidised fertilizers, etc. Two-thirds of total subsidies, about 6 percent of GDP, are unwarranted freebies or “demerit subsidies” which should be eliminated.

Need for eliminating “demerit” subsidies and freebies:

Fiscal logic

- ✓ These unwarranted freebies amount to about 6 percent of GDP. If these are eliminated that would free up huge fiscal space.
- ✓ This would reduce the combined fiscal deficit of the Centre and the states and help governments to achieve targets of FRBMA.
- ✓ Thus the extra fiscal space could be used for stepping up required expenditure on education, health and infrastructure.
- ✓ Subsidised electricity creates a huge burden on electricity distribution companies.

Social logic

- ✓ These freebies are not provided as per the socioeconomic status of an individual, resulting in wastage of fiscal resources.
- ✓ They create a habit among members of society to want free items such as free electricity, free water or fertilizer.
- ✓ Political parties or candidates to win the elections use freebies to get more votes. This results in win of candidates without capabilities, resulting in overall loss to the society.

Environmental logic

- ✓ Subsidised electricity provided to the farmers cause depletion of groundwater because of overuse of water as farmers tend to keep water pumps running when provided with subsidised electricity.
- ✓ Subsidised fertilizers leads to overuse of fertilizers which causes
 - Salinification of soil
 - Leaching of fertilizers into groundwater the consumption of which causes various ailments.

ETHICS

Media Trials

Chief Justice of India N V Ramanarecently said that rising number of media trials are proving to be hurdles towards doing justice, and kangaroo courts run by the media are causing harm to the health of the democracy.



Media Trial

It is a phrase to describe the impact of television and newspaper coverage on a person's reputation by creating a widespread perception of guilt or innocence before, or after, a verdict in a court of law.

Eg. Aryan Khan Case, 2 G spectrum Case

What is a kangaroo court?

It is an unofficial court held by a group of people in order to try someone regarded, especially without good evidence, as guilty of a crime or misdemeanour.

It is used to refer to proceedings or activities where a judgement is made in a manner that is unfair, biased, and lacks legitimacy.

Eg. Khap Panchayat

SC on Media Trials

The Supreme Court reiterated that the media and the judiciary are institutions inhabiting separate spheres and their functions do not overlap. One cannot and must not use the other for discharge of its functions. According to SC, overstepping by media in judiciary's space is hurting the cause of justice.

Media should only engage in acts of journalism and not act as a special agency for the court.

TRP Race, Breaking news culture and public sensationalization are the main factors behind the media trials.

Insistence for 24 hour news culture further fuels zeal to provide entertainment about anything, which also led to frequent media trials.

Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases.

Media runs kangaroo courts at times on issues even experienced judges find difficult to decide. Ill-informed and agenda-driven debates on issues involving justice delivery are proving to be detrimental to the health of democracy.

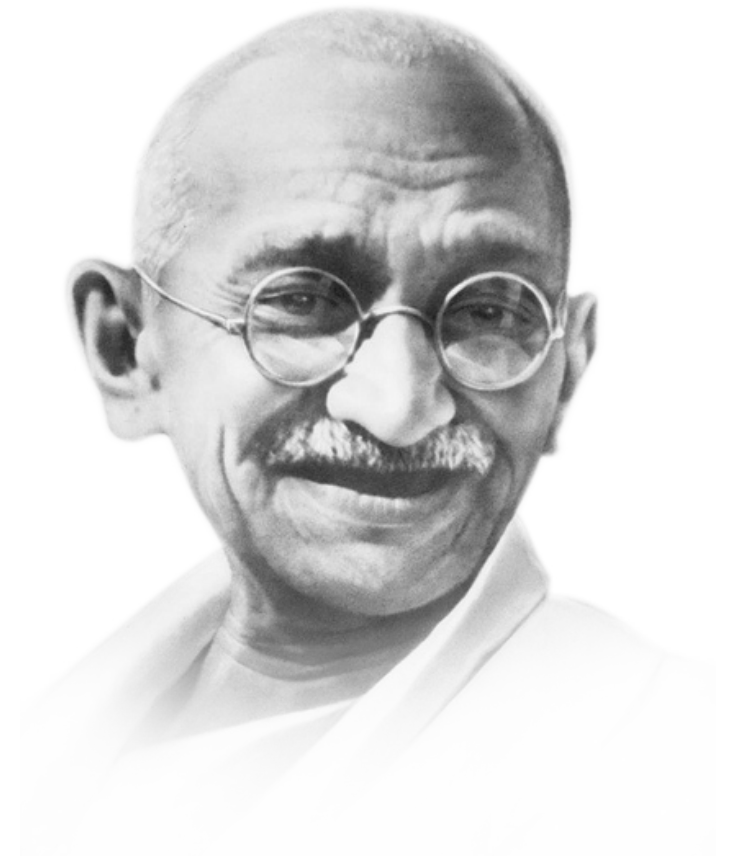
Biased views being propagated by the media are affecting the people, weakening democracy, and harming the system.

Way Ahead

What is Media ethics?

Media is mandated to follow certain ethics in collecting and disseminating the information viz.,

- ✓ **Honesty and fairness;** duty to seek the views of the subject of any critical reportage in advance of publication; duty to correct factual errors; duty not to falsify pictures or to use them in a misleading fashion;
- ✓ **Duty to provide an opportunity to reply** to critical opinions as well as to critical factual reportage;
- ✓ **Appearance as well as reality of objectivity;** some codes prohibit members of the press from receiving gifts'
- ✓ **Respect for privacy**
- ✓ **Duty to distinguish between facts and opinion**
- ✓ **Duty not to discriminate or to inflame hatred** on such grounds as race,
- ✓ **nationality, religion, or gender.**
- ✓ **Duty not to use dishonest means to obtain information**
- ✓ **Duty not to endanger people**
- ✓ **General standards of decency and taste**
- ✓ **Duty not to prejudge the guilt of an accused**



“THE SOLE AIM OF JOURNALISM SHOULD BE SERVICE. THE NEWSPAPER PRESS IS A GREAT POWER; BUT JUST AS UNCHAINED TORRENT OF WATER SUBMERGES THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE AND DEVASTATES CROPS, EVEN SO AN UNCONTROLLED PEN SERVES BUT TO DESTROY. IF THE CONTROL IS FROM WITHOUT, IT PROVES MORE POISONOUS THAN WANT OF CONTROL. IT CAN BE PROFITABLE ONLY WHEN EXERCISED FROM WITHIN”.

- MAHATMA GANDHI.

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SYNERGY UPSC 2023

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इ तहास - HISTORY, भूगोल - GEOGRAPHY,
रा शा - POLITICAL SCIENCE, समाजशा - SOCIOLOGY,
लोकप्रशासन - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, ANTHROPOLOGY

ह्या वैकल्पिक विषयांच्या स्वतंत्र बॅचेस
5 सप्टेंबर पासून सुरु.

- UPSC तयारीसाठीची बॅच.
- GS I, II, III आणि GS IV ची संपूर्ण तयारी, सोबत निबंध, मराठी आणि इंग्रजी विषयांसाठी सुद्धा मार्गदर्शन.
- पूर्व आणि मुख्य परीक्षेच्या स्वतंत्र आणि आयोगाच्या नवीन पॅटर्नवर आधारित सराव चाचण्यांचा समावेश.
- वर्गात लेखन सरावासाठी झालेल्या अभ्यासक्रमावर चाचण्या.
- समग्र आणि मुद्देसूद अभ्यासासाठी उत्तम दर्जाचे प्रिंटेड अ मसा ह .
- अनुभवी आणि तज मार्गदर्शक.
- मुलाखत आणि व्यक्तिमत्त्व विकासासाठी विशेष सत्रांचे आयोजन.
- चालू घडामोडीच्या नोटससह सराव चाचण्या आणि मार्गदर्शन.
- बॅच ऑनलाइन स्वरूपात सुद्धा उपलब्ध.



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