

UG HANDOUTS · GS MAINS · AFTER THE RESULT

Where did my GS Paper III 2026 marks go?

A question-by-question reading of all 20 questions and parts of GS Paper III: what each one asked, what it quietly expected, and the structure a strong answer needed.

HOW TO READ THIS HANDOUT: ONE EXAMPLE

GS Paper I, Q1. Analyze the importance of Ashokan inscriptions for reconstructing Mauryan history.

1. The demand	The question asks one thing: analyse how Ashokan inscriptions help reconstruct Mauryan history. "Analyse" here means taking the inscriptions dimension by dimension and showing, for each, what they allow historians to rebuild about the Mauryan state and society.
2. The hidden demand	The evidence is almost entirely one king's own proclamations, so it can take reconstruction only so far; its historical value and its limitations must be weighed.
3. The structure	1. How Ashokan inscriptions reconstruct Mauryan history (about three-quarters) 2. Historical value and limitations of Ashokan inscriptions (about one-quarter)

Why it matters. Meeting the demand earns the marks. Meeting the hidden demand earns the marks that separate one answer from another.

20
questions read from GS Paper III

3
checks for every question: the demand, the hidden demand, the structure

1
pattern to find in your own answers, and the habit to change first

Guranchal Ma'am, Founder, UPSC Gurus · upscgurus.in

Before you begin

A result records how one set of answers was read on one day. It is not a verdict on your ability. Read carefully, it can show you precisely what to change.

Why the question comes before more practice

The natural response to a result is to write more: more answers, more tests, more full papers. Yet practice reinforces whatever approach you already have. If a question is read imprecisely, each new answer reproduces the same misalignment, however many are written. Marks follow alignment with what the question asks, not the volume of practice.

This handout therefore begins one step earlier, with the question itself. For every GS question of Mains 2026 it sets out what the question asked, what it expected without saying so, and how the answer needed to be built. Once you read questions this way, every answer you write begins aligned with the examiner's intent.

The method: three things in every question

1. The demand

What the question asks, named in its own words and in its own order, with the task word read for that particular question.

2. The hidden demand

What the question expects without stating it. This is where answers that score well part company with the rest.

3. The structure

The numbered parts the answer needed, in the question's order, each with its share of the space. The last and smallest part carries the hidden demand.

Introductions and conclusions are not checked here. Strong answers open and close in many different ways; what the question itself fixes is the demand, the hidden demand and the structure.

How to use this handout

1
Read each question and the three lines beneath it: the demand, the hidden demand and the structure.

2
Recall your own answer and mark each box: a tick if your answer met it, a cross if it did not, a question mark if you cannot recall.

3
At the end of each paper, count your crosses for the demand, the hidden demand and the structure, and enter them in the tally on the final pages.

The task words of 2026, and what each one asks

The task word decides what the answer must do. Across the 79 questions and parts of GS Papers I to IV, these are the task words UPSC used, how often, and what each one asks of you. Several questions combine two task words; each is counted.

Discuss	30	Examine the issue from its relevant sides, with evidence, and arrive at a reasoned view.
Explain	12	Make clear how or why something is so: its causes, its working, its significance.
Examine	11	Probe the subject in depth, test the claim against evidence, and conclude.
Analyse	7	Break the subject into its parts, show how they relate, and judge their significance.
Comment	4	Give a reasoned, evidence-based opinion on the statement.
Suggest	4	Offer specific, workable measures that answer the problem posed.
Justify	4	Give the reasons and evidence that support the position or decision.
Critically examine / evaluate	3	Weigh strengths and weaknesses and end with a balanced verdict.
Elucidate / Highlight	4	Bring out and clarify the key points, with examples.
Open questions: what, how, why, to what extent, in what ways	23	Answer the precise question asked: what identifies, how traces process or means, why gives causes, to what extent measures degree.

Counts are UPSC Gurus' reading of the task words in each question or part of the 2026 GS papers.

A task word is always read in its question

The same task word can ask for quite different work. In GS Paper I, Q2, "Discuss the impact of Macaulay's Minute on colonial administration and education in India", it asks you to weigh two named impacts, one after the other, and reach a view. In GS Paper II, Q11, "Discuss the position of the Governor in the federal polity of India", it asks you to place one office between the Union and the State and examine how it works there. A memorised definition is therefore only the starting point: the demand of each question in this handout reads the task word for that question.

When a question combines task words, each one sets a part of the answer. "What is the Fujiwhara effect? Explain its impact on the movement and intensity of tropical cyclones" asks first for a precise identification, then for an explanation of two separate effects. The structure follows that order.

GS Paper III, 2026

Economy, Agriculture, Science, Environment, Security · 20 questions or parts

Each question is followed by **1 the demand**, **2 the hidden demand** and **3 the structure**: numbered parts with their share of the space; the part in red carries the hidden demand. Mark each box against your own answer.

Q1 What do you mean by Digital Rupee? In this context, explain the working and progress of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks three things in order: what the Digital Rupee means; how India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) works; and how far its implementation has progressed. "Explain" requires showing the mechanism of the CBDC and assessing its actual stage of development, rather than merely describing digital payments or announcing its introduction.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND What distinguishes a central bank digital currency from existing electronic money, and does progress in experimentation amount to widespread adoption?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Meaning of the Digital Rupee (about one-fifth)
2. Working of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (about two-fifths)
   Inside: issuance and distribution; retail and wholesale forms; transaction and settlement mechanisms; distinction from existing digital payment systems
3. Progress of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (about three-tenths)
   Inside: pilot implementation; expansion of participation and use cases; adoption and operational readiness
4. **Distinction between technological progress and meaningful adoption** (about one-tenth)

Q2 Examine the view that financial inclusion is an integral part of social and economic inclusion in a country like India. Also throw light on the usefulness of the R.B.I.'s Financial Inclusion Index. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks you to examine the claim that financial inclusion is integral to both social and economic inclusion in India, and then bring out the usefulness of the RBI's Financial Inclusion Index. "Examine" requires establishing and testing the relationship between access to finance and broader inclusion; "Throw light" requires identifying what the Index measures and how that measurement is useful.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Does access to financial services necessarily produce meaningful inclusion, and can an aggregate index reveal inequalities in their actual use?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Financial inclusion as an integral part of social and economic inclusion in India (about two-fifths)
   Inside: relationship with social inclusion; relationship with economic inclusion; barriers and unequal access; limits of access without effective use
2. Usefulness of the RBI's Financial Inclusion Index (about two-fifths)
   Inside: dimensions and measurement; tracking progress; identifying policy priorities; interpretative limitations
3. **Whether measured financial inclusion reflects substantive social and economic inclusion** (about one-fifth)

Q3 Describe the various Technology Missions initiated in Indian agriculture and examine their role in food security. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks first for a description of the various Technology Missions initiated in Indian agriculture and then for an examination of their role in food security. "Describe" requires identifying the missions and their principal objectives; "Examine" requires assessing how their interventions contribute to food security and where that contribution remains limited.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Do improvements in agricultural production through Technology Missions necessarily translate into affordable, accessible and nutritionally adequate food?

3. STRUCTURE

1. The Technology Missions (about two-fifths)
   Inside: major missions and their objectives; crops and sectors covered; technological and institutional interventions
2. **Their role in food security, with limits** (about three-fifths)

Q4 Explain the factors responsible for inefficiency of agri-produce marketing. How e-commerce helps to reduce inefficiency of agri-produce marketing? Explain. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks two things: the factors responsible for inefficiency in agri-produce marketing, and how e-commerce helps reduce those inefficiencies. "Explain" requires establishing why each factor obstructs efficient marketing and then showing the specific mechanism through which e-commerce addresses it, rather than presenting an unrelated list of digital platforms.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Can e-commerce overcome structural weaknesses in agricultural markets without corresponding improvements in physical infrastructure, access and market institutions?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Factors behind inefficient agri-produce marketing (about half)
   Inside: market fragmentation and intermediation; information and price discovery; storage and logistics; market access and bargaining power
2. **How e-commerce reduces inefficiency, with a closing line on its limits** (about half)

Q5 Explain by giving two examples, how biotechnology has helped the Indian farmers in processing their perishable crops. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks how biotechnology has helped Indian farmers process their perishable crops, shown through two examples. "Explain" requires tracing, for each example, the biotechnological intervention, how it aids processing and the benefit that reaches the farmer, rather than naming crops or describing conventional preservation.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Are both examples genuinely applications of biotechnology in processing, and is the benefit shown at the farmer level rather than assumed from technological potential?

3. STRUCTURE

1. First example: how biotechnology helps farmers process a perishable crop (about two-fifths)
   Inside: the crop and its perishability problem; the biotechnological intervention; how it aids processing; the benefit to farmers
2. Second example: how biotechnology helps farmers process a perishable crop (about two-fifths)
   Inside: the crop and its perishability problem; the biotechnological intervention; how it aids processing; the benefit to farmers
3. **Separating genuine biotechnological gains from ordinary post-harvest handling** (about one-fifth)

Q6 Distinguish between a Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) and a thermal nuclear reactor. In the context of first indigenously developed prototype FBR at Kalpakkam, explain the term 'criticality'. What are its implications for clean energy future of our country? **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks three things in order: how a Fast Breeder Reactor differs from a thermal nuclear reactor; what 'criticality' means in the context of the indigenous prototype FBR at Kalpakkam; and its implications for India's clean energy future. "Distinguish" requires a direct technical comparison, "Explain" requires clarifying the operational meaning of criticality, and the final part requires assessing its significance for India's energy prospects.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Does achieving criticality establish readiness for sustained commercial electricity generation, or is it a distinct milestone in a longer technological journey?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Distinction between a Fast Breeder Reactor and a thermal nuclear reactor (about three-tenths)
   Inside: neutron characteristics; fuel and breeding mechanisms; moderation and reactor operation; fuel utilisation
2. Meaning of criticality in the prototype FBR at Kalpakkam (about three-tenths)
   Inside: technical meaning of criticality; self-sustaining chain reaction; significance as an operational milestone
3. Implications for India's clean energy future (about three-tenths)
   Inside: long-term energy availability; fuel efficiency and energy security; low-carbon electricity potential; technological and operational challenges
4. **Difference between reactor criticality and commercially viable clean energy deployment** (about one-tenth)

Q7 Discuss how the contradiction between 'rapid infrastructure development' and 'disaster-risk reduction' in ecologically-sensitive areas of India can be managed, with suitable examples. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks how the contradiction between rapid infrastructure development and disaster-risk reduction can be managed in India's ecologically-sensitive areas, using suitable examples. "Discuss" requires examining the competing demands and assessing practical approaches that reconcile them, rather than simply listing development projects or disaster-management measures.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Can every infrastructure project be made sufficiently safe through mitigation, or must some projects be restricted, relocated or reconsidered altogether?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Managing the contradiction between rapid infrastructure development and disaster-risk reduction in ecologically-sensitive areas of India (about four-fifths)
   Inside: nature of the development-risk conflict; hazard-sensitive planning and location; environmental and disaster-risk assessment; resilient design and construction; regulatory and institutional safeguards; suitable Indian examples
2. **Limits beyond which development cannot be reconciled with acceptable disaster risk** (about one-fifth)

Q8 Discuss the aim and goals of Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework. Mention India's commitments and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets of this framework giving suitable examples. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks first for the aim and goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and then for India's commitments and initiatives towards achieving its goals and targets, supported by examples. "Discuss" requires explaining the framework's intended outcomes; "Mention" requires identifying India's relevant commitments and concrete actions without confusing global targets with national implementation.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Do India's commitments and announced initiatives demonstrate measurable progress towards the framework's goals, or merely formal alignment with them?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Aim and goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (about two-fifths)
   Inside: overall aim and long-term vision; principal biodiversity goals; major targets and implementation priorities
2. India's commitments and initiatives to achieve the framework's goals and targets (about two-fifths)
   Inside: national commitments and targets; policy and institutional initiatives; conservation and restoration measures; suitable examples of implementation
3. **Gap between commitments, implementation and measurable biodiversity outcomes** (about one-fifth)

Q9 Explain how fake news and disinformation pose threat to Internal Security and Public Order in Indian context? In this regard, discuss salient features of amendments in respect of Information Technology (Intermediatory Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks two things in order: how fake news and disinformation threaten Internal Security and Public Order in India; and the salient features of amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediatory Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. "Explain" requires tracing how disinformation creates each kind of threat; "Discuss" requires identifying the relevant regulatory changes and their significance for addressing those threats.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Can the State counter disinformation effectively without undermining freedom of expression, due process and the independence of online information?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Threats posed by fake news and disinformation to Internal Security and Public Order in India (about two-fifths)
   Inside: threats to internal security; threats to public order; mechanisms of amplification and mobilisation; specific vulnerabilities in the Indian context
2. Salient features of amendments to the Information Technology Rules, 2021 (about two-fifths)
   Inside: relevant amended provisions; intermediary obligations and responsibilities; content regulation and grievance mechanisms; implications for controlling disinformation
3. **Balancing disinformation control with constitutional freedoms and procedural safeguards** (about one-fifth)

Q10 Ladakh is strategically located between China and Pakistan. As a measure to win hearts and minds of locals, discuss the Border Area Development Programmes (BADP) by the Central Government and civic actions by the Army. Also discuss demand of promulgation of provision of the Sixth Schedule of constitution for Ladakh. **10 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks three things in Ladakh's strategic context: the Central Government's Border Area Development Programmes, the Army's civic actions to win local confidence, and the demand for extending Sixth Schedule provisions to Ladakh. "Discuss" requires examining the purpose and effectiveness of both forms of outreach and the constitutional rationale behind the demand, not merely listing developmental activities.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Can development and civic outreach secure lasting local confidence without addressing demands for political participation, cultural protection and institutional autonomy?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Central Government's Border Area Development Programmes in Ladakh (about three-tenths)
   Inside: objectives and strategic context; development interventions; contribution to local welfare and confidence; implementation challenges
2. Civic actions by the Army to win the hearts and minds of Ladakh's local population (about three-tenths)
   Inside: nature of civic action; community engagement and welfare; civil-military relations; scope and limitations
3. Demand for extending Sixth Schedule provisions of the Constitution to Ladakh (about three-tenths)
   Inside: grounds for the demand; constitutional protections sought; implications for local governance; institutional and legal considerations
4. **Relationship between developmental outreach and constitutionally protected local self-governance** (about one-tenth)

Q11 Explain the key challenges for India's energy security. What measures do you suggest for ensuring energy security along with economic growth and sustainability? **15 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks two things: the key challenges to India's energy security, and the measures you suggest to ensure it along with economic growth and sustainability. "Explain" means showing why each challenge threatens reliable, affordable supply; the measures must each be tested against both conditions.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Security, growth and sustainability pull against each other.

3. STRUCTURE

1. Key challenges to India's energy security (about two-fifths)
2. Measures for energy security along with growth and sustainability (about two-fifths)
3. **Balancing the three goals** (about one-fifth)

Q12 How are startups in India promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and employment? Discuss the global and domestic challenges in their working and suggest suitable measures to overcome these challenges. **15 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks three things: how Indian startups promote entrepreneurship, innovation and employment; the global and domestic challenges affecting their functioning; and suitable measures to overcome those challenges. "Discuss" requires examining the nature and significance of each contribution and challenge; "Suggest" requires remedies directly matched to the problems identified.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Does an expanding startup ecosystem necessarily produce sustainable enterprises and durable employment, or must success be judged beyond the number of startups created?

3. STRUCTURE

1. How startups in India promote entrepreneurship, innovation and employment (about three-tenths)
   Inside: entrepreneurship; innovation; employment generation; wider economic contribution
2. Global and domestic challenges in the working of Indian startups (about three-tenths)
   Inside: global market and financing challenges; international competition and technological dependence; domestic regulatory and financing constraints; talent, infrastructure and market-access challenges
3. Suitable measures to overcome global and domestic challenges (about three-tenths)
   Inside: access to finance and markets; regulatory and institutional support; innovation and capability building; sustainable growth and employment
4. **From startup creation to sustainable enterprise and employment outcomes** (about one-tenth)

Q13 How Indian agriculture has been transformed from food scarcity to food surplus level? Explain the various government policies implemented for diversification of Indian agriculture. **15 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks first how Indian agriculture was transformed from food scarcity to food surplus, and then for an explanation of government policies implemented to diversify agriculture. The first requires tracing the causes and stages of that transformation; "Explain" requires showing how the policies encourage diversification and what changes they seek to produce.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND Has the success in achieving aggregate food surplus created a sustainable and diversified agricultural system, or does dependence on the earlier production model persist?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Transformation of Indian agriculture from food scarcity to food surplus (about two-fifths)
   Inside: initial conditions of food scarcity; technological transformation; institutional and policy support; production and food availability outcomes
2. Government policies implemented for diversification of Indian agriculture (about two-fifths)
   Inside: crop diversification policies; horticulture and allied-sector promotion; incentives and institutional support; market and value-chain development; effectiveness and constraints
3. **Reconciling food surplus with diversification, sustainability and nutritional security** (about one-fifth)

Q14 Discuss the different types of subsidies and supports provided by the Government of India to agricultural sector. Examine the related issues pertaining to Agreement on Agriculture of World Trade Organisation (WTO). **15 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks first for the different types of subsidies and support provided by the Government of India to agriculture, and then for the issues arising under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. "Discuss" requires distinguishing the forms and purposes of support; "Examine" requires testing their compatibility with the Agreement's rules and identifying the resulting disputes and policy constraints.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND How can India protect farmers and food security while meeting international trade obligations and preserving sufficient policy flexibility?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Different types of subsidies and support provided by the Government of India to agriculture (about two-fifths)
   Inside: input subsidies; price and procurement support; income and investment support; credit, insurance and other assistance
2. Issues relating to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (about two-fifths)
   Inside: classification of domestic support; permissible support and limits; public stockholding and food security; trade-related disputes and obligations; implications for Indian agricultural policy
3. **Balancing domestic agricultural priorities with WTO commitments** (about one-fifth)

Q15 Mention salient features of 'Mission Drishti'. Discuss the imaging techniques used in the satellite launched on 3rd May 2026. Why it is being considered world's first satellite of its kind? **15 marks**

1. DEMAND The question asks three things about Mission Drishti: its salient features; the imaging techniques used in the satellite launched on 3 May 2026; and the reason it is considered the world's first satellite of its kind. "Mention" requires a concise identification of features, "Discuss" requires explaining the imaging techniques, and "Why" requires establishing the precise basis of the claimed uniqueness.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND What exactly makes the satellite a world first, and what it adds to India's earth-observation capability once proven in orbit.

3. STRUCTURE

1. Salient features of Mission Drishti (about three-tenths)
   Inside: mission objectives; principal technological features; intended applications
2. Imaging techniques used in the satellite launched on 3 May 2026 (about three-tenths)
   Inside: imaging technologies employed; working principles; distinctive imaging capabilities; operational applications
3. Why the satellite is considered the world's first of its kind (about three-tenths)
   Inside: precise basis of the claim; technological novelty; comparison with previous satellite capabilities
4. **What the world-first capability means for India's earth observation** (about one-tenth)

Q16 What is agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Explain its working. Describe its applications with suitable examples. Discuss the advantages, risks and challenges associated with agentic AI systems. **15 marks**

1. DEMAND

The question asks four things in sequence: what agentic AI is; how it works; its applications with suitable examples; and its advantages, risks and challenges. "Explain" requires making its autonomous working clear, "Describe" requires concrete applications, and "Discuss" requires a balanced assessment of its benefits and the problems of its deployment.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND

When AI systems can independently take consequential actions, where should the boundary of human control lie, and who remains accountable for their decisions?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Meaning and working of agentic Artificial Intelligence (about three-tenths)
   Inside: meaning and defining characteristics; goal-directed planning; tools, actions and feedback; degree of autonomy
2. Applications of agentic AI with suitable examples (about three-tenths)
   Inside: administrative and business applications; scientific and technical applications; personal and service applications; suitable examples
3. Advantages, risks and challenges associated with agentic AI systems (about three-tenths)
   Inside: advantages and productivity gains; safety and security risks; reliability and accountability; governance and implementation challenges
4. **Human oversight and accountability for autonomous AI actions** (about one-tenth)

Q17 What are the challenges to solid waste management in India? Discuss the governmental policy framework on solid waste management. Discuss the success/failure cases of Delhi and Indore cities highlighting the salient feature of their solid waste management initiatives. **15 marks**

1. DEMAND

The question asks three things in order: India's challenges in solid waste management; the governmental policy framework addressing them; and the successes or failures of Delhi and Indore, highlighting their initiatives. "Discuss" requires linking challenges to policy responses and assessing each city's actual experience, rather than merely listing schemes or assigning success and failure labels.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND

What explains differences between municipal outcomes, and can successful practices be transferred without accounting for differences in scale, capacity and public participation?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Challenges to solid waste management in India (about three-tenths)
   Inside: waste generation and segregation; collection and transportation; processing and disposal; institutional and financial constraints
2. Governmental policy framework on solid waste management (about one-fifth)
   Inside: legal and regulatory framework; national programmes and policy instruments; institutional responsibilities and implementation
3. Success and failure cases of Delhi and Indore, highlighting their solid waste management initiatives (about two-fifths)
   Inside: Delhi: principal initiatives; Delhi: achievements and failures; Indore: principal initiatives; Indore: achievements and limitations; comparison of outcomes and practices
4. **Conditions for replicating successful municipal waste management practices** (about one-tenth)

Q18 "Community participation is the cornerstone of effective disaster management". Analyse this statement with suitable examples from India. Also discuss the challenges to community participation and measures to strengthen it. **15 marks**

1. DEMAND

The question asks you to analyse why community participation is the cornerstone of effective disaster management, using Indian examples, and then discuss the challenges to participation and measures to strengthen it. "Analyse" requires demonstrating how participation changes disaster-management outcomes; "Discuss" requires identifying obstacles and linking each proposed measure to them.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND

Is community participation genuinely empowering when communities are consulted but excluded from planning, resources and decisions?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Community participation as the cornerstone of effective disaster management, with examples from India (about two-fifths)
   Inside: risk identification and preparedness; early warning and response; relief, recovery and resilience; suitable Indian examples
2. Challenges to community participation in disaster management (about one-quarter)
   Inside: institutional and capacity constraints; social exclusion and unequal participation; resources and coordination; continuity of engagement
3. Measures to strengthen community participation (about one-quarter)
   Inside: community-based planning; capacity building and resources; inclusive local institutions; integration with formal disaster-management systems
4. **From symbolic consultation to meaningful community ownership** (about one-tenth)

Q19 Separatist movements have been one of the major factors contributing to militancy and instability in Jammu & Kashmir (J & K). Bring out actions taken by the Government to bring J&K into national mainstream. Discuss pre and post abrogation status of Articles 370 and 35A. Also bring out positive impacts of abrogation of both articles in mainstreaming the state. **15 marks**

1. DEMAND

The question asks three things in order: government actions to bring Jammu and Kashmir into the national mainstream; the position of Articles 370 and 35A before and after abrogation; and the positive impacts of their abrogation on mainstreaming. "Bring out" requires identifying the significant actions and outcomes, while "Discuss" requires explaining the constitutional changes rather than merely stating that abrogation occurred.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND

Which claimed improvements can be credibly attributed to abrogation itself, and does constitutional integration necessarily establish durable political and social integration?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Government actions to bring Jammu and Kashmir into the national mainstream (about three-tenths)
   Inside: political and administrative measures; security and counter-militancy measures; development and connectivity initiatives; public participation and integration
2. Status of Articles 370 and 35A before and after abrogation (about three-tenths)
   Inside: constitutional position before abrogation; changes following abrogation; legal and institutional implications
3. Positive impacts of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in mainstreaming Jammu and Kashmir (about three-tenths)
   Inside: constitutional and administrative integration; governance and development outcomes; security and economic implications; political and social integration
4. **Distinguishing constitutional integration from demonstrated and lasting mainstreaming** (about one-tenth)

Q20 Discuss counterfeit currency and money laundering as major sources of terror funding in India. State the actions being taken at International level to check these menaces. Highlight the role of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and methods of compliance by its member states in preventing terror funding. **15 marks**

1. DEMAND

The question asks three things in order: how counterfeit currency and money laundering serve as major sources of terror funding in India; international actions to check them; and the FATF's role alongside member states' compliance methods. "Discuss" requires explaining the financing mechanisms, "State" calls for precise international measures, and "Highlight" requires bringing out FATF's distinctive functions and practical implementation.

2. HIDDEN DEMAND

Do international anti-terror-financing standards produce real disruption of terrorist networks without effective domestic enforcement, intelligence-sharing and institutional capacity?

3. STRUCTURE

1. Counterfeit currency and money laundering as major sources of terror funding in India (about three-tenths)
   Inside: counterfeit currency and terror financing; money laundering and terror financing; channels and mechanisms; internal security implications
2. International actions to check counterfeit currency and money laundering (about three-tenths)
   Inside: international conventions and cooperation; financial intelligence-sharing; cross-border investigation and enforcement; financial monitoring and preventive measures
3. Role of FATF and methods of compliance by member states in preventing terror funding (about three-tenths)
   Inside: FATF's mandate and standards; monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; national legal and regulatory compliance; financial-sector due diligence and reporting; enforcement and international cooperation
4. **Converting international compliance into effective prevention of terror financing** (about one-tenth)

Your pattern

Enter your cross counts below. The total matters less than the row in which the crosses gather: that row names the habit to change first.

	GS Paper I	GS Paper II	GS Paper III	GS Paper IV	Total
Demand missed					
Hidden demand missed					
Structure parts missed					

What your largest row is telling you

Most crosses on the demand

Your knowledge was sound, but the answers addressed the topic rather than the task, or omitted a part the question named. Before writing, underline the task word and number every part the question asks for.

Begin with: the UG Handout "How to Read a GS Mains Question".

Most crosses on the hidden demand

Your answers were accurate but did not go beyond the obvious. Before writing, ask what the examiner is really testing, and what most answers to this question will leave out.

Begin with: Mains Mastery, the UPSC Gurus GS Mains programme, which trains you to read every question for its hidden demand.

Most crosses on the structure

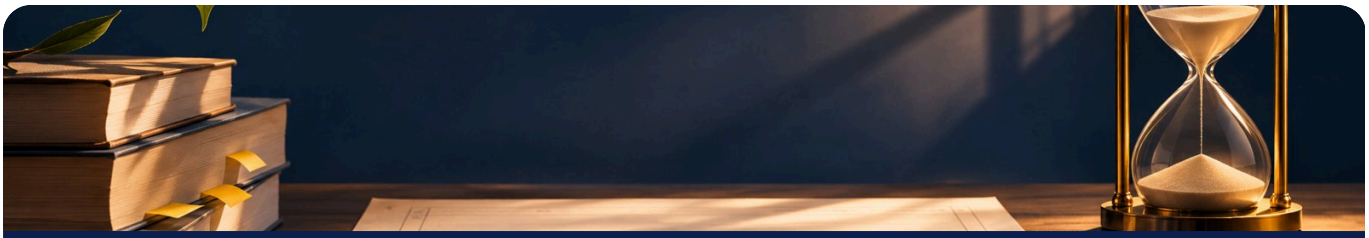
Your answers moved around the question rather than through it. Before writing, turn the question's own parts into numbered parts in the same order, and give each its share of the space.

Begin with: the UG Handout "GS Mains PYQ Topic Map 2013-2026", and structure ten past questions on paper.

Crosses spread evenly, or many question marks

Recollection can take you only so far. Write a few of these questions again, this time with the demand, the hidden demand and the structure in front of you.

Time yourself: every 2026 GS paper on Mains Replay at upscgurus.in carries a free three-hour examination clock.



YOUR NEXT STEP

Now write the paper again.

You now hold what few aspirants ever see: what each question asked, what it expected without saying so, and how the answer needed to be built. Writing the 2026 papers again with that understanding is a different experience from writing them alone, and it places you well ahead of where you would otherwise begin.

1 Read the decoding for one paper

2 Write the full paper in three hours

3 Have it evaluated

4 Read the feedback against this handout

FREE

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