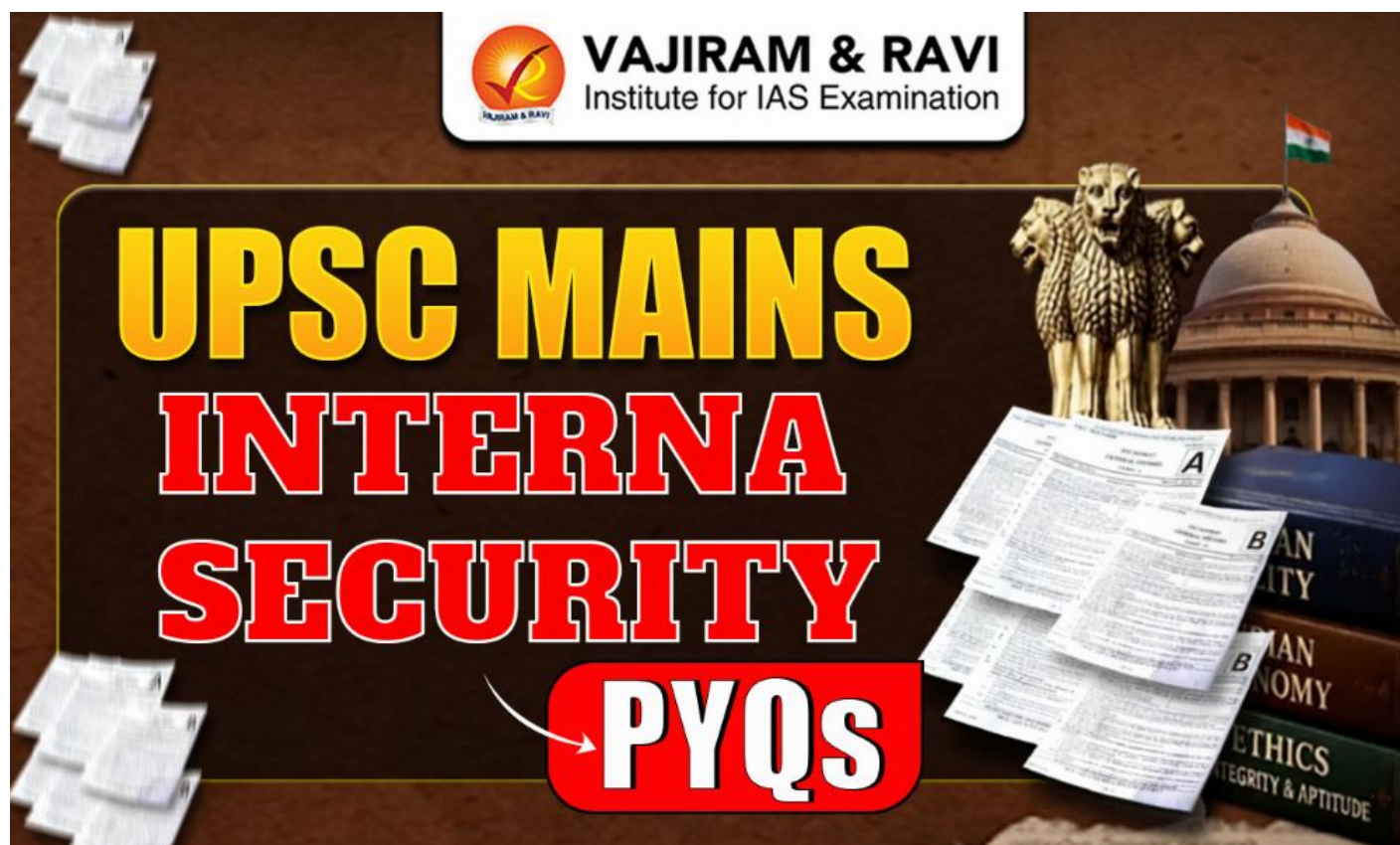


UPSC Mains Internal Security PYQs (2025-2013), Year-wise Questions

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UPSC Mains Internal Security PYQs (2025-2013) help candidates understand the pattern and trend of questions asked in the Internal Security section of GS Paper III. Practising these year-wise questions improves conceptual clarity, analytical thinking, and answer-writing skills. They cover important topics such as terrorism, cyber security, border management, internal security challenges, role of security forces, and linkages between development and extremism. Regular practice of PYQs helps candidates prepare more effectively and confidently for the UPSC Mains examination.

UPSC Mains Internal Security PYQs (2025-2013)

1. Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain. **(150 words) 2025**
2. The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE? **(Answer in 150 words) 2025**

3. What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade. **(Answer in 250 words) 2025**
4. Why is maritime security vital to protect India's sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward. **(250 words) 2025**
5. Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism. **2024**
6. India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BM) Scheme. **2024**
7. Winning of 'Hearts and Minds' in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir. **2023**
8. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat. **2023**
9. What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats. **2023**
10. Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022. **2023**
11. Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels. **2022**
12. What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security. **2022**
13. What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy. **2022**
14. Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism. **2022**
15. Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels. **2021**
16. Keeping in view of India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber-attacks. Also, discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks. **2021**
17. Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats. **2021**
18. Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. **2021**
19. Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. **2020**

20. For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals. **2020**
21. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? **2020**
22. Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. **2020**
23. The banning of 'Jamaat-e - Islamic' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs. **2019**
24. The Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the unlawful activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. **2019**
25. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same. **2018**
26. Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE. **2018**
27. Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber crimes. The Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space? **2018**
28. India's proximity to the two of the world's biggest illicit opium growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter measures should be taken to prevent the same? **2018**
29. Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it. **2017**
30. The North-Eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. **2017**
31. Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence. **2017**
32. The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding? **2017**
33. The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions. **2016**
34. 'Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades.' Analyse the above statement. **2016**
35. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management. **2016**
36. Use of internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.

2016

37. Discuss the advantages and security implications of cloud hosting of servers vis-a-vis in-house machine-based hosting for government businesses. **2015**
38. Human right activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court. **2015**
39. Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous to the internal security of our country? **2015**
40. The persisting drives of the Government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. **2015**
41. Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Forces" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National **Cyber Security Policy**, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation. **2015**
42. "The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighbourhood." Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment. **2014**
43. International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat. **2014**
44. How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration. **2014**
45. In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organization. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns? **2014**
46. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What threat does this pose for India's security? Critically examine. **2014**
47. Money laundering poses a serious security threat to a country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace? **2013**
48. What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present? **2013**
49. Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same. **2013**
50. Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing extremism. **2013**
51. How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar? **2013**

Benefits of Practicing UPSC Mains Internal Security Previous Year Questions

Practising UPSC Mains **Internal Security Previous Year Questions (PYQs)** helps candidates understand the exam pattern, strengthen core concepts, and improve answer-writing skills for **GS Paper III**.

- **Understand the UPSC Exam Pattern** and the nature of **Internal Security questions** asked by UPSC.
- **Identify Important Topics** such as **terrorism, cyber security, border management, left-wing extremism, organised crime, and security forces**.
- **Improve Answer Writing Skills** by practising **structured, analytical, and multidimensional responses**.
- **Strengthen Conceptual Clarity** on key **internal security challenges, government strategies, and institutional mechanisms**.
- **Recognise Recurring Themes** to focus on **high-weightage areas** like **cyber threats, extremism, and border issues**.
- **Integrate Current Affairs** with static topics using **recent security developments, government policies, and reports**.
- **Develop Analytical Thinking** by evaluating **security challenges from social, economic, political, and technological perspectives**.
- **Enhance Time Management** through regular **timed practice of PYQs**.
- **Boost Confidence** by becoming familiar with the **UPSC Mains question pattern**.
- **Revise Effectively** using PYQs as a reliable tool for **quick and focused revision** before the examination.

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