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This just in:

[UPSC IFOS Notification - 2024](#) [UPSC CSE Notification 2024](#)

close



- [Home](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Classroom Programme](#)
- [Interview Guidance](#)
- [Online Programme](#)
- [Drishti Store](#)
- [DLP](#)
- 

Language: [EN](#)

[Search](#)

[RSS](#)

[Cart](#)

[Classroom](#)

Menu

- [About us](#)
  - [General Introduction](#)
  - [Drishti - The Vision Foundation](#)
  - [Drishti Publications](#)
  - [Drishti Media](#)
  - [Managing Director](#)
  - [Infrastructure](#)
- [Prelims](#)
  - [About Civil Services](#)
  - [Syllabus & Strategy](#)
    - [UPSC Prelims Syllabus](#)
    - [GS Prelims Strategy](#)
  - [Prelims Analysis](#)
  - [Previous Years Papers](#)
    - [GS Paper-I \(Year Wise\)](#)
    - [GS Paper-I \(Subject Wise\)](#)
  - [CSAT](#)
    - [CSAT Strategy](#)
    - [CSAT MCQs](#)
    - [Previous Years Papers](#)
  - [Prelims Special](#)
    - [Sambhav - 2024](#)
    - [PT Sprint 2023](#)
    - [Sambhav - 2023](#)
    - [Path To Prelims](#)
    - [60 Steps To Prelims](#)
    - [Prelims Refresher Programme 2020](#)
    - [PT Sprint 2022](#)
  - [UPSC CSE Results](#)
- [Practice Quiz](#)
  - [Daily Editorial Based Quiz](#)
  - [Monthly Editorial Quiz Consolidation](#)
  - [Path To Prelims](#)



- [60 Steps To Prelims](#)
- [CA Quiz Consolidation](#)
- [Current Affairs](#)
- [State PCS Quiz](#)
- [Previous Year Papers](#)
- [Economic Survey](#)
- [Weekly Revision MCQs](#)
- [Down To Earth](#)
- [Yojana / Kurukshetra](#)
- [NCERT BOOKS](#)
- [CSAT](#)
- [Mains & Interview](#)
  - [Optional Subjects](#)
  - [Mains Special](#)
    - [Sambhav - 2024](#)
    - [Mains Marathon 2023](#)
    - [Sambhav - 2023](#)
    - [Mains Marathon 2022](#)
    - [Be MAINS Ready](#)
      - [2021](#)
      - [2020](#)
      - [2019](#)
  - [Mains Syllabus & Strategy](#)
    - [Mains GS Syllabus](#)
    - [Mains GS Strategy](#)
  - [Mains Answer Writing Practice](#)
  - [Essay](#)
    - [Essay Strategy](#)
    - [Fodder For Essay](#)
    - [Model Essays](#)
    - [Previous Years Papers](#)
  - [Ethics](#)
    - [Ethics Strategy](#)
    - [Ethics Case Studies](#)
    - [Engage in Ethics](#)
    - [Ethics Previous Years Q&As](#)
  - [Mains Previous Years](#)
    - [Papers By Years](#)
    - [Papers By Subject](#)
  - [Mains Solved Papers](#)
    - [Papers By Years](#)
    - [Papers By Subject](#)
  - [Personality Test](#)
    - [Interview Strategy](#)
    - [Interview Guidance Programme](#)
  - [UPSC CSE Results](#)
- [Current Affairs](#)
  - [Daily News & Editorial](#)
  - [Daily CA MCQs](#)
  - [Weekly Revision MCQs](#)
  - [Sansad TV Discussions](#)
  - [Monthly CA Consolidation](#)
  - [Monthly Editorial Consolidation](#)
  - [Monthly MCO Consolidation](#)
  - [Monthly Editorial Quiz Consolidation](#)
- [Drishti Specials](#)
  - [Inspirational Icons](#)
  - [Manthan](#)
  - [Sambhav](#)



- [2024](#)
- [2023](#)
- [To The Point](#)
- [Infographics and Maps](#)
- [Important Institutions](#)
- [Learning Through Maps](#)
- [PRS Capsule](#)
- [Summary Of Reports](#)
- [Gist Of Economic Survey](#)
- [Study Material](#)
  - [NCERT Books](#)
  - [NIOS Study Material](#)
  - [IGNOU Study Material](#)
- [Test Series](#)
  - [UPSC](#)
    - [Prelims Test Series](#)
    - [Mains Test Series](#)
  - [BPS](#)
    - [Prelims Test Series](#)
    - [Mains Test Series](#)
  - [UPPCS](#)
    - [Prelims Test Series](#)
    - [Mains Test Series](#)
  - [RAS/RTS](#)
    - [Prelims Test Series](#)
    - [Mains Test Series](#)
  - [MPPSC](#)
    - [Prelims Test Series](#)
    - [Mains Test Series](#)
  - [HPSC](#)
    - [Prelims Test Series](#)
    - [Mains Test Series](#)
  - [Other Competitive Exams](#)
    - [CAPE](#)
    - [EPFO](#)
- [State PCS](#)
  - [Bihar](#)
  - [Chhattisgarh](#)
  - [Rajasthan](#)
  - [Uttar Pradesh](#)
  - [Haryana](#)
  - [Jharkhand](#)
  - [Uttarakhand](#)
  - [Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [Videos](#)
  - [Important Institutions](#)
  - [Daily Editorial Analysis](#)
  - [YouTube PDF Downloads](#)
  - [Mindmap For UPSC](#)
  - [Daily Current Affairs](#)
    - [Science & Tech](#)
    - [International Relations](#)
    - [Indian Culture & Historical Events](#)
    - [Polity & Nation](#)
    - [Economic Development](#)
    - [Ecology & Environment](#)
  - [Weekly Practice Questions](#)
  - [Important Government Schemes](#)
  - [Strategy By Toppers](#)



- [Ethics - Definition & Concepts](#)
- [Mastering Mains Answer Writing](#)
- [Places in News](#)
- [UPSC Mock Interview](#)
- [IFoS Mock Interview](#)
- [PCS Mock Interview](#)
  - [UPPSC](#)
  - [BPSC](#)
- [Interview Insights](#)
- [Prelims 2019](#)
- [Study Plan](#)
- [Product Promos](#)
- [Quick Links](#)
- [Drishiti Store](#)

close

- [Blog](#)

## Achievers Corner

- [Topper's Interview](#)

## Prelims

- [About Civil Services](#)
- [Syllabus & Strategy](#)
  - [UPSC Prelims Syllabus](#)
  - [GS Prelims Strategy](#)
- [Prelims Analysis](#)
- [Previous Years Papers](#)
  - [GS Paper-I \(Year Wise\)](#)
  - [GS Paper-I \(Subject Wise\)](#)
- [CSAT](#)
  - [CSAT Strategy](#)
  - [CSAT MCQs](#)
  - [Previous Years Papers](#)
- [Practice Quiz](#)
- [Weekly Revision MCQs](#)
- [60 Steps To Prelims](#)
- [Prelims Refresher Programme 2020](#)



## Mains & Interview

- [Mains Syllabus & Strategy](#)
  - [Mains GS Syllabus](#)
  - [Mains GS Strategy](#)
- [Mains Answer Writing Practice](#)
- [Essay](#)
  - [Essay Strategy](#)
  - [Fodder For Essay](#)
  - [Model Essays](#)
  - [Drishti Essay Competition](#)
- [Ethics](#)
  - [Ethics Strategy](#)
  - [Ethics Case Studies](#)
  - [Ethics Discussion](#)
  - [Ethics Previous Years Q&As](#)
- [Mains Previous Years](#)
  - [Papers By Years](#)
  - [Papers By Subject](#)
- [Mains Solved Papers](#)
  - [Papers By Years](#)
  - [Papers By Subject](#)
- [Be MAINS Ready](#)
- [Awake Mains Examination 2020](#)
- [Personality Test](#)
  - [Interview Strategy](#)
  - [Interview Guidance Programme](#)

## Current Affairs

- [Daily News & Editorial](#)
- [Daily CA MCQs](#)
- [Weekly Revision MCQs](#)
- [Sansad TV Discussions](#)
- [Monthly CA Consolidation](#)
- [Monthly Editorial Consolidation](#)
- [Monthly MCQ Consolidation](#)

## Drishti Specials

- [To The Point](#)
- [Mind Map](#)
- [Important Institutions](#)
- [Learning Through Maps](#)
- [PRS Capsule](#)
- [Summary Of Reports](#)
- [Gist Of Economic Survey](#)



## Study Material

- [NCERT Books](#)
- [NIOS Study Material](#)
- [IGNOU Study Material](#)
- [Yojana & Kurukshetra](#)

## State PCS

- [Bihar](#)
- [Chhatisgarh](#)
- [Rajasthan](#)
- [Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [Haryana](#)
- [Jharkhand](#)
- [Uttarakhand](#)
- [Madhya Pradesh](#)

## Test Series

- [UPSC Prelims Test Series](#)
- [UPSC Mains Test Series](#)
- [UPPCS Prelims Test Series](#)
- [UPPCS Mains Test Series](#)
- [BPSC Prelims Test Series](#)
- [RAS/RTS Prelims Test Series](#)

## Videos

- [Important Institutions](#)
- [Daily Editorial Analysis](#)
- [YouTube PDF Downloads](#)
- [Strategy By Toppers](#)
- [Ethics - Definition & Concepts](#)
- [Mastering Mains Answer Writing](#)
- [Places in News](#)
- [UPSC Mock Interview](#)
- [IFoS Mock Interview](#)
- [PCS Mock Interview](#)
- [Interview Insights](#)
- [Important Government Schemes](#)
- [Prelims 2019](#)
- [Study Plan](#)
- [Product Promos](#)



## Be Mains Ready

- [Home](#)
- Be Mains Ready

Show Menu

[All GS Paper 1](#) [GS Paper 2](#) [GS Paper 3](#) [GS Paper 4](#) [Essay](#) [Revision Tests](#)

- 06 Dec 2021 [GS Paper 1](#) [Indian Society](#)

**Q.** Regionalism is a threat to maintaining 'unity in diversity' in India." Critically analyse the given statement. (250 words)

### Approach

- Define regionalism and the concept of unity in diversity.
- Discuss the causes of regionalism in India.
- Give positive and negative impacts of regionalism.
- Conclude suitably.

### Answer

- **Unity in Diversity:** India is a land of diversity; however, there are bonds of unity underlying all this diversity. These are geo-political unity, the institution of pilgrimage, tradition of accommodation, and tradition of interdependence.
- **Regionalism:** Regionalism is an ideology and political movement that seeks to advance the causes of regions. Regionalism at national level refers to a process in which sub-state actors become increasingly powerful; power devolves from central level to regional



governments.

- Roots of regionalism is in India's diversity of languages, cultures, ethnic groups, communities, religions and so on, and encouraged by the regional concentration of those identity markers, and fueled by a sense of regional deprivation.

### Causes of Regionalism

- **Language:** The demand of linguistic states has fuelled regionalism which led to formation of new states like Andhra Pradesh, Punjab etc.
- **Religion:** It is also one of the major factors of regionalism. Example:
  - The demand of three autonomous states in Jammu & Kashmir is based on religion. The bases for their demands are- Kashmir for Muslim dominated, Jammu for Hindu dominated and Ladakh for Buddhism dominated region.
- **Regional Culture/Ethnic:** The North-east states were created on the basis of cultural aspects. Besides the economic issues, the regional culture played significant role in the formation of Jharkhand as a state
- **Economic Backwardness:** The uneven pattern of socioeconomic development has created regional disparities. The categorization and sub-categorization of the states on the basis of socioeconomic development and use of resources have generated resentment, leading to regionalism. Example:
  - Split of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh, demand for separate statehood for Vidarbha, Saurashtra etc.
- **Rise of Political Parties:** Coalition politics and rise of regional political parties has led to gaining of regionalism as a political tool to garner votes, thereby deepening the fault lines.
- **Son of the Soil Doctrine:** According to this, a state specifically belongs to the native group only, who are the sons of the soil or local residents. The doctrine gains currency due to competition for jobs and resources between migrant and local educated middle class youth. Example:
  - Maharashtra for Marathas, Gujrat for Gujaratis etc.

### Negative Impacts

- **Rise of Insurgency:** Regionalism is a threat to the development and unity of the nation as it creates internal security challenges by the insurgent groups (Khalistan movement in Punjab), who propagate the feelings of regionalism against the mainstream politico-administrative setup of the country.
- **Asymmetrical Development:** Regional demands undermine national demands as Developmental plans are implemented unevenly focusing on regions to which important leaders belong, hence unrest is generated among the rest of the regions.
- **Challenge to Foreign Policy:** Regionalism creates hurdles in international diplomacy, for example in case of Mamata Banerjee not agreeing to the Land Boundary agreement and Teesta River Water sharing, when the leaders at centre level were ready to do it.
- **Restricting Fundamental Rights:** Restricts freedom of movement and profession, defeating Article 19 of the constitution, as non natives are exploited and mistreated leading to vulnerability of the migrant population. For ex: recent Gujarat migrant crisis.
- **Against Constitutional Ethos:** It goes against ethos, culture and constitutional ideals of India which are syncretic, democratic, federal polity.

### Positive Impacts

- **Symmetrical Development:** Regional aspirations have a positive impact on balanced regional development as concerns are voiced and heard by central authority which then tries to minimize the disparities.
- **Competitive Federalism:** It helps in the development of a spirit of competitive federalism, thereby lifting the underdeveloped regions on par with national growth.

- **Promotes Democratic Ethos:** Regionalism helps in promoting the democratic culture of society by discussion, debate and action on regional issues.
- **Safety Valve:** It provides an outlet to the diverse discourse and concerns of society and their timely redressal, which helps in releasing tension/ stress that may arise in a diverse society thereby acting as a safety valve.

Thus, regionalism is a natural phenomenon in a federal polity like India where diversities are territorially grouped, largely on political, ethnic, cultural and linguistic basis. The federal system of polity has indeed made regionalism feasible and vice-versa.

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/** * RECOMMENDED CONFIGURATION VARIABLES: EDIT AND UNCOMMENT THE SECTION BELOW TO
INSERT DYNAMIC VALUES FROM YOUR PLATFORM OR CMS. * LEARN WHY DEFINING THESE VARIABLES IS
IMPORTANT: https://disqus.com/admin/universalcode/#configuration-variables*/ var disqus_config =
function () { this.page.url = https://www.drishtias.com/be-mains-ready-daily-answer-writing-practice-questi
on/papers/2021/regionalism-threat-maintaining-unity-diversity-india-critically-analyse-the-given-
statement/about-us/general-introduction/print/print/print // Replace PAGE_URL with your page's canonical
URL variable this.page.identifier = " // Replace PAGE_IDENTIFIER with your page's unique identifier
variable }; (function() { // DON'T EDIT BELOW THIS LINE var d = document, s = d.createElement('script');
s.src = 'https://drishti-english.disqus.com/embed.js'; s.setAttribute('data-timestamp', +new Date());
(d.head || d.body).appendChild(s)}()); Please enable JavaScript to view the comments powered by
Disqus.
```

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- [Mains Strategy](#)
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- [Be Mains Ready Schedule 2021](#)

```
$(document).ready(function(){ $('#accordion button').click(function(){ // $('#accordion
button').css("display","block").next().slideUp(500); $(this).text(function(i, text){ return text === "Show
Answer" ? "Hide Answer" : "Show Answer"; }); // $(this).css("display","none").next().slideToggle(500);
$(this).next().slideToggle(); }); }); $('#sendtoprogress').click(function(e){ var article=$('#article').val();
var title = $('#articletitle').val(); var url = "https://www.drishtias.com/be-mains-ready-daily-answer-writing
-practice-question/papers/2021/regionalism-threat-maintaining-unity-diversity-india-critically-analyse-the-
given-statement/about-us/general-introduction/print/print/print"; $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
```

```
"https://www.drishtiiias.com/articles/progress", data:
'article='+article+'&type=2&articletitle='+title+'&url='+encodeURIComponent(url), success:
function(data){ if(data=='success'){ if($('.progresslist').length){ $('.progresslist').prepend(
''+title+'<\/a> { \(\$.message\).hide\(\); \$\( '

```

- ['+title+'<\/a>](#)

```
'.insertAfter( ".content .prog" ); } $('#articlemsg').html('Article has been added in your progress
section'); $('.fixbtn.progress').toggleClass('open'); } else if(data=='already') { $('#articlemsg').html('This
article is already exist in your progress section. '); } else if(data=='login') { $('#articlemsg').html('Please
login to send this article into progress. '); } else { $('#articlemsg').html('Oops! something went wrong,
Please try again'); } }, error: function(error, errortype, errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });
$('#sendtobookmark').click(function(e){ var article=$('#article').val(); var title = $('#articletitle').val(); var
url = "https://www.drishtiiias.com/be-mains-ready-daily-answer-writing-practice-question/papers/2021/regi
onalism-threat-maintaining-unity-diversity-india-critically-analyse-the-given-statement/about-us/general-
introduction/print/print/print"; $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com//articles/progress",
data: 'article='+article+'&type=1&articletitle='+title+'&url='+encodeURIComponent(url), success:
function(data){ if(data=='success'){ if($('.bookmarklist').length){ $('.bookmarklist').prepend(
''+title+'<\/a> { \(\$.message\).hide\(\); \$\( '

```

- ['+title+'<\/a>](#)

```
'.insertAfter( ".content .bookm" ); } $('#articlemsg').html('Article has been added in your bookmark
section'); $('.fixbtn.bookmark').toggleClass('open'); } else if(data=='already') { $('#articlemsg').html('This
article is already exist in your bookmark section. '); } else if(data=='login') {
$('#sendtobookmark').addClass('popup'); //$('#articlemsg').html('Please login to send this article into
progress. '); } else { $('#articlemsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error, errortype, errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); }); $(document).ready(function(){ //$('.video-
slide').slick(); $('.video-slide').slick({ autoplay: true, arrows: false, dots: false, autoplaySpeed:7000 }); });
function showMessage(){ $(".ui-state-default").on("mouseenter", function() { var dayprefix="";
if(parseInt($(this).text())
= 1) { clearInterval(fadeInInterval); } else { opacity += 0.1; form.style.opacity = opacity; } }, 20); //
Adjust the interval as needed for the desired speed // Add click event listener to document to close form
when clicking outside document.addEventListener("click", closeFormOnClickOutside); } function
closeForm() { var form = document.getElementById("myForm"); var opacity = 1; // Gradually decrease
opacity to 0 var fadeOutInterval = setInterval(function () { if (opacity

```

```
screen_width_resize_before){ //Zoom out if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left =
(screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } else { //Zoom in
if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else {
box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } var screen_width_resize_before = screen_width_resize_after; });
document.addEventListener('scroll',(event) => { var box_top=parseInt(box.style.top, 10); var
window_height=parseInt(window.innerHeight, 10); if((box_top >= window_height) || (box_top
screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } box.style.top
= (window_height*0.5)+'px'; } }, { passive: true } ); $('.float-plus').draggable(); $(".float-
plus").css("position", "fixed"); $(".float-plus").css("z-index", "999"); $(".float-plus").click(function(){
show_social_float_icons(); }); var box = document.getElementById('float-plus'); $('.float-

```

```
plus').mousedown(function(){ const body = document.body; box.style.transition = "all 0s ease 0s";
body.style.overflow = "hidden"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto"; }); $('float-plus').mouseup(function(){
const body = document.body; body.style.overflow = "auto"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto";
box.style.transition = "all 1s ease 0s"; var screen_width = window.innerWidth; var screen_width =
parseInt(screen_width, 10) var current_location = box.style.left; var current_location =
parseInt(current_location, 10) var screen_middle = (screen_width/2); var xx = (screen_width*0.04); var x
= (screen_width*0.009); if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; }
else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } }); // For MOBILE TOUCH - DRAGGABLE
box.addEventListener('touchstart', function(e) { box.style.transition = "all 0s ease 0s"; });
box.addEventListener('touchmove', function(e) { e.preventDefault(); box.style.transform =
"translate(-50%, -50%)"; var touchLocation = e.targetTouches[0]; box.style.left = (touchLocation.pageX-
window.scrollX) + 'px'; box.style.top = (touchLocation.pageY-window.scrollY) + 'px'; });
box.addEventListener('touchend', function(e) { box.style.transition = "all 1s ease 0s"; var screen_width =
screen.width; var screen_width = parseInt(screen_width, 10) var current_location = box.style.left; var
current_location = parseInt(current_location, 10) var screen_middle = (screen_width/2); var xx =
(screen_width*0.05); var x = (screen_width*0.05); if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left =
(screen_width-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } }); function remove_social_float_icons() {
$(".float-fb").animate({ top: "-=8%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-fb" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-tw").animate({ top: "-=16%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tw" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-rs").animate({ top: "-=24%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-rs" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-ig").animate({ top: "-=32%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-ig" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-pn").animate({ top: "-=40%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-pn" ).hide("slow"); },500);
$(".float-wp").animate({ top: "-=48%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-wp" ).hide("slow");
},500); var width = (window.innerWidth > 0) ? window.innerWidth : screen.width; if(width >= 700){
$(".float-tg").animate({ top: "-=56%", }, 500 ); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tg" ).hide("slow"); },500);
} setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-cross" ).hide("slow"); },500); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-plus"
).show("slow"); },500); sessionStorage.setItem("remove_social_icons", "1"); } function
show_social_float_icons(){ setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-plus" ).hide("slow"); },10);
setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-fb" ).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tw"
).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-rs" ).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".
float-ig" ).show("slow"); },10); setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-pn" ).show("slow"); },10);
setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-wp" ).show("slow"); },10); var width = (window.innerWidth > 0) ?
window.innerWidth : screen.width; if(width >= 700){ setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tg" ).show("slow");
},10); } setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-cross" ).show("slow"); },10); $(".float-fb").animate({ top:
"+=8%", }, 500 ); $(".float-tw").animate({ top: "+=16%", }, 600 ); $(".float-rs").animate({ top: "+=24%",
}, 700 ); $(".float-ig").animate({ top: "+=32%", }, 800 ); $(".float-pn").animate({ top: "+=40%", }, 900 );
$(".float-wp").animate({ top: "+=48%", }, 1000 ); if(width >= 700){ $(".float-tg").animate({ top:
"+=56%", }, 1000 ); } sessionStorage.setItem("remove_social_icons", "0"); }
$(document).ready(function(){ var value = sessionStorage.getItem("remove_social_icons"); if(value ==
'1'){ remove_social_float_icons(); } }); // function to close the popup function closePopup() { var modal =
document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display = "none"; } // function to open the popup
function openPopup() { var modal = document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display =
"block"; } // Added the code - If user click on anywhere outside the popup $('body').click(function(e) {
$('#myModal').hide(); }); $('#popclose').on('click',function(e){ $('#myModal').css('display','none'); }); //
automatically open the popup on page load window.onload = openPopup; $(document).ready(function(){
if(screen.width { button.addEventListener('click', btnEvent => { // console.log(button.id); $.ajax({
method: "POST", url: "https://www.drishitias.com/search/", data:{ 'id': button.id, 'search': search },
headers: { 'X-CSRF-TOKEN': $('[name = "_csrfToken"]').val() }, success: function(result){
$('body').html(result); }, error: function(error){ console.log(error) } } ) } }) $(document).ready(function(){
//alert(getCookie('isLogin')); if(getCookie('isLogin')==1) { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','inline-block');
$('#loginLink').css('display','none'); $('#registerLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','inline-block'); } else { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','none');
$('#loginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#registerLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','none'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','none'); } }); function getCookie(name) { var match =
document.cookie.match(RegExp("(?:^|\\s*)" + name + "=(.*)")); return match ? match[1] : null; } var
regex = /^(([a-zA-Z0-9_+])+\@((([a-zA-Z0-9-])+\.)+([a-zA-Z0-9]{2,4})+)$/; var phonex = /^(([0-9 ])+)$/;
$('#newsletterfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true; var txtname=$('#txtname').val(); var
```

```
txtnewsletter=$('#txtnewsletter').val(); $('#nmsg').html(""); //$('.input-error').remove(); if(txtname.trim()==){
$('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); }
if(txtnewsletter.trim()==){ $('#txtnewsletter').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!regex.test(txtnewsletter)){ $('#txtnewsletter').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtnewsletter').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#newsletterfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({
type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/pages/newsletterfrm", data: form, success: function(data){
if(data=='already'){ $('#nmsg').html('Email address already in use'); }else if(data=='add'){
$('#nmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.');
```

```

$('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html(data); } }, error:
function(error, errortype, errorstatus) { $('#loader').css('display', 'none'); alert(errortype);
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#allnotes').click(function() {
$('#fixbtn.notes').removeClass('open'); $('#fixbtn.mynotes').toggleClass('open'); });
$('#mynotes, .notelist').on('click', '.readmore', function() { var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid');
$('#note_id').val(noteid); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/articles/setnote", data:
'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data) { if(data) { tinymce.get("mynote").setContent(data);
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('#fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); } else { alert('Oops! something went
wrong, Please try again'); } }, error: function(error, errortype, errorstatus) { alert(errortype); } }); });
$('#notelink').click(function() { $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/articles/removenote",
success: function(data) { if(data=='removed') { $('#note_id').val(""); tinymce.get("mynote").setContent("");
$('#mynotemsg').html(""); $('#fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); $('#fixbtn.mynotes').removeClass('open');
} else { alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error, errortype, errorstatus) { alert(errortype); } }); });
$('#mynotes, .notelist').on('click', '.removenote', function(e) { if(confirm('Are you sure want to remove
note?')) { $('#loader').css('display', 'block'); var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid'); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishtiiias.com/articles/deletenote", data: 'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data) {
$('#loader').css('display', 'none'); if(data=='removed') { $('#note-list #' + noteid + ', .notelist
#' + noteid).css('display', 'none'); } else { alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error, errortype, errorstatus) { $('#loader').css('display', 'none'); alert(errortype); } }); }
e.preventDefault(); }); $('#commentfile').change(function() { $('#file-name').text(this.files[0].name); });
$(document).ready(function() { $('#list-toggle').click(function() { $('#list-category').toggleClass('active');
$(this).toggleClass('active'); $('#value').text(function(i, text) { return text === "Hide Menu" ? "Show Menu"
: "Hide Menu"; }); }); $('#aside button.close').click(function() { $('#list-category').toggleClass('active'); $('#list-
toggle').toggleClass('active'); }); $('#fixbtn .btn').click(function() { $('#fixbtn
.btn').not(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); $(this).parents('.fixbtn').toggleClass('open'); });
$('#fixbtn a.close').click(function() { $(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); }); $('#note-
btn').click(function() { $('#fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }); $('#viewmore a').click(function() {
$('#hide').slideToggle('active'); $(this).text(function(i, text) { return text === "View More" ? "View Less" :
"View More"; }); }); }); $('#learning-program .subheading').click(function() { $(this).next().slideToggle();
$(this).toggleClass('open'); }); $(document).ready(function() { $('#a.register-btn').colorbox(); });
$('#interview-slider').slick({ autoplay: true, arrows: false, dots: true });
$('#bookSession').on('click', function(e) { $.ajax({ type: "POST", data: { 'course':
$('#bookSession').data('course') }, url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/book-online-session", success:
function(json) { var obj = JSON.parse(json); if (obj.status==200) { alert(obj.message); } else {
alert(obj.message); window.location.reload(); } }, error: function(error, errortype, errorstatus) {
alert(errortype); } }); e.preventDefault(); }); $('#popup').colorbox({iframe: true, innerWidth: 790,
innerHeight: 530}); if(screen.width = 500) { $('#scroll-top').addClass("show"); } else { $('#scroll-
top').removeClass("show"); } }); function showarchive(year, month, day=null) { // alert('be-mains-ready-
daily-answer-writing-practice-question'); return; var
url='https://www.drishtiiias.com/archives+'+''+year+'-'+month+'-'+day; location=url;
//alert(url+'/archives/'+year+'/'+month+'/'+dat); }

```

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