

GENERAL STUDIES

PRELIMS + MAINS

MASTER SYLLABUS MICRO-LISTING

Official syllabus aligned | Detailed subject-wise decomposition
Subject -> Major Theme -> Micro-theme -> Ultra-micro concept

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER MAP

GS-I Indian Heritage & Culture | History | Geography | Society

GS-II Polity | Governance | Social Justice | International Relations

GS-III Economy | Agriculture | S&T | Environment | Security | Disaster Management

GS-IV Ethics | Integrity | Aptitude



Viraj C. Rane Sir

CURRENT AFFAIRS & ANSWER WRITING

A PRINT-FRIENDLY MAP OF WHAT TO STUDY

Built for syllabus coverage, revision planning and current-affairs integration.

IAS PASS | YOUR PASS TO ENTER IAS

What this document is for

The UPSC syllabus is brief, but each line contains several layers of concepts, institutions, processes and applications. This micro-listing converts those broad syllabus lines into a usable preparation map while keeping the hierarchy clear enough for revision and answer-writing planning.

Follow the hierarchy

SUBJECT

The broad preparation domain

MAJOR THEME

A syllabus cluster

MICRO-THEME

A specific examinable area

ULTRA-MICRO

Concept, process, institution or application

Study every topic through two examination lenses

PRELIMS LENS

- Definition and core concept
- Distinctions and relationships
- Institutions, provisions and locations
- Mechanism, application and factual precision
- Mapping and elimination-friendly details

MAINS LENS

- Concept and mechanism
- Causes and linkages
- Implications and stakeholders
- Challenges and institutional gaps
- Reforms, examples and contemporary relevance

Attach current affairs to permanent syllabus themes

- Cyclone in news -> tropical cyclones -> formation -> intensification -> track -> storm surge -> impacts.
- Supreme Court judgment -> constitutional provision -> institution -> doctrine -> judicial interpretation.
- Space mission -> orbit -> launch vehicle -> propulsion -> payload/sensor -> application.
- Species or conservation initiative -> habitat -> ecological role -> conservation status -> mechanism.
- Economic development -> concept -> transmission mechanism -> institution -> policy impact.

STUDENT RULE

Do not memorise the list mechanically. Use it to organise reading, notes, revision and PYQ-based practice.

GENERAL STUDIES - I

Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society

01 History & Indian Culture

02 Geography

03 Indian Society

GENERAL STUDIES - II

Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

04 Indian Polity & Constitution

05 Governance & Social Justice

06 International Relations

GENERAL STUDIES - III

Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

07 Indian Economy

08 Agriculture & Food Processing

09 Science & Technology

10 Environment & Ecology

11 Internal Security

12 Disaster Management

GENERAL STUDIES - IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

13 Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2026-27

GENERAL STUDIES - I

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD AND SOCIETY

SUBJECTS IN THIS PAPER

History & Indian Culture

Geography

Indian Society

1. HISTORY & INDIAN CULTURE

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: History of India and Indian National Movement.
 MAINS GS-I: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
 MAINS GS-I: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present - significant events, personalities, issues.
 MAINS GS-I: The Freedom Struggle - its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
 MAINS GS-I: Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
 MAINS GS-I: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. - their forms and effect on the society.

What UPSC Expects

UPSC expects History to be understood through chronology, causation, continuity and change, rather than as a collection of dates and rulers. Prelims tests sources, sites, texts, institutions, personalities and cultural features with considerable factual precision, while Mains asks students to interpret their larger political, socio-economic and cultural significance. Historical sources, social processes and regional developments must therefore receive as much attention as dynastic history. Recent papers have particularly reinforced sources of history, socio-cultural processes, colonial institutions, mass mobilisation and post-independence consolidation.

A. Sources and Reconstruction of Indian History

- Archaeological Sources
 - Excavations
 - Material remains
 - Settlement remains
 - Pottery
 - Tools and implements
 - Sculptures
 - Monuments
 - Burials
 - Megaliths
- Dating Techniques
 - Relative dating
 - Stratigraphy
 - Radiocarbon dating
 - Thermoluminescence
 - Archaeomagnetic dating
- Epigraphic Sources
 - Inscriptions
 - Royal edicts
 - Prashastis
 - Donative inscriptions
 - Administrative inscriptions
 - Religious inscriptions
 - Copper-plate grants
 - Languages and scripts of inscriptions
 - Inscriptions as sources of political history
 - Inscriptions as sources of social and economic history
 - Limitations of inscriptions
- Numismatic Sources
 - Punch-marked coins
 - Indo-Greek coins
 - Kushana coins
 - Satavahana coins
 - Gupta coins
 - Medieval coinage
 - Coins and sovereignty
 - Coins and trade
 - Coins and religion
 - Coins and economic history
- Literary Sources
 - Vedic literature
 - Epics
 - Puranas
 - Buddhist literature
 - Jain literature
 - Sangam literature
 - Sanskrit court literature
 - Persian chronicles
 - Vernacular literature
- Foreign Accounts
 - Greek accounts
 - Roman accounts
 - Chinese pilgrims
 - Arab travellers

- Persian travellers
- European travellers
- Corroboration of different historical sources
- Biases and limitations of historical evidence

B. Prehistoric India

- Meaning and scope of Prehistory
- Sources for Prehistoric India
- Periodisation of Prehistory
- Palaeolithic Age
 - Chronology
 - Lower Palaeolithic
 - Middle Palaeolithic
 - Upper Palaeolithic
 - Stone tools
 - Subsistence pattern
 - Important sites
- Mesolithic Age
 - Microliths
 - Hunting and gathering
 - Early domestication
 - Rock shelters
 - Rock paintings
 - Important sites
- Neolithic Revolution
 - Beginning of agriculture
 - Domestication of animals
 - Sedentary settlements
 - Polished stone tools
 - Pottery
 - Regional Neolithic cultures
- Chalcolithic Cultures
 - Copper technology
 - Regional cultures
 - Agricultural economy
 - Pottery traditions
 - Settlement pattern
 - Craft production
- Megalithic Culture
 - Burial traditions
 - Iron technology
 - South Indian megaliths
- Iron Age
 - Spread of iron
 - Agricultural expansion
 - Settlement growth
 - Role in urbanisation
- Prehistoric Art
 - Rock paintings
 - Pottery
 - Symbolism
 - Social information derived from art

C. Harappan Civilisation

- Chronology
 - Early Harappan
 - Mature Harappan
 - Late Harappan
- Geographical extent
- Major sites
- Regional sites
- Site-location mapping
- Urban Planning
 - Citadel
 - Lower town
 - Street planning
 - Drainage
 - Houses
 - Wells
 - Public architecture
 - Granaries
 - Great Bath
 - Water-management structures
- Agriculture
 - Major crops
 - Irrigation
 - Agricultural tools
- Animal domestication
- Craft Specialisation
 - Bead-making
 - Metallurgy
 - Pottery
 - Shell work
 - Jewellery
- Trade
 - Internal trade
 - External trade
 - Mesopotamian contacts

- Maritime trade
- Ports
- Weights and measures
- Harappan seals
- Harappan script
 - Features
 - Undeciphered nature
- Economy
- Social organisation
- Religious practices
- Burial practices
- Harappan Art
 - Sculpture
 - Terracotta
 - Bronze
 - Seals
- Harappan Architecture
- Environmental setting
- Regional variation
- Decline
 - Climatic factors
 - River changes
 - Deurbanisation
 - Trade decline
 - Multi-causal explanations
- Continuity between Harappan and later cultures

D. Vedic Age

- Sources
 - Vedas
 - Brahmanas
 - Aranyakas
 - Upanishads
 - Later Vedic literature
- Original homeland debate
- Rig Vedic Geography
- Later Vedic Geography
- Early Vedic polity
 - Jana
 - Rajan
 - Sabha
 - Samiti
 - Vidatha
- Development of Monarchy
- Early Vedic economy
 - Pastoralism
 - Cattle
 - Agriculture
- Later Vedic economy
 - Agricultural expansion
 - Iron
 - Surplus
- Family
- Position of women
- Varna system
- Evolution of social stratification
- Religion
 - Vedic deities
 - Sacrifices
 - Ritualism
- Philosophical transition
 - Upanishadic thought
 - Karma
 - Rebirth
 - Moksha
- Comparison: Early Vedic vs Later Vedic society

E. Second Urbanisation and Rise of States

- Transition from tribes to territorial states
- Janapadas
- Mahajanapadas
- Sixteen Mahajanapadas
- Monarchies
- Gana-Sanghas
- Republican traditions
- Rise of Magadha
 - Geographical factors
 - Resources
 - Military advantages
 - Political leadership
- Haryanka dynasty
- Shishunaga dynasty
- Nanda dynasty
- Growth of towns
- Trade routes
- Guilds

- Punch-marked coins
- Iron and agricultural expansion
- Second Urbanisation
- Social differentiation

F. Buddhism, Jainism and Other Heterodox Traditions

Buddhism

- Historical background
- Life of Buddha
- Four Noble Truths
- Eightfold Path
- Middle Path
- Karma
- Nirvana
- Buddhist Sangha
- Buddhist Councils
- Buddhist literature
 - Tripitaka
 - Pali canon
- Sects
 - Theravada
 - Mahayana
 - Vajrayana
- Bodhisattva ideal
- Buddhist centres
- Patronage
- Spread within India
- Spread outside India
- Causes of decline
- Contribution to art and architecture

Jainism

- Tirthankara tradition
- Parshvanatha
- Mahavira
- Tiratna
- Ahimsa
- Anekantavada
- Syadvada
- Jain Sangha
- Svetambara
- Digambara
- Jain Councils
- Jain literature
- Jain patronage
- Spread
- Contribution to art and architecture

Other Heterodox Traditions

- Ajivikas
- Materialist traditions
- Charvaka
- Causes behind emergence of heterodox sects
- Comparison of Buddhism, Jainism and Brahmanical traditions

G. Mauryan Empire

- Sources of Mauryan history
 - Arthashastra
 - Megasthenes
 - Buddhist texts
 - Jain texts
 - Archaeology
 - Inscriptions
- Chandragupta Maurya
- Bindusara
- Ashoka
- Kalinga War
- Ashoka's Dhamma
 - Principles
 - Objectives
 - Dhamma Mahamatras
 - Dhamma vs Buddhism
- Ashokan Inscriptions
 - Major Rock Edicts
 - Minor Rock Edicts
 - Pillar Edicts
 - Languages
 - Scripts
 - Geographical distribution
 - Political information
 - Administrative information
 - Social information
 - Religious information
 - Historical limitations
- Mauryan Administration

- King
- Council
- Central administration
- Provincial administration
- Local administration
- Espionage
- Mauryan economy
- Agriculture
- Taxation
- Trade
- Urban centres
- Society
- Mauryan Art
 - Pillars
 - Capitals
 - Stupas
 - Caves
 - Sculpture
- Causes of decline
- Mauryan legacy

H. Post-Mauryan India

- Indo-Greeks
- Shakas
- Parthians
- Kushanas
- Kanishka
- Satavahanas
- Western Kshatrapas
- Political organisation
- Coinage
- Foreign contacts
- Silk Route
- Roman trade
- Urban centres
- Merchant guilds
- Evolution of jatis
- Buddhism
- Mahayana development
- Cultural interaction
- Gandhara School
- Mathura School
- Amaravati School
- Comparison of major sculptural schools

I. Sangam Age

- Sangam literature
- Historical reliability of Sangam texts
- Cheras
- Cholas
- Pandyas
- Political organisation
- Tinai classification
- Social organisation
- Position of women
- Economy
- Agriculture
- Crafts
- Ports
- Roman trade
- Overseas commerce
- Religion
- Hero stones
- Art and literature

J. Gupta Age

- Sources
- Political expansion
- Major rulers
- Administration
- Provincial administration
- Local administration
- Land grants
- Feudatories
- Agrarian structure
- Trade
- Coinage
- Urban centres
- Guilds
- Social change
- Varna and jati
- Position of women
- Religion
- Sanskrit literature
- Science and mathematics

- Astronomy
- Medicine
- Gupta sculpture
- Temple architecture
- Debate over the "Golden Age"
- Causes of decline

K. Harshavardhana and Post-Gupta India

- Sources
- Harsha's rise
- Political organisation
- Administration
- Officials
- Economy
- Society
- Religion
- Education
- Hiuen Tsang
- Nalanda
- Regionalisation after Harsha

L. Early Medieval India

- Nature of early medieval transition
- Regional state formation
- Gurjara-Pratiharas
- Palas
- Rashtrakutas
- Tripartite struggle
- Senas
- Pallavas
- Chalukyas
- Rajput states
- Land grants
- Brahmadeya
- Temple grants
- Agrarian expansion
- Ruralisation debate
- Urban transformation
- Temple-centred economy
- Regional cultures
- Indian feudalism debate
- Trade and merchant organisations

M. Cholas and South Indian Kingdoms

- Rise of Cholas
- Important rulers
- Territorial expansion
- Chola administration
- Central administration
- Provincial administration
- Village institutions
 - Ur
 - Sabha
 - Nagaram
- Kudavolai system
- Revenue administration
- Irrigation
- Agriculture
- Merchant guilds
- Maritime trade
- Southeast Asian expeditions
- Chola navy
- Temple economy
- Chola temple architecture
- Bronze sculpture
- Literature
- Education
- Cheras
- Pandyas
- Hoysalas
- Yadavas
- South India-Southeast Asia connections

N. Delhi Sultanate

- Establishment of Sultanate
- Slave/Mamluk dynasty
- Khaljis
- Tughlaqs
- Sayyids
- Lodis
- Nature of Sultanate state
- Central administration
- Provincial administration
- Iqta system

- Military organisation
- Revenue administration
- Alauddin Khalji's reforms
 - Market reforms
 - Military reforms
 - Revenue reforms
- Muhammad bin Tughlaq's experiments
- Agrarian relations
- Urbanisation
- Crafts
- Trade
- Social structure
- Religious policy
- Persian cultural influence
- Architecture
- Technology
- Provincial kingdoms
- Mongol challenge
- Causes of decline

O. Vijayanagara and Bahmani/Deccan States

- Sources
 - Inscriptions
 - Foreign travellers
- Foundation
- Dynasties
- Political structure
- Nayankara system
- Amaram system
- Revenue
- Agriculture
- Irrigation
- Urbanisation
- Trade
- Merchant communities
- Vijayanagara city
- Temple architecture
- Social and cultural life
- Vijayanagara-Bahmani conflict
- Deccani Sultanates
- Cultural synthesis
- Talikota
- Decline

P. Mughal Empire

- Babur
- Humayun
- Sur interregnum
- Sher Shah
 - Administration
 - Revenue
 - Roads
 - Currency
- Akbar
 - Expansion
 - Rajput policy
 - Nobility
 - Administration
 - Mansabdari
 - Jagirdari
 - Revenue administration
 - Zabt
 - Dahsala
- Religious Policy under Akbar
 - Ibadat Khana
 - Mahzar
 - Sulh-i-Kul
 - Din-i-Ilahi
 - Religious syncretism
- Jahangir
- Nur Jahan
- Shah Jahan
- Aurangzeb
 - Religious policy
 - Deccan policy
 - Rajput relations
- Mughal-Rajput relations
- Mughal-Deccan relations
- Mughal-Central Asian relations
- Mughal-Persian relations
- Agrarian economy
- Zamindars
- Peasantry
- Jagirdari crisis
- Trade

- Merchant communities
- Urbanisation
- Nobility
- Art
- Architecture
- Painting
- Literature
- Music
- Science and technology
- Causes of Mughal decline

Q. Marathas and Regional States

- Rise of Shivaji
- Swarajya
- Administration
- Ashta Pradhan
- Revenue
- Military system
- Forts
- Chauth and Sardeshmukhi
- Maratha Confederacy
- Expansion
- Maratha-Mughal relations
- Maratha-Nizam relations
- Third Battle of Panipat
- Successor states
- Bengal
- Awadh
- Hyderabad
- Mysore
- Punjab

R. Bhakti, Sufi and Sikh Traditions

- Background to Bhakti
- Early Bhakti traditions
- Alvars
- Nayanars
- Saguna Bhakti
- Nirguna Bhakti
- Vaishnava traditions
- Shankaracharya
- Ramanuja
- Madhva
- Vallabha
- Ramananda
- Kabir
- Ravidas
- Mirabai
- Chaitanya
- Tukaram
- Namdev
- Maharashtra Dharma
- Regional saints
- Social impact
- Caste critique
- Gender dimensions
- Vernacularisation
- Sufism
 - Silsilas
 - Chishti
 - Suhrawardi
 - Khanqahs
 - Pir-murid relationship
- Bhakti-Sufi interaction
- Sikh Gurus
- Guru Nanak
- Evolution of Sikh tradition

S. Colonial Expansion in India

- European commercial penetration
- Portuguese
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Carnatic Wars
- Battle of Plassey
- Battle of Buxar
- Dual Government
- Anglo-Mysore Wars
- Anglo-Maratha Wars
- Anglo-Sikh Wars
- Subsidiary Alliance
- Doctrine of Lapse
- Annexation policies

- Military advantages of Company
- Diplomatic advantages
- Revenue resources
- Political fragmentation
- Nature of colonial expansion

T. Colonial Administration

- Regulating Act, 1773
- Pitt's India Act, 1784
- Charter Acts
 - 1793
 - 1813
 - 1833
 - 1853
- Government of India Act, 1858
- Indian Councils Acts
- Civil services
- Police administration
- Judiciary
- Local government
- Administrative centralisation
- Racial character of administration

U. Colonial Land Revenue and Agrarian Economy

- Permanent Settlement
- Ryotwari Settlement
- Mahalwari Settlement
- Zamindars
- Peasants
- Moneylenders
- Rural indebtedness
- Commercialisation of agriculture
- Plantation economy
- Cash crops
- Indigo
- Cotton
- Opium
- Agrarian distress
- Famines

V. Colonial Economy

- Drain of wealth
- Deindustrialisation
- Decline of handicrafts
- Colonial trade policy
- Free-trade imperialism
- Railways
 - Economic impact
 - Social impact
 - Political impact
- Irrigation
- Ports
- Plantation economy
- Famines
- Famine policy
- Rise of modern industries
- Cotton industry
- Jute industry
- Iron and steel
- Indian capitalist class
- Labour
- Working-class formation
- Trade unions
- Colonial fiscal policy
- Economic nationalism

W. Colonial Education

- Orientalist-Anglicist controversy
- Charter Act, 1813
- General Committee of Public Instruction
- Macaulay's Minute
 - Objective
 - Anglicist position
 - Administrative impact
 - Educational impact
 - Social consequences
- English Education Act
- Wood's Despatch
- Hunter Commission
- Universities
- Indian Universities Act
- National education movement
- Colonial education and middle class
- Education and nationalism

- Limitations of colonial education

X. Revolt of 1857

- Political causes
- Administrative causes
- Economic causes
- Social-religious causes
- Military causes
- Immediate cause
- Major centres
- Major leaders
- Social composition
- Peasant participation
- Zamindar participation
- Princes
- Nature of Revolt
 - Mutiny thesis
 - Nationalist interpretation
 - Peasant rebellion interpretation
- Causes of failure
- Suppression
- Consequences
 - Administrative
 - Military
 - Political
 - Social
- Queen's Proclamation
- Historical significance

Y. Socio-Religious Reform Movements

- Background
- Bengal Renaissance
- Raja Rammohan Roy
- Brahmo Samaj
- Young Bengal
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- Prarthana Samaj
- Arya Samaj
- Dayanand Saraswati
- Ramakrishna Mission
- Vivekananda
- Theosophical Society
- Aligarh Movement
- Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
- Deoband
- Satyashodhak Samaj
- Jyotirao Phule
- Savitribai Phule
- Anti-caste movements
- Narayana Guru
- Periyar
- Tribal reform movements
- Women's reform
 - Sati
 - Widow remarriage
 - Female education
 - Age of consent
- Limits of reform movements

Z. Tribal, Peasant and Civil Rebellions

- Nature of colonial resistance
- Sanyasi-Fakir rebellion
- Paika rebellion
- Poligar resistance
- Santhal rebellion
- Munda Ulgulan
- Kol rebellion
- Bhil uprisings
- Ramosi resistance
- Indigo revolt
- Pabna movement
- Deccan riots
- Moplah rebellion
- Eka movement
- Bardoli
- Tebhaga
- Telangana
- Tribal-nationalist interaction

AA. Growth of Nationalism

- Causes of nationalism
- Modern education
- Press
- Socio-religious reform
- Economic critique

- Political associations
- Pre-Congress organisations
- Formation of INC
- Early Congress
- Moderate phase
 - Methods
 - Leaders
 - Economic critique
 - Achievements
 - Limitations
- Extremism
 - Ideology
 - Leaders
 - Methods
- Partition of Bengal
- Swadeshi Movement
- Boycott
- National education
- Surat split
- Revolutionary nationalism

AB. Home Rule and Constitutional Politics

- Home Rule Leagues
- Annie Besant
- Tilak
- Lucknow Pact
- Montagu Declaration
- Government of India Act, 1919
- Dyarchy
- Rowlatt Act

AC. Gandhian Era

- Gandhi's political philosophy
- Satyagraha
- Ahimsa
- Mass mobilisation
- Champaran
- Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- Kheda
- Rowlatt Satyagraha
- Jallianwala Bagh
- Khilafat
- Non-Cooperation Movement
 - Objectives
 - Social base
 - Programme
 - Withdrawal
 - Impact
- Swaraj Party
- Bardoli
- Simon Commission
- Nehru Report
- Lahore Session
- Purna Swaraj
- Civil Disobedience Movement
 - Salt Satyagraha
 - Regional variation
 - Social participation
- Round Table Conferences
- Gandhi-Irwin Pact
- Communal Award
- Poona Pact
- Individual Satyagraha
- Quit India Movement
- Role of:
 - Peasants
 - Workers
 - Students
 - Women
 - Tribals
 - Business groups
 - Middle classes
- Gandhi and constructive programme
- Limits of Gandhian mobilisation

AD. Other Streams of Nationalism

- Revolutionary nationalism
- HSRA
- Bengal revolutionary groups
- Ghadar Movement
- Kakori
- Chittagong Armoury Raid
- Subhas Chandra Bose
- Forward Bloc
- INA

- Left movement
- Communist movement
- Socialist movement
- Peasant movements
- Working-class movement
- Trade unionism
- Women's participation
- Regional contributions
- Princely States' movements

AE. Constitutional Developments Towards Independence

- Morley-Minto Reforms
- Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms
- Simon Commission
- Nehru Report
- Round Table Conferences
- Communal Award
- Poona Pact
- Government of India Act, 1935
 - Provincial autonomy
 - Federation
 - Federal Court
- Provincial Ministries
- August Offer
- Cripps Mission
- Wavell Plan
- Cabinet Mission
- Interim Government
- Mountbatten Plan
- Indian Independence Act
- Partition
 - Causes
 - Political dynamics
 - Consequences

AF. Post-Independence Consolidation

- Challenges at Independence
- Partition violence
- Refugee rehabilitation
- Integration of princely states
 - Junagadh
 - Hyderabad
 - Kashmir
- Integration of French territories
- Integration of Portuguese territories
- Sikkim
- Linguistic reorganisation
 - Dhar Commission
 - JVP Committee
 - Andhra movement
 - States Reorganisation Commission
 - States Reorganisation Act
- Language policy
- Official language issue
- Regional aspirations
- Tribal integration
- Northeast
- Punjab
- Kashmir
- Nation-building
- Democratic consolidation
- Institutional development
- Planned economy
- Five-Year Plans
- Land reforms
- Public-sector expansion
- Green Revolution
- Industrial policy
- Education after Independence
- Science and technology policy
- Foreign policy
- Non-Alignment
- 1991 economic reforms
- Centre-State relations after Independence

PYQ SIGNAL | Recent questions show that post-independence history can be asked as an integrated story of polity, economy, education and foreign relations, not merely state integration.

AG. World History

- Renaissance
- Humanism
- Reformation
- Counter-Reformation
- Scientific Revolution

- Enlightenment
- Age of Exploration
- Mercantilism
- Rise of Nation-State
- English Revolution
- Industrial Revolution
 - Causes
 - Technology
 - Social consequences
 - Capitalism
 - Labour
- American Revolution
- French Revolution
 - Causes
 - Phases
 - Napoleon
 - Legacy
 - Contemporary relevance
- Nationalism
- Italian Unification
- German Unification
- Colonialism
- Imperialism
- Imperialism in Asia and Africa
- Capitalism
- Socialism
- Marxism
- First World War
- Treaty of Versailles
- League of Nations
- Russian Revolution
- Lenin
- Stalin
- Inter-War Years
- Great Depression
- Fascism
- Nazism
- Second World War
- Holocaust
- United Nations
- Decolonisation
- Middle East
- Arab nationalism
- Israel-Palestine
- Cold War
- NATO
- Warsaw Pact
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Nuclear arms race
- Non-Aligned Movement
- Collapse of USSR
- European integration
- Post-Cold War order
- Rise of China

AH. Indian Art & Culture

Architecture

- Harappan architecture
- Mauryan architecture
- Buddhist architecture
 - Stupa
 - Chaitya
 - Vihara
- Rock-cut architecture
- Gupta temple architecture
- Nagara
- Dravida
- Vesara
- Temple components
- Temple iconography
- Regional temple styles
 - Odisha
 - Khajuraho/Chandella
 - Gujarat
 - Rajasthan
 - Bengal
 - Kashmir
 - Himachal
 - Assam
 - Kerala
- Pallava architecture
- Chola architecture
- Hoysala architecture

- Rashtrakuta architecture
- Vijayanagara architecture
- Indo-Islamic architecture
- Sultanate architecture
- Provincial styles
- Mughal architecture
- Rajput architecture
- Sikh architecture
- Colonial architecture
- Indo-Saracenic architecture
- Post-Independence architecture

Sculpture

- Harappan
- Mauryan
- Shunga
- Gandhara
- Mathura
- Amaravati
- Gupta
- Pallava
- Chola bronze
- Chandella
- Hoysala
- Medieval regional sculpture
- Modern sculpture

Painting

- Prehistoric rock art
- Mural traditions
- Ajanta
- Miniatures
- Mughal painting
- Deccani painting
- Rajput painting
- Mewar
- Pahari
- South Indian miniature traditions
- Folk and tribal painting
- Modern Indian painting

Pottery

- Ochre Coloured Pottery
- Black and Red Ware
- Painted Grey Ware
- Northern Black Polished Ware
- Glazed pottery

Performing Arts

- Classical music
- Hindustani
- Carnatic
- Musical instruments
- Classical dances
- Folk dances
- Martial arts
- Theatre
- Sanskrit theatre
- Folk theatre
- Puppetry
 - String
 - Shadow
 - Rod
 - Glove

Religion & Philosophy

- Vedic religion
- Hindu philosophical traditions
- Orthodox schools
- Heterodox schools
- Buddhism
- Jainism
- Sikhism
- Islam
- Christianity
- Zoroastrianism
- Judaism
- Tantric traditions
- Bhakti
- Sufism

Languages and Literature

- Sanskrit
- Pali
- Prakrit
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Kannada

- Malayalam
- Odia
- Assamese
- Bengali
- Marathi
- Gujarati
- Punjabi
- Hindi
- Persian
- Urdu
- Classical-language tradition
- Manuscripts
- Scripts

Cultural Heritage

- Handicrafts
- Textiles
- Fairs and festivals
- Traditional knowledge
- Ancient universities
- Cultural institutions
- Archaeological institutions
- Museums
- Antiquities
- Heritage conservation
- UNESCO World Heritage
- Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Heritage-protection laws

World History: National Boundaries & Political Philosophies

- Redrawing of National Boundaries
 - Post-war territorial settlements and new state formation
 - Disintegration of empires and nation-state formation
 - Decolonisation, partition and boundary-making
 - Break-up of multinational states and continuing border legacies
 - Minorities, refugees, ethnic conflict and border disputes
- Capitalism, Socialism and Communism
 - Core ideas and historical emergence
 - Major forms and variants
 - State-market relationship and property
 - Class, labour and political organisation
 - Effects on society and welfare

2. GEOGRAPHY

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: Indian and World Geography - Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
 MAINS GS-I: Salient features of world's physical geography.
 MAINS GS-I: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
 MAINS GS-I: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

What UPSC Expects

UPSC tests Geography through processes, spatial relationships and their consequences, not by asking students merely to identify geographical features. Prelims requires strong conceptual clarity, mapping and understanding of location-based phenomena; Mains increasingly asks students to connect physical processes with climate, resources, economy, settlements and disasters. A topic should therefore be studied as formation -> mechanism -> spatial distribution -> impact -> Indian relevance. Questions on tectonics, cyclones, land-use change, geospatial technology and resource geography in recent papers strongly reinforce this approach.

A. Earth and Universe

- Origin of Universe
- Big Bang Theory
- Galaxies
- Stars
- Star formation
- Solar System
- Sun
- Planets
- Dwarf planets
- Asteroids

- Comets
- Meteors
- Formation of Earth
- Evolution of lithosphere
- Evolution of atmosphere
- Evolution of hydrosphere
- Origin of life
- Geological history
- Geological Time Scale

B. Fundamentals of Mathematical Geography

- Shape of Earth
- Latitude
- Longitude
- Important parallels
- Important meridians
- Great circles
- Rotation
- Revolution
- Coriolis force
- Inclination of axis
- Seasons
- Solstice
- Equinox
- Local time
- Standard time
- Time zones
- International Date Line
- Calendar
- Solar eclipse
- Lunar eclipse

C. Interior of Earth

- Sources of information
 - Direct
 - Indirect
- Seismic waves
 - P waves
 - S waves
 - Surface waves
- Shadow zones
- Seismic discontinuities
 - Conrad
 - Moho
 - Gutenberg
 - Lehmann
- Crust
- Lithosphere
- Mantle
- Asthenosphere
- Outer core
- Inner core
- Earth's magnetic field
- Geothermal gradient

D. Rocks and Minerals

- Minerals
- Physical properties
 - Hardness
 - Cleavage
 - Fracture
 - Lustre
 - Colour
 - Streak
 - Specific gravity
- Metallic minerals
- Non-metallic minerals
- Rocks
- Igneous rocks
 - Intrusive
 - Extrusive
- Sedimentary rocks
- Metamorphic rocks
- Rock cycle
- Petrology
- Rocks and landforms
- Rocks and soils

E. Plate Tectonics

- Continental Drift Theory
- Wegener
- Evidence for continental drift
- Limitations
- Sea-floor spreading
- Paleomagnetism

- Plate Tectonic Theory
- Major plates
- Minor plates
- Divergent boundaries
- Convergent boundaries
 - Ocean-ocean
 - Ocean-continent
 - Continent-continent
- Transform boundaries
- Subduction
- Orogeny
- Rift valleys
- Trenches
- Mid-ocean ridges
- Island arcs
- Hotspots
- Mantle plumes
- Long-term changes in continents and ocean basins

F. Earthquakes

- Causes
- Focus
- Epicentre
- Seismic waves
- Magnitude
- Intensity
- Richter/Moment Magnitude
- Mercalli
- Types
 - Tectonic
 - Volcanic
 - Collapse
 - Reservoir-induced
- Intraplate earthquakes
- Interplate earthquakes
- Distribution
- Pacific Ring of Fire
- Himalayan seismicity
- Earthquake zones of India
- Effects
- Liquefaction
- Tsunami linkage
- Earthquake prediction
- Earthquake preparedness

G. Volcanoes

- Volcanism
- Magma
- Lava
- Acidic lava
- Basic lava
- Shield volcano
- Composite volcano
- Cinder cone
- Caldera
- Flood basalt
- Mid-ocean ridge volcanism
- Active
- Dormant
- Extinct
- Intrusive landforms
 - Batholith
 - Laccolith
 - Lopolith
 - Phacolith
 - Sill
 - Dyke
- Extrusive landforms
- Geysers
- Hot springs
- Distribution
- Ring of Fire
- Mediterranean belt
- Hotspots
- Effects of volcanism

H. Tsunami

- Definition
- Causes
 - Submarine earthquakes
 - Volcanism
 - Landslides
 - Meteor impacts
- Mechanism of wave generation
- Deep-ocean behaviour

- Shoaling
- Run-up
- Distribution
- Consequences
- Indian Ocean vulnerability
- Tsunami warning systems
- Preparedness

I. Geomorphic Processes

- Endogenic processes
- Exogenic processes
- Diastrophism
- Orogenic movement
- Epeirogenic movement
- Gradation
- Aggradation
- Degradation
- Denudation
- Weathering
 - Physical
 - Chemical
 - Biological
- Physical weathering
 - Frost action
 - Thermal expansion
 - Salt weathering
 - Unloading
- Chemical weathering
 - Solution
 - Carbonation
 - Oxidation
 - Hydration
 - Hydrolysis
- Biological weathering
- Mass wasting
 - Creep
 - Flow
 - Slide
 - Fall
 - Landslides
- Erosion
- Transportation
- Deposition

J. Fluvial Geomorphology

- River erosion
- Hydraulic action
- Abrasion
- Attrition
- Solution
- River transportation
- River deposition
- V-shaped valley
- Gorge
- Canyon
- Waterfall
- Rapids
- Meander
- Oxbow lake
- Floodplain
- Natural levee
- Delta
- Alluvial fan
- River terraces
- Drainage patterns
- River rejuvenation

K. Aeolian Geomorphology

- Wind erosion
- Deflation
- Abrasion
- Attrition
- Wind transportation
 - Suspension
 - Saltation
 - Surface creep
- Wind deposition
- Dunes
 - Barchan
 - Longitudinal
 - Transverse
 - Parabolic
 - Star dune
- Loess
- Mushroom rocks
- Yardangs

- Zeugen
- Deflation hollows
- Desert pavements
- Aeolian processes and desertification
- Aeolian processes and land degradation

L. Glacial Geomorphology

- Glaciers
- Types
- Glacial erosion
- Cirque
- Are te
- Horn
- U-shaped valley
- Hanging valley
- Fjord
- Glacial deposition
- Moraines
- Eskers
- Drumlins
- Outwash plains
- Glacier retreat
- Himalayan glaciers

M. Karst Topography

- Limestone
- Carbonation
- Sinkholes
- Dolines
- Uvalas
- Poljes
- Caves
- Stalactites
- Stalagmites
- Karst drainage

N. Coastal Geomorphology

- Coastal erosion
- Waves
- Currents
- Tides
- Sea cliffs
- Wave-cut platforms
- Caves
- Arches
- Stacks
- Beaches
- Spits
- Bars
- Lagoons
- Sand dunes
- Rocky coasts
- Depositional coasts
- Coastal vulnerability

O. Atmosphere

- Composition
- Permanent gases
- Variable gases
- Water vapour
- Aerosols
- Atmospheric layers
 - Troposphere
 - Stratosphere
 - Mesosphere
 - Thermosphere
 - Exosphere
- Temperature variation with altitude
- Tropopause
- Ozone layer

P. Insolation and Heat Budget

- Solar radiation
- Insolation
- Factors controlling insolation
- Angle of incidence
- Duration of day
- Seasons
- Aphelion
- Perihelion
- Reflection
- Absorption
- Scattering
- Albedo
- Terrestrial radiation

- Heat budget
- Greenhouse effect

Q. Atmospheric Temperature

- Horizontal distribution
- Vertical distribution
- Lapse rate
- Normal lapse rate
- Adiabatic lapse rate
- Temperature inversion
- Causes
- Types
- Effects

R. Atmospheric Pressure and Winds

- Pressure
- Pressure belts
- Pressure gradient
- Coriolis force
- Friction
- Geostrophic wind
- Planetary winds
 - Trade winds
 - Westerlies
 - Polar easterlies
- Seasonal winds
- Monsoon winds
- Local winds
 - Loo
 - Foehn
 - Chinook
 - Mistral
 - Bora
 - Sirocco
 - Harmattan
 - Santa Ana
- Land breeze
- Sea breeze
- Mountain breeze
- Valley breeze

Local winds returned directly in the 2026 Mains paper, showing why named winds must be studied through location + thermal mechanism + climatic effect, not simply memorised.

S. Humidity, Clouds and Precipitation

- Humidity
 - Absolute
 - Specific
 - Relative
- Dew point
- Condensation
- Cloud formation
- Cloud types
- Fog
- Dew
- Frost
- Precipitation
 - Convectonal
 - Orographic
 - Cyclonic
- Rainfall distribution
- Thunderstorms
- Hailstorms
- Cloudbursts

T. Tropical Cyclones

- Conditions required
- Sea-surface temperature
- Coriolis force
- Moisture
- Atmospheric instability
- Low vertical wind shear
- Pre-existing disturbance
- Cyclogenesis
- Eye
- Eyewall
- Rain bands
- Intensification
- Movement
- Landfall
- Storm surge
- Rapid intensification
- Bay of Bengal cyclones
- Arabian Sea cyclones
- Tropical cyclone naming
- Early-warning systems

- Climate change and cyclones
- Fujiwhara Effect
 - Conditions
 - Mutual rotation
 - Merger
 - Deflection
 - Impact on track
 - Impact on intensity

PYQ SIGNAL | The Fujiwhara effect was explicitly tested in 2026.

U. Temperate Cyclones

- Air masses
- Fronts
- Warm front
- Cold front
- Occluded front
- Frontogenesis
- Cyclogenesis
- Life cycle
- Weather sequence
- Distribution
- Tropical vs temperate cyclones

V. Jet Streams

- Meaning
- Formation
- Characteristics
- Polar jet
- Subtropical westerly jet
- Tropical easterly jet
- Seasonal migration
- Jet streams and monsoon
- Jet streams and Western Disturbances
- Aviation

W. Atmospheric-Oceanic Oscillations

- ENSO
 - El Nin o
 - La Nin a
 - Southern Oscillation
- Walker Circulation
- ENSO and Indian monsoon
- ENSO and global weather
- Indian Ocean Dipole
 - Positive
 - Negative
- Madden-Julian Oscillation
- Pacific Decadal Oscillation
- Teleconnections

X. World Climatic Regions

For each climatic region: location -> temperature -> rainfall -> winds -> vegetation -> soils -> economic activity

- Equatorial climate
- Tropical monsoon climate
- Tropical marine climate
- Savanna
- Hot desert
- Mid-latitude desert
- Mediterranean
- Steppe
- China type
- British type
- Siberian
- Laurentian
- Tundra
 - Permafrost
 - Vegetation
 - Biodiversity
 - Carbon storage
 - Resources
 - Ecological fragility
- Polar climate

PYQ SIGNAL | Tundra was explicitly examined through both ecological fragility and economic importance in 2026.

Y. Oceanography

- Hydrological cycle
- Oceans
- Ocean-floor relief
 - Continental shelf
 - Continental slope
 - Continental rise
 - Abyssal plain

- Trenches
- Mid-ocean ridges
- Seamounts
- Guyots
- Submarine canyons
- Ocean temperature
- Horizontal distribution
- Vertical distribution
- Thermocline
- Ocean salinity
- Factors affecting salinity
- Halocline
- Ocean density
- Pycnocline
- Waves
- Tides
 - Spring
 - Neap
- Ocean currents
 - Warm
 - Cold
- Factors controlling currents
- Upwelling
- Downwelling
- Thermohaline circulation
- Marine productivity
- Coral reefs
- Atolls
- Ocean resources
- Deep-sea minerals
- EEZ

Z. Indian Physiography

- Geological structure
- Himalayas
 - Trans Himalaya
 - Greater Himalaya
 - Lesser Himalaya
 - Shiwalik
 - Eastern Himalayas
- Himalayan passes
- Northern Plains
- Peninsular Plateau
- Central Highlands
- Deccan Plateau
- Western Ghats
- Eastern Ghats
- Coastal Plains
- Islands
 - Andaman and Nicobar
 - Lakshadweep

AA. Indian Drainage

- Himalayan rivers
- Indus system
- Ganga system
- Brahmaputra system
- Peninsular rivers
- East-flowing rivers
- West-flowing rivers
- River regimes
- Drainage patterns
- River capture
- Inter-state river disputes
- River-linking
- Integrated river-basin management
- Transboundary water resources
- Water as economic asset
- Water as geopolitical conflict

PYQ SIGNAL | South Asian water resources were directly framed as both an asset and source of conflict in 2026.

AB. Indian Climate

- Mechanism of Indian monsoon
- Differential heating
- ITCZ
- Tibetan Plateau
- Mascarene High
- Somali Jet
- Subtropical Westerly Jet
- Tropical Easterly Jet
- ENSO
- IOD
- MJO
- Onset

- Advance
- Breaks
- Retreating monsoon
- Northeast monsoon
- Western Disturbances
- Cyclones
- Rainfall distribution
- Monsoon variability
- Climate change and monsoon

AC. Indian Soils

- Soil formation
- Soil profile
- Alluvial soil
- Black soil
- Red and yellow soil
- Laterite
- Arid soil
- Forest soil
- Saline/alkaline soils
- Peaty soil
- Soil erosion
- Land degradation
- Soil conservation

AD. Natural Vegetation of India

- Tropical evergreen
- Semi-evergreen
- Moist deciduous
- Dry deciduous
- Thorn
- Montane
- Littoral
- Mangroves
- Factors controlling vegetation
- Forest distribution
- Human impact

AE. Resource Geography

- Water resources
- Groundwater
- Aquifers
- Groundwater depletion
- Seawater intrusion
- Coal
- Petroleum
- Natural gas
- Uranium
- Thorium
- Iron ore
- Bauxite
- Manganese
- Copper
- Gold
- Critical minerals
- Rare earths
- Offshore resources
- Seabed minerals
- Mineral belts of India
- Resource security

AF. Energy Geography

- Coal-based energy
- Hydropower
- Nuclear
- Solar
- Wind
- Offshore wind
- Biomass
- Geothermal
- Tidal
- Green hydrogen
- Location factors
- Renewable-energy potential
- Energy transition
- Energy security

AG. Agricultural Geography

- Agro-climatic regions
- Crop distribution
- Cropping patterns
- Food crops
- Cash crops
- Plantation crops

- Crop-location factors
- Irrigation geography
- Agricultural regionalisation
- Climate change and agriculture

AH. Industrial Geography

- Factors affecting industrial location
- Raw material
- Energy
- Labour
- Market
- Transport
- Capital
- Agglomeration
- Industrial regions
- Industrial corridors
- Special Economic Zones
- Traditional industries
- Changing location of industries
- Non-farm primary activities
- Resource-based industries

AI. Transport and Connectivity Geography

- Roads
- Railways
- Inland waterways
- Ports
- Shipping
- Aviation
- Mountain connectivity
- Tunnels
- Economic corridors
- Maritime corridors
- Strategic connectivity

AJ. Population Geography

- Population distribution
- Density
- Growth
- Fertility
- Mortality
- Sex ratio
- Age structure
- Literacy
- Demographic transition
- Population theories
 - Malthus
 - Marx
- Population-resource relationship
- Developed vs developing-country population problems
- Demographic dividend
- Population ageing
- Demographic winter

AK. Migration

- Push factors
- Pull factors
- Internal migration
- Rural-rural
- Rural-urban
- Urban-urban
- International migration
- Emigration
- Immigration
- Colonial migration
- Post-independence migration
- Post-liberalisation migration
- Environmental migration
- Displacement

AL. Settlement Geography

- Rural settlements
- Types
- Patterns
- Influencing factors
- Urban settlements
- Functional classification
- Hierarchical classification
- Urban morphology
- Rural-urban fringe
- Peri-urbanisation
- Metropolitan regions
- Megacities

AM. Urban Geography

- Urbanisation
- Indian urbanisation pattern
- Slums
- Housing
- Urban poverty
- Urban transport
- Water supply
- Drainage
- Sanitation
- Waste
- Urban flooding
- Smart cities
- Inclusive cities
- Urban land-use change
- Distributive justice

AN. Human-Induced Land-Use Change

- Urbanisation
- Infrastructure
- Industrialisation
- Agriculture
- Mining
- Deforestation
- Roads
- Dams
- Tourism
- Settlement expansion
- Consequences
 - Habitat fragmentation
 - Soil erosion
 - Water stress
 - Flood risk
 - Heat-island effect
 - Biodiversity loss

PYQ SIGNAL | This became a direct Mains theme in 2026.

AO. Geospatial Technology

- Remote Sensing
- Passive sensors
- Active sensors
- Satellite imagery
- GIS
- GPS/GNSS
- LiDAR
- Drones
- Digital Elevation Models
- Synthetic Aperture Radar
- Hyperspectral imaging
- Applications in:
 - Agriculture
 - Urban planning
 - Disaster management
 - Forestry
 - Mineral exploration
 - Water-resource management
 - Land-use planning
 - Border management

PYQ SIGNAL | Recent Mains questions have directly linked GIS, remote sensing, AI, drones and satellite technology with planning and climate-smart agriculture.

World Resources & Critical Geographical Change

- Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the World
 - Energy resources: coal, petroleum, natural gas and uranium
 - Strategic minerals: iron ore, copper, bauxite, lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earths
 - Water, fisheries and major agricultural-resource regions
 - South Asia and Indian subcontinent: resource geography
 - Physical and economic factors behind resource concentration
 - Strategic and developmental significance of resource distribution
- Changes in Critical Geographical Features
 - Water bodies: shrinkage, expansion, river-course and wetland change
 - Ice caps, glaciers, glacial lakes and sea ice
 - Coastlines and sea-level change
 - Flora and fauna: range shifts and ecosystem change
 - Drivers, spatial patterns and socio-economic effects

3. INDIAN SOCIETY

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

MAINS GS-I: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

MAINS GS-I: Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

MAINS GS-I: Effects of globalization on Indian society.

MAINS GS-I: Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

What UPSC Expects

Indian Society is not tested as descriptive sociology alone. UPSC expects students to understand how social institutions change under the influence of economy, technology, urbanisation, demographic transition, law and globalisation. Questions increasingly ask whether apparently modern processes have actually removed older inequalities or merely transformed them. Students should therefore prepare every social theme through structure -> change -> persistence -> inequality -> policy response.

A. Salient Features of Indian Society

- Diversity
 - Religious
 - Linguistic
 - Regional
 - Caste
 - Tribal
 - Cultural
- Pluralism
- Unity in diversity
- Continuity and change
- Tradition and modernity
- Syncretism
- Composite culture
- Rural-urban continuum
- Social cohesion
- Social capital

B. Caste

- Varna
- Jati
- Characteristics of caste
- Caste hierarchy
- Endogamy
- Occupational association
- Caste and class
- Caste and land
- Caste and politics
- Dominant caste
- Sanskritisation
- Westernisation
- Secularisation
- Politicisation of caste
- Caste associations
- Caste census
- Reservation
- Caste discrimination
- Untouchability
- Manual scavenging
- Caste-based violence
- Caste in urban India
- Persistence of caste through:
 - Marriage
 - Housing
 - Networks
 - Occupation
 - Politics
- Digital technology and caste identities

C. Tribal Society

- Meaning of tribe
- Characteristics
- Tribal distribution
- Tribal economy
- Tribal culture
- Tribal land
- Forest dependence
- Tribal identity
- Tribal displacement
- Mining
- Development projects

- Rehabilitation
- Assimilation
- Integration
- Isolation debate
- Tribal movements
- PVTGs
- Denotified tribes
- Nomadic tribes
- Health
- Education
- Livelihood
- Constitutional safeguards

D. Family

- Joint family
- Nuclear family
- Extended family
- Changing family structure
- Patriarchy
- Authority
- Kinship
- Marriage
- Endogamy
- Exogamy
- Inter-caste marriage
- Inter-faith marriage
- Live-in relationships
- Divorce
- Single-parent families
- Elderly
- Care economy
- Migration and family
- Technology and family relations
- Work from home and family

E. Women and Gender

- Gender vs sex
- Gender socialisation
- Patriarchy
- Women's education
- Women's health
- Nutrition
- Labour-force participation
- Unpaid care work
- Wage gap
- Informal employment
- Feminisation of agriculture
- Property rights
- Political participation
- Reservation
- Gender-based violence
- Domestic violence
- Sexual harassment
- Child marriage
- Reproductive rights
- Digital gender divide
- Women's social capital
- Self-help groups
- Equality
- Equity
- Empowerment

F. Population

- Population growth
- Fertility
- Mortality
- Infant mortality
- Maternal mortality
- Sex ratio
- Age structure
- Population density
- Demographic transition
- Replacement fertility
- Population stabilisation
- Population ageing
- Silver economy
- Demographic dividend
- Demographic window
- Demographic winter
- Regional demographic divergence
- Population policy
- Population control debate
- Census
- Socio-Economic Caste Census

- Caste census

The 2026 paper directly asks students to critically examine India's demographic transition, making the concept itself a core microtheme.

G. Migration

- Internal migration
- Seasonal migration
- Circular migration
- Rural-urban migration
- Interstate migration
- International migration
- Causes
- Labour migration
- Distress migration
- Climate migration
- Reverse migration
- Effects on source areas
- Effects on destination areas
- Migrant housing
- Social security
- Portability of welfare

H. Urbanisation

- Causes
- Pattern
- Metropolitanisation
- Slums
- Urban poverty
- Informality
- Housing
- Migrant workers
- Homelessness
- Segregation
- Urban caste
- Urban gender
- Urban transport
- Sanitation
- Urban flooding
- Smart cities
- Urban social safety
- Distributive justice
- Inclusive urbanisation

I. Globalisation and Indian Society

- Meaning
- Economic globalisation
- Social globalisation
- Cultural globalisation
- Political globalisation
- Family
- Marriage
- Women
- Labour
- Migration
- Consumption
- Consumerism
- Language
- Food habits
- Popular culture
- Identity
- Localisation
- Glocalisation
- Homogenisation vs cultural revival
- Impact on youth
 - Employment
 - Aspirations
 - Political attitudes
 - Social relations
 - Cultural preferences
 - Digital culture

Globalisation's relationship with consumer culture was tested in 2025 and its multi-dimensional effect on Indian youth in 2026.

J. Communalism

- Meaning
- Historical roots
- Political mobilisation
- Social causes
- Economic causes
- Religious polarisation
- Communal violence
- Media
- Social media

- Consequences
- Prevention
- Secular constitutional order

K. Secularism

- Meaning
- Indian secularism
- Western secularism
- Principled distance
- Religious freedom
- State intervention
- Minority rights
- Secularism and education
- Secularism and politics
- Challenges

L. Regionalism

- Meaning
- Regional identity
- Linguistic identity
- Economic disparities
- Sons-of-soil politics
- Sub-nationalism
- Regional parties
- Inter-state disputes
- Separatism
- Positive regionalism
- Accommodation within federalism

M. Social Empowerment

- Scheduled Castes
- Scheduled Tribes
- OBCs
- Minorities
- Women
- Children
- Elderly
- Persons with Disabilities
 - Medical model
 - Social model
 - Rights-based model
 - Accessibility
 - Inclusion
- Transgender persons
- LGBTQIA+
- Migrants
- Informal workers
- Homeless persons

The 2026 Society paper explicitly moved disability from a welfare issue to an inclusive-policy framework question.

N. Technology and Society

- Digital divide
- Digital literacy
- Digital inclusion
- Social media
- Online communities
- Digital identity
- AI and society
- Technology and inequality
- Platform work
- Gig work
- Digital exclusion
- Cyberbullying
- Misinformation
- Social empowerment through digital technology
- Limits of technology-led empowerment

O. Contemporary Social Transformations

- Fast-food culture
- Lifestyle changes
- Health behaviour
- Drug abuse
- Youth alienation
- Student stress
- Elderly care
- Occupational safety
- Social inequalities in disasters
- Climate change and social inequality
- Food insecurity
- Homelessness
- Urban exclusion

Role of Women and Women's Organisations

- Women's Organisations

- Social-reform and national-movement associations
- Post-Independence rights and advocacy organisations
- Self-help groups, cooperatives and community collectives
- Political participation, representation and leadership networks
- Economic empowerment, service delivery and social mobilisation
- Achievements, representational gaps and organisational limitations
- Poverty and Developmental Issues in Society
 - Poverty, exclusion and social inequality
 - Development-induced displacement and livelihood change
 - Human-development and capability deficits
 - Urbanisation problems and remedial approaches

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2026-27

GENERAL STUDIES - II

GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBJECTS IN THIS PAPER

Indian Polity & Constitution

Governance & Social Justice

International Relations

4. INDIAN POLITY & CONSTITUTION

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

MAINS GS-II: Indian Constitution - historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

MAINS GS-II: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

MAINS GS-II: Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

MAINS GS-II: Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.

MAINS GS-II: Parliament and State legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

MAINS GS-II: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary - Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

MAINS GS-II: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

MAINS GS-II: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

MAINS GS-II: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

What UPSC Expects

UPSC expects students to understand the Constitution as a working institutional arrangement, not as a catalogue of Articles. Prelims tests constitutional wording, powers, procedures, appointments and institutional distinctions, while Mains examines their real-world functioning, tensions, judicial interpretation and need for reform. Every topic should therefore be prepared through constitutional basis -> composition/procedure -> powers -> limitations -> accountability -> judicial interpretation -> contemporary controversy. Recent papers on the Speaker, Governor, Election Commission, tribunals, constitutional morality, federalism and privacy reinforce this institutional approach.

A. Constitutional History

- Regulating Act
- Pitt's India Act
- Charter Acts
- Government of India Act, 1858
- Indian Councils Acts
- Morley-Minto Reforms
- Government of India Act, 1919
- Government of India Act, 1935
- Indian Independence Act
- Constituent Assembly
 - Composition
 - Election
 - Committees
 - Working
 - Debates
- Adoption
- Enactment
- Commencement

B. Making of the Constitution

- Sources
- Influences
- Objectives Resolution
- Constituent Assembly committees
- Drafting Committee
- Role of Ambedkar
- Role of other major members
- Criticism of Constituent Assembly
- Constitutional continuity and innovation

C. Preamble

- Nature
- Legal position
- Amendability
- Sovereign
- Socialist
- Secular
- Democratic
- Republic
- Justice
- Liberty
- Equality

- Fraternity
- Constitutional identity
- Preamble and Basic Structure

D. Constitutional Philosophy

- Constitutionalism
- Limited government
- Rule of Law
- Separation of powers
- Checks and balances
- Popular sovereignty
- Representative democracy
- Constitutional morality
- Transformative constitutionalism
- Social revolution
- Due process
- Procedure established by law
- Proportionality

E. Union and Territory

- Article 1
- Formation of states
- Alteration of boundaries
- Change of names
- Parliament's power
- Union Territories
- Special arrangements
- State reorganisation
- J&K reorganisation

F. Citizenship

- Constitutional provisions
- Citizenship Act
- Citizenship by birth
- Descent
- Registration
- Naturalisation
- Incorporation of territory
- Termination
 - Renunciation
 - Termination
 - Deprivation
- Overseas Citizenship of India
- Citizenship vs domicile
- Citizenship and electoral rolls
- Citizenship Amendment framework

G. Fundamental Rights

General

- State under Article 12
- Law under Article 13
- Judicial review
- Waiver
- Severability
- Eclipse
- Horizontal vs vertical rights
- Rights available only to citizens
- Rights available to all persons

Right to Equality

- Article 14
- Equality before law
- Equal protection
- Reasonable classification
- Arbitrariness doctrine
- Article 15
- Protective discrimination
- Reservation
- Article 16
- Public employment
- Reservation in promotions
- Article 17
- Article 18

Right to Freedom

- Article 19
- Speech and expression
- Assembly
- Association
- Movement
- Residence
- Profession
- Reasonable restrictions
- Freedom of press
- Internet and speech

Criminal Safeguards

- Article 20
- Ex post facto
- Double jeopardy
- Self-incrimination

Article 21

- Life
- Personal liberty
- Due process
- Dignity
- Privacy
- Bodily autonomy
- Identity
- Sexual orientation
- Reproductive autonomy
- Environment
- Livelihood
- Shelter
- Health
- Legal aid
- Speedy trial
- Passive euthanasia
- Living will

Article 21A

- Right to Education

Article 22

- Arrest safeguards
- Preventive detention

Exploitation

- Articles 23-24
- Forced labour
- Trafficking
- Child labour

Freedom of Religion

- Articles 25-28
- Religious freedom
- Essential Religious Practices
- State regulation
- Religious denominations

Cultural and Educational Rights

- Articles 29-30
- Minority institutions

Constitutional Remedies

- Article 32
- Article 226
- Habeas corpus
- Mandamus
- Prohibition
- Certiorari
- Quo warranto

H. DPSPs

- Nature
- Classification
 - Socialist
 - Gandhian
 - Liberal-intellectual
- Articles 36-51
- Welfare state
- Uniform Civil Code
- Environment
- International peace
- Panchayats
- Legal aid
- FR-DPSP relationship
- Article 31C
- Implementation through legislation
- Judicial interpretation

I. Fundamental Duties

- Origin
- Article 51A
- Nature
- Enforceability
- Duties and legislation
- Duties and judicial interpretation
- Relationship with FRs
- Relationship with DPSPs

J. Constitutional Amendment

- Article 368
- Simple majority
- Special majority

- Special majority + state ratification
- Scope of amending power
- Procedural limitations
- Substantive limitations
- Major amendments
- Basic Structure Doctrine

K. Constitutional Doctrines

- Basic Structure
- Doctrine of Severability
- Eclipse
- Waiver
- Colourable Legislation
- Pith and Substance
- Territorial Nexus
- Repugnancy
- Harmonious Construction
- Occupied Field
- Pleasure Doctrine
- Prospective Overruling
- Proportionality
- Constitutional Morality

L. President

- Election
- Electoral college
- Qualifications
- Oath
- Term
- Impeachment
- Vacancy
- Executive powers
- Legislative powers
- Financial powers
- Judicial powers
- Diplomatic powers
- Military powers
- Ordinance
- Veto
- Pardoning power
- Aid and advice
- Discretion
- Immunities

M. Vice-President

- Election
- Electoral college
- Qualifications
- Removal
- Functions
- Rajya Sabha role
- Acting President

N. Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

- Appointment
- Council of Ministers
- Cabinet
- Collective responsibility
- Individual responsibility
- Cabinet Committees
- Prime Minister's Office
- Relationship with President
- Coalition government
- Caretaker government
- Prime Ministerial government vs Cabinet government

O. Parliament

- Lok Sabha
- Rajya Sabha
- Composition
- Membership
- Qualifications
- Disqualifications
- Vacation of seats
- Sessions
- Summoning
- Prorogation
- Adjournment
- Dissolution
- Quorum

Presiding Officers

- Speaker
- Deputy Speaker
- Chairman

- Deputy Chairman
- Election
- Removal
- Powers
- Casting vote
- Money Bill certification
- Anti-defection role
- Neutrality
- Institutional safeguards for neutrality

Legislative Procedure

- Ordinary Bills
- Money Bills
- Finance Bills
- Constitutional Amendment Bills
- Joint Sitting
- President's assent
- Lapse of Bills

Financial Procedure

- Budget
- Charged expenditure
- Voted expenditure
- Demands for grants
- Cut motions
- Appropriation Bill
- Finance Bill
- Vote on Account
- Supplementary grants

Parliamentary Devices

- Question Hour
- Zero Hour
- Calling Attention
- Short Duration Discussion
- Adjournment Motion
- No-Confidence Motion
- Censure Motion
- Privilege Motion
- Resolutions

Parliamentary Committees

- PAC
- Estimates Committee
- Committee on Public Undertakings
- Department-related Standing Committees
- Privileges Committee
- Ethics Committee
- Joint Parliamentary Committee

Privileges

- Individual privileges
- Collective privileges
- Breach of privilege
- Parliamentary immunity

P. Anti-Defection

- Tenth Schedule
- Grounds for disqualification
- Whip
- Merger
- Independent members
- Nominated members
- Speaker's role
- Time limits
- Judicial review
- Kihoto Hollohan
- Contemporary challenges
- Reform proposals

Q. State Executive

Governor

- Appointment
- Qualifications
- Term
- Removal
- Executive powers
- Legislative powers
- Financial powers
- Judicial powers
- Ordinance
- Pardoning power
- Discretion
- Reservation of Bills
- Assent to State Bills
- Aid and advice
- Governor and federalism
- Misuse controversy

- Judicial limitations

Chief Minister

- Appointment
- Powers
- Council of Ministers
- Governor-CM relationship

R. State Legislature

- Legislative Assembly
- Legislative Council
- Creation/abolition of Council
- Membership
- Presiding officers
- Legislative procedure
- Money Bills
- Financial procedure
- Privileges
- Governor's role

S. Federalism

- Federal features
- Unitary features
- Quasi-federal debate
- Legislative relations
- Seventh Schedule
- Union List
- State List
- Concurrent List
- Residuary powers
- Administrative relations
- Financial relations
- Finance Commission
- GST
- GST Council
- Inter-State Council
- Zonal Councils
- Inter-State Water Disputes
- Emergency and federalism
- Governor
- Centrally Sponsored Schemes
- Cooperative federalism
- Competitive federalism
- Fiscal federalism
- Asymmetric federalism
- Special provisions for states
- Regional and cultural accommodation
- Dispute-resolution mechanisms

T. Emergency Provisions

- National Emergency
- President's Rule
- Financial Emergency
- Grounds
- Parliamentary approval
- Duration
- Effects
- Fundamental Rights
- Federalism
- Judicial review
- Misuse and reforms

U. Judiciary

Supreme Court

- Composition
- Appointment
- Qualifications
- Tenure
- Removal
- Independence
- Original jurisdiction
- Appellate jurisdiction
- Advisory jurisdiction
- Writ jurisdiction
- Review
- Curative petition
- Court of Record

High Courts

- Composition
- Appointment
- Jurisdiction
- Writs
- Superintendence

Subordinate Judiciary

- District judiciary
- Control
- Independence

Judicial Processes

- Judicial Review
- Judicial Activism
- Judicial Restraint
- PIL
- Judicial Legislation
- Contempt
- Pendency
- Access to justice

Judicial Appointments

- Collegium
- Judges Cases
- NJAC
- Comparative appointment systems

Judicial Accountability

- Removal
- In-house procedure
- Assets
- Recusal
- Judicial standards

V. Tribunals and Alternative Justice

- Article 323A
- Article 323B
- Administrative Tribunals
- NGT
- NCLT/NCLAT
- Tribunal independence
- Tribunal reforms
- Rationalisation
- Lok Adalats
- Permanent Lok Adalats
- Gram Nyayalayas
- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Conciliation
- Legal aid
- NALSA
- Fast-track courts

W. Local Government

Panchayats

- 73rd Amendment
- Gram Sabha
- Three-tier structure
- Reservation
- State Election Commission
- State Finance Commission
- Eleventh Schedule
- Devolution
- Finances
- PESA

Municipalities

- 74th Amendment
- Nagar Panchayat
- Municipal Council
- Municipal Corporation
- Ward Committees
- Metropolitan Planning Committee
- District Planning Committee
- Twelfth Schedule
- Finances
- Municipal bonds

Key Issues

- Funds
- Functions
- Functionaries
- Capacity
- Fiscal decentralisation
- Local planning
- Rural-urban integration

X. Elections

- Election Commission
- Composition
- Appointment
- Tenure
- Removal
- Independence

- Electoral rolls
- Revision of rolls
- Citizenship and voter registration
- Delimitation
- RPA 1950
- RPA 1951
- Qualifications
- Disqualifications
- Electoral offences
- Corrupt practices
- Undue influence
- Model Code of Conduct
- Political parties
- Recognition
- Symbols
- Party registration
- Election expenditure
- Electoral funding
- Criminalisation
- NOTA
- Voter turnout
- NRI voting
- Women's reservation
- One Nation-One Election

Y. Constitutional Bodies

For every body study:

constitutional basis -> composition -> appointment -> qualifications -> tenure -> removal -> powers -> functions -> reports -> independence -> limitations -> reforms

- Election Commission
- UPSC
- State PSC
- Finance Commission
- CAG
- GST Council
- NCSC
- NCST
- NCBC
- Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- Attorney General
- Advocate General

Z. Statutory and Other Bodies

- CVC
- CBI
- CIC
- SIC
- NHRC
- SHRC
- Lokpal
- Lokayukta
- NITI Aayog
- NGT
- TRAI
- SEBI
- IRDAI
- PFRDA
- CCI
- NCPCR
- National Commission for Women
- National Biodiversity Authority
- Consumer commissions

AA. Political Dynamics

- Political parties
- National parties
- Regional parties
- Coalition politics
- Pressure groups
- Social movements
- Corporate lobbying
- Interest groups
- Civil society and democracy
- Political finance
- Criminalisation
- Inner-party democracy
- Anti-defection
- Electoral reforms

Comparative Constitutional Systems

- Indian Constitutional Scheme in Comparative Perspective
 - Parliamentary and presidential systems
 - Federal and unitary features

- Separation of powers and checks and balances
- Judicial review and constitutional adjudication
- Rights protection and constitutional remedies
- Constitutional amendment procedures
- Upper houses and legislative-executive accountability
- Comparative lessons and limits of institutional transplantation

Ministries and Departments of Government

- Union Ministries and Departments
 - Political executive and permanent executive
 - Allocation of Business Rules and Transaction of Business Rules
 - Role of Secretary to Government
 - Cabinet Secretariat and inter-ministerial coordination
 - Attached and subordinate offices
 - Departmental accountability to Parliament

5. GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

PRELIMS: Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

MAINS GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

MAINS GS-II: Development processes and the development industry - the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

MAINS GS-II: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

MAINS GS-II: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

MAINS GS-II: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

MAINS GS-II: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance - applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

MAINS GS-II: Role of civil services in a democracy.

What UPSC Expects

UPSC treats Governance as the translation of constitutional and policy commitments into outcomes for citizens. It increasingly tests implementation gaps, institutional capacity, technology, accountability and the tension between welfare entitlement and administrative capability. Students should therefore examine every policy through objective -> institution -> delivery mechanism -> beneficiary -> implementation gap -> accountability -> reform. Social Justice questions now regularly connect welfare with dignity, equity, human development and public investment.

A. Governance

- Meaning
- Scope
- Government vs governance
- Good Governance
- Principles
 - Accountability
 - Transparency
 - Participation
 - Rule of Law
 - Responsiveness
 - Efficiency
 - Effectiveness
 - Equity
 - Inclusiveness
 - Consensus orientation
- Citizen-centric governance
- Trust in government
- Ethical governance
- Environmental governance
- Digital governance

B. Public Policy

- Policy cycle
- Agenda setting
- Policy formulation
- Stakeholder consultation
- Legislation
- Implementation

- Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Impact assessment
- Feedback
- Policy redesign
- Evidence-based policy
- Behavioural public policy

C. Effective Implementation

- Inputs
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Impact
- Targeting
- Leakages
- Exclusion errors
- Inclusion errors
- Last-mile delivery
- Convergence
- Coordination
- Centre-State coordination
- Departmental silos
- Monitoring
- Social accountability
- Evaluation

D. Accountability

- Political accountability
- Legislative accountability
- Executive accountability
- Administrative accountability
- Judicial accountability
- Financial accountability
- Social accountability
- Audit
- CAG
- Parliamentary committees
- Vigilance
- Ombudsman
- Citizen oversight
- Media
- Civil society

E. Transparency

- Right to Information
- Proactive disclosure
- Open government
- Open data
- Transparency in procurement
- Transparency in appointments
- Transparency vs confidentiality
- Whistleblower protection

F. Citizen's Charter

- Meaning
- Principles
- Components
- Standards
- Grievance redress
- Indian experience
- Limitations
- Sevottam
- Reform

G. Grievance Redressal

- Administrative grievance mechanisms
- CPGRAMS
- Ombudsman
- Consumer grievance
- Service guarantees
- Social audit
- Time-bound delivery
- Technology-enabled grievance systems

H. E-Governance

- G2G
- G2C
- G2B
- G2E
- Digital service delivery
- Portals
- Mobile governance
- DBT
- Digital identity
- Digital payments

- Digital Public Infrastructure
- Interoperability
- Data sharing
- User-centric design
- Backend integration
- Accessibility
- Digital divide
- Privacy
- Cybersecurity
- Algorithmic governance
- AI in public service delivery
- Technology-based exclusion

A 2025 question specifically criticised excessive emphasis on backend technology over user-centric e-governance, while 2026 GS-IV examined exclusion created by technology-mediated welfare delivery.

I. Civil Services

- Constitutional basis
- Role
- Neutrality
- Anonymity
- Permanence
- Impartiality
- Political neutrality
- Professionalism
- National commitment
- Generalist vs specialist
- Lateral entry
- Cadre system
- Transfers
- Security of tenure
- Civil Services Board
- Performance appraisal
- Training
- Capacity building
- Mission Karmayogi
- Citizen orientation
- Innovation
- Accountability
- Politicisation
- Ethics
- Generalist structure: benefits and limitations

J. Development Process

- State
- Market
- Civil society
- Community
- NGOs
- SHGs
- Cooperatives
- Charitable trusts
- Philanthropic organisations
- Donors
- Private sector
- Social enterprises
- Community-based organisations

K. NGOs and Civil Society

- Meaning
- NGO vs INGO
- Advocacy
- Service delivery
- Relief
- Rehabilitation
- Community development
- Environment
- Rights
- Policy influence
- Accountability
- Regulation
- Funding
- FCRA
- State-civil society relationship
- Civil society as non-state vs anti-state actor

L. Self-Help Groups

- Meaning
- Formation
- Structure
- Objectives
- Funding
- Bank linkage
- Microfinance

- Women empowerment
- Rural livelihood
- Poverty reduction
- Social capital
- Challenges

M. Poverty

- Absolute poverty
- Relative poverty
- Multidimensional poverty
- Poverty estimation
- Poverty line
- Capability deprivation
- Inequality and poverty
- Ownership of resources
- Rural poverty
- Urban poverty
- Feminisation of poverty
- Intergenerational poverty
- Poverty alleviation programmes

N. Hunger and Nutrition

- Food security
- Nutrition security
- Malnutrition
- Undernutrition
- Stunting
- Wasting
- Underweight
- Anaemia
- Hidden hunger
- Maternal nutrition
- Child nutrition
- ICDS
- Anganwadi
- POSHAN
- Food fortification
- School nutrition
- PDS
- Social equity dimension of malnutrition

O. Health

- Public health
- Primary healthcare
- Secondary care
- Tertiary care
- Preventive health
- Curative health
- Universal Health Coverage
- Public expenditure
- Health infrastructure
- Human resources
- Rural-urban divide
- Ayushman Bharat
- Digital health
- Disease surveillance
- One Health
- Maternal health
- Child health
- Tribal health
- Mental health
- Medical tourism
- Health insurance

P. Education

- Right to Education
- Early childhood care
- Foundational literacy
- School education
- Learning outcomes
- Teacher quality
- Higher education
- Accreditation
- Universities
- Skill education
- Vocational education
- Digital education
- Mother tongue
- Inclusive education
- Financing
- NEP
- Education as welfare obligation
- Education as human-capital investment
- Education as strategic national investment

Q. Vulnerable Sections

For every section:

constitutional safeguards -> law -> institution -> scheme -> exclusion -> implementation gap

- Scheduled Castes
- Scheduled Tribes
- OBCs
- Minorities
- Women
- Children
- Elderly
- Persons with Disabilities
- Transgender persons
- LGBTQIA+
- Migrants
- PVTGs
- DNTs
- Informal workers

R. Tribal Development

- Constitutional safeguards
- Fifth Schedule
- Sixth Schedule
- PESA
- Forest Rights Act
- Tribal Sub-Plan
- Land alienation
- Displacement
- Rehabilitation
- Education
- Health
- Livelihood
- PVTGs
- Aspirations
- Equity-based governance

S. Child Welfare

- Child rights
- Education
- Nutrition
- Child labour
- Child marriage
- Adoption
- Juvenile justice
- Online exploitation
- Cyber safety
- NCPCR
- Children in digital age

T. Rights-Based Welfare

- Right to Food
- Right to Education
- Employment guarantee
- Health entitlements
- Social security
- Welfare rights
- Legal entitlements
- Fiscal capacity
- Public investment
- Fragmented governance
- Centre-State delivery
- Last-mile delivery

Policy Design, Implementation & Human Resources

- Government Policies and Interventions: Analytical Framework
 - Objective and target group
 - Policy instrument and institutional architecture
 - Financing and Centre-State-local interface
 - Delivery mechanism and administrative capacity
 - Inclusion and exclusion errors
 - Unintended consequences and implementation gaps
 - Monitoring, evaluation, outcomes and reform
- Human Resource Development and Skilling
 - Demographic dividend and human capital
 - Employability, vocational education and skilling
 - Skill mismatch and lifelong learning
 - Institutional coordination and financing

6. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

MAINS GS-II: India and its neighborhood - relations.
MAINS GS-II: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
MAINS GS-II: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
MAINS GS-II: Important International institutions, agencies and fora - their structure, mandate.

What UPSC Expects

International Relations is tested through India's interests within a changing global order, not through diplomatic chronology alone. Students should understand every relationship through strategic, economic, security, technological, energy and diaspora dimensions. UPSC increasingly links bilateral relations to wider structures such as the Indo-Pacific, Global South, connectivity corridors and great-power competition. Preparation should follow interest -> cooperation -> friction -> external factors -> strategic significance -> India's options.

A. Foundations of Indian Foreign Policy

- Determinants
 - Geography
 - History
 - Economy
 - Security
 - Domestic politics
 - Diaspora
- Strategic autonomy
- Non-Alignment
- Panchsheel
- Multi-alignment
- Neighbourhood First
- Act East
- Act West
- SAGAR
- Indo-Pacific
- Global South
- Development partnership
- Soft power
- Hard power
- Smart power
- Economic diplomacy
- Technology diplomacy

B. India's Neighbourhood

Use the same template for every country:

history -> political relations -> trade -> connectivity -> security
-> water -> energy -> people-to-people -> China
factor -> current challenges

Pakistan

- Kashmir
- Terrorism
- LoC
- Indus Waters Treaty
- Trade
- People-to-people relations
- Cross-border terrorism

China

- Boundary dispute
- LAC
- Border management
- Trade imbalance
- Water
- Tibet
- BRI
- CPEC
- Indian Ocean
- South China Sea
- Multilateral cooperation
- Competition

Nepal

- Treaty relationship
- Open border
- Trade
- Hydropower
- Water
- Connectivity
- Boundary issues
- China factor

Bhutan

- Hydropower

- Security
- Trade
- Doklam
- China factor

Bangladesh

- Land boundary settlement
- Connectivity
- Trade
- Energy
- Teesta
- Migration
- Security

Myanmar

- Border
- Insurgency
- Kaladan
- Trilateral Highway
- Political instability
- Refugees
- China

Sri Lanka

- Tamil issue
- Fishermen
- Trade
- Connectivity
- Development assistance
- China factor

Maldives

- Strategic location
- Security
- Tourism
- Development partnership
- Indian Ocean competition

Afghanistan

- Historical ties
- Development partnership
- Taliban
- Security
- Connectivity
- Central Asia access

C. Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific

- Indian Ocean geography
- Sea Lines of Communication
- Maritime choke points
- Energy routes
- Maritime trade
- Piracy
- Fisheries
- Maritime domain awareness
- SAGAR
- Indo-Pacific concept
- ASEAN centrality
- Quad
- IPMDA
- AUKUS
- China in Indian Ocean
- Island states
- Blue economy

D. Major Powers

United States

- Strategic partnership
- Defence
- Technology
- Trade
- Diaspora
- Indo-Pacific
- Nuclear cooperation
- Strategic autonomy issues

Russia

- Historical partnership
- Defence
- Nuclear energy
- Space
- Energy
- Russia-China relationship
- Geopolitical challenges

European Union

- Trade
- Technology
- Climate

- Connectivity
- Strategic partnership

Japan

- Infrastructure
- Investment
- Indo-Pacific
- Defence
- Technology

France

- Defence
- Space
- Indian Ocean
- Nuclear
- Strategic autonomy

E. West Asia

- Energy security
- Indian diaspora
- Trade
- Connectivity
- Gulf security
- Israel
- Palestine
- Iran
- Saudi Arabia
- UAE
- Qatar
- Chabahar
- IMEC
- I2U2

F. Central Asia

- Strategic significance
- Energy
- Security
- Afghanistan
- Connectivity
- INSTC
- SCO
- Bilateral relationships

G. Southeast and East Asia

- ASEAN
- Act East
- Trade
- Connectivity
- Defence
- South China Sea
- Vietnam
- Indonesia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Japan
- Indo-Pacific

H. Africa

- Historical relationship
- South-South cooperation
- Development partnership
- Lines of credit
- Capacity building
- Digital partnership
- Trade
- Energy
- Critical minerals
- Defence
- Indian diaspora

I. Indian Diaspora

- Distribution
- Remittances
- Economic contribution
- Knowledge networks
- Technology
- Political influence
- Soft power
- Cultural diplomacy
- Overseas welfare
- Crisis evacuation
- Strategic leverage

The 2026 paper explicitly framed the diaspora as an economic factor, knowledge network and geopolitical bridge.

J. Connectivity and Goeconomics

- BRI

- CPEC
- Maritime Silk Road
- Debt concerns
- Strategic ports
- Chabahar
- INSTC
- IMEC
- Kaladan
- Trilateral Highway
- International corridors
- Supply-chain resilience
- Global value chains
- Critical mineral partnerships

K. BRI and Great-Power Competition

- Strategic objectives of BRI
- Land corridors
- Maritime component
- CPEC
- South Asia
- Indian Ocean
- Sovereignty concerns
- Debt
- Military implications
- India's alternatives
- Regional influence

PYQ SIGNAL | This became a direct 2026 GS-II theme.

L. Global and Regional Groupings

For each:

members -> purpose -> institutions -> decisions -> India -> relevance -> limitations

- UN
- G20
- G7
- BRICS
- SCO
- Quad
- ASEAN
- BIMSTEC
- SAARC
- IBSA
- I2U2
- BASIC
- ISA
- CDRI

M. United Nations

- UNGA
- UNSC
- ECOSOC
- ICJ
- Secretariat
- Peacekeeping
- Specialized agencies
- UNSC reform
- India's candidature
- East-West imbalance
- Global South representation

N. Bretton Woods Institutions

- IMF
- World Bank
- Quotas
- Conditionality
- Reform
- Global financial architecture
- Developing-country representation

O. WTO

- Principles
- MFN
- National Treatment
- Agreements
- Dispute settlement
- Doha issues
- Agriculture
- Subsidies
- Services
- Intellectual property
- Reform

P. Global Governance Issues

- Climate diplomacy
- Energy security

- Food security
- Health diplomacy
- Technology governance
- AI governance
- Cyber governance
- Semiconductor geopolitics
- Critical minerals
- Space governance
- Arctic
- Maritime governance
- Migration
- Refugees

External Policies and Global Institutions

- Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries
 - Tariffs, protectionism and trade policy
 - Sanctions and extraterritorial measures
 - Export controls and technology restrictions
 - Industrial subsidies and supply-chain policies
 - Immigration, visa and diaspora-related policy
 - Climate, energy and resource policies
 - Monetary and financial spillovers
 - Impact on India's trade, technology, energy, diaspora and strategic autonomy
- International Institutions, Agencies and Fora
 - Origin and membership
 - Structure and decision-making
 - Mandate and principal functions
 - Financing and compliance mechanisms
 - India's role, interests and reform agenda



UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2026-27

GENERAL STUDIES - III

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BIO-DIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

SUBJECTS IN THIS PAPER

Indian Economy

Agriculture & Food Processing

Science & Technology

Environment & Ecology

Internal Security

Disaster Management

7. INDIAN ECONOMY

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

MAINS GS-III: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

MAINS GS-III: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

MAINS GS-III: Government Budgeting.

MAINS GS-III: Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

MAINS GS-III: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

MAINS GS-III: Investment models.

What UPSC Expects

UPSC tests Economy through relationships and transmission mechanisms, not merely definitions. Students must know what an economic concept means, but more importantly how a change in one variable affects growth, inflation, jobs, banks, government finances or external stability. Prelims focuses heavily on instruments, institutions and cause-effect relationships; Mains asks for policy trade-offs, structural constraints and reform. Every topic should therefore be studied through concept -> mechanism -> indicator -> institution -> impact -> policy response.

A. Evolution of Indian Economy

- Colonial economy
- Economy at Independence
- Structural constraints
- Planned development
- Nehru-Mahalanobis strategy
- Five-Year Plans
- Public sector
- Licence-Permit system
- Green Revolution
- Nationalisation
- Liberalisation
- Privatisation
- Globalisation
- 1991 reforms
- Post-reform economy
- NITI Aayog

B. National Income

- Economic activity
- Factors of production
- National income
- GDP
- GVA
- GNP
- NDP
- NNP
- National Income
- Personal Income
- Disposable Income
- Nominal GDP
- Real GDP
- Base year
- GDP deflator
- Per-capita income
- Methods
 - Production
 - Income
 - Expenditure
- Sectoral composition
- Potential GDP
- Output gap
- Limitations of GDP
- GDP methodology

C. Growth and Development

- Economic growth
- Economic development
- Structural transformation
- Productivity
- Capital formation
- Savings
- Investment
- Human capital
- Employment
- Inclusive growth
- Sustainable growth

- Jobless growth
- Growth-employment elasticity
- Regional inequality
- Income inequality
- Wealth inequality
- Redistribution

D. Human Development

- HDI
- Components
- IHDI
- Gender indices
- Multidimensional Poverty
- Human capital
- Quality of life
- Standard of living
- Inclusive-development indicators

PYQ SIGNAL | HDI vs IHDI was directly asked in 2025.

E. Poverty

- Absolute poverty
- Relative poverty
- Poverty line
- Poverty estimation
- Tendulkar methodology
- Rangarajan methodology
- Multidimensional poverty
- Poverty trap
- Rural poverty
- Urban poverty
- Inequality
- Social protection
- Poverty alleviation

F. Employment

- Labour force
- Workforce
- LFPR
- WPR
- Unemployment rate
- Open unemployment
- Seasonal unemployment
- Disguised unemployment
- Structural unemployment
- Frictional unemployment
- Educated unemployment
- Informal employment
- Gig economy
- Platform economy
- Female labour participation
- Labour productivity
- Skill mismatch
- Employment-intensive growth
- Labour codes

G. Inflation

- Inflation
- Deflation
- Disinflation
- Reflation
- Stagflation
- CPI
- WPI
- Core inflation
- Headline inflation
- Food inflation
- Imported inflation
- Demand-pull
- Cost-push
- Wage-price spiral
- Inflation expectations
- Effects
- Inflation targeting

H. Money

- Functions of money
- Fiat money
- Legal tender
- Money supply
- M0
- M1
- M2
- M3
- High-powered money

- Money multiplier
- Liquidity
- Credit creation

I. Reserve Bank of India

- Functions
- Currency
- Banker to government
- Banker's bank
- Lender of last resort
- Forex management
- Regulation
- Monetary policy
- Financial stability
- Developmental role
- RBI balance sheet
- Surplus transfer
- Gold reserves

J. Monetary Policy

- Objectives
- Monetary Policy Committee
- Inflation target
- Repo rate
- Standing Deposit Facility
- MSF
- Bank Rate
- CRR
- SLR
- Open Market Operations
- Liquidity Adjustment Facility
- Variable-rate repo/reverse repo
- Transmission
- Tight monetary policy
- Easy monetary policy

K. Banking

- Commercial banks
- Public-sector banks
- Private banks
- Foreign banks
- Regional Rural Banks
- Cooperative banks
- Small Finance Banks
- Payments Banks
- NBFCs
- Development finance institutions
- Priority Sector Lending
- NPAs
- Gross NPA
- Net NPA
- Provisioning
- Write-off
- Restructuring
- Insolvency
- Capital adequacy
- Basel norms
- Deposit insurance

L. Financial Inclusion

- Meaning
- Access
- Usage
- Quality
- Bank accounts
- Credit
- Insurance
- Pension
- Payments
- Business correspondents
- PMJDY
- JAM
- Microfinance
- SHG-bank linkage
- MUDRA
- Financial literacy
- RBI Financial Inclusion Index
 - Access
 - Usage
 - Quality

PYQ SIGNAL | The Financial Inclusion Index was directly tested in 2026.

M. Digital Finance

- UPI

- IMPS
- NEFT
- RTGS
- Digital wallets
- Fintech
- Account Aggregator
- Digital lending
- Tokenisation
- Blockchain
- Cryptocurrency
- Stablecoin
- Crypto regulation
- CBDC
- Digital Rupee
 - Retail
 - Wholesale
 - Token/account model
 - Issuance
 - Wallets
 - Settlement
 - Offline CBDC
 - Programmability
 - CBDC vs cash
 - CBDC vs UPI
 - CBDC vs cryptocurrency

CBDC's actual working and progress, rather than only its definition, was asked in 2026.

N. Financial Markets

- Money market
- Call money
- Treasury Bills
- Commercial Paper
- Certificate of Deposit
- Capital market
- Equity
- Bonds
- Debentures
- Government securities
- Yield
- Yield curve
- Primary market
- Secondary market
- Mutual funds
- ETFs
- Derivatives
- Futures
- Options
- SEBI
- Market regulation

O. Fiscal Policy

- Fiscal policy
- Expansionary
- Contractionary
- Revenue receipts
- Tax revenue
- Non-tax revenue
- Capital receipts
- Revenue expenditure
- Capital expenditure
- Revenue deficit
- Fiscal deficit
- Primary deficit
- Effective revenue deficit
- Public debt
- Market borrowing
- FRBM
- Debt sustainability
- Fiscal multiplier

P. Government Budget

- Constitutional basis
- Annual Financial Statement
- Budget process
- Revenue Budget
- Capital Budget
- Outcome budgeting
- Gender budgeting
- Zero-based budgeting
- Performance budgeting
- Vote on Account
- Supplementary grants
- Budget terminology

Q. Taxation

- Direct tax
- Indirect tax
- Progressive tax
- Proportional tax
- Regressive tax
- Income tax
- Corporate tax
- Capital gains
- Customs
- GST
- CGST
- SGST
- IGST
- GST Council
- Input tax credit
- Compensation
- Cess
- Surcharge
- Tax buoyancy
- Tax incidence

R. External Sector

- Balance of Payments
- Current account
- Capital account
- Trade balance
- Current Account Deficit
- Foreign exchange
- Forex reserves
- Exchange rate
- Appreciation
- Depreciation
- Devaluation
- Revaluation
- NEER
- REER
- External debt
- FDI
- FPI
- ECB
- Remittances

S. International Trade

- Comparative advantage
- Free trade
- Protectionism
- Tariffs
- Quotas
- Non-tariff barriers
- Trade agreements
- FTA
- CEPA
- Rules of origin
- WTO
- Protectionism vs multilateralism
- Bilateralism
- Supply-chain resilience
- Global value chains

T. Investment

- Savings
- Investment
- Capital formation
- Public investment
- Private investment
- FDI
- FPI
- PPP
- Investment models
- Infrastructure investment
- Sovereign wealth funds
- Venture capital
- Private equity
- Investment constraints

U. Industry

- Industrial Policy
- Public sector
- Private sector
- Disinvestment
- Privatisation
- MSMEs
- Start-ups

- Manufacturing
- Make in India
- PLI
- Industrial corridors
- SEZs
- Logistics
- Ease of doing business
- Formalisation
- Productivity
- Industrial employment

Start-ups

- Ecosystem
- Funding
- Innovation
- Employment
- Scaling
- Regulation
- Global competition
- Deep-tech start-ups

V. Infrastructure

- Roads
- Railways
- Ports
- Airports
- Inland waterways
- Electricity
- Telecommunications
- Digital infrastructure
- Urban infrastructure
- Logistics
- PPP
- BOT
- BOOT
- HAM
- Concession agreements
- Infrastructure financing
- Asset monetisation

W. Energy Economy

- Energy demand
- Import dependence
- Oil
- Gas
- Coal
- Electricity
- Energy pricing
- Renewable transition
- Nuclear
- Green hydrogen
- Energy storage
- Critical minerals
- Energy security
- Growth vs sustainability

X. Green Economy

- Green growth
- Circular economy
- Carbon markets
- Green finance
- ESG
- Green bonds
- Carbon tax
- CBAM
- Renewable-energy economics
- Just transition

Mobilisation of Resources

- Domestic Resource Mobilisation
 - Household, corporate and public savings
 - Tax and non-tax revenues
 - Government borrowing and public debt
 - Disinvestment and asset monetisation
 - Financial markets and institutional finance
- External Resource Mobilisation
 - Foreign direct investment and portfolio investment
 - External commercial borrowing and multilateral finance
 - Resource-mobilisation constraints and policy trade-offs

8. AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

MAINS GS-III: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

MAINS GS-III: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System - objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

MAINS GS-III: Food processing and related industries in India - scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

MAINS GS-III: Land reforms in India.

What UPSC Expects

Agriculture is tested as a production-market-livelihood-resource system, not merely through crop facts or schemes. Prelims demands knowledge of crops, inputs, institutions and programmes, while Mains repeatedly examines productivity, diversification, subsidies, marketing, technology, food security and sustainability. Students should connect farm input -> production -> risk -> storage -> processing -> market -> farmer income -> food security. The 2025-26 papers especially emphasise technology missions, supply chains, e-commerce, WTO support, biotechnology and climate- smart farming.

A. Structure of Indian Agriculture

- Contribution to economy
- Employment
- Land holdings
- Marginal farmers
- Small farmers
- Fragmentation
- Tenancy
- Land leasing
- Regional disparity
- Agrarian structure

B. Land Reforms

- Zamindari abolition
- Tenancy reform
- Land ceilings
- Consolidation
- Cooperative farming
- Land records
- Digitisation
- Contemporary land leasing

C. Cropping Patterns

- Kharif
- Rabi
- Zaid
- Food crops
- Cash crops
- Plantation crops
- Fibre crops
- Oilseeds
- Pulses
- Horticulture
- Crop diversification
- Monocropping
- Mixed cropping
- Intercropping
- Crop rotation
- High-value crops
- Factors determining crop choice

D. Seeds

- HYV
- Hybrid seeds
- Certified seeds
- Foundation seeds
- Breeder seeds
- Seed replacement rate
- GM seeds
- Gene-edited crops
- Seed banks
- Seed regulation

E. Fertilisers

- NPK

- Urea
- Balanced fertilisation
- Fertiliser subsidy
- Nutrient Based Subsidy
- Neem-coated urea
- Nano urea
- Soil-health implications

F. Irrigation

- Canal
- Tank
- Wells
- Tube wells
- Drip
- Sprinkler
- Micro-irrigation
- Watershed development
- Command area
- Water-use efficiency
- PMKSY
- Groundwater crisis

G. Farm Mechanisation

- Tractors
- Harvesters
- Small machinery
- Custom Hiring Centres
- Drones
- Robotics
- Precision equipment
- Smallholder constraints

H. Agricultural Credit

- Institutional credit
- Commercial banks
- RRBs
- Cooperatives
- NABARD
- Kisan Credit Card
- Crop loans
- Agricultural NPAs
- Microfinance
- Informal credit

I. Agricultural Insurance

- Crop risk
- Weather risk
- Crop insurance
- PMFBY
- Technology in crop-loss assessment
- Remote sensing
- Weather stations

J. Agricultural Pricing

- MSP
- CACP
- Procurement
- Cost concepts
- A2
- A2+FL
- C2
- Price deficiency payments
- Market intervention
- Buffer stock
- Farm-gate prices

K. Agricultural Marketing

- APMC
- Mandis
- Intermediaries
- Market fragmentation
- Price discovery
- Grading
- Assaying
- Warehousing
- Cold chain
- Negotiable warehouse receipts
- e-NAM
- E-commerce
- ONDC
- FPOs
- Contract farming
- Direct marketing
- Farmer markets

L. Agricultural Supply Chains

- Aggregation
- Storage
- Transportation
- Cold chain
- Logistics
- Processing
- Wholesale
- Retail
- Post-harvest losses
- Traceability
- Value chains

M. Agricultural Technology Missions

- Technology Mission on Oilseeds
- Pulses
- Cotton
- Horticulture
- Jute
- Coconut
- Mission-mode production programmes
- Objectives
- Technology transfer
- Productivity
- Food security
- Import dependence

N. Green Revolution

- Background
- HYV
- Irrigation
- Fertilisers
- Procurement
- Credit
- Regions
- Achievements
- Food security
- Regional inequality
- Environmental effects
- Second Green Revolution debate

O. Other Agricultural Revolutions

- White Revolution
- Operation Flood
- Yellow Revolution
- Blue Revolution
- Golden Revolution
- Golden Fibre Revolution
- Horticultural revolution

P. WTO and Agriculture

- Agreement on Agriculture
- Market Access
- Domestic Support
- Export Competition
- Amber Box
- Blue Box
- Green Box
- De minimis
- Aggregate Measurement of Support
- Public stockholding
- Peace Clause
- Food-security concerns
- India's subsidy position

Q. Food Security

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Utilisation
- Stability
- Buffer stocks
- FCI
- Procurement
- PDS
- TPDS
- NFSA
- Food subsidy
- Nutritional security
- Food surplus vs nutritional deficit

R. Food Processing

- Meaning
- Scope

- Significance
- Value addition
- Employment
- Farmer income
- Post-harvest loss
- Upstream requirements
- Downstream requirements
- Supply chains
- Cold chains
- Food parks
- Processing clusters
- FDI
- Quality standards

S. Biotechnology in Agriculture and Processing

- GM crops
- Bt crops
- Pest resistance
- Biofertilisers
- Biopesticides
- Tissue culture
- Gene editing
- Biofortification
- Enzymes
- Fermentation
- Shelf-life enhancement
- Processing of perishables

T. Allied Sectors

- Dairy
- Animal husbandry
- Poultry
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Beekeeping
- Sericulture
- Economics of animal rearing
- Livestock health

U. Sustainable Agriculture

- Organic farming
- Natural farming
- Zero Budget Natural Farming
- Agroecology
- Agroforestry
- Conservation agriculture
- Precision agriculture
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Millets
- Crop diversification
- Soil health
- Carbon farming

V. Digital Agriculture

- AgriStack
- Remote sensing
- GIS
- Satellite crop monitoring
- Drones
- AI advisories
- Weather advisories
- Digital marketplaces
- Precision farming
- Land records
- Climate-smart applications

PYQ SIGNAL | *Satellite-based technologies and climate-smart agriculture were directly linked in 2026 GS-I.*

Farm Support, PDS & Food Processing Location

- Direct and Indirect Farm Subsidies and Support
 - Income support and direct transfers
 - Fertiliser, electricity and irrigation subsidies
 - Credit support and interest subvention
 - Seed and input support
 - Crop-insurance support
 - Price support, MSP and procurement
 - Efficiency, equity, fiscal and environmental implications
 - WTO Agreement on Agriculture implications
- Public Distribution System
 - Objectives and institutional architecture
 - Procurement, allocation, identification and distribution
 - Targeted PDS and portability
 - Leakages, exclusion errors and storage issues
 - Reforms and revamping
- Food Processing: Location Dimension
 - Raw-material proximity and perishability

- Market access, transport and cold-chain infrastructure
- Energy, water, labour and logistics
- Clusters, value chains and regional location factors
- Agricultural Extension and Agrochemicals
 - Extension services and Krishi Vigyan Kendras
 - Pesticides, biopesticides and integrated pest management

9. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: General Science.

MAINS GS-III: Science and Technology - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

MAINS GS-III: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

MAINS GS-III: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

What UPSC Expects

UPSC does not expect engineering-level depth; it expects the student to understand the scientific principle, how a technology works, where it is applied and what implications it creates. Prelims frequently asks conceptual differences and applications, while Mains increasingly combines emerging technology with national capability, economy, security or ethics. Each technology should therefore be prepared through principle -> components -> working -> application -> benefits -> risks -> Indian ecosystem. Recent questions on fast breeder reactors, satellites, semiconductors and agentic AI illustrate this clearly.

A. Basic Physics Relevant to UPSC

- Fundamental particles
- Fundamental forces
- Energy
- Heat
- Thermodynamics
- Waves
- Sound
- Electromagnetic spectrum
- Optics
- Electromagnetism
- Relativity
- Quantum basics
- Superconductivity
- Lasers

B. Basic Chemistry

- Atomic structure
- Chemical bonding
- Elements
- Molecules
- States of matter
- Acids and bases
- Metals
- Non-metals
- Alloys
- Electrochemistry
- Batteries
- Polymers
- Carbon allotropes
- Hydrocarbons
- Biomolecules
- Enzymes
- Pharmaceuticals

C. Biology Fundamentals

- Cell
- DNA
- RNA
- Protein
- Genes
- Chromosomes
- Mutation
- Evolution
- Classification
- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Archaea
- Eukaryotes
- Plants
- Animals

D. Genetics and Genomics

- Mendelian genetics

- DNA replication
- Transcription
- Translation
- Mutation
- Genome
- Genomics
- Proteomics
- Human genome
- Genome sequencing
- Whole genome sequencing
- Pan-genome
- Population genomics
- Metagenomics

E. Genetic Engineering

- Recombinant DNA
- Restriction enzymes
- Vectors
- Plasmids
- Transformation
- PCR
- Gel electrophoresis
- Gene cloning
- Gene editing
- CRISPR-Cas systems
- Applications
- Biosafety
- Bioethics

F. Biotechnology in Medicine

- Molecular diagnostics
- PCR
- ELISA
- Gene therapy
- Stem cells
- Stem-cell therapy
- Monoclonal antibodies
- CAR-T cell therapy
- mRNA technology
- Personalised medicine
- Pharmacogenomics
- Mitochondrial donation
- Biopharmaceuticals

G. Immunology

- Innate immunity
- Adaptive immunity
- Antigens
- Antibodies
- B cells
- T cells
- Vaccines
- Live vaccines
- Inactivated vaccines
- Subunit vaccines
- Viral-vector vaccines
- mRNA vaccines
- Booster doses
- Herd immunity
- Immunisation programmes

H. Antimicrobial Resistance

- Antibiotics
- Antivirals
- Antifungals
- Drug resistance
- Causes
- One Health
- Superbugs
- Stewardship
- Surveillance

I. Space Science

- Space environment
- Gravity
- Escape velocity
- Orbits
 - LEO
 - MEO
 - GEO
 - GTO
 - Polar
 - Sun-synchronous
- Lagrange points
- Orbital inclination

- Launch windows

J. Launch Vehicles

- Multi-stage rockets
- Solid fuel
- Liquid fuel
- Cryogenic propulsion
- Semi-cryogenic propulsion
- Reusable launch vehicles
- Small-satellite launch
- Payload
- Escape systems

K. Satellites

- Communication satellites
- Navigation
- Remote sensing
- Earth observation
- Weather satellites
- Reconnaissance satellites
- Scientific satellites
- Small satellites
- CubeSats

Imaging

- Optical imaging
- Multispectral imaging
- Hyperspectral imaging
- Infrared
- Microwave
- Synthetic Aperture Radar
- Resolution
 - Spatial
 - Spectral
 - Temporal
 - Radiometric

L. Satellite Navigation

- GPS
- GLONASS
- Galileo
- BeiDou
- NavIC
- Positioning
- Timing
- Applications

M. Space Missions

- Lunar missions
- Mars missions
- Solar missions
- Astronomy missions
- Human spaceflight
- Planetary exploration
- Sample return
- Space observatories
- Deep-space communication

N. Indian Space Ecosystem

- ISRO
- Department of Space
- IN-SPACe
- NSIL
- Private sector
- Start-ups
- Space Policy
- Commercial space
- National-development applications
- International cooperation
- Space diplomacy

O. Space Security

- Space debris
- Collision
- Space situational awareness
- ASAT
- Space weapons
- Militarisation
- Dual-use technology
- Outer Space Treaty
- Geopolitics

P. Artificial Intelligence

- AI
- Machine Learning
- Deep Learning

- Neural networks
- Training data
- Algorithms
- Natural-language processing
- Computer vision
- Generative AI
- Large language models
- Foundation models

Agentic AI

- Autonomous goal pursuit
- Planning
- Tool use
- Memory
- Feedback
- Multi-agent systems
- Applications
- Productivity
- Cybersecurity risks
- Alignment
- Accountability
- Human oversight

PYQ SIGNAL | Agentic AI was directly tested as definition + working + application + benefits + risks in 2026.

Q. Robotics

- Robot components
- Sensors
- Actuators
- Control systems
- Autonomous robots
- Industrial robots
- Medical robots
- Agricultural robots
- Defence robots
- Swarm robotics

R. Quantum Technology

- Quantum states
- Superposition
- Entanglement
- Quantum bits
- Quantum computing
- Quantum supremacy/advantage
- Quantum communication
- Quantum Key Distribution
- Quantum sensing
- Quantum metrology
- National Quantum Mission

S. Semiconductor Technology

- Conductors
- Insulators
- Semiconductors
- Intrinsic semiconductor
- Doping
- p-type
- n-type
- Diodes
- Transistors
- Integrated circuits
- Chip design
- Fabrication
- Wafer
- Lithography
- Process nodes
- Packaging
- Compound semiconductors
- Semiconductor supply chain
- India Semiconductor Mission
- Fab ecosystem
- Design ecosystem

T. Information and Communication Technology

- Internet
- Cloud computing
- Edge computing
- Big Data
- IoT
- 5G
- 6G
- Optical fibre
- Satellite Internet
- RFID
- NFC

- Blockchain
- Distributed ledger
- Cybersecurity
- Net neutrality

U. Nanotechnology

- Nanoscale
- Nanomaterials
- Quantum dots
- Nanoparticles
- Carbon nanotubes
- Graphene
- Nanomedicine
- Nano agriculture
- Nano fertilisers
- Electronics
- Energy
- Environment
- Health and ecological risks

V. Nuclear Science

- Radioactivity
- Alpha
- Beta
- Gamma
- Half-life
- Nuclear fission
- Nuclear fusion
- Chain reaction
- Criticality
- Critical mass

Reactors

- Reactor components
- Fuel
- Moderator
- Coolant
- Control rods
- Thermal reactor
- Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor
- Light Water Reactor
- Fast Breeder Reactor
- Small Modular Reactor

India

- Three-stage nuclear programme
- Uranium
- Plutonium
- Thorium
- Fast Breeder Programme
- Nuclear fuel cycle
- Reprocessing
- Nuclear waste

Fast Breeder Reactors, thermal reactors and criticality formed one integrated 2026 question.

W. Energy Technologies

- Solar photovoltaic
- Solar thermal
- Wind
- Offshore wind
- Bioenergy
- Biofuels
- Hydrogen
- Fuel cells
- Batteries
 - Lead acid
 - Lithium-ion
 - Sodium-ion
 - Solid-state
- Energy storage
- Pumped storage
- Supercapacitors
- Nuclear fusion
- CCUS

X. Defence Technology

- Missile classification
- Ballistic missiles
- Cruise missiles
- Supersonic
- Hypersonic
- HGV
- MIRV
- Missile defence
- Radar

- AESA radar
- Sonar
- Electronic warfare
- Stealth
- Drones
- UAV
- Loitering munitions
- Anti-drone systems
- Directed-energy weapons
- Autonomous weapons
- Cyber warfare
- Space warfare
- Chemical weapons
- Biological weapons

Y. Intellectual Property Rights

- Patent
- Copyright
- Trademark
- GI
- Industrial design
- Plant varieties
- Trade secrets
- WIPO
- TRIPS
- Indian IPR regime
- Compulsory licensing
- Biotechnology and IPR

Indian S&T Achievements, Indigenisation & Computing

- Achievements of Indians in Science and Technology
 - Major Indian scientific institutions and national capabilities
 - Strategic achievements in space, nuclear, defence, digital and biotechnology domains
 - Scientific research, innovation and technology translation
- Indigenisation and Development of New Technology
 - Import dependence and strategic technology gaps
 - Indigenous design, manufacturing and technology transfer
 - Public R&D, universities, industry and start-ups
 - Deep-tech ecosystem and critical technologies
- Computers and Computing
 - Computer architecture: processor, memory, storage and input-output
 - Operating systems and software basics
 - Cloud, edge and high-performance computing
 - Applications, cyber risks and governance implications

10. ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

PRELIMS: General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.
MAINS GS-III: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

What UPSC Expects

Environment requires the student to combine ecological fundamentals with laws, conservation instruments and contemporary environmental change. Prelims often uses species, ecological relationships, protected areas and conventions to test conceptual precision; Mains asks students to connect environmental protection with development, livelihoods, climate commitments and governance. Static ecology must therefore form the foundation onto which current species, reports and agreements are attached. Recent papers on biodiversity frameworks, mining, CCUS and infrastructure in fragile areas illustrate this integration.

A. Ecology Fundamentals

- Ecology
- Environment
- Organism
- Species
- Population
- Community
- Ecosystem
- Biome
- Biosphere
- Habitat
- Niche
- Ecotone

- Edge effect
- Carrying capacity

B. Ecosystem Structure

- Abiotic components
- Biotic components
- Producers
- Consumers
- Decomposers
- Detritivores
- Trophic levels

C. Energy Flow

- Solar energy
- Primary production
- Gross Primary Productivity
- Net Primary Productivity
- Secondary productivity
- Food chain
- Grazing food chain
- Detritus food chain
- Food web
- Ecological efficiency
- Ten-percent law
- Ecological pyramids
 - Numbers
 - Biomass
 - Energy

D. Nutrient Cycles

- Carbon cycle
- Nitrogen cycle
- Phosphorus cycle
- Sulphur cycle
- Water cycle
- Human disruption of cycles

E. Ecological Relationships

- Predation
- Competition
- Mutualism
- Commensalism
- Parasitism
- Amensalism
- Facilitation

F. Succession

- Primary succession
- Secondary succession
- Hydrarch
- Xerarch
- Climax community
- Succession and disturbance

G. Biodiversity

- Genetic diversity
- Species diversity
- Ecosystem diversity
- Alpha diversity
- Beta diversity
- Gamma diversity
- Endemic species
- Keystone species
- Flagship species
- Umbrella species
- Indicator species
- Foundation species
- Invasive alien species
- Native species
- Exotic species

H. Speciation and Extinction

- Allopatric speciation
- Sympatric speciation
- Adaptive radiation
- Extinction
- Background extinction
- Mass extinction
- Anthropogenic extinction

I. Biodiversity Distribution

- Latitudinal gradients
- Species-area relationship
- Megadiverse countries
- Biodiversity hotspots

- Endemic regions
- Biogeographic zones of India
- Ecoregions

J. IUCN

- Red List
- Categories
 - EX
 - EW
 - CR
 - EN
 - VU
 - NT
 - LC
 - DD
 - NE
- Criteria
- Red Data Book

K. Terrestrial Ecosystems

- Tropical rainforest
- Tropical deciduous
- Thorn forest
- Temperate forests
- Grasslands
- Savanna
- Desert
- Tundra
- Alpine ecosystems

L. Aquatic Ecosystems

- Freshwater
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Ponds
- Wetlands
- Estuaries
- Mangroves
- Coral reefs
- Seagrass
- Marine ecosystems
- Intertidal zones

M. Wetlands

- Definition
- Ecological functions
- Flood control
- Groundwater recharge
- Biodiversity
- Carbon storage
- Ramsar Convention
- Ramsar Sites
- Montreux Record
- Wise-use principle
- Indian wetland rules

N. Coral Reefs

- Coral biology
- Symbiosis
- Zooxanthellae
- Conditions for growth
- Fringing reef
- Barrier reef
- Atoll
- Coral bleaching
- Ocean acidification
- Warming
- Pollution
- Indian coral reefs
- Conservation

O. Mangroves

- Adaptations
- Pneumatophores
- Vivipary
- Salt tolerance
- Coastal protection
- Carbon sequestration
- Biodiversity
- Indian distribution
- Threats
- Conservation

P. Biodiversity Conservation

- In-situ

- Ex-situ
- National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary
- Conservation Reserve
- Community Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve
- Tiger Reserve
- Elephant Reserve
- Eco-sensitive zone
- Wildlife corridor
- Sacred groves
- Seed banks
- Gene banks
- Zoos
- Botanical gardens
- Species recovery

Q. Species Conservation Programmes

- Project Tiger
- Project Elephant
- Rhino conservation
- Cheetah
- Snow leopard
- Great Indian Bustard
- Vultures
- Sea turtles
- Crocodiles
- Dolphins
- Species Recovery Programme

R. Climate Change Science

- Greenhouse effect
- Greenhouse gases
- CO₂
- CH₄
- N₂O
- Fluorinated gases
- Global warming
- Radiative forcing
- Global Warming Potential
- Carbon budget
- Carbon sinks
- Climate feedbacks
- Tipping points
- Cryosphere
- Glacier retreat
- Sea-level rise
- Ocean warming
- Ocean acidification
- Extreme events

S. Climate Mitigation

- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency
- Afforestation
- Carbon sequestration
- Carbon markets
- Green hydrogen
- Electric mobility
- CCUS
- Carbon farming
- Methane reduction
- Circular economy

T. Adaptation

- Climate-resilient agriculture
- Coastal adaptation
- Water security
- Heat-action plans
- Disaster resilience
- Urban resilience
- Ecosystem-based adaptation
- Nature-based solutions

U. Climate Governance

- UNFCCC
- CBD-RC
- Kyoto Protocol
- Paris Agreement
- NDCs
- Global Stocktake
- COP
- Climate finance
- Loss and Damage

- Adaptation Fund
- Green Climate Fund
- Article 6
- Carbon markets
- Net zero
- Climate justice

V. Biodiversity Conventions

- CBD
- Cartagena Protocol
- Nagoya Protocol
- CITES
- CMS
- Ramsar
- World Heritage Convention
- MAB Programme

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- 2050 goals
- 2030 targets
- 30×30
- Restoration
- Invasive species
- Biodiversity finance
- Corporate disclosure
- Indigenous communities
- India's commitments

PYQ SIGNAL | The framework was directly tested in 2026.

W. Pollution

Air

- Primary pollutants
- Secondary pollutants
- PM_{2.5}
- PM₁₀
- SO_x
- NO_x
- CO
- Ozone
- VOCs
- Smog
- Thermal inversion
- Air-quality index

Water

- Organic pollution
- BOD
- COD
- Eutrophication
- Heavy metals
- Groundwater contamination

Soil

- Pesticides
- Heavy metals
- Industrial contamination

Other

- Noise
- Thermal
- Radioactive
- Marine
- Light pollution
- Nitrogen pollution
- Acid rain

X. Waste

- Municipal solid waste
- Segregation
- Collection
- Processing
- Composting
- Biomethanation
- Waste-to-energy
- Landfills
- Legacy waste
- Plastic waste
- E-waste
- Biomedical waste
- Hazardous waste
- Battery waste
- Construction waste
- Solar waste
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Circular economy

Urban Case Studies

- Decentralised waste management

- Source segregation
- Municipal capacity
- Citizen participation
- Success/failure comparison

The 2026 paper explicitly asked students to compare city-level solid-waste management models.

Y. Environmental Laws

- Environment Protection Act
- Wildlife Protection Act
- Forest Conservation framework
- Biological Diversity framework
- Water Act
- Air Act
- Public Liability Insurance
- National Green Tribunal Act
- Coastal Regulation Zone
- Wetland Rules
- Waste-management rules

Z. Environmental Institutions

- MoEFCC
- CPCB
- SPCBs
- NGT
- National Biodiversity Authority
- State Biodiversity Boards
- Biodiversity Management Committees
- National Board for Wildlife

AA. EIA

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Screening
- Scoping
- Baseline
- Impact prediction
- Public hearing
- Appraisal
- Clearance
- Monitoring
- Cumulative impact
- Strategic environmental assessment
- Issues and reforms

AB. Development vs Environment

- Mining
- Dams
- Highways
- Railways
- Hydropower
- Tourism
- Urbanisation
- Renewable projects
- Forest diversion
- Displacement
- Tribal rights
- Ecological carrying capacity
- Infrastructure in fragile areas
- Disaster-risk implications

Global Environmental & Chemical Conventions

- Ozone and Atmospheric Protection
 - Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol
- Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes
 - Basel Convention
 - Rotterdam Convention
 - Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
 - Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Land and Ecosystem Governance
 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
 - UNEP, IPCC and IPBES: roles and outputs

11. INTERNAL SECURITY

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

MAINS GS-III: Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
MAINS GS-III: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
MAINS GS-III: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.
MAINS GS-III: Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
MAINS GS-III: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

What UPSC Expects

Internal Security questions test whether students can trace a threat from its structural causes to its operational manifestations and institutional response. UPSC increasingly combines traditional security with cyber systems, financial networks, information manipulation and border development. Preparation should therefore follow threat -> causes -> actors -> channels -> vulnerabilities -> institutions -> response -> civil-liberty concerns.

A. Internal Security Framework

- Meaning
- Traditional threats
- Non-traditional threats
- Internal vs external security
- Security-development nexus
- Centre-State coordination
- Intelligence
- Police
- CAPFs
- Armed forces

B. Terrorism

- Definition
- Types
- Cross-border terrorism
- Domestic terrorism
- Religious extremism
- Ideological terrorism
- Lone-wolf attacks
- Radicalisation
- Online radicalisation
- Recruitment
- Financing
- Counter-terrorism

C. Terror Financing

- Hawala
- Counterfeit currency
- Money laundering
- Drug trafficking
- Illegal trade
- Front organisations
- Charities
- Crypto-assets
- FATF
- AML/CFT
- FIU
- PMLA
- International cooperation

FATF and terror-financing channels formed a full 15-marker in 2026.

D. Left-Wing Extremism

- Origin
- Ideology
- Geography
- Causes
 - Land
 - Tribal alienation
 - Governance deficit
 - Mining
 - Poverty
- Recruitment
- Security challenge
- Development challenge
- Government strategy
- Infrastructure
- Local development
- Security operations
- Rehabilitation

- Contemporary decline and residual challenges

E. Jammu & Kashmir

- Historical roots
- Separatism
- Terrorism
- Cross-border support
- Radicalisation
- Border infiltration
- Development
- Political integration
- Article 370
- Article 35A
- Pre/post-2019 constitutional position
- Security implications
- Mainstreaming

F. Northeast

- Ethnic diversity
- Insurgency
- Identity
- Autonomy
- Migration
- Borders
- External linkages
- Armed groups
- Peace accords
- Autonomous Councils
- Development
- Act East linkages

G. Border Management

- India-Pakistan
- India-China
- India-Bangladesh
- India-Myanmar
- India-Nepal
- India-Bhutan
- Fencing
- Smart borders
- Border roads
- Border infrastructure
- Border Area Development Programme
- Vibrant Villages
- Local population
- Smuggling
- Infiltration
- Illegal migration

H. Coastal and Maritime Security

- Coastline vulnerability
- Ports
- Coastal policing
- Fishermen
- Coastal radar
- Maritime domain awareness
- Piracy
- Smuggling
- Maritime terrorism
- Offshore installations
- Sea trade
- Choke points
- Coastal community participation

I. Organised Crime

- Drug trafficking
- Arms trafficking
- Human trafficking
- Wildlife crime
- Gold smuggling
- Counterfeit currency
- Cybercrime
- Organised crime-terror nexus

J. Drug Trafficking

- Golden Crescent
- Golden Triangle
- Maritime routes
- Border routes
- Synthetic drugs
- Narco-terrorism
- Domestic impacts
- Enforcement
- International cooperation

K. Cybersecurity

- Cybercrime
- Malware
- Ransomware
- Phishing
- DDoS
- Zero-day attacks
- Botnets
- Data breaches
- Critical infrastructure
- Cyber warfare
- Cyber espionage
- CERT-In
- NCIPC
- Cyber coordination
- Cyber hygiene

L. Information Security

- Fake news
- Misinformation
- Disinformation
- Deepfakes
- Bot amplification
- Algorithmic amplification
- Communal tensions
- Public order
- Election interference
- Platform responsibility
- Digital media regulation
- Free speech vs security

Fake news and disinformation were explicitly treated as an internal security and public-order threat in 2026.

M. Money Laundering

- Placement
- Layering
- Integration
- PMLA
- Enforcement Directorate
- FIU
- FATF
- Beneficial ownership
- International cooperation

N. Security Technologies

- Drones
- Counter-drone
- Satellites
- GIS
- Facial recognition
- Biometrics
- AI
- Big Data
- Predictive policing
- Geospatial intelligence
- Surveillance
- Privacy concerns

O. Police Reforms

- Constitutional position
- State subject
- Police structure
- Political interference
- Investigation vs law and order
- Vacancies
- Training
- Technology
- Accountability
- Prakash Singh reforms
- Police Complaints Authorities
- Security of tenure

P. Security Forces and Security Agencies

- For each:*
controlling ministry -> mandate -> deployment -> powers -> special role
- CRPF
 - BSF
 - CISF
 - ITBP
 - SSB
 - Assam Rifles
 - NSG
 - Coast Guard
 - NIA

External Actors and Security Agencies

- External State Actors
 - State sponsorship, intelligence support and proxy warfare
 - Cross-border terrorism and hostile influence
 - Cyber operations, disinformation and strategic coercion
- External Non-State Actors
 - Terrorist organisations and transnational extremist networks
 - Organised-crime, trafficking and illicit-finance networks
 - Cyber-criminal and hacktivist groups
- Security and Intelligence Agencies
 - Intelligence Bureau
 - Research and Analysis Wing
 - National Investigation Agency
 - National Technical Research Organisation
 - Multi Agency Centre and NATGRID
 - Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre and cyber-security institutions
- Legal and Institutional Framework
 - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act
 - NIA legal framework
 - Armed Forces (Special Powers) framework where applicable
 - Cyber-security and anti-money-laundering legal frameworks

12. DISASTER MANAGEMENT

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

MAINS GS-III: Disaster and disaster management.

What UPSC Expects

UPSC expects Disaster Management to move beyond descriptions of individual hazards. The emphasis is on risk, vulnerability, preparedness, resilience, technology, institutions and community participation. A hazard should therefore be studied through cause -> vulnerability -> impact -> early warning -> mitigation -> response -> recovery -> resilient reconstruction. Recent papers have particularly emphasised community participation and the need to reconcile infrastructure development with disaster-risk reduction.

A. Fundamentals

- Hazard
- Disaster
- Exposure
- Vulnerability
- Capacity
- Risk
- Resilience
- Disaster-risk equation
- Multi-hazard risk
- Compound disasters
- Cascading disasters

B. Disaster Management Cycle

- Prevention
- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Early warning
- Response
- Relief
- Recovery
- Rehabilitation
- Reconstruction
- Build Back Better

C. Institutional Framework

- Disaster Management Act
- NDMA
- NEC
- SDMA
- DDMA
- NDRF
- SDRF
- NIDM
- Local authorities
- Armed Forces
- CAPFs
- Civil defence

D. Earthquakes

- Vulnerability
- Seismic zonation

- Building codes
- Retrofitting
- Land-use planning
- Preparedness
- Response

E. Tsunamis

- Causes
- Vulnerable coast
- Warning systems
- Evacuation
- Coastal planning

F. Cyclones

- Hazard
- Storm surge
- Coastal vulnerability
- Forecasting
- Evacuation
- Cyclone shelters
- Community preparedness

G. Floods

- River floods
- Flash floods
- Urban floods
- Causes
- Floodplain encroachment
- Drainage
- Dams
- Forecasting
- Floodplain zoning
- Nature-based solutions

H. Drought

- Meteorological
- Agricultural
- Hydrological
- Socio-economic
- Monitoring
- Water conservation
- Crop planning

I. Landslides

- Causes
- Himalayan vulnerability
- Rainfall
- Earthquakes
- Road construction
- Slope cutting
- Hazard zonation
- Early warning
- Mitigation

J. Glacial Hazards

- Glacier retreat
- Glacial lakes
- GLOF
- Monitoring
- Early warning
- Downstream planning

K. Heatwaves

- Causes
- Urban heat
- Health
- Heat Action Plans
- Early warning
- Cooling
- Worker protection

L. Forest Fires

- Natural causes
- Human causes
- Fire ecology
- Detection
- Remote sensing
- Community management

M. Industrial and Technological Disasters

- Chemical leaks
- Gas leaks
- Hazardous materials
- Nuclear accidents
- Radiological accidents

- Oil spills
- Dam failures
- Transport accidents
- Building collapse

N. Biological Disasters

- Epidemics
- Pandemics
- Zoonoses
- Surveillance
- Health preparedness
- One Health

O. Disaster Technology

- GIS
- Remote sensing
- Satellite imagery
- Doppler radar
- AI
- Drones
- Mobile alerts
- Early-warning systems
- Crowd-sourced information

P. Community-Based Disaster Management

- Community risk assessment
- Local volunteers
- Panchayats
- SHGs
- NGOs
- Indigenous knowledge
- Women
- Youth
- Last-mile warnings
- Local evacuation
- Risk communication
- Community ownership
- Challenges to participation

Community participation was explicitly described as the cornerstone of effective disaster management in the 2026 paper.

Q. Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure

- Building codes
- Retrofitting
- Resilient roads
- Resilient bridges
- Resilient power systems
- Critical infrastructure
- CDRI
- Infrastructure in ecologically sensitive regions
- Carrying capacity
- Disaster-risk assessment before projects

R. Disaster Risk Financing

- Relief funds
- NDRF/SDRF financing
- Insurance
- Parametric insurance
- Risk pooling
- Catastrophe bonds
- Contingency financing

S. International Frameworks

- Sendai Framework
- Paris Agreement link
- SDGs
- CDRI
- Global early-warning initiatives

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

- Risk-sensitive Development
 - Risk-sensitive land-use planning
 - Disaster-resilient infrastructure and project appraisal
 - Critical-infrastructure resilience
 - School, hospital and public-building safety
 - Local development planning and vulnerability assessment
- Additional High-Relevance Hazards
 - Lightning
 - Cloudbursts
 - Avalanches
 - Urban fires
 - Building collapse and infrastructure failure

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2026-27

GENERAL STUDIES - IV

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

SUBJECTS IN THIS PAPER

Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

13. ETHICS, INTEGRITY & APTITUDE

UPSC SYLLABUS - OFFICIAL WORDING

MAINS GS-IV: This paper will include questions to test the candidates attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects.

MAINS GS-IV: Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

MAINS GS-IV: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

MAINS GS-IV: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.

MAINS GS-IV: Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

MAINS GS-IV: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

MAINS GS-IV: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

MAINS GS-IV: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

MAINS GS-IV: Case Studies on above issues.

What UPSC Expects

Ethics is not a paper of memorised definitions. UPSC expects candidates to identify values in conflict, justify choices and convert ethical principles into administratively workable decisions. Theory questions increasingly use contemporary issues-AI, medicine, security, environment and technology-to test whether basic ethical concepts can be applied outside textbook examples. Case studies require a structured balance of law, empathy, public interest, rights and institutional integrity.

A. Ethics Fundamentals

- Ethics
- Morality
- Values
- Beliefs
- Norms
- Principles
- Conscience
- Character
- Virtue
- Duty
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Rights
- Justice
- Good vs right

B. Dimensions of Ethics

- Individual ethics
- Social ethics
- Professional ethics
- Administrative ethics
- Political ethics
- Business ethics
- Environmental ethics
- Medical ethics
- Technology ethics
- International ethics

C. Determinants of Ethical Behaviour

- Family
- Society
- Education
- Religion
- Culture
- Law
- Institutions
- Peer group

- Leadership
- Conscience
- Incentives

D. Consequences of Ethics in Human Action

- Trust
- Legitimacy
- Cooperation
- Social capital
- Institutional credibility
- Public confidence

E. Ethical Theories

- Consequentialism
- Utilitarianism
- Deontology
- Kantian ethics
- Virtue ethics
- Aristotle
- Ethics of care
- Justice theory
- Rawls
- Rights theory
- Social contract

F. Human Values

- Integrity
- Honesty
- Truthfulness
- Empathy
- Compassion
- Tolerance
- Courage
- Perseverance
- Humility
- Gratitude
- Forgiveness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Justice
- Service

G. Lessons from Thinkers

For every thinker:

core proposition -> ethical value -> public-service application -> contemporary example -> limitation

- Socrates
- Plato
- Aristotle
- Bentham
- J.S. Mill
- Kant
- Rawls
- Carol Gilligan
- Hobbes
- Locke
- Rousseau
- Confucius
- Buddha
- Vivekananda
- Gandhi
- Ambedkar
- Tagore
- Martin Luther King Jr.

Gandhi

- Truth
- Ahimsa
- Means and ends
- Sarvodaya
- Antyodaya
- Trusteeship
- Seven Social Sins

Ambedkar

- Constitutional morality
- Social justice
- Equality
- Fraternity
- Constitutional methods
- Civil disobedience in constitutional democracy

Trusteeship and Ambedkar's warning regarding civil disobedience were both directly used in the 2026 Ethics paper.

H. Attitude

- Meaning
- Components
 - Cognitive
 - Affective
 - Behavioural
- Functions
 - Knowledge
 - Ego-defensive
 - Value-expressive
 - Adjustive
- Formation
- Beliefs
- Values
- Groups
- Socialisation
- Attitude-behaviour relationship
- Moral attitude
- Political attitude
- Prejudice
- Stereotypes

I. Persuasion

- Persuasion
- Source
- Message
- Audience
- Credibility
- Emotional appeal
- Rational appeal
- Social influence
- Conformity
- Compliance
- Nudges
- Behavioural change

J. Aptitude and Civil Service Values

- Integrity
- Impartiality
- Non-partisanship
- Objectivity
- Dedication to public service
- Empathy
- Tolerance
- Compassion
- Courage of conviction
- Political neutrality
- Responsiveness

K. Emotional Intelligence

- Self-awareness
- Self-regulation
- Motivation
- Empathy
- Social skills
- Emotional regulation
- Conflict management
- Leadership
- Administrative application
- EI development

L. Ethics in Public Administration

- Public interest
- Public trust
- Rule of Law
- Administrative discretion
- Political pressure
- Neutrality
- Anonymity
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Conflict of interest
- Abuse of discretion
- Favouritism
- Nepotism
- Patronage

M. Probity in Governance

- Meaning
- Importance
- Constitutional values
- Code of Ethics
- Code of Conduct

- Work culture
- Quality of service delivery
- Utilisation of public funds
- RTI
- Citizen's Charter
- Social audit
- Procurement
- Tendering
- Audit
- Vigilance

N. Corruption

- Petty corruption
- Grand corruption
- Political corruption
- Administrative corruption
- Cronyism
- Bribery
- Rent seeking
- Collusion
- Conflict of interest
- Causes
- Consequences
- Prevention
- Institutional measures
- Whistleblowing

O. Technology Ethics

- AI ethics
- Algorithmic bias
- Explainability
- Accountability
- Human oversight
- AI and professional integrity
- AI in education
- AI-generated research
- AI and creativity
- Facial recognition
- Surveillance
- Predictive policing
- Data privacy
- Digital exclusion
- Welfare algorithms
- Human dignity

The 2026 Ethics paper begins with AI-generated academic evaluation and asks specifically about accountability and integrity.

P. Medical and Bioethics

- Autonomy
- Informed consent
- Beneficence
- Non-maleficence
- Justice
- Confidentiality
- Paternalism
- Clinical trials
- Vulnerable communities
- Human experimentation
- Gene editing
- Stem cells
- Organ transplantation
- Surrogacy
- Abortion
- End-of-life care
- Euthanasia
- Public-health ethics

Paternalism vs Beneficence

- Patient autonomy
- Doctor's duty
- Informed choice
- Best-interest standard

These concepts were explicitly paired in 2026.

Q. Environmental Ethics

- Anthropocentrism
- Ecocentrism
- Biocentrism
- Stewardship
- Intergenerational equity
- Intragenerational equity
- Climate justice
- Ecological responsibility
- Public Trust Doctrine

- Development vs conservation
- Mining
- Displacement
- Tribal communities

R. Business Ethics

- Corporate governance
- Stakeholder responsibility
- Shareholder responsibility
- CSR
- ESG
- Consumer protection
- Employee welfare
- Conflict of interest
- Ethical advertising
- Corporate lobbying

S. Media Ethics

- Freedom
- Responsibility
- Accuracy
- Objectivity
- Privacy
- Trial by media
- Paid news
- Fake news
- Sensationalism
- Digital media ethics
- Photojournalism
- Conflict of interest

T. Ethics in International Relations

- National interest vs morality
- Realism
- Just War
- Humanitarian intervention
- Refugees
- Sanctions
- Arms trade
- Aid
- Climate justice
- Strategic interests
- Human rights

U. Ethics and National Security

- Security vs liberty
- Surveillance vs privacy
- Counter-terrorism
- Use of force
- Human rights
- Torture
- Detention
- Proportionality
- Strategic necessity
- Democratic accountability

PYQ SIGNAL | National security versus human rights was directly asked in 2026 GS-IV.

V. Ethical Dilemmas in Administration

- Rules vs compassion
- Law vs conscience
- Efficiency vs equity
- Efficiency vs effectiveness
- Transparency vs confidentiality
- Loyalty vs legality
- Neutrality vs political responsiveness
- Public interest vs individual rights
- Security vs liberty
- Development vs environment
- Growth vs displacement
- Empathy vs impartiality
- Beneficence vs autonomy
- Technology vs dignity
- Short-term results vs institutional integrity

W. Efficiency and Effectiveness

- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Economy
- Productivity
- Goal orientation
- Ethical limits of efficiency
- Balancing process and outcome

UPSC explicitly contrasted doing things right with doing the right thing in 2026.

X. Case Study Framework

Every case study should be broken into:

1. Facts of the case
2. Stakeholders
3. Ethical issues
4. Values involved
5. Rights and duties
6. Legal/institutional constraints
7. Conflicts of interest
8. Available options
9. Merits of each option
10. Demerits of each option
11. Immediate course of action
12. Communication strategy
13. Accountability mechanism
14. Long-term institutional reform
15. Reasoned final decision

Exact GS-IV Dimensions

- Ethics in Private and Public Relationships
 - Personal, family, professional and public-role obligations
 - Conflict between private loyalty and public duty
 - Boundary between legality, morality and public interest
- Inculcation of Human Values
 - Role of family
 - Role of society and community
 - Role of educational institutions
- Lessons from Great Leaders, Reformers and Administrators
 - Life, teachings and ethical application
 - Administrative relevance and contemporary application
- Aptitude
 - Meaning and relevance to civil services
 - Aptitude, attitude, competence and values
- Sources of Ethical Guidance
 - Laws, rules and regulations
 - Conscience and moral reasoning
 - Institutional norms and professional codes
- Strengthening Ethical and Moral Values in Governance
 - Ethics infrastructure and institutional design
 - Leadership, training and organisational culture
 - Transparency, accountability and incentive structures
- Philosophical Basis of Governance and Probity
 - Public service, public trust and legitimacy
 - Justice, rights, duty and common good
 - Constitutional morality and ethical governance