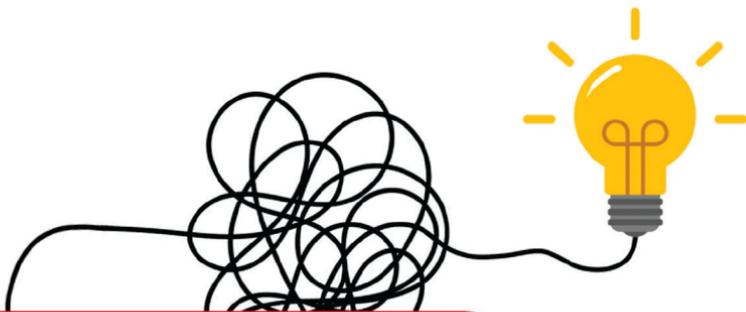


# Chronicle's MICRO DECODED SYLLABUS

*with* **MAPPING OF TOPICS**



## UPSC CSE Prelims (GS I) & Mains (GS I-IV)

- **Concept Mapping:** Syllabus Lines Decoded into Sub-Topics and Current Trends
- **Trend Analysis:** Review of Last 10-Years' Prelims and Mains Patterns
- **Integrated Strategy:** Coverage of Overlapping Themes with Topics on Prelims & Mains
- **Precision Filtering:** Defined Study Boundaries to Prevent Information Overload
- **Micro-Analysis:** Static Subjects Linked with Recurring Current Themes

Self Study  
Mentorship  
Book



**CHRONICLE**

CHRONICLE | Nurturing Talent Since 1990

# **Chronicle's MICRO DECODED UPSC CSE SYLLABUS**

**with Mapping of Topics  
Prelims (Paper-I) & Mains (Paper I-IV)**

*Editor*

**N.N. Ojha**

Guiding Civil Services Aspirants Since 35 Years

*Design & Developed by*

Chronicle Editorial Team



**CHRONICLE**

Nurturing Talent Since 1990

# Preface

The UPSC Civil Services Examination tests how well a candidate understands issues and applies clear strategy. The official syllabus gives only a basic outline. Because the exam keeps changing, many aspirants remain confused about what to study and what to skip. To solve this problem, Civil Services Chronicle presents '**Micro Decoded: UPSC Prelims and Mains Syllabus with Mapping of Topics**'.

In this book, the broad syllabus headings are broken down into small, clear **micro-topics**. This helps aspirants understand how UPSC asks questions and which areas are more important. Static subjects are linked with current affairs, and the needs of both Prelims and Mains are covered together. This approach removes confusion and supports complete, focused preparation.

## Key Features of the Book

- **Micro Decoding:** Each line of the syllabus is explained in detail through micro-topics. Topics of current affairs are covered from both Prelims and Mains perspectives.
- **Trend Mapping:** Analysis of the last 10 years' questions (Prelims and Mains) given to identify important and repeated topics/areas.
- **Strategic Filtering:** Clear topic boundaries are provided to avoid unnecessary reading/information overload with overarching themes for Mains.

Our aim is to turn the syllabus from a confusing document into a clear and practical roadmap. *This book* will guide aspirants with direction and confidence, helping them to convert hard work into smart and effective results.

**N. N. Ojha**

*Editor*

*Civil Services Chronicle*

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# MICRO DECODED

## UPSC CSE PRELIMS SYLLABUS

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### General Studies (Paper-I)

#### UPSC Prescribed Syllabus

1. Current events of national and international importance.
2. History of India and Indian National Movement.
3. Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
4. Indian Polity and Governance – Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
5. Economic and Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc.
6. General issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change – that do not require subject specialization.
7. General Science.

#### Current Events of National and International Importance

- Major government initiatives and schemes
- Major bills passed in Parliament in recent sessions
- Economic Survey and Budget highlights
- India's rankings in global indexes
- International organizations and summits
- Recent constitutional amendments
- Key Supreme Court and High Court judgments
- Important National and International appointments
- Major Awards (Nobel, Padma, etc.)
- Major Sports events and Indian achievements
- Major International conflicts and peace agreements
- India's bilateral and multilateral agreements
- India's foreign policy developments
- Important national and international reports
- Environmental disasters
- Major technological developments
- Important national and international reports
- Places and countries in news due to civil wars, military conflicts or economic crisis
- Ethnic groups/racial groups in news due to various reasons

## **History of India and Indian National Movement**

### **Ancient India**

- **Pre-Historic India:** Key Sites, Economy and Culture, Characteristic Tools associated with Key Sites and Period.
- **Indus Valley Civilization:** Sites, Features, Art Forms, Urbanization, Economy, Comparison with other Cultures/Civilizations, Crafts, Important Findings, Historians Associated with the Period.
- **Vedic Culture:** Settlements, Expansion, Vedic vs. Later Vedic Phase, Religion and Society, Economy, Transition from Pastoralism to Agriculture
- **Mahajanpadas and Second Urbanisation:** Political Developments, Geographical Extent, Urban Centres, Economy, and Culture
- **Jainism And Buddhism:** Foundation, Teachings, Sects, Events
- **Mauryan Empire:** Administration, Dhamma, Ashoka's Edicts, Historians and Archaeologists associated with the Period, Art and Architecture.
- **Post-Mauryan Kingdoms:** Shungas, Satvahanas, Kushanas, Sakas (Scythians), Parthians (Pahlavas), Indo-Greeks, Culture and Society, Land Grants, Trade Routes, Religious Changes, Art and Architecture.
- **Sangam Age:** Literature, Polity, Society and Culture, Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas
- **Gupta Period:** Political Events, Administration
- **Harshavardhana :** Political Events, Religion, Society and Culture
- **Expansion of Civilization in Eastern India:** Kalinga (Kharvela), Assam (Kamarupa)
- **Pre-Medieval History**
  - \* **Gurjara-Pratiharas:** Important Rulers, Tripartite Struggle with Rashtrakutas and Pala
  - \* **Palas of Bengal:** Important Rulers, Tripartite Struggle with Rashtrakutas and Pratiharas
  - \* **Rashtrakutas:** Important Rulers , Rock-Cut Architecture
  - \* **Chauhans (Chahmanas)**
  - \* **Chandellas:** Important Rulers, Temple Architecture
  - \* **Paramaras**
  - \* **Gahadvalas**
  - \* **Southern India:** Cholas, Later Chalukyas, Hoysalas
  - \* **Cholas:** Important Rulers, Naval Expeditions, Administration, Local Governance System, Art and Architecture
  - \* **Later Chalukyas :** Important Rulers, Political Conflicts
  - \* **Hoysalas:** Important Rulers, Belur and Halebidu Temples
- **Arab and Early Turkish Invasions**
  - \* **Muhammad Bin Qasim:** Conquest of Sindh
  - \* **Mahmud of Ghazni**
  - \* **Muhammad Ghori:** Battles and Foundation of Sultanate

### Current Themes and Linkages to Look For

- Recent Government Schemes & Policies.
- Important Supreme Court & High Court Judgments
- Reports by CAG, Finance Commission, NHRC, etc.
- Bills and Acts passed by Parliament.
- **Issues in News:** Technology and Constitution

## **Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.**

- **Basic Macroeconomic Concepts**
  - \* **National Income Accounting:** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - Nominal vs. Real, GNP, NNP, Per Capita Income. Methods of calculating GDP (Production, Income, Expenditure).
  - \* **Money & Banking:** Money Supply (M0, M1, M2, M3), Functions of RBI and Commercial Banks. Monetary Policy (Repo Rate, Reverse Repo Rate, CRR, SLR), Inflation Targeting.
  - \* **Fiscal Policy:** Government Budget (Revenue vs. Capital Account), Deficits (Fiscal, Revenue, Primary), Public Debt, FRBM Act.
  - \* **Inflation:** Types, Causes, and Measurement (Wholesale Price Index - WPI, Consumer Price Index - CPI).
  - \* **Economic Growth vs. Economic Development**
    - » Difference between Quantitative Growth and Qualitative Development.
    - » **Human Development Index (HDI):** Dimensions (Health, Education, Standard of Living). India's rank and performance (latest UNDP reports).
    - » **Other Indices:** Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Inequality-Adjusted HDI (IHDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII).
- **Social Issues, Inclusion, and Demographics**
  - \* **Poverty and Inequality**
    - » **Poverty:** Definitions (Absolute vs. Relative Poverty). Poverty Lines in India (Tendulkar Committee, Rangarajan Committee). Causes, Characteristics, and Trends.
    - » **Inequality:** Income and Wealth Inequality. Measurement (Lorenz Curve, Gini Coefficient). Causes and Consequences of rising Inequality in India.
  - \* **Demographics**
    - » **Population Census:** Key Findings and Trends from the 2011 Census.
    - » **Demographic Dividend:** Concept, Opportunities, and Challenges for India.
    - » **Key Terms:** Population Pyramid, Dependency Ratio, Sex Ratio, Literacy Rate.
    - » National Population Policy, 2000.
- **Social Sector Initiatives**
  - \* **Health:** National Health Mission (NHM), Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY & Health & Wellness Centres), National Digital Health Mission (NDHM). **Key Indicators:** Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), Life Expectancy.

# PRELIMS : ALL IN ONE SUBJECT-WISE PATTERN ANALYSIS & OBSERVATION

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## **Current Events of National & International Importance**

- Newly launched national or International initiative
- New foreign policy initiative
- 'Places in news' due to civil war, military conflict, economic or environmental crisis
- **Terms in News:** Technological, economic, etc.
- Recently released 'books' and authors
- Newly discovered species of flora and fauna
- Cities in news
- Recent sports events
- Organizations and summits associated with them

## **History of India and National Movement**

- **"Correct Chronology/Sequence" Questions:** In this type of questions, UPSC asks to arrange the correct sequence of various events. These types of questions are primarily asked from Modern India.
- **Associations based Questions:** In this section, aspirants are asked to correctly associate either particular time period with events or art form or particular event/policy with personality.
- **"Matching" Questions:** Most popular themes asked in this type of questions are:
  - \* Rulers with their capitals/kingdoms
  - \* Personalities with their work/writings
  - \* Saints/reformers with their movements/teachings
  - \* Freedom fighters/sociocultural reformers with their movements/organizations
  - \* Dance forms with geographical regions
  - \* Architecture styles with their examples

In recent years, UPSC has focussed more on regional dynasties, women personalities, cross-cultural themes and UNESCO sites.

- **Terminology based Questions:** UPSC, almost every year, asks term-based questions. These terms could be associated with administration, economy, culture, literature or religion.
- **"Location/Map-Based" Questions:** These type of questions are mainly focussed on:

# PRELIMS : LAST MILE CRITICAL PREPARATION STRATEGIES

---

- **Timeline-Based Study**
  - \* 18-24 months before exam
  - \* **Beyond 2 Years:** Rarely asked directly
  - \* **Less than 1 Month:** Too recent (exam setting time)
- **Multi-dimensional Analysis Framework:** For any current event, analyse:
  - \* **Basic Facts:** What, when, where, who
  - \* **Significance:** Why it matters nationally/internationally
  - \* **Scheme/Policy:** Objectives, beneficiaries, ministry, budget
  - \* **Challenges:** Implementation issues, criticism
  - \* **Way Forward:** Reforms needed, government steps
  - \* **Linkages:** Connect with static/conceptual topics
  - \* **Mains Angles:** Ethics, governance, society, economy
- **High-Yield Topics (Recurring Pattern)**
  - \* Budget highlights and schemes announced
  - \* Economic Survey key themes
  - \* India's ranking in major indices
  - \* G20/BRICS/SCO summits
  - \* Major bilateral visits and outcomes
  - \* Supreme Court landmark judgments
  - \* Major government schemes modifications
  - \* Climate conferences and India's position
  - \* Defense/space achievements
  - \* Technology policy changes
- **Integration Techniques**
  - \* **For Prelims**
    - » Maintain month-wise current affairs notes
    - » Create acronym lists for schemes
    - » Ministry-wise scheme classification
    - » Timeline charts for international events
  - \* **For Mains**
    - » Issue-based compilation (not date-wise)
    - » Quote collection from government reports
    - » Data points and statistics
    - » Case studies from newspapers
- **Important Statistical Facts Asked**
  - \* **Economic Indicators:** GDP growth rate, fiscal deficit, CAD, inflation rate
  - \* **Population Data:** Literacy rate, sex ratio, demographic dividend
  - \* **Energy Statistics:** Renewable energy capacity, import dependency
  - \* **Rankings:** HDI, EDB, Innovation Index positions
  - \* **Budget Allocations:** Defense, education, health as % of GDP
  - \* **SDG-Progress:** India's performance on 17 goals
  - \* **Agricultural Data:** MSP rates, production figures, export volumes

# MAINS: 10 YEARS' COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

---

## **GS Paper - I (Indian Heritage, Culture, & Society): Current Affairs Integration Pattern**

- **Indian Society and Social Justice**
  - \* **Demographic Trends**
    - » Population dividend debates
    - » Aging population concerns
    - » Sex ratio improvements/concerns
    - » Fertility rate changes
  - \* **Urbanization & Migration**
    - » Smart Cities Mission outcomes
    - » Urban poverty and slums
    - » Reverse migration (especially post-COVID)
    - » Urban local governance challenges
  - \* **Social Justice & Vulnerable Sections**
    - » **Women's Issues:** Workplace safety, representation (recurring)
    - » **SC/ST Issues:** Atrocity cases, reservation debates
    - » **Tribal Rights:** FRA implementation, displacement
    - » **LGBTQ+ Rights:** Post-377 developments
    - » **Disability Rights:** RPWD Act implementation
- **Geography, Environment and Disaster Management**
  - \* **Integration of any Geographical phenomenon with recent disaster :** Like if there was a cyclone in any part of India, it asks question conceptual understanding of types of cyclone
  - \* **Resource management :** Like if there was a news regarding scarcity issue of water resources a probable question will be on it
  - \* **Political Geography:** How water sharing becomes a source of conflict between states and nations.
  - \* **Environmental Degradation & Conservation Policies :**
    - » **Themes:** Air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plain (Great Smog of Delhi), deforestation in the Amazon or the North-East, conservation success of Project Tiger/Lion, new Wetland City accreditation under Ramsar.
    - » **Efficacy of Policies:** Critical analysis of laws like the Forest Rights Act (FRA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and conservation projects.
    - » **Biogeography:** Understanding the relationship between soil, climate, and natural vegetation, and how it's being disrupted.
  - \* **Climate Change & Its Manifestations:** UPSC uses specific, recent events to ask about the larger, slower process of climate change.

# MICRO DECODED

## UPSC CSE MAINS SYLLABUS

### WITH 'MAPPING' OF TOPICS

#### General Studies (Paper-I)

(Indian Heritage & Culture, History & Geography of the World and Society)

## INDIAN HERITAGE & CULTURE

### Indian Culture - Salient Aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from Ancient to Modern Times

#### Overarching Themes for the Entire Topic

Before diving into specifics, keep these meta-themes in mind for any question:

- **Synthesis and Syncretism:** How Indian culture absorbed, integrated, and transformed diverse influences (Indigenous, Greek, Persian, Islamic, and European).
- **Religious-Philosophical Underpinnings:** How art, literature, and architecture were manifestations of religious beliefs (Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, Islam) and philosophical ideas.
- **Patronage and Political Expression:** How different dynasties used culture as a tool for legitimacy, propaganda, and displaying power.
- **Regional Variations and Pan-Indian Unity:** The distinct styles of different regions (e.g., Nagara vs. Dravida architecture) that contribute to a composite Indian culture.
- **From Sacred to Secular:** The evolution of themes from purely religious to incorporating courtly life, historical narratives, and human emotions.
- **Modern Interpretations and Continuity:** How ancient art forms and themes are being revived and re-interpreted in contemporary India.

#### Indian Heritage & Culture

- **Performing Arts:** Aims and objectives of performing arts and their development through various stages.
- **Indian Philosophy & Thinkers**
  - \* **Schools of Philosophy:** Orthodox (Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, Mimamsa, Vedanta) and Heterodox (Charvaka, Buddhism, Jainism).
  - \* **Key Texts & Thinkers:** Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita; Shankaracharya (Advaita), Ramanuja (Vishishtadvaita), Madhvacharya (Dvaita).
  - \* Modern Indian Thinkers

# HISTORY

## **Modern Indian History from about the Middle of the Eighteenth Century until the Present- Significant Events, Personalities, Issues The Freedom Struggle – Its Various Stages and Important Contributors/Contributions from Different Parts of the Country**

### Overarching Themes for Analysis

- Evolution of nationalist consciousness
- Causes and Consequences
- Analysis of why movements succeeded or failed
- Long-term impact of events and policies
- Gender perspectives in freedom struggle
- Regional variations in national movement
- Limitations of movements and leaders
- Role of different classes in freedom struggle
- Unintended consequences of colonial policies
- **Nature of Indian Nationalism:** Elite vs. mass
- **Communalism:** Causes and manifestations

### **Decline of Mughal Empire & Regional Powers (1707-1857)**

- **Political Fragmentation**
  - \* **Causes of Mughal Decline:** Weak successors, administrative breakdown, economic crisis
  - \* **Rise of Regional Kingdoms:** Marathas, Bengal, Awadh, Hyderabad, Mysore, Punjab
  - \* **Maratha Confederacy:** Peshwas, Shivaji's legacy, Third Battle of Panipat (1761)
  - \* **Mysore:** Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan's resistance, Anglo-Mysore Wars
  - \* **Punjab:** Maharaja Ranjit Singh's unified Sikh Empire
- **European Entry and Expansion**
  - \* **Trading Companies:** Portuguese, Dutch, French, English
  - \* Battle of Plassey (1757) and Battle of Buxar (1764)
  - \* Anglo-French rivalry in the Carnatic Wars
  - \* Subsidiary Alliance system and Doctrine of Lapse
  - \* **Administrative Policies:** Dual Government, Permanent Settlement (1793)

### **Consolidation of British Rule (1757-1857)**

- **Economic Exploitation**
  - \* Drain of Wealth theory; \* Deindustrialization of India
  - \* Commercialization of agriculture
  - \* **Land Revenue Systems:** Zamindari, Ryotwari, Mahalwari
  - \* Impact on artisans and craftsmen

# SOCIETY

## Salient Features of Indian Society, Diversity of India

### Intersecting Themes

- Constitutional values and their role in managing diversity
  - Equality vs. equity debate in diverse contexts
  - Tradition vs. modernity tensions
  - Social justice measures and their effectiveness
  - Identity politics and group mobilization
  - Tolerance and accommodation as Indian civilizational values
- **Unity in Diversity**
    - \* Geographical, linguistic, religious, and cultural diversity coexisting with underlying unity
    - \* Common civilizational ethos and shared historical experiences
    - \* Constitutional framework promoting unity (citizenship, fundamental rights)
    - \* National symbols and integration mechanisms
  - **Religious Diversity**
    - \* **Multi-religious Character:** Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, tribal religions
    - \* Religious pluralism and syncretism (composite culture)
    - \* Secularism as a constitutional value
    - \* Religious tolerance and inter-faith harmony
    - \* **Challenges:** Communalism, religious polarization, conversion
  - **Linguistic Diversity**
    - \* 22 scheduled languages and hundreds of dialects
    - \* **Language Families:** Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Sino-Tibetan, Austroasiatic
    - \* Three-language formula
    - \* Language-based state reorganization (1956)
    - \* **Issues:** Linguistic chauvinism, imposition debates, protection of minority languages
  - **Ethnic and Racial Diversity**
    - \* Multiple ethnic groups and racial stocks
    - \* Tribal diversity and Scheduled Tribes
    - \* Regional identities and sub-nationalities
    - \* Northeast India's distinct ethnic composition
    - \* Migration patterns and demographic shifts
  - **Social Stratification**
    - \* **Caste System:** Hierarchy, endogamy, varna and jati distinctions
    - \* Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes
    - \* Untouchability and discrimination
    - \* Class divisions based on economic factors
    - \* Intersectionality of caste, class, gender, and region

# GEOGRAPHY

## Salient Features of World's Physical Geography

- **Geomorphology**
  - \* Origin & Evolution of Earth
  - \* Interior of the Earth
  - \* Distribution of Continents & Oceans
  - \* Plate Tectonic Theory
  - \* Distribution of Earthquakes & Volcanoes
  - \* Rocks & Rock Cycle
  - \* Geomorphic Processes – Endogenic & Exogenic
  - \* Landforms & their Evolution
  - \* Geological Time Scale
- **Oceanography**
  - \* Hydrological Cycle
  - \* Seafloor Spreading
  - \* Ocean Floor Configuration
  - \* Temperature & Salinity of Oceans
  - \* Movement of Oceans – Waves, Tides, Currents
- **Climatology**
  - \* **Atmosphere Structure:** Troposphere, stratosphere, etc.
  - \* **Weather vs Climate:** Definitions and differences
  - \* **Temperature Distribution:** Factors, isotherms
  - \* **Pressure Systems:** High/low pressure, pressure belts
  - \* **Wind Systems:** Trade winds, westerlies, monsoons
  - \* **Precipitation:** Types, orographic/convectional rainfall
  - \* **Climate Classification:** Köppen's classification
- **Oceanography**
  - \* **Ocean Relief:** Continental shelf, slope, abyssal plains
  - \* **Ocean Temperature:** Distribution, thermoclines
  - \* **Ocean Currents:** Warm/cold currents, causes, effects
  - \* **Tides:** Causes, types, tidal range
  - \* **Ocean Resources:** Fishing, minerals, energy

## **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)**

### **Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the World**

#### **Energy Resources**

- **Fossil Fuels**
  - \* **Coal:** Distribution in China, USA, Russia, India, Australia; types (anthracite, bituminous, lignite); global reserves and production trends
  - \* **Petroleum & Natural Gas:** Major reserves in Middle East (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq, Iran), Russia, USA, Nigeria, Venezuela; offshore fields; production vs. reserves ratio
  - \* **Hydrocarbon Reserves:** OPEC countries; shale oil and tight gas exploration; unconventional sources
- **Renewable Energy Resources**
  - \* **Solar Energy:** High potential in tropical and subtropical regions; distribution in Africa, Australia, Middle East, South Asia
  - \* **Wind Energy:** Coastal areas, high-altitude regions; Europe's leadership; Asia-Pacific growth
  - \* **Hydroelectric Power:** Rivers with significant elevation changes; Amazon, Congo, Yangtze, Brahmaputra, Indus basins
  - \* **Geothermal Energy:** Tectonic plate boundaries; Iceland, New Zealand, Philippines, Indonesia, Central America
  - \* **Biomass:** Tropical regions with dense vegetation; Brazil, Indonesia, central Africa

#### **Metallic Minerals**

- **Ferrous Minerals**
  - \* Iron Ore
  - \* Manganese
  - \* Chromite
- **Non-Ferrous Minerals**
  - \* Copper
  - \* Aluminium/Bauxite
  - \* Zinc & Lead
  - \* Nickel
  - \* Tin
  - \* Gold
  - \* Silver
  - \* Rare Earth Elements

## **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**

### **Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States**

- **Legislative Relations**
- **Administrative Relations**
- **Financial Relations**
  - \* Grants-in-Aid
  - \* Finance Commission
  - \* Goods and Services Tax Council

### **Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure**

- The “Quasi-Federal” or “Cooperative Federalism” Debate
- **Emerging Flashpoints and Conflicts**
  - \* Inter-State Water Disputes
  - \* Issues of Governors
  - \* Implementation of Central Schemes
  - \* President’s Rule (Article 356)
  - \* Public Order vs. National Security
- **Asymmetrical Federalism**
  - \* **Jammu & Kashmir:** The abrogation of Article 370 and its implications for the federal structure.
  - \* Special Provisions for North-Eastern States
  - \* Union Territories with Legislatures

### **Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein**

- **Historical and Constitutional Backdrop**
- **Challenges in Devolution to Local Levels**
  - \* Incomplete Devolution of Functions, Funds, and Functionaries
  - \* Capacity Building
  - \* Elite Capture and Corruption
  - \* Role of Bureaucracy
  - \* Parallel Bodies
  - \* Social issues/Proxy culture
  - \* Persistent Hierarchies
- **Devolution of Powers (Functional Domain)**
  - \* The Idea of “Functions”
  - \* Role of State Legislatures
  - \* Activity Mapping
  - \* Convergence with Line Departments

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

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## **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**

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### **Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the Population by the Centre and States & the Performance of these Schemes**

- **Vulnerable Sections-Identification**
  - \* Socially Vulnerable
  - \* Economically Vulnerable
  - \* Gender-Based Vulnerable
  - \* Age-Based Vulnerable
  - \* Occupation-Based Vulnerable
  - \* **Other Categories**
    - » Denotified Tribes (DNTs)
    - » Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)
    - » HIV/AIDS affected Persons
    - » Disaster-affected Populations

### **Thematic Linkages and Performance Analysis**

- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes vs. State Schemes**
  - \* Funding Pattern Issues
  - \* “One Size Fits All” Problem
- Convergence and Integration
- Technology in Welfare Delivery
- Leakage and Corruption
- Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure

### **Critical Analysis and Issues**

- Gaps in Coverage
- Design Issues
- Evaluation and Monitoring
- Structural Issues

### **Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies constituted for the Protection and Betterment of these Vulnerable Sections**

- **Constitutional Mechanisms to Safeguard: The Foundation**
  - \* Fundamental Rights

## **Important International Institutions, Agencies and Fora - their Structure, Mandate**

### **United Nations System**

- **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**
  - \* Structure
  - \* Mandate
  - \* Functions
  - \* India's Engagement
- **UN Security Council (UNSC)**
  - \* Structure
  - \* Mandate
  - \* Decision Making
  - \* Key Mechanisms
  - \* India's Position
- **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**
  - \* Structure
  - \* Mandate
  - \* Functional Commissions
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**
  - \* Structure
  - \* Jurisdiction
  - \* Mandate
  - \* Limitations
  - \* India's Engagement
- **UN Trusteeship Council**
  - \* Structure
  - \* Historical Mandate
- **UN Peacekeeping Operations**
  - \* Structure
  - \* Mandate Types
  - \* Principles
  - \* Financing
  - \* India's Role
- **UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)**
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- **International Labour Organization (ILO)**
- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
- **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**
- **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

## General Studies (Paper-III)

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

### Indian Economy and Issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Indian Economy - Basic Structure & Characteristics

- **Structural Characteristics of the Indian Economy**
  - \* **Sectoral Composition and Evolution**
    - » Trends
    - » Paradox
    - » Issues
  - \* **Demographic Structure**
    - » Demographic Dividend
    - » Challenges
  - \* **Mixed Economy Framework**
    - » Role of Public and Private Sectors
  - \* **Dependence on Agriculture**
    - » Monsoon Dependence
    - » Subsistence Farming
- **Key Features and Inherited Traits**
  - \* **A Developing (Low Middle-Income) Economy**
    - » Widespread Poverty and Inequality
    - » Low Per Capita Income
  - \* **Structural Dualism: Coexistence of Contrast**
  - \* **Infrastructure Deficit**
- **The Evolving Macroeconomic Structure**
  - \* Savings and Investment Trends
  - \* Fiscal Structure
  - \* External Sector

### Planning & Associated Issues

- **Historical Context**
- **Planning Models and Mechanisms**
  - \* Evolution of Planning in India (Five-Year Plans to NITI Aayog)
  - \* Centralized vs. Decentralized Planning
  - \* Indicative vs. Imperative Planning

## Inclusive Growth & Issues arising from it

### Overarching Reports and Data Sources

- NITI Aayog Reports on SDGs and Multidimensional Poverty
- Economic Survey Chapters on Employment and Inequality
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
- National Family Health Survey (NFHS)
- World Inequality Report
- Oxfam Inequality Reports

### Concept and Measurement of Inclusive Growth

- Definition and Dimensions of Inclusive Growth
- Difference between Growth, Development, and Inclusive Growth
- **Measuring Inclusiveness:** HDI, MPI, Gini Coefficient, Palma Ratio
- GDP vs. GNI vs. Inclusive Growth Indicators
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Framework

### Employment and Livelihood Issues

- Jobless Growth Phenomenon in India
- **Quality of Employment:** Formal vs. Informal Sector
- MGNREGA/ VB-G RAM G and Employment Guarantee Schemes
- Skill Development and Vocational Training Gaps
- Labor Force Participation Rate, Especially Women's Participation
- Gig Economy and Platform Workers' Rights
- Agricultural Distress and Rural Employment

### Poverty & Inequality

- Multidimensional Poverty vs. Income Poverty
- Regional Disparities (Inter-State and Intra-State)
- Urban-Rural Divide
- Wealth Concentration and Income Inequality
- Poverty Alleviation Programs and their Effectiveness
- Social Safety Nets and Targeted Subsidies

### Social Inclusion Challenges

- Caste-Based Exclusion and Discrimination
- Gender Inequality and Women's Empowerment
- Tribal and Marginalized Communities' Development
- Religious Minorities and Socio-Economic Status
- **Persons with Disabilities:** Accessibility and Opportunities
- Elderly Care and Demographic Dividend Issues

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Science and Technology- Developments and their Applications and Effects in Everyday Life Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology; Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology

### Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology

- **Nobel Laureates and Global Recognition**
  - \* **C.V. Raman** - Raman Effect and applications
  - \* **Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar** - Astrophysics contributions
  - \* **Har Gobind Khorana** - Genetic code research
  - \* **Venkatraman Ramakrishnan** - Ribosome structure
  - \* Impact of Indian scientists on global S&T landscape
- **Contemporary Indian Scientists**
  - \* **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** - Missile and space technology (PYQ 2015)
  - \* **Dr. Tessy Thomas** - Agni missile program
  - \* **Dr. K. Sivan** - ISRO achievements
  - \* **Dr. Gagandeep Kang** - Vaccine research
  - \* **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan** - Global health leadership
  - \* Indian-origin scientists in international organizations
- **Indian Contributions to Global S&T**
  - \* Mathematics and computing (Ramanujan's legacy)
  - \* Pharmaceutical innovations (generic drugs)
  - \* IT and software services
  - \* Space technology cost-effectiveness
  - \* Frugal innovation models (Jugaad innovation)
  - \* COVID-19 vaccine development (Covaxin, Covishield)
- **Recognition and Awards**
  - \* Padma Awards for scientists
  - \* Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize - Now Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)
  - \* Infosys Prize
  - \* International awards to Indian scientists
  - \* Brain drain vs. brain gain debate

### Indigenization of Technology

- **Defense Technology**
  - \* **Missile Systems**
    - » Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)
    - » **Agni series (I to V)** - Strategic deterrence

# BIO-DIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

## Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment

### Overarching Intersecting Themes for Mains

#### **Environmental Governance**

- Environmental federalism and center-state relations
- Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)
- Polluter Pays Principle and Precautionary Principle
- Inter-generational equity
- Public Trust Doctrine

#### **International Cooperation**

- Paris Agreement and climate negotiations
- Montreal Protocol (ozone layer protection)
- Basel Convention (hazardous waste)
- Stockholm Convention (POPs)
- UNFCCC and COP meetings
- International Solar Alliance
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

#### **Sustainable Development**

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linkages
- Circular economy principles
- Green economy transition
- Nature-based solutions
- Ecosystem-based adaptation
- Environmental economics and valuation

#### **Emerging Issues**

- Microplastics and nanoplastics
- Light pollution and its ecological impacts
- Space debris management
- Emerging contaminants (pharmaceuticals, endocrine disruptors)
- Climate justice and equity
- Just transition for fossil fuel-dependent regions
- Green hydrogen and renewable energy impacts

### **Conservation**

- **Biodiversity Conservation**
  - \* In-situ conservation (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, conservation reserves, community reserves)
  - \* Ex-situ conservation (zoos, botanical gardens, seed banks, cryopreservation)
  - \* Hotspots and endemic species protection
  - \* Threatened and endangered species management

- » Supply chain human rights
- » Climate risk disclosure
- » ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) investing
- » Sustainable development goals alignment
- \* **Governance Evolution**
  - » Stakeholder capitalism vs. shareholder primacy
  - » B-Corporations and benefit corporations
  - » Integrated reporting
  - » Long-termism vs. quarterly capitalism
  - » Activist investors and governance pressure

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**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**

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**Concept of Public Service**

- **Core Principles**
  - \* Public service as a trust: Fiduciary relationship with citizens
  - \* Service before self: Commitment to public welfare over personal interests
  - \* Accountability and responsibility: Answerability for actions and decisions
  - \* Neutrality and impartiality: Fairness across political, social, and religious lines
  - \* Dedication and commitment: Going beyond call of duty
- **Values in Public Service**
  - \* Integrity, honesty, objectivity
  - \* Political neutrality
  - \* Compassion and empathy
  - \* Courage and conviction
  - \* Responsiveness to public needs
- **Role and Responsibilities**
  - \* Policy implementation
  - \* Service delivery
  - \* Welfare maximization
  - \* Protection of public interest
  - \* Bridge between government and citizens

**Philosophical Basis of Governance and Probity**

- **Theoretical Foundations**
  - \* **Social Contract Theory:** Locke, Rousseau, Hobbes - government as a contract with people