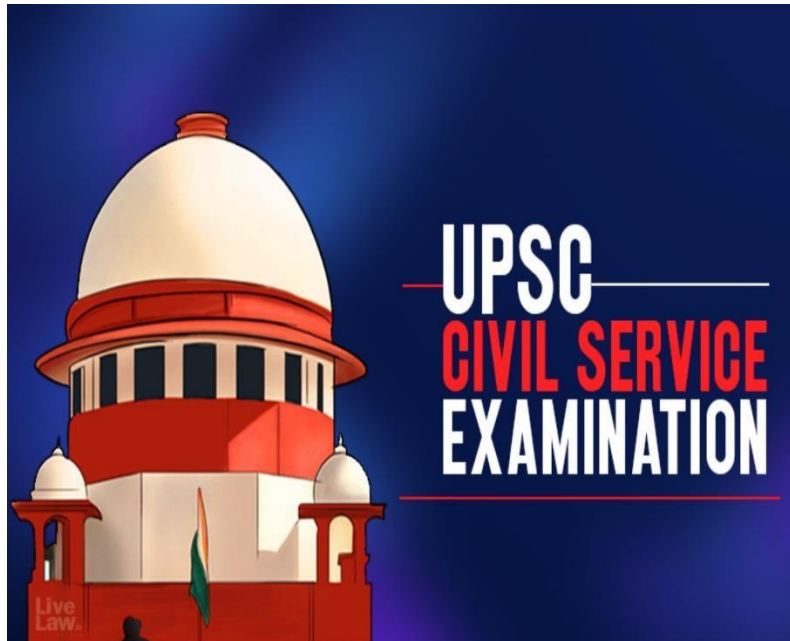


# UPSC CSE



## UPSC CSE DEFINITION :

The UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) is a national-level competitive examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for recruitment to various Civil Services of the Government of India, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and Indian Police Service (IPS). UPSC CSE is an annual examination designed to select candidates for various administrative positions in the government of India. It is one of the most challenging and prestigious exams in India, aimed at identifying candidates with the aptitude, skills, and knowledge required to serve the nation.

## Examination Stages:

### Preliminary Examination (Prelims):

- Objective type (multiple choice questions)
- Two papers: General Studies (GS) and Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT)

- Qualifying in nature, used to screen candidates for the Main Examination.

**Main Examination (Mains):**

- Descriptive type
- Nine papers, including:
- Two qualifying papers (Indian language and English)
- Seven papers counted for ranking (Essay, GS I-IV, and two optional subject papers)

**Personality Test (Interview):**

- Conducted for candidates who qualify the Mains Examination
- Evaluates the personality, leadership qualities, and communication skills of the candidates.

**Eligibility Criteria:****Nationality:**

- For IAS and IPS, the candidate must be a citizen of India.
- For other services, the candidate must be either a citizen of India, a subject of Nepal, a subject of Bhutan, a Tibetan refugee who came to India before January 1, 1962, or a person of Indian origin who has migrated from certain countries.

**Educational Qualification:**

- A Degree from a recognized university or an equivalent qualification.

**Age Limit:**

- Minimum: 21 years
- Maximum: 32 years (general category)
- Age relaxation applies for OBC, SC/ST, and other categories.

**Number of Attempts:**

- General: 6 attempts
- OBC: 9 attempts
- SC/ST: Unlimited attempts up to age limit

## Syllabus:

### Preliminary Examination:

#### Paper I: General Studies

- ✚ Current events of national and international importance
- ✚ History of India and Indian National Movement
- ✚ Indian and World Geography
- ✚ Indian Polity and Governance
- ✚ Economic and Social Development
- ✚ Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity, and Climate Change
- ✚ General Science **Paper**

#### II: CSAT

- ✚ Comprehension
- ✚ Interpersonal skills, including communication skills
- ✚ Logical reasoning and analytical ability
- ✚ Decision-making and problem-solving
- ✚ General mental ability
- ✚ Basic numeracy and data interpretation **Main**

## Examination:

- ❖ **Paper A: Indian Language (qualifying)**
- ❖ **Paper B: English (qualifying)**
- ❖ **Paper I: Essay**

- ❖ **Paper II: General Studies I** (Indian Heritage and Culture, History, and Geography of the World and Society)
- ❖ **Paper III: General Studies II** (Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and International relations)
- ❖ **Paper IV: General Studies III** (Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security, and Disaster Management)
- ❖ **Paper V: General Studies IV** (Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude)
- ❖ **Paper VI & VII: Optional Subject Papers I & II** (based on the candidate's chosen optional subject) **Selection Process:**

- Candidates must clear each stage (Prelims, Mains, Interview) to be considered for final selection.
- Final merit is based on the cumulative marks obtained in the Mains Examination and the Interview.

### **Preparation Tips:**

- Understand the exam pattern and syllabus thoroughly.
- Regularly read newspapers and stay updated with current events.
- Practice previous years' question papers and take mock tests.
- Develop a study plan and stick to it.
- Refer to standard study materials and books recommended for UPSC preparation.
- Focus on time management and answer writing skills.

*BOOKS FOR IAS PRELIMS GS PAPER I*

Subject	Books	Newspapers/Magazines
History	NCERT XI (Ancient & Medieval)  NCERT XII (Modern Indian History)  India's Struggle for Independence – Bipan Chandra  Facets of Indian Culture – Spectrum	The Hindu
Geography	NCERT VI – X (Old Syllabus)  NCERT XI, XII (New Syllabus)  Certificate Physical Geography – G C Leong	The Hindu, The Indian Express
Economics	NCERT XI  Economic Development & Policies in India – Jain & Ohri	The Frontline, Business Standard
Indian Polity	NCERT IX-XII  The Constitution of India – PM Bakshi  Indian Polity – M Laxmikanth	The Hindu, Yojana

International  
Relations

NCERT XII (Contemporary World Politic)  
World Atlas (TTK/Blackswan)

The Hindu, Kurukshetra

### BOOKS FOR IAS PRELIMS CSAT PAPER II

1. Tata McGraw Hill CSAT Manual
2. CSAT II – Arihant
3. Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning – R S Aggarwal (For the comprehension passage part)

Topics	Books
Indian Heritage & Culture, History	<p>NCERT XI</p> <p>NIOS notes on culture <a href="http://ccrtindia.gov.in">ccrtindia.gov.in</a></p> <p>Culture books of National Books Trust</p> <p>NCERT Ancient History</p> <p>The Wonder That was India – A L Basham</p> <p>Ancient India in Historical Outline – D N Jha</p> <p>NCERT Medieval Indian History</p> <p>IGNOU material</p> <p>Advanced Study in the History of Medieval India, Vol III: Medieval Indian Society and Culture by J. L. Mehta</p> <p>History of Medieval India – Satish Chandra</p> <p>A Social, Cultural and Economic History of India by P. N. Chopra, B. N. Puri, M. N. Das</p> <p>India's Struggle for Independence – Bipan Chandra</p> <p>India After Independence – Bipan Chandra</p> <p>NCERT XII: Politics in India after Independence</p> <p>Mastering Modern World History – Norman Lowe</p> <p>NCERT XII: Indian Society</p> <p>NCERT XII: Social Change and Development in India</p>

Geography of the World and Society

Certificate Physical and Human Geography – G C Leong

NCERT XI: Fundamentals of Physical Geography

NCERT XI: India: Physical Environment

NCERT XII: India: People and Economy

## BOOKS FOR IAS MAINS GENERAL STUDIES

### General Studies Paper I:

Geography of India – Majid Husain

World Geography – Majid Husain

Status of Forests Report

Orient BlackSwan School Atlas



**General Studies Paper-II:**

Topics	Books
Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice	<p>Indian Polity – M Laxmikanth</p> <p>NCERT XI: Indian Constitution at Work</p> <p>Introduction to the Constitution of India – D D Basu</p> <p>Constitution of India Bare Act</p> <p>Punchhi Commission Report</p> <p>Finance Commission Report</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Arc Report</p> <p>Five Year Plan Documents</p>
International Relations	<p>NCERT XII: Political Science: World Politics</p> <p>India's Foreign Policy – Rajiv Sikri</p>

**General Studies Paper III:**

Topics	Books

Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment	Indian Economy – Ramesh Singh  NCERT XI: India's Economic Development  NCERT XII: Geography India People and Economy  Budget  Economic Survey  Science and Technology – Spectrum
Security and Disaster Management	Internal Security & Disaster Management – Ashok Kumar  IGNOU  Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs

**General Studies Paper IV:**

Topics	Books
Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude	Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude for Civil Services Main Examination – G Subba Rao and P N Roy Chowdhury

**BOOKS FOR IAS MAINS OPTIONAL SUBJECTS**

The lists of reference books for some popular optionals are given below:

**HISTORY OPTIONAL**

1. A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India – Upinder Singh

2. Medieval India (2 volumes) – Satish Chandra
3. Medieval India: The Study of a Civilization – Irfan Habib
4. India's Struggle for Independence – Bipan Chandra
5. India since Independence – Bipan Chandra
6. From Plassey to Partition – Shekhar Bandhopadhyay
7. Mastering Modern World History – Norman Lowe
8. A History of the Modern World – Ranjan Chakrabarti

### **GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL**

1. Physical Geography – Savindra Singh
2. Physical Geography Made Simple – Rupa Publication
3. Evolution of Geographical Thought – Majid Husain
4. Models in Geography – Majid Husain
5. Certificate in Physical and Human Geography – G C Leong
6. Economic and Social Geography Made Simple – Rupa Publication
7. Dictionary of Human Geography
8. Regional Planning in India – Mahesh Chand
9. India – A Comprehensive Geography – Khuller

### **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OPTIONAL**

1. Administrative Thinkers – Prasad and Prasad
2. Public Administration and Public Affairs – Nicholas Henry
3. Essentials of Organizational Behavior – Stephen P Robbins
4. New Horizons of Public Administration – Mohit Bhattacharya
5. IGNOU material
6. Indian Administration – R K Arora, Rajni Goyal
7. Ethics in Governance – R K Arora
8. Public Administration in India – Fadia and Fadia
9. Reports of 2<sup>nd</sup> administration Reforms Commissions

### **SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL**

1. Sociology – Anthony Giddens
2. Sociological Thought – Francis Abraham and John Henry Morgan
3. Political Theory – O P Gauba
4. IGNOU
5. Handbook of Indian Sociology – Veena Das

6. Modernization of Indian Tradition – Yogendra Singh
7. Rural Sociology – Doshi and Jain
8. Indian Society and Culture – Nadeem Hasnain
9. Social Change in India – M N Srinivas
10. Caste: It's Twentieth Century Avatar – M N Srinivas

## **ANTHROPOLOGY OPTIONAL**

1. Physical Anthropology: P Nath/B M Das
2. Indian Anthropology: Nadeem Hasnain/ V S Sahay and Pradeep K Singh
3. Social Anthropology: Ember and Ember/ Makhan Jha/ D N Majumdar and T N Madan, N K Vaid
4. Anthropological Thought – Upadhyay and Pandey

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE OPTIONAL**

1. Our Constitution – Subhash Kashyap
2. Our Parliament – Subhash Kashyap
3. History of Political Thought – Mukherjee and Ramaswamy
4. Political Theory – O P Gauba
5. Indian Political Thought – Mahendra Prasad and Himanshu Roy
6. Politics in India – Rajni Kothari
7. Indian Foreign Policy – Gupta and Shukla
8. United Nations – Rumki Basu

## **ECONOMICS OPTIONAL**

1. Microeconomics – Ahuja and Koutsyansis
2. International Economics – Salvatore
3. Macroeconomics – H L Ahuja
4. Money and Banking – Gupta and Ahuja
5. Indian Economy – Datt and Sundaram
6. Indian Economy – Mishra and Puri
7. Indian Economy – Performance and Policies – Uma Kapila
8. Economic Survey
9. Business newspapers
10. RBI Website

## UPSC (CSE) CALENDAR :

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS/RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) -2024					
Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			13.01.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
2.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2024	06.09.2023	26.09.2023	18.02.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
3.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2024	20.09.2023	10.10.2023	18.02.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
4.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			24.02.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
5.	CISF AC(EXE) LDCE-2024	29.11.2023	19.12.2023	10.03.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
6.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			09.03.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
7.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2024	20.12.2023	09.01.2024	21.04.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
8.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2024				
9.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2024	14.02.2024	05.03.2024	26.05.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
10.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2024 through CS(P) Examination 2024				
11.	I.E.S./L.S.S. Examination, 2024	10.04.2024	30.04.2024	21.06.2024 (FRIDAY)	3 DAYS
12.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2024			22.06.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
13.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2024			23.06.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
14.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			06.07.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
15.	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2024	10.04.2024	30.04.2024	14.07.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
16.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2024	24.04.2024	14.05.2024	04.08.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
17.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			10.08.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
18.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2024	15.05.2024	04.06.2024	01.09.2024 (SUNDAY)	1 DAY
19.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2024				
20.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2024			20.09.2024 (Friday)	5 DAYS
21.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			19.10.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
22.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2024			24.11.2024 (SUNDAY)	7 DAYS
23.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	11.09.2024	01.10.2024	07.12.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
24.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			21.12.2024 (SATURDAY)	2 DAYS
<b>Note : The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations/ RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.</b>					

## Subject-Wise UPSC Preparation Strategy

The UPSC Syllabus is very vast, and the General Studies subjects play an important role in the **UPSC preparation**. Here is step-by-step guidance for different subjects on how to prepare for UPSC strategically:

<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Begin by thoroughly understanding the UPSC syllabus for the history optional subject.</li> <li>□ NCERT Books: Start with NCERT textbooks for history from classes 6 to 12.</li> <li>□ Standard Reference Books: After NCERTs, move on to standard reference books like "India's Struggle for Independence" by Bipin Chandra, "Ancient India" by R.S. Sharma, and "Modern India" by Bipin Chandra.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ While reading, take concise and organised notes. This helps in quick revisions and retaining important information.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Analyse <a href="#">UPSC previous year question papers</a> to understand the pattern and types of questions asked.</li> </ul>
<b>Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Economics is a crucial subject for both the Preliminary GS Paper 1 and Main Examination GS Paper 3 of the UPSC CSE. Start by thoroughly understanding the economics syllabus outlined by UPSC. The syllabus for both Prelims and Mains is available on the UPSC official website. Make a checklist of topics to cover.</li> <li>□ NCERT Books: Begin with NCERT textbooks for economics, such as Indian Economic Development (Class 11) and Macroeconomics (Class 12).</li> <li>□ Move on to more advanced economics textbooks. Some recommended books include "Indian Economy" by Ramesh Singh, and "Indian Economy" by Jayant Parikshit. Stay updated with current economic issues in India and globally. Read newspapers like The Hindu, The Indian Express, and Business Standard regularly.</li> <li>□ Analyse the <a href="#">Economic Survey</a> and the Union Budget of India, as they are crucial sources for UPSC economics questions. Focus on key economic indicators, policies, and initiatives.</li> <li>□ Reading economic journals like the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) and magazines like <a href="#">Yojana</a>.</li> <li>□ Economics is a dynamic subject, and <a href="#">current affairs</a> play a significant role in UPSC exams. Stay updated, practice writing, and develop a well-rounded understanding of economic concepts to excel in this subject in the UPSC CSE.</li> </ul>
<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Geography is an integral part of both the Preliminary GS Paper 1 and Main Examination GS Paper 1 of the UPSC CSE. Start with NCERT geography textbooks, such as Fundamentals of Physical Geography (Class 11) and India - Physical Environment (Class 11) for the basics. For advanced concepts, use "India - People and Economy" (Class 12) and Fundamentals of Human Geography (Class 12).</li> <li>□ Some recommended books include Certificate Physical and Human Geography by Goh Cheng Leong and Geography of India by Majid Husain.</li> <li>□ Atlas books like the "Oxford School Atlas" or "Atlas of the World" are excellent resources. Understand map reading, latitude, longitude, and various types of maps.</li> <li>□ Stay updated with current geographical issues and developments in India and around the world.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Focus on understanding geographical concepts such as climate, landforms, population, urbanisation, and regional geography. Make use of diagrams, charts, and maps to enhance your understanding.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Practice map-based questions regularly, as they are a common component of the Prelims.</li> <li>□ Solve previous years' UPSC question papers to understand the type of questions asked and the level of difficulty.</li> </ul>
<b>Indian Polity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Indian Polity constitutes a significant portion of both the Preliminary GS Paper 1 and Main Examination GS Paper 2 of the UPSC CSE.</li> <li>□ Start with NCERT textbooks on Indian Polity, such as Indian Constitution at Work (Class 11) and Political Theory (Class 11).</li> <li>□ Move on to more advanced Indian Polity textbooks like Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth and Introduction to the Constitution of India by D.D. Basu.</li> <li>□ Read and understand the <a href="#">Indian Constitution</a> thoroughly. It's the backbone of Indian Polity. Pay attention to its articles, schedules, and amendments. Make notes on key provisions. Stay updated with current political developments in India and around the world.</li> <li>□ Understand fundamental concepts like federalism, <a href="#">separation of powers</a>, fundamental rights, and directive principles. Pay special attention to topics like the parliamentary system, elections, and governance.</li> <li>□ While preparing for Mains, connect your knowledge of Indian Polity to current affairs topics. This will help you provide relevant and contemporary examples in your answers.</li> <li>□ Solve previous years' UPSC question papers to understand the type of questions asked and the level of difficulty.</li> </ul>
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Begin with the NCERT textbooks that cover art and culturerelated topics. F An Introduction to Indian Art - Part 1 (Class 11)</li> <li>□ An Introduction to Indian Art - Part 2 (Class 11) provides a good foundation. These books are essential for building a strong base. Standard Reference Books:</li> <li>□ Indian Art and Culture by Nitin Singhanian: This is a widely recommended book for UPSC Art and Culture preparation. It covers a broad range of topics in a structured manner. Facets of Indian Culture by Spectrum: This book provides insights into various aspects of Indian culture, including art, music, dance, and architecture.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Study the historical background and evolution of Indian art and culture. Understand the different dynasties, empires, and periods that have contributed to the rich cultural heritage of India.</li> <li>□ Art Forms: Learn about various Indian art forms, including classical and folk forms, their characteristics, and their</li> </ul>
	<p>significance. Pay attention to classical dance forms like Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi and music forms like Hindustani and Carnatic music.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Architecture: Study the architectural styles of various historical monuments and temples in India, such as Dravidian, Nagara, Mughal, and Indo-Islamic architecture. Understand the significance of these architectural styles.</li> <li>□ Cultural Practices and Festivals: Learn about cultural practices, traditions, and festivals of different regions in India. Understand the cultural significance of festivals like Diwali, Holi, Eid, and others.</li> <li>□ Artists and Personalities: Familiarise yourself with renowned artists, musicians, dancers, and their contributions to Indian art and culture.</li> <li>□ Museums and Artefacts: Understand the significance of major museums in India, such as the National Museum in Delhi and the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. Know about important artefacts and sculptures housed in these museums.</li> <li>□ Connect your knowledge of art and culture to current affairs topics, especially when discussing the preservation of cultural heritage, cultural policies, and government initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Science and Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Preparing for the Science and Technology section in the UPSC Civil Services Examination is crucial as it is part of the General Studies Paper 3 for both the Preliminary and Main Examinations.</li> <li>□ NCERT Books: Science - Class 6 to 10</li> <li>□ Science and Technology - Class 11 and 12 provide a solid foundation.</li> <li>□ Stay updated with current developments in science and technology by reading newspapers, magazines, and online sources.</li> <li>□ Consider subscribing to science and technology magazines like "Science Reporter" and "Down To Earth." These publications provide in-depth coverage of scientific advancements and environmental issues.</li> <li>□ Explore reputable websites such as the Department of Science and Technology and the ISRO for official information and updates.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Learn about advancements in biotechnology, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals. Understand important concepts like genetic engineering, vaccines, and recent healthcare initiatives.</li> <li>□ Study the major scientific institutions, research organisations and their contributions to science and technology in India, including ISRO, DRDO, CSIR, and ICMR.</li> <li>□ Be prepared to write essays and answers on ethical and social issues related to science and technology, such as privacy concerns, biotechnology ethics, and the impact of automation on employment.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Connect science and technology with other subjects like environment, governance, and economics. Understand how technological innovations impact various aspects of society and governance.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment and Ecology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Start with the NCERT textbooks on environment and ecology. For example, Our Environment (Class 7) and Environmental Studies (Class 11) provide a solid foundation. These books are essential for building a strong base.</li> <li>□ Stay updated with current environmental developments by reading newspapers, magazines, and online sources. Focus on environmental policies, conservation efforts, and international agreements.</li> <li>□ Consider subscribing to magazines like "Down To Earth" and "Environment and Ecology" to stay updated on environmental issues and solutions.</li> <li>□ Explore reputable websites such as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the World Wildlife Fund for official information and updates.</li> <li>□ Study the major environmental laws and policies in India, such as the Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, and the National Action Plan on Climate Change.</li> <li>□ Understand India's rich biodiversity, including wildlife conservation efforts and the significance of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and biosphere reserves.</li> <li>□ Learn about climate change, its impact on India, and the country's initiatives to combat climate change, including its commitments under international agreements like the Paris Agreement.</li> <li>□ Connect environment and ecology with other subjects like economics, governance, and public health. Understand the holistic impact of environmental issues.</li> <li>□ Government Policies and Initiatives: Know the government policies and initiatives related to the environment and ecology, such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Environmental Impact Assessment: Understand the EIA process and its significance in environmental governance. Know how environmental clearances are granted for development projects.</li></ul> |
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