

# UPSC SYLLABUS DECODED



**Komal Punia**  
Rank 6  
CSE 2024



**Srushti Deshmukh**  
Rank 5  
CSE 2018



**Animesh Pradhan**  
Rank 2  
CSE 2023



**Medha Anand**  
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## UPSC SYLLABUS MADE SIMPLE

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This UPSC syllabus Decoded will make your preparation much easier. We've taken the complicated official syllabus and organized it clearly so you know exactly what to study. Instead of feeling lost and wasting time, you can now focus on the right topics, track what you've learned, and feel confident about your preparation.

All The Best

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## EXAMINATION SCHEME

### Preliminary Examination (Qualifying)

- Paper I (General Studies): 200 marks
- Paper II (CSAT): 200 marks
- Duration: 2 hours each
- Type: Objective (Multiple Choice Questions)
- Paper II is qualifying in nature (minimum 33% required)

### Main Examination (For Final Selection)

- Paper A: Compulsory Indian Language - 300 marks
- Paper B: English - 300 marks
- Essay: 250 marks
- General Studies I: 250 marks
- General Studies II: 250 marks
- General Studies III: 250 marks
- General Studies IV: 250 marks
- Optional Subject Paper I: 250 marks
- Optional Subject Paper II: 250 marks
- Duration: 3 hours each
- Type: Written (Descriptive)

### Interview/Personality Test

- 275 marks

Total Marks for Ranking: 1750 (Main Written) + 275 (Interview) = 2025 marks

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## Optional Subject – 2 Papers (250 marks each)

Candidates must choose one optional subject from the list of subjects provided by UPSC:

1. Agriculture
2. Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science
3. Anthropology
4. Botany
5. Chemistry
6. Civil Engineering
7. Commerce & Accountancy
8. Economics
9. Electrical Engineering
10. Geography
11. Geology
12. History
13. Law
14. Management
15. Mathematics
16. Mechanical Engineering
17. Medical Science
18. Philosophy
19. Physics
20. Political Science & International Relations
21. Psychology
22. Public Administration
23. Sociology
24. Statistics
25. Zoology
26. Literature of any one language (from those listed in the 8th Schedule)

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## INTERVIEW/PERSONALITY TEST (275 marks)

The interview/personality test is conducted to assess the candidate's:

- Mental alertness
- Critical powers of assimilation
- Clear and logical exposition
- Balance of judgment
- Variety and depth of interest
- Leadership and intellectual and moral integrity
- Social traits and capacity for leadership
- Intellectual and moral integrity

## FINAL SELECTION AND RANKING

The final selection and ranking of candidates is determined by the total marks obtained in:

- Main Written Examination (1750 marks)
- Interview/Personality Test (275 marks)

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## PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

### Paper I - General Studies (200 marks)

#### 1. Current Events of National and International Importance

- ☐ Major government schemes (PMAY, Ayushman Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission)
- ☐ Recent constitutional amendments
- ☐ Key Supreme Court and High Court judgments
- ☐ Major bills and acts passed in Parliament
- ☐ Economic surveys and Union Budget highlights
- ☐ India's rankings in global indices (HDI, EPI, GHI, etc.)
- ☐ International summits (G20, BRICS, COP, SCO)
- ☐ India's bilateral and multilateral agreements
- ☐ Important appointments (national and international)
- ☐ Major awards (Padma, Nobel, Bharat Ratna, sports awards)
- ☐ Significant sports events and Indian achievements
- ☐ Major scientific and technological developments (ISRO, DRDO)
- ☐ Environmental disasters and responses (cyclones, floods, wildfires)
- ☐ Social issues (gender, caste, minorities, LGBTQ+ rights)
- ☐ Reports by NITI Aayog, World Bank, IMF, UN agencies
- ☐ New government initiatives (Digital India, Startup India)
- ☐ Major international conflicts and peace initiatives
- ☐ India's foreign policy developments
- ☐ Public health emergencies (COVID-19, vaccination drives)
- ☐ Major infrastructure projects (Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Smart Cities)

#### 2. History of India and Indian National Movement

##### Ancient India

- ☐ Indus Valley Civilization: sites, features, decline
- ☐ Vedic Age: Rig Vedic vs Later Vedic society

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- ☐ Mahajanapadas and urbanization
- ☐ Urban centers and crafts
- ☐ Rise of Jainism and Buddhism: teachings, councils
- ☐ Mauryan Empire: administration, Ashoka's Dhamma
- ☐ Post-Mauryan kingdoms: Shungas, Satavahanas, Kushanas
- ☐ Sangam Age: literature, polity
- ☐ Gupta Empire: Golden Age, administration, decline
- ☐ Harshavardhana and his times
- ☐ South Indian dynasties: Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas
- ☐ Art and architecture: Stupa, temple, cave
- ☐ Science and technology: Aryabhata, Charaka, Sushruta
- ☐ Literature: Vedas, Upanishads, epics, Puranas
- ☐ Society: Varna system, position of women
- ☐ Economy: agriculture, trade, coinage
- ☐ Religion and philosophy: Ajivikas, Charvakas
- ☐ Education: Nalanda, Takshashila
- ☐ Foreign invasions: Greeks, Shakas, Kushanas

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## Medieval India

- ☐ Early medieval kingdoms: Chalukyas, Pallavas, Rashtrakutas
- ☐ Delhi Sultanate: Slave, Khilji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, Lodi dynasties
- ☐ Administration and military reforms of Sultanate
- ☐ Bhakti and Sufi movements
- ☐ Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms
- ☐ Mughal Empire: Babur to Aurangzeb, administration, art
- ☐ Regional kingdoms: Marathas, Rajputs, Sikhs, Ahoms
- ☐ Mughal decline and causes
- ☐ Society and economy: land revenue, trade, urbanization
- ☐ Art and culture: Mughal painting, architecture, music
- ☐ Religious policies and syncretism
- ☐ Women in medieval India
- ☐ Foreign travelers' accounts
- ☐ Technology and science

## Modern India

- ☐ Advent of Europeans and British expansion
- ☐ Anglo-French, Anglo-Mysore, Anglo-Maratha wars

- ☐ Economic impact: land revenue systems, deindustrialization
- ☐ Social reform movements: Brahmo, Arya, Aligarh, Prarthana Samaj
- ☐ Revolt of 1857: causes, course, consequences
- ☐ Formation and growth of Indian National Congress
- ☐ Partition of Bengal and Swadeshi movement
- ☐ Home Rule Movement
- ☐ Constitutional developments: 1909, 1919, 1935 Acts
- ☐ Gandhian movements: Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India
- ☐ Revolutionary movements: Ghadar, HSRA, INA
- ☐ Role of women, peasants, tribals
- ☐ Partition and independence: Cabinet Mission, Mountbatten Plan
- ☐ Integration of princely states
- ☐ Linguistic reorganization post-independence
- ☐ Major post-1947 events: Green Revolution, Emergency

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## 3. Indian and World Geography

### Physical Geography

- ☐ Earth's structure: crust, mantle, core
- ☐ Plate tectonics and continental drift
- ☐ Geomorphic processes: weathering, erosion, deposition
- ☐ Landforms: mountains, plateaus, plains, deserts
- ☐ Earthquakes and volcanoes: causes, distribution
- ☐ Rocks: types and rock cycle
- ☐ Atmosphere: composition, layers, ozone
- ☐ Weather and climate: factors, elements
- ☐ Winds: planetary, monsoon, local winds
- ☐ Pressure belts and wind systems
- ☐ Precipitation: types, world distribution
- ☐ Oceanography: currents, tides, waves
- ☐ Marine resources: fisheries, minerals
- ☐ Coral reefs and mangroves
- ☐ Biomes and ecological zones
- ☐ Soils: types, formation, conservation

- ☐ Natural hazards: cyclones, droughts, floods
- ☐ Map reading and interpretation
- ☐ Time zones and International Date Line

### Indian Geography

- ☐ Physiographic divisions: Himalayas, plains, plateau, coasts, islands
- ☐ River systems: Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Narmada, etc.
- ☐ Climate: monsoon, droughts, floods, cyclones
- ☐ Soils: alluvial, black, red, laterite, saline, desert, peat
- ☐ Natural vegetation: forests, grasslands, wetlands
- ☐ Wildlife: national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves
- ☐ Mineral resources: distribution, production
- ☐ Energy resources: coal, oil, gas, renewables
- ☐ Agriculture: cropping patterns, green revolution, issues
- ☐ Irrigation: types, major projects
- ☐ Industries: types, major regions
- ☐ Transport: road, rail, air, waterways
- ☐ Urbanization: trends, problems

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- ❑ Population: distribution, density, growth, migration
- ❑ Major cities and urban agglomerations
- ❑ Environmental issues: pollution, conservation
- ❑ Disaster management: earthquakes, floods, cyclones
- ❑ Regional geography: North East, Islands, border areas

## World Geography

- ❑ Continents and oceans: location, features
- ❑ Major mountain ranges, rivers, deserts, lakes
- ❑ World climatic zones: equatorial, tropical, temperate, polar
- ❑ Major countries and capitals
- ❑ Geopolitical regions: Middle East, SAARC, ASEAN, EU
- ❑ Locations in news: conflict zones, strategic points

## 4. Indian Polity and Governance

- ❑ Historical evolution: Regulating Act, Charter Acts, Government of India Acts

- ❑ Constitution: features, preamble, schedules, amendments
- ❑ Fundamental Rights and Duties
- ❑ Directive Principles of State Policy
- ❑ Union and State Executive: President, Vice President, Governor, PM, CM, Council of Ministers
- ❑ Parliament and State Legislatures: structure, powers, procedures
- ❑ Judiciary: Supreme Court, High Courts, judicial review, PIL
- ❑ Federalism: Centre-State relations, Finance Commission, Inter-State Council
- ❑ Emergency provisions: national, state, financial
- ❑ Local government: Panchayati Raj (73rd Amendment), Municipalities (74th Amendment)
- ❑ Constitutional bodies: Election Commission, UPSC, CAG, Finance Commission
- ❑ Statutory bodies: NHRC, NCW, NCSC, NCST, Lokpal
- ❑ Non-constitutional bodies: NITI Aayog, CBI, NIA

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- ❑ Political parties and election process
- ❑ Anti-defection law
- ❑ Public policy and governance: RTI, Citizen's Charter, e-governance
- ❑ Social justice: reservations, SC/ST/OBC/women/minority rights
- ❑ Important Supreme Court judgments
- ❑ Rights issues: LGBTQ+, child rights, disability rights
- ❑ Recent constitutional amendments and landmark laws

## 5. Economic and Social Development

- ❑ National income: concepts, GDP, GNP, NDP, measurement
- ❑ Economic planning: Five-Year Plans, NITI Aayog
- ❑ Economic reforms: LPG, GST, IBC, recent reforms
- ❑ Monetary policy: RBI, instruments, repo, reverse repo
- ❑ Fiscal policy: budget, deficits, FRBM Act

- ❑ Banking: types, functions, financial inclusion, digital banking
- ❑ Inflation: types, causes, measures
- ❑ Poverty: measurement, causes, trends, schemes
- ❑ Unemployment: types, causes, trends, schemes
- ❑ Agriculture: MSP, subsidies, crop insurance, PM-KISAN
- ❑ Industry: Make in India, MSMEs, industrial corridors
- ❑ Infrastructure: roads, railways, ports, airports, logistics
- ❑ Social sector: health (Ayushman Bharat), education (NEP), nutrition (POSHAN Abhiyan)
- ❑ Human development: HDI, gender indices, literacy, health indicators
- ❑ Demographics: population policy, census, migration
- ❑ Social welfare: PDS, MGNREGA, social security
- ❑ Inclusive growth: financial inclusion, SHGs, microfinance
- ❑ Sustainable development: SDGs, green economy

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- ❑ Government schemes, Ex: PMJDY, PMUY, PMGSY, Ujjwala, Swachh Bharat

## 6. Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity, and Climate Change

- ❑ Ecosystem: structure, types, functions, energy flow
- ❑ Food chains and food webs
- ❑ Biodiversity: levels, hotspots, threats, conservation
- ❑ Wildlife protection: acts, reserves, endangered species
- ❑ Environmental pollution: air, water, soil, noise, e-waste
- ❑ Climate change: causes, effects, adaptation, mitigation
- ❑ Ozone depletion, acid rain, global warming
- ❑ Environmental laws: EPA, Forest Act, Wildlife Protection Act, Air/Water Acts
- ❑ International conventions: CBD, CITES, Ramsar, Kyoto, Paris, UNFCCC
- ❑ Environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- ❑ Renewable energy: solar, wind, hydro, bioenergy

- ❑ Conservation: afforestation, social forestry, joint forest management
- ❑ Wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs: significance, threats
- ❑ Disaster management: floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes
- ❑ Sustainable development: SDGs, indicators, challenges
- ❑ Urban environment: pollution, waste management, green buildings
- ❑ Environmental organizations: UNEP, WWF, IUCN
- ❑ Recent environmental issues: forest fires, oil spills, microplastics
- ❑ Community participation: Chipko, Narmada Bachao

## 7. General Science

- ❑ Physics: motion, force, work, energy, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, heat, modern physics
- ❑ Chemistry: atomic structure, periodic table, chemical bonding, acids-bases, salts,

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environmental chemistry,  
polymers, fertilizers, drugs

- ❑ Biology: cell structure, genetics, evolution, plant and animal physiology, human health and diseases, nutrition, vaccines, biotechnology
- ❑ Recent science and technology developments: ISRO missions, genome editing, nanotechnology, AI, robotics
- ❑ Space technology: satellites, GSLV, PSLV, Gaganyaan, space man mission
- ❑ Nuclear technology: reactors, radiation, safety
- ❑ Information technology: internet, cybersecurity, e-governance
- ❑ Defense technology: missiles, drones, indigenous weapons
- ❑ Environmental science: pollution control, green chemistry
- ❑ Health and medicine: diseases, vaccines, diagnostics
- ❑ Agricultural science: GM crops, irrigation tech
- ❑ Everyday science: applications in daily life
- ❑ Science in news: Nobel Prizes, major discoveries

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## Paper II - Civil Services

### Aptitude Test (CSAT) (200 marks)

#### Comprehension

- ☐ Reading comprehension (short and long passages)
- ☐ Main idea identification
- ☐ Inference-based questions
- ☐ Tone and attitude of the author
- ☐ Fact vs. opinion
- ☐ Synonyms and antonyms in context
- ☐ Meaning of words/phrases in context
- ☐ Logical structure of the passage
- ☐ Summarization
- ☐ Title selection for passages
- ☐ Identifying assumptions
- ☐ Drawing conclusions
- ☐ Cause and effect in passages
- ☐ Identifying supporting arguments
- ☐ Data-based comprehension (passages with charts/tables)
- ☐ Paraphrasing sentences
- ☐ Author's purpose and intent
- ☐ Identifying contradictions
- ☐ Application-based questions (real-world scenarios)

- ☐ Critical reasoning within passages
- ☐ Vocabulary-based fill in the blanks

#### Interpersonal Skills including Communication Skills

- ☐ Understanding interpersonal scenarios
- ☐ Identifying effective communication
- ☐ Barriers to communication
- ☐ Active listening skills
- ☐ Empathy and emotional intelligence
- ☐ Conflict resolution techniques
- ☐ Negotiation skills
- ☐ Persuasion and influence
- ☐ Clarity and brevity in communication
- ☐ Non-verbal communication (body language, tone)
- ☐ Assertiveness vs. aggressiveness
- ☐ Feedback mechanisms
- ☐ Group dynamics and teamwork
- ☐ Cultural sensitivity in communication
- ☐ Handling criticism constructively

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- ☐ Communication in crisis situations
- ☐ Decision-making in interpersonal contexts
- ☐ Leadership and motivation
- ☐ Ethical dilemmas in communication
- ☐ Role of technology in communication
- ☐ Communication for public administration

## Logical Reasoning and Analytical Ability

- ☐ Number series
- ☐ Alphabet series
- ☐ Coding-decoding
- ☐ Blood relations
- ☐ Direction sense
- ☐ Seating arrangements (linear, circular)
- ☐ Syllogisms
- ☐ Statement and assumptions
- ☐ Statement and conclusions
- ☐ Statement and arguments
- ☐ Cause and effect
- ☐ Course of action
- ☐ Data sufficiency
- ☐ Puzzles (logical, analytical)
- ☐ Input-output reasoning
- ☐ Ranking and order

- ☐ Calendar and clock problems
- ☐ Venn diagrams
- ☐ Analogy (word, number, figure)
- ☐ Odd one out
- ☐ Logical connectives (AND, OR, IF, ONLY IF)

## Decision Making and Problem Solving

- ☐ Case studies with administrative scenarios
- ☐ Ethical dilemmas and choices
- ☐ Weighing pros and cons of decisions
- ☐ Identifying stakeholders and their interests
- ☐ Prioritization of tasks
- ☐ Conflict of interest scenarios
- ☐ Resource allocation problems
- ☐ Crisis management
- ☐ Application of rules and policies
- ☐ Identifying best course of action
- ☐ Handling limited information
- ☐ Risk assessment and mitigation
- ☐ Consequence analysis
- ☐ Decision trees
- ☐ Group decision-making
- ☐ Dealing with ambiguity
- ☐ Resolving competing priorities
- ☐ Balancing short-term and long-term outcomes

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- ☐ Communication in decision making
- ☐ Accountability and responsibility
- ☐ Feedback and evaluation of decisions

## General Mental Ability

- ☐ Analogy (verbal and non-verbal)
- ☐ Classification
- ☐ Series completion (number, letter, figure)
- ☐ Pattern recognition
- ☐ Odd one out
- ☐ Visual memory
- ☐ Spatial reasoning
- ☐ Mirror and water images
- ☐ Embedded figures
- ☐ Paper folding and cutting
- ☐ Cube and dice problems
- ☐ Direction and distance
- ☐ Ranking and ordering
- ☐ Mathematical operations
- ☐ Inserting missing characters
- ☐ Logical sequence of words
- ☐ Venn diagram-based reasoning
- ☐ Data sufficiency
- ☐ Calendar and clock problems
- ☐ Coding-decoding (complex patterns)


## Basic Numeracy (Class X Level)

- ☐ Number system (natural, whole, integers, rational, irrational)
- ☐ LCM and HCF
- ☐ Simplification and approximation
- ☐ Square roots and cube roots
- ☐ Surds and indices
- ☐ Fractions and decimals
- ☐ Ratio and proportion
- ☐ Percentage
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Profit and loss
- ☐ Discount
- ☐ Simple and compound interest
- ☐ Partnership
- ☐ Time and work
- ☐ Time and distance
- ☐ Boats and streams
- ☐ Pipes and cisterns
- ☐ Mixture and alligation
- ☐ Mensuration (area, perimeter, volume of 2D & 3D figures)
- ☐ Set theory and Venn diagrams

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## Data Interpretation (Class X Level)

- ☐ Tables (interpretation and analysis)
- ☐ Bar graphs
- ☐ Line graphs
- ☐ Pie charts
- ☐ Mixed graphs (combination of two or more types)
- ☐ Caselets (paragraph-based data)
- ☐ Data comparison
- ☐ Data sufficiency
- ☐ Calculation of averages from data
- ☐ Finding ratios and percentages from data
- ☐ Trends and pattern identification
- ☐ Maximum/minimum value identification
- ☐ Missing data analysis
- ☐ Cumulative frequency and relative frequency
- ☐ Median, mode, mean from data sets
- ☐ Range and standard deviation (basic)
- ☐ Ranking based on data
- ☐ Logical deduction from data
- ☐ Time series analysis
- ☐ Application of data to real-life scenarios



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**UPSC General Studies Mains  
Syllabus Decoded**

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## General Studies Paper I: Indian Heritage & Culture, History & Geography of the World & Society

### Indian Heritage and Culture

- ☐ Salient features of Indian culture
- ☐ Art forms: classical and folk (music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture)
- ☐ Architecture: ancient, medieval, modern
- ☐ Literature: Vedic, classical, medieval, modern
- ☐ Languages and scripts
- ☐ Religion and philosophy: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity
- ☐ Festivals and fairs
- ☐ Cultural institutions and preservation (ASI, museums, UNESCO sites)
- ☐ Indian cinema and performing arts
- ☐ Cultural globalization and its impact
- ☐ Cultural heritage conservation laws (AMASR Act, UNESCO conventions)
- ☐ Handicrafts and textiles
- ☐ Cultural influences from Central Asia, Persia, Europe
- ☐ Indian diaspora and cultural exchange
- ☐ Role of women in Indian culture
- ☐ Caste, community, and cultural identity
- ☐ Cultural symbols and national integration
- ☐ Tribal cultures and traditions
- ☐ Fairs and melas
- ☐ Impact of colonialism on Indian culture
- ☐ Contemporary cultural issues (intolerance, cultural appropriation)
- ☐ **Modern Indian History**
- ☐ British expansion and consolidation
- ☐ Socio-religious reform movements
- ☐ Revolt of 1857: causes, course, consequences
- ☐ Formation of Indian National Congress
- ☐ Partition of Bengal and Swadeshi movement
- ☐ Home Rule Movement
- ☐ Gandhian movements: Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India
- ☐ Revolutionary activities and organizations
- ☐ Role of women, Dalits, and marginalized groups
- ☐ Indian National Army and Subhas Chandra Bose

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- ☐ Communalism and partition
- ☐ Constitutional developments (1909, 1919, 1935 Acts)
- ☐ Princely states and integration
- ☐ Post-independence consolidation and reorganization
- ☐ Linguistic reorganization of states
- ☐ Major policies post-independence (land reforms, Green Revolution)
- ☐ Emergency and its impact
- ☐ Social movements post-1947 (Naxalism, women's movement)
- ☐ Major leaders and their contributions
- ☐ Role of press and literature in freedom struggle
- ☐ Cold War: events, impact, end
- ☐ Decolonization in Asia and Africa
- ☐ Chinese Revolution
- ☐ Apartheid and civil rights movements
- ☐ Middle East conflicts
- ☐ Globalization and its impact
- ☐ United Nations and international organizations
- ☐ Environmental movements
- ☐ Technological revolutions
- ☐ Economic crises (Great Depression, 2008 crisis)
- ☐ Contemporary world issues (terrorism, migration, climate change)

## World History

- ☐ Renaissance and Reformation
- ☐ Industrial Revolution
- ☐ American Revolution
- ☐ French Revolution
- ☐ Unification of Germany and Italy
- ☐ Colonialism and imperialism
- ☐ World Wars I & II: causes, events, consequences
- ☐ Russian Revolution and Communism
- ☐ Rise of Fascism and Nazism

## Society

- ☐ Indian society: diversity and pluralism
- ☐ Salient features of Indian society
- ☐ Caste, class, and ethnicity
- ☐ Role of women and women's organizations
- ☐ Population and associated issues
- ☐ Poverty and developmental challenges
- ☐ Urbanization and migration
- ☐ Social empowerment and affirmative action

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- ☐ Regionalism and communalism
- ☐ Social movements (environmental, gender, tribal)
- ☐ Globalization and social change
- ☐ Social justice and inclusive growth
- ☐ Education and health issues
- ☐ Child rights and welfare
- ☐ Elderly and differently-abled concerns
- ☐ Family and marriage patterns
- ☐ Crime and violence in society
- ☐ Role of NGOs and civil society
- ☐ Social capital and community participation
- ☐ Challenges to social harmony
- ☐ Urbanization: trends, problems, smart cities
- ☐ Population: distribution, density, migration
- ☐ Disaster management: earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones
- ☐ Environmental issues: pollution, conservation
- ☐ Biodiversity: hotspots, conservation efforts
- ☐ Regional development and disparities
- ☐ World geography: continents, oceans, climatic zones
- ☐ Geopolitical features and boundaries
- ☐ Map work and location identification

## Geography of India and the World

- ☐ Physical geography: landforms, climate, vegetation
- ☐ Indian physiographic divisions
- ☐ Drainage systems: rivers, lakes, wetlands
- ☐ Climate and monsoon: patterns, variability, climate change
- ☐ Natural resources: minerals, energy, forests, water
- ☐ Agriculture: cropping patterns, irrigation, green revolution
- ☐ Industrial regions and infrastructure
- ☐ Recent geographical phenomena (El Niño, La Niña)
- ☐ Impact of globalization on geography
- ☐ Sustainable development and resource management

# UPSC CSE Syllabus - Decoded

## **General Studies Paper II: Polity, Governance Social Justice, International Relations**

### **Indian Constitution and Polity**

- ☐ Historical evolution: Acts, Constituent Assembly
- ☐ Preamble and salient features
- ☐ Fundamental Rights and Duties
- ☐ Directive Principles of State Policy
- ☐ Union and State Executive: President, PM, Governor, CM
- ☐ Parliament and State Legislatures: structure, functioning
- ☐ Judiciary: Supreme Court, High Courts, judicial review
- ☐ Federalism: Centre-State relations, Finance Commission
- ☐ Emergency provisions
- ☐ Constitutional amendments and landmark judgments
- ☐ Local self-government: Panchayati Raj, Municipalities
- ☐ Election process and electoral reforms
- ☐ Political parties and pressure groups
- ☐ Anti-defection law
- ☐ Separation of powers and checks and balances

- ☐ Tribunals and quasi-judicial bodies
- ☐ Constitutional bodies: EC, UPSC, CAG, Finance Commission
- ☐ Rights issues: minorities, SC/ST, OBC, women, children
- ☐ Recent constitutional developments

### **Governance**

- ☐ Good governance: transparency, accountability, e-governance
- ☐ Citizen charters and public service delivery
- ☐ RTI Act and transparency measures
- ☐ Social audit and public participation
- ☐ Role of civil services in democracy
- ☐ Reforms in governance: police, administrative, judicial
- ☐ Grievance redressal mechanisms
- ☐ Ethics in governance
- ☐ Role of NGOs and civil society
- ☐ Digital governance and cybersecurity
- ☐ Disaster management governance
- ☐ Public-private partnerships

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- ☐ Regulatory bodies (SEBI, TRAI, IRDAI, etc.)
- ☐ Government budgeting and financial management
- ☐ Decentralization and devolution
- ☐ Urban and rural governance challenges
- ☐ Social capital and community participation
- ☐ Inclusive governance
- ☐ Implementation of government schemes
- ☐ Issues in service delivery
- ☐ Human trafficking and bonded labor
- ☐ Urban and rural poverty
- ☐ Social security schemes
- ☐ Food security and PDS
- ☐ Housing and urban development
- ☐ Skill development and employment
- ☐ Transgender rights and welfare
- ☐ Disability rights and accessibility
- ☐ Legal aid and justice delivery
- ☐ Role of judiciary in social justice

## Social Justice

- ☐ Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections
- ☐ Health, education, and nutrition initiatives
- ☐ Social sector reforms
- ☐ Poverty alleviation programs
- ☐ Affirmative action and reservations
- ☐ Rights-based approaches (child, women, elderly, disabled)
- ☐ Inclusive growth and development
- ☐ Issues of SC/ST/OBC/minorities
- ☐ Gender justice and women empowerment
- ☐ Child rights and protection

## International Relations

- ☐ India's foreign policy: evolution, principles, priorities
- ☐ Bilateral relations: US, China, Russia, neighbors (Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Afghanistan)
- ☐ Multilateral organizations: UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank, BRICS, G20, SCO, ASEAN
- ☐ Regional groupings: SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA
- ☐ India's role in global governance
- ☐ Diaspora and NRI affairs
- ☐ Border disputes and security issues

# UPSC CSE Syllabus - Decoded

- ☐ International treaties and agreements
- ☐ India's soft power: culture, yoga, diplomacy
- ☐ Global economic issues and India
- ☐ Climate change negotiations
- ☐ International terrorism and security
- ☐ India's maritime interests
- ☐ Nuclear policy and disarmament
- ☐ Human rights issues
- ☐ Recent global events and their impact on India
- ☐ International trade and investment
- ☐ India's development partnerships
- ☐ Strategic partnerships and alliances
- ☐ Migration and refugee issues
- ☐ India's role in peacekeeping

## **General Studies Paper III: Economy, Technology, Environment, Security, Disaster Management**

### **Indian Economy**

- ☐ Economic growth and development
- ☐ Planning: NITI Aayog, Five-Year Plans

- ☐ Agriculture: reforms, MSP, subsidies, irrigation, technology
- ☐ Industry: Make in India, MSMEs, industrial corridors
- ☐ Infrastructure: roads, railways, ports, airports, logistics
- ☐ Banking and finance: RBI, monetary policy, NPAs, digital banking
- ☐ Fiscal policy: budget, taxation, FRBM Act
- ☐ Inflation: causes, trends, measures
- ☐ Poverty and unemployment: measurement, trends, schemes
- ☐ Human development: HDI, health, education, gender indices
- ☐ Economic reforms: LPG, GST, IBC
- ☐ External sector: trade, FDI, balance of payments
- ☐ Social sector: health, education, nutrition, social security
- ☐ Inclusive growth and financial inclusion
- ☐ Sustainable development and green economy

# UPSC CSE Syllabus - Decoded

- ❑ Government schemes: PMJDY, PMUY, MGNREGA, Ayushman Bharat
- ❑ Public finance and expenditure management
- ❑ Startups and innovation ecosystem
- ❑ Recent economic challenges (pandemics, global slowdown)

## Science and Technology

- ❑ Space technology: ISRO missions, satellites, applications
- ❑ Nuclear technology: reactors, safety, applications
- ❑ Information technology: AI, IoT, cybersecurity, e-governance
- ❑ Biotechnology: GM crops, stem cells, vaccines
- ❑ Nanotechnology: applications and issues
- ❑ Robotics and automation
- ❑ Defense technology: missiles, drones, indigenous weapons
- ❑ Renewable energy: solar, wind, bioenergy
- ❑ Digital India and technology in governance
- ❑ Scientific research and innovation policies

- ❑ Health technology: telemedicine, diagnostics, vaccines
- ❑ Intellectual property rights
- ❑ Technology transfer and indigenization
- ❑ Internet governance and data privacy
- ❑ Emerging technologies (quantum computing, blockchain)
- ❑ Science in disaster management
- ❑ Environmental technology (clean energy, pollution control)
- ❑ Space diplomacy and international cooperation
- ❑ Science and society: ethical, legal, social issues
- ❑ Recent Nobel Prizes and scientific breakthroughs

## Environment and Ecology

- ❑ Ecosystem structure and functions
- ❑ Biodiversity: hotspots, conservation, endangered species
- ❑ Environmental pollution: air, water, soil, noise, e-waste
- ❑ Climate change: causes, impacts, adaptation, mitigation

# UPSC CSE Syllabus - Decoded

- ☐ Environmental laws: EPA, Forest Act, Wildlife Protection Act
- ☐ International conventions: CBD, CITES, Ramsar, Kyoto, Paris
- ☐ Environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- ☐ Renewable energy and sustainability
- ☐ Conservation: afforestation, social forestry, JFM
- ☐ Wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs: significance, threats
- ☐ Disaster management: floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes
- ☐ Urban environmental issues: waste management, green buildings
- ☐ Environmental organizations: UNEP, WWF, IUCN
- ☐ Recent environmental issues (forest fires, oil spills, microplastics)
- ☐ Community participation (Chipko, Narmada Bachao)
- ☐ Environmental movements in India
- ☐ Sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- ☐ Environmental governance and institutions

- ☐ Role of judiciary in environmental protection
- ☐ Climate finance and green bonds

## Disaster Management & Internal Security

- ☐ Disaster types: natural, man-made, biological
- ☐ Disaster management cycle: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery
- ☐ Institutional framework: NDMA, NDRF, SDMA
- ☐ Early warning systems and technology
- ☐ Community-based disaster management
- ☐ Role of armed forces and civil society
- ☐ Case studies: major disasters in India
- ☐ Urban disaster risks (earthquakes, floods, fires)
- ☐ Rehabilitation and reconstruction
- ☐ Capacity building and training
- ☐ International cooperation in disaster management
- ☐ Internal security challenges: terrorism, insurgency, left-wing extremism

# UPSC CSE Syllabus - Decoded

- ☐ Border management and security
- ☐ Cybersecurity and information warfare
- ☐ Organized crime and trafficking
- ☐ Money laundering and financial crimes
- ☐ Intelligence agencies and coordination
- ☐ Role of media and social media in security
- ☐ Police reforms and modernization
- ☐ Coastal and maritime security
- ☐ Security of critical infrastructure

## **General Studies Paper IV: Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude**

- ☐ **Ethics and Human Interface**
- ☐ Essence and determinants of ethics
- ☐ Consequences of ethical and unethical behavior
- ☐ Human values: lessons from great leaders, reformers
- ☐ Role of family, society, educational institutions
- ☐ Moral and political attitudes
- ☐ Social influence and persuasion
- ☐ Ethical issues in private and public relationships

- ☐ Ethics in international relations
- ☐ Corporate social responsibility
- ☐ Environmental ethics
- ☐ Media ethics
- ☐ Digital and AI ethics
- ☐ Ethics of care and compassion
- ☐ Value education and character building
- ☐ Emotional intelligence: concepts, applications
- ☐ Attitude: content, structure, functions, formation
- ☐ Moral dilemmas and decision making
- ☐ Work ethics and professionalism
- ☐ Role of conscience in ethical decision making
- ☐ Ethical theories and frameworks

## **Attitude and Aptitude**

- ☐ Foundational values for civil service: integrity, impartiality, non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance, compassion
- ☐ Emotional intelligence: concepts, utilities, application in administration

# UPSC CSE Syllabus - Decoded

- ☐ Attitude: formation, change, impact on behavior
- ☐ Social influence and persuasion
- ☐ Role of family, society, and educational institutions in inculcating values
- ☐ Conflict of interest: identification, resolution
- ☐ Case studies on attitude, values, and aptitude
- ☐ Role of civil servants in ethical governance
- ☐ Case studies on integrity and probity
- ☐ Leadership and ethical dilemmas
- ☐ Public trust and legitimacy
- ☐ Social audit and participatory governance
- ☐ Grievance redressal mechanisms

## **Integrity in Public Administration**


- ☐ Probity in governance
- ☐ Concept of public service
- ☐ Philosophical basis of governance and probity
- ☐ Information sharing and transparency
- ☐ Right to Information Act
- ☐ Codes of ethics and conduct
- ☐ Citizen's charter
- ☐ Work culture and quality of service delivery
- ☐ Utilization of public funds
- ☐ Corruption: causes, consequences, control measures
- ☐ Accountability and ethical governance
- ☐ Vigilance and anti-corruption agencies
- ☐ Whistleblower protection

## **Case Studies**

- ☐ Real-life ethical dilemmas in public administration
- ☐ Decision-making in complex scenarios
- ☐ Balancing competing interests and values
- ☐ Application of ethical principles in administration
- ☐ Conflict resolution and negotiation
- ☐ Accountability and transparency in action
- ☐ Handling pressure and influence
- ☐ Whistleblowing and reporting wrongdoing
- ☐ Ensuring fairness and justice
- ☐ Case studies on governance failures and successes

# UPSC CSE Syllabus - Decoded

- ☐ Role of empathy and compassion in decision-making
- ☐ Dealing with corruption and misconduct
- ☐ Protecting vulnerable sections
- ☐ Leadership in crisis situations
- ☐ Implementing citizen-centric policies
- ☐ Promoting inclusivity and diversity
- ☐ Innovation and ethical risk-taking
- ☐ Maintaining work-life balance in public service
- ☐ Upholding constitutional values
- ☐ Learning from mistakes and feedback.



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