

Subject-wise Detailed UPSC Syllabus

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Ancient History detailed micro topics (UPSC CSE 2026 focused)

Below is an expanded, clear, and exam-oriented **micro topic** list for **Ancient History**, built from every item in your PDF and enriched with extra topics and UPSC-relevant pointers. I keep each micro topic separate and small so beginners can pick one concept at a time. Where useful I add quick **study tips** / **why it matters for UPSC**

1. Pre-historic Cultures in India

- **Definition & scope:** what “pre-history” means; difference from proto-history and history.
- **Major phases:** Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Iron Age: time ranges and distinguishing features.
- **Sources of Prehistory:** archaeology, lithics, paleo-environmental data, rock art, carbon dating.
- **Key sites:** Bhimbetka, Attirampakkam, Pahalgam, Didwana (brief locations + why important).
- **Tool types & techno-typology:** hand-axe tradition, choppers, microliths, ground-stone tools.
- **Subsistence & economy:** hunter-gatherer bands, early plant/animal exploitation.
- **Settlement patterns:** nomadic → seasonal camps → settled hamlets.
- **Art & culture:** rock art types, themes, techniques.
- **Important concepts:** cultural sequences, continuity vs discontinuity.
- **Why UPSC cares:** questions often test chronology, sites, and differences between phases.

2. Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization

- **Chronology & phases:** Early (Regionalization), Mature (Urban), Late (De-urbanization).
- **Major sites & urban plan:** Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Rakhigarhi town planning, drainage, citadel-lower town.
- **Economy & trade:** agriculture (crops), irrigation, crafts (bead-making, metallurgy), internal & external trade (Mesopotamia).
- **Weights, measures, craft specialization:** standardization, seals, bead technology.
- **Script & language:** Harappan script features; issues in decipherment.
- **Religion & social institutions:** possible totemic, fertility cults, Great Bath.
- **Art and architecture:** terracotta, bronze (dancing girl), pottery types (Red-on-buff), bead art.
- **Burial practices & bio-archaeology:** cemetery types, osteological findings.
- **Causes of decline:** climate change, river shifts (Sarasvati/ Ghaggar-Hakra debate), socio-economic factors.
- **Recent discoveries/ debates:** Rakhigarhi DNA results (if asked in current affairs), new port evidence at Lothal.
- **Why UPSC cares:** maps, features, reasons for decline frequently asked in prelims + mains culture/heritage essays.

3. Vedic Period

- **Primary sources:** Rigveda, other Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads.

- **Chronology & phases:** Early (Rigvedic) vs Later Vedic (Kuru-Panchala etc.): social and economic change.
- **Geography:** original Aryan homeland theories; geography of Rigvedic plains vs later Vedic eastern expansion.
- **Socio-economic life:** pastoralism → agriculture, cattle economy, crafts, trade.
- **Polity & political institutions:** tribal chiefs (raja), sabha, samiti, gana; transition to monarchy.
- **Varna system & social organization:** varna vs jati; slavery; position of women; marriage, family.
- **Religion & rituals:** sacrificial system (yajna), gods, priesthood (Brahmins), development of ritual texts.
- **Intellectual developments:** Upanishadic thought, beginnings of philosophical enquiry.
- **Material culture:** painted gray ware, copper use.
- **Why UPSC cares:** basic social/political terms, sources, and transformation from tribal to state structures.

4. Age of 2nd Urbanisation & Mahajanapadas

- **Second urbanisation:** causes, urban morphology, craft & trade expansion.
- **Sixteen Mahajanapadas:** list, geographical spread, examples (Magadha, Kosala).
- **Gana-sangha / Republics:** characteristics (e.g., Vajji), comparative features with monarchies.
- **Rise of cities & trade:** urban centres like Taxila, Vaishali; coinage evolution.
- **Why UPSC cares:** polity forms, urbanisation drivers, and coins/numismatics appear in prelims.

5. Jainism & Buddhism (Growth & Doctrines)

- **Founders & chronology:** Mahavira, Buddha: life sketches, major events.
- **Core teachings:** Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path; Ahimsa, Anekantavada for Jainism.
- **Monastic orders & sangha:** structure, role in society.
- **Spread & patronage:** kings and merchants as patrons, stupas, viharas.
- **Art & architecture:** stupa evolution, rock-cut architecture (Barabar, Sanchi).
- **Scriptures & schools:** Theravada, Mahayana basics; Jaina Agamas.
- **Why UPSC cares:** cultural influence, art, and social reform movements often feature in mains.

6. Mauryan Empire

- **Foundation & chronology:** Chandragupta Maurya: expansion, Bindusara, Ashoka.
- **Sources:** Arthashastra (Kautilya), Ashokan edicts, Megasthenes, Buddhist texts.
- **Administration & polity:** centralization, governors, spy system, provincial setup.
- **Economy & taxation:** land revenue, state control on mines, trade.
- **Army & military organization:** role of elephants, infantry.
- **Ashoka's Dharma:** inscriptions, dhamma policy, royal welfare.
- **Art & architecture:** Mauryan pillars, polish, stupas (Sanchi enlargement).
- **Decline of Mauryas:** causes and successors.
- **Why UPSC cares:** Ashokan edicts and Arthashastra are high-yield for mains and prelims.

7. Post-Mauryan Period (200 BC – 300 AD)

- **Foreign invasions & contacts:** Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Parthians, Kushanas: impact on trade & culture.
- **Satavahanas & regional kingdoms:** polity, economy, trade routes (western coast).
- **Kushan period (Kanishka):** trade links with Central Asia, Gandhara art, patronage of Buddhism.
- **Cultural synthesis:** Greco-Buddhist art, coin iconography.
- **Why UPSC cares:** cross-cultural contacts, art styles, and trade networks appear in both papers.

8. Gupta Empire (Imperial Guptas)

- **Sources:** inscriptions, coins, fa-hien accounts.
- **Political history & administration:** nature of kingship, provincial administration.
- **Golden Age features:** literature, decimal system, Sanskrit as court language.
- **Art, architecture & sculpture:** Gupta temple prototypes, sculpture style.
- **Economy & urbanization:** trade, guilds, monetary economy.
- **Society & religion:** Brahmanical revival, temple emergence.
- **Decline & causes:** Hun invasions, internal fragmentation.
- **Why UPSC cares:** “Golden Age” themes, science & literature (Kalidasa), and numismatics.

9. Harsha (Harshavardhana)

- **Chronology & sources:** Banabhatta, Xuanzang (Huen Tsang).
- **Administration & court:** patronage, Buddhism revival, performance at Kannauj.
- **Religion & culture:** Buddhist assemblies, social policies.
- **Why UPSC cares:** Xuanzang’s travelogues are frequent source-based questions.

10. Sangam Period & South Indian Dynasties

- **Sangam literature:** types (Aham, Puram), chronology, usefulness as source.
- **Political units & society:** Chera, Chola, Pandya polities; urban centres.
- **Economy & trade:** inland & maritime trade, Roman contacts.
- **Art & temple architecture:** early Dravidian forms.
- **Temple inscriptions & epigraphy:** use in reconstructing history.
- **Why UPSC cares:** regional history, trade links, literary source

11. Early Medieval India (750–1200 AD)

- **Major dynasties & polity:** Pratiharas, Palas, Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas, Pallavas.
- **Tripartite struggle:** causes and outcomes.
- **Feudal structures:** land grants (agrahara, brahmadeya) and social implications.
- **Regional cultures & temple architecture:** Chalukya, Pallava, early Dravidian.
- **Why UPSC cares:** administrative titles, medieval polity questions in mains.

12. Cholas & South Indian polity (9th–13th c.)

- **Chola administration:** local self-government (ur, sabhai), revenue system.
- **Maritime policy:** Sri Lanka, SE Asia expeditions.
- **Art & architecture:** Brihadisvara temple, bronze sculptures.
- **Socio-economic life:** agrarian base, guilds (navy/ports).
- **Why UPSC cares:** temple architecture + inscriptions used in prelims/mains.

13. Early Muslim Invasions & Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526)

- **Initial invasions:** Arab Sindh, Mahmud of Ghazni, Muhammad Ghori.
- **Delhi Sultanate dynasties:** Slave, Khalji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, Lodi: administration & innovations.
- **Economy & society:** agrarian taxes, land grants, urban growth.
- **Culture & architecture:** Indo-Islamic synthesis, Qutb complex.
- **Reasons for decline:** regional resistance, invasions.
- **Why UPSC cares:** polity changes, architecture, and sources.

14. Vijayanagara & Bahmani (Deccan politics)

- **Origins & polity of Vijayanagara:** administrative setup, military.
- **Socio-cultural life:** temple patronage, literature.
- **Conflicts with Bahmani & Deccan sultanates:** rivalry and outcomes (e.g., Battle of Talikota).
- **Why UPSC cares:** study of composite culture and Deccan politics.

15. Mughals: Foundation to Consolidation

- **Babur to Akbar:** conquests, sources (Baburnama), administrative changes.
- **Akbar's statecraft:** Mansabdari system, land revenue (Dahsala), religious policy (Ibadat Khana, Sulh-e-Kul).
- **Shah Jahan & Aurangzeb:** architecture, policies, religious/administrative changes.
- **Art & culture:** Mughal painting, Persian influence.
- **Deccan policy & expansion:** implications for empire.
- **Why UPSC cares:** Mughal administrative terms (mansab, jagir) often in prelims.

16. Regional Kingdoms & Early Modern Transition (17th–18th c.)

- **Rise of Marathas:** Shivaji's polity, Peshwa system, Maratha Confederacy.
- **Other regional powers:** Nizam, Mysore, Sikh misls.
- **Economic & social shifts:** changing land revenue, peasants, urban decline/growth.
- **Why UPSC cares:** later medieval to early modern transition is important for polity + economy questions.

17. Society, Economy & Culture across periods

- **Rural society & agrarian relations:** village institutions, landlord-peasant relations.
- **Urban centres & crafts:** guilds, trade networks, artisan classes.
- **Women in ancient & medieval India:** status, property rights, notable examples.
- **Caste & jati evolution:** ancient roots to medieval codification.
- **Art & architecture timeline:** mapping major styles to periods (Harappan → Mauryan → Gupta → Chola → Mughal).
- **Science & technology:** metallurgy (wootz, iron), medicine (Ayurveda, surgical texts), astronomy (Aryabhata, Varahamihira).
- **Why UPSC cares:** culture + social history are regular mains topics.

18. Sources & Methods for Ancient History

- **Primary sources:** inscriptions, coins, literary texts, travellers' accounts.
- **Archaeological methods:** stratigraphy, typology, radiocarbon dating, palaeo-environment studies.
- **Epigraphy & numismatics basics:** reading inscriptions, coin legends, paleography.
- **Historiography:** colonial interpretations, nationalist perspectives, recent archaeological revisions.
- **Why UPSC cares:** source-based questions and answer framing rely on this.

19. Important Monuments, Inscriptions & Texts to remember

- **Monuments:** Great Bath (Mohenjo-daro), Sanchi Stupa, Ajanta & Ellora, Khajuraho, Brihadisvara, Qutub Minar, Fatehpur Sikri, Red Fort (Mughal), etc.
- **Inscriptions and edicts:** Ashokan edicts, Allahabad pillar inscription, Aihole inscription, Prakrit/Sanskrit inscriptions.
- **Texts:** Arthashastra, Manusmriti, Ramayana/Mahabharata as sources, Kalidasa, Bhakti literature, travelogues (Fa-hien, Hiuen Tsang).
- **Why UPSC cares:** identification, significance, and dates are high yield.

20. Additional / Recently important microtopics (added for 2026 relevance)

- **Indus-Sarasvati debate:** latest archaeology vs textual claims (how to approach neutrally).
- **Harappan rural hinterland discoveries:** implications for economy & demography.
- **DNA & archaeogenetics in ancient India:** what it can/cannot tell (be cautious).
- **Maritime archaeology:** ports, Lothal evidence, ancient shipwrecks.
- **Technological history:** iron metallurgy, stepwells, water harvesting systems.
- **Regional identities & cultural continuities:** linking ancient practices to modern regional cultures (for essays).
- **Why UPSC cares:** current debates, new evidence, and technology in archaeology are increasingly used in mains and interviews.

21. Quick UPSC study plan for Ancient History (beginner-friendly)

- **Start with a timeline** (create one page with major periods + dates).
- **Map practice:** locate all major sites (Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Taxila, Sanchi, Ajanta, Hampi, etc.).
- **One topic per day:** small microtopics (e.g., “Mansabdari system”: read definition + 3 examples).
- **Make two lists:** “must-remember names/dates” and “concepts to explain” (e.g., Dahsala system, Sulh-e-Kul).
- **Answer practice:** write 150–250 word answers on themes; practice two mains questions/week.
- **Revision:** flashcards for dates/monuments; monthly mock tests for prelims.

22. High-yield prelims & mains pointers (for quick revision)

- **Prelims:** Harappan features, Ashokan edicts, Gupta contributions (literature/decimal system), coin inscriptions, major temple architecture, Sangam literature items.
- **Mains:** state formation, administration (Maurya/Gupta/Mughal), Ashoka’s dhamma, cultural synthesis (Indo-Greek, Greco-Buddhist), Bhakti-Sufi movements, historiography.

Medieval History: Detailed Microtopics

1. Early Medieval India (750–1200)

- Major Dynasties: Palas, Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas, Pallavas, Senas.
- Tripartite struggle for Kannauj: causes, main players, outcomes.
- Rajputs: polity, clans, culture, feudal elements.
- Pallavas and Chalukyas: temple architecture, society, economy.
- Rashtrakutas: political expansion, art and architecture (Ellora), patronage of Jainism.
- Indian feudalism: nature, debates, land grants, peasant relations.
- Regional kingdoms: Bengal, Kashmir, Gujarat, Jaunpur.
- Society and culture: education (Nalanda, Vikramshila), caste divisions, religion.
- Economy: agrarian changes, decline of long-distance trade, rise of regional trade.
- Cultural history: temple architecture, sculpture, bhakti beginnings.
- Extra additions for 2026: new ASI excavations in Nalanda; relevance of Rajput heritage sites in current affairs.

2. Cholas and South Indian Kingdoms (9th–13th century)

- Chola rulers: Vijayalaya, Rajaraja I, Rajendra I, later Cholas.
- Chola administration: local self-government (ur, sabha, nagaram), revenue system.
- Military and navy: conquest of Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia expeditions.
- Socio-economic life: agrarian base, irrigation (Kallanai dam), temples as centers of economy.
- Art and architecture: Brihadisvara temple, Gangaikondacholapuram, bronze sculptures.
- Literature and culture: Tamil Bhakti saints, inscriptions.

- Cheras and Pandyas: polity, trade, literature.
- Contact with Southeast Asia: Chola cultural influence in Indonesia, Cambodia.
- Extra additions: importance of Tamil epigraphy for polity, UNESCO recognition of Great Living Chola temples.

3. Early Muslim Invasions (8th–12th century)

- Arab conquest of Sindh (711 AD): causes, limited impact.
- Mahmud of Ghazni: invasions, plunder, cultural patronage (Ghaznavid architecture, Al-Biruni).
- Muhammad Ghori: battles of Tarain, consolidation attempts.
- Significance of early invasions: political vacuum, introduction of new architecture, beginning of Indo-Islamic synthesis.
- Extra additions: new research on Arab maritime contacts with western India; UPSC often asks about cultural impact not just battles.

4. Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526)

- Slave dynasty: Qutubuddin Aibak, Iltutmish, Balban.
- Khalji dynasty: Alauddin Khalji's market reforms, conquests, administrative innovations.
- Tughlaq dynasty: Muhammad bin Tughlaq's experiments, Firoz Shah Tughlaq's reforms.
- Sayyid dynasty: weak rulers, regional assertion.
- Lodi dynasty: Ibrahim Lodi, Afghan character of rule.
- Administration: central and provincial structure, iqta system.
- Economy: agrarian taxation, urbanization, trade networks.
- Society and culture: rise of Sufism, Bhakti influences, role of ulema.
- Architecture: Qutub Minar, Alai Darwaza, Tughlaqabad fort.
- Challenges: Mongol invasions, regional resistance.
- Decline of Sultanate: factors leading to rise of Mughals.
- Extra additions: debates on iqta vs jagirdari system; role of technology (Persian wheel, paper).

5. Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1565)

- Foundation by Harihara and Bukka (Sangama dynasty).
- Political history: Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, Aravidu dynasties.
- Administration: Nayankara system, revenue arrangements.
- Economy: agriculture, craft production, trade with Portuguese.
- Society: status of women, temple-centered life, caste dynamics.
- Culture: architecture (Hampi monuments, Virupaksha, Vitthala temples), sculpture, painting.
- Conflict with Bahmani kingdom: wars, political outcomes.
- Travellers' accounts: Nicolo Conti, Abdul Razzaq, Domingo Paes, Fernao Nuniz.
- Decline after Battle of Talikota (1565).
- Extra additions: UNESCO heritage of Hampi; recent ASI work on Vijayanagara ruins.

6. Central Asian Politics and Babur's Advance

- Timurids and their decline.
- Uzbek-Iran conflict.
- Babur's struggles in Central Asia.
- First Battle of Panipat (1526): significance in Indian history.
- Problems faced by Babur after Panipat: Afghans, Rajputs, eastern India.
- Babur's contribution: Baburnama as a source, military innovations (gunpowder, artillery).
- Extra additions: relevance of Babur in Central Asian geopolitics; how technology changed Indian warfare.

7. Humayun and the Sur Interregnum

- Humayun: struggles with Afghans and Bahadur Shah of Gujarat.
- Gujarat and Bengal campaigns.
- Sher Shah Suri: early life, rise to power.
- Sur dynasty (1540–56): administration, revenue reforms (zabt), infrastructure (roads, sarais).
- Contributions of Sher Shah: currency, postal system, land revenue, trade facilitation.
- Extra additions: Sher Shah as precursor of Mughal administration.

8. Akbar's Empire (1556–1605)

- Early struggles: regency, revolts, consolidation.
- Expansion: Malwa, Gujarat, Bengal, Rajasthan, Northwest.
- Relations with Rajputs: alliance and integration.
- Mansabdari system: structure and importance.
- Revenue administration: Dahsala system (Raja Todar Mal).
- Religious policy: Sulh-i-Kul, Din-i-Ilahi, debates at Ibadat Khana.
- State and government: central ministries, provincial structure.
- Culture: painting (Mughal miniatures), architecture (Fatehpur Sikri).
- Extra additions: UPSC often tests factual prelims on mansab ranks and cultural monuments.

9. Jahangir and Shah Jahan

- Jahangir: accession issues, role of Nur Jahan, rebellions.
- Shah Jahan: architectural achievements (Taj Mahal, Red Fort), Deccan campaigns, Balkh campaign.
- Economy and trade under both.
- Cultural developments: Mughal painting flourished.
- Extra additions: European travellers' accounts during this period.

10. Aurangzeb (1658–1707)

- War of succession after Shah Jahan.
- Religious policies: jizya re-imposition, temple destruction debates.

- Expansion: Deccan campaigns, conflicts with Rajputs.
- Popular revolts: Jats, Satnamis, Sikhs, Afghans.
- Assessment of Aurangzeb: strengths and weaknesses, Jagirdari crisis.
- Extra additions: UPSC mains often asks for balanced view of Aurangzeb.

11. Rise of Marathas and Regional States

- Shivaji: early life, administration (Ashtapradhan), swarajya.
- Treaty of Purandar, visit to Agra.
- Expansion of Marathas under successors: Peshwas, confederacy.
- Other regional states: Hyderabad Nizams, Bengal Nawabs, Mysore, Awadh.
- Decline of Mughal authority: Bahadur Shah I, Sayyid brothers, Nizam-ul-Mulk.
- Third Battle of Panipat (1761): significance.
- Extra additions: cultural contributions of Marathas; link to later colonial resistance.

12. Medieval Indian Society and Economy

- Rural society: peasants, landlords, taxes.
- Urban life: towns, guilds, artisans, master-craftsmen.
- Women: status, property rights, social practices.
- Slavery and servitude.
- Commercial classes: merchants, bankers, trade networks.
- Inland and overseas trade: role of Portuguese, Dutch, English.
- Mughal state and commerce: balance of power with merchants.
- Trends of economy in 18th century: decline of industries, rise of colonial imports.
- Extra additions: debate on de-industrialization, relevance of Indian Ocean trade.

13. Religion, Art, and Culture in Medieval India

- Bhakti movement: Alvars, Nayanars, saints like Kabir, Mirabai, Guru Nanak.
- Sufi movement: Chishti and Suhrawardi orders, khanqahs, syncretism.
- Fine arts: Indo-Islamic architecture, Mughal paintings, Rajput and Deccan painting.
- Music: development of Hindustani music, Tansen.
- Literature: Persian, Urdu, Bhakti poetry.
- Science and technology: astronomy, metallurgy, irrigation.
- Extra additions: cultural synthesis as a mains theme; UPSC has asked about Bhakti-Sufi in essay.

14. Current Relevance (Medieval in 2024–25 news)

- Hampi monuments conservation under UNESCO.
- Commemoration of Chola naval expeditions in India-ASEAN context.
- Discovery of new medieval inscriptions in South India (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka).
- Aurangzeb's policy debates resurfacing in political discourse.
- Maratha heritage projects in Maharashtra.

Modern History: Detailed Microtopics

1. Advent of Europeans and Establishment of British Power

- Portuguese in India: Vasco da Gama's arrival, Goa, monopoly in spices, decline.
- Dutch East India Company: main settlements, reasons for decline.
- English East India Company: Surat factory, expansion, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta.
- French in India: Pondicherry, Carnatic wars, Dupleix vs Clive.
- Anglo-French rivalry: Carnatic wars (first, second, third), causes, consequences.
- Anglo-Mysore wars: Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, impact on British expansion.
- Anglo-Maratha wars: causes, treaties, consolidation of British power.
- Anglo-Sikh wars: Ranjit Singh, treaties, annexation.
- Methods of expansion: subsidiary alliance, doctrine of lapse, annexations.
- Extra additions:
 - Portuguese maritime archaeology (recent discoveries).
 - Modern debates on why British succeeded over other Europeans.

2. British Administration and Policies (18th–19th Century)

- Early administration under Warren Hastings, Cornwallis, Wellesley.
- Regulating Act 1773, Pitt's India Act 1784, Charter Acts, Company reforms.
- Administrative structure: central, provincial, district level.
- Civil services: Cornwallis' reforms, Indianization debates.
- Judicial system: Adalat system, codification of laws.
- Police and army organization.
- Administrative ideology: Orientalists vs Anglicists, Macaulay's education reforms.
- Doctrine of Lapse under Dalhousie.
- Extra additions: debates on colonial state nature: exploitative vs modernizing.

3. Economic Policies and Their Impact

- Land revenue systems: Zamindari, Ryotwari, Mahalwari.
- Agrarian changes: commercialization of agriculture, cash crops, peasants' plight.
- Decline of traditional industries: textiles, handicrafts.
- Drain of wealth theory: Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt.
- Development of modern industries: cotton, jute, tea, railways, coal.
- Foreign capital and banking.
- Impact of British policies: poverty, famines, economic stagnation.
- Extra additions: current research on "deindustrialization debate".

4. Social and Cultural Awakening

- Role of Christian missionaries.
- Reform movements:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Brahmo Samaj.
- Debendranath Tagore, Keshab Chandra Sen.
- Young Bengal movement.
- Arya Samaj (Dayananda Saraswati).
- Prarthana Samaj, Aligarh Movement (Sir Syed Ahmed Khan).
- Ramakrishna Mission (Swami Vivekananda).
- Theosophical Society (Annie Besant).
- Women's reforms: abolition of Sati, widow remarriage, female education.
- Educational reforms: Wood's Dispatch, universities, vernacular education.
- Role of press: growth of nationalist press, censorship.
- Social legislation: Hindu Widow Remarriage Act, Child Marriage Restraint.
- Extra additions: connections between 19th century reform and modern debates (uniform civil code, women's rights).

5. Popular Protests and Peasant Movements

- Early tribal uprisings: Santhal rebellion, Munda uprising, Kol rebellion.
- Peasant revolts: Indigo revolt, Deccan riots, Moplah rebellion.
- Military revolts: Vellore mutiny 1806.
- Nature and limitations of early resistance.
- Extra additions: link tribal movements to present constitutional safeguards.

6. Revolt of 1857

- Causes: political, economic, military, socio-religious.
- Course of revolt: leaders, main centres, British response.
- Nature of revolt: sepoy mutiny vs first war of independence.
- Consequences: changes in British administration, army, policies.
- Historiography: nationalist, Marxist, revisionist views.
- Extra additions: significance of local heroes (Rani Laxmibai, Kunwar Singh) in regional history.

7. Growth of Nationalism (1858–1905)

- Factors: economic exploitation, western education, press, railways.
- Political associations before INC: Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Indian Association.
- Formation of INC (1885): A.O. Hume, early aims.
- Moderate phase: Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Banerjee, Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- Demands: constitutional reforms, civil services, reduction of drain.
- Role of social reform and press in nationalism.
- Extra additions: comparison of early nationalist demands with present democratic rights.

8. Era of Extremism (1905–1919)

- Partition of Bengal 1905: causes, swadeshi movement, boycott, national schools.

- Extremists: Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal.
- Muslim League formation (1906): early demands.
- Surat split (1907).
- Revolutionary activities: Chapekar brothers, Anushilan Samiti, India House.
- Ghadar movement and Komagata Maru incident.
- Home Rule Leagues (Tilak, Annie Besant).
- Lucknow Pact 1916.
- Montagu declaration 1917.
- Extra additions: global linkages of Indian revolutionaries (Berlin Committee, Irish connection).

9. Gandhian Era (1919–1947)

- Gandhi's entry: Champaran, Kheda, Ahmedabad.
- Rowlatt Satyagraha, Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- Khilafat movement and Non-Cooperation movement.
- Civil Disobedience movement: Salt Satyagraha, Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
- Round Table Conferences.
- Quit India movement 1942.
- Indian National Army and Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Parallel movements: Congress Socialist Party, Left movements.
- Women in freedom struggle.
- Role of students and youth.
- Extra additions: Gandhi vs Ambedkar debates (Poona Pact).

10. Towards Independence and Partition

- Cripps Mission, Quit India aftermath.
- Wavell Plan and Shimla Conference.
- INA trials and naval mutiny.
- Cabinet Mission Plan.
- Mountbatten Plan.
- Partition of India: causes, violence, refugee crisis.
- Independence Act 1947.
- Role of princely states in integration.
- Extra additions: legacy of partition on present geopolitics.

11. Constitutional Development

- Charter Acts (1813, 1833, 1853).
- Government of India Acts (1858, 1909, 1919, 1935).
- Indian Councils Acts.
- Simon Commission, Nehru Report, Round Table Conferences.
- August Offer, Cripps Mission.
- Constituent Assembly formation.
- Extra additions: comparison of GOI Act 1935 with current Indian Constitution.

12. Modern Indian Society and Culture

- Indian renaissance: impact of western thought, modern education.
- Growth of vernacular literature.
- Role of theatre, poetry, journalism in nationalism.
- Social reform vs revivalist movements.
- Women's participation in cultural change.
- Growth of communalism and identity politics.
- Extra additions: how cultural nationalism shaped present politics.

13. India after Independence (up to 1960s)

- Challenges: refugee settlement, reorganization of states, linguistic movements.
- Economic policy: planning commission, five-year plans, land reforms.
- Foreign policy: non-alignment, relations with neighbors.
- Social reforms: caste policies, reservation debates.
- Extra additions: UPSC sometimes links modern history with post-independence consolidation (GS1).

14. Current Relevance (Modern History in 2024–25 news)

- 150 years of Arya Samaj commemorations.
- Digital archiving of 1857 revolt records.
- 75 years of Constitution enforcement (2025).
- Partition remembrance day debates.
- Discussions around Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose documents.

World History: Detailed Microtopics

1. Renaissance and Reformation

- Renaissance in Europe: causes, features, humanism, art, science, and culture.
- Important figures: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Galileo, Erasmus.
- Impact of printing press.
- Reformation: Martin Luther, Calvin, Henry VIII.
- Counter-Reformation: Council of Trent, Jesuits.
- Impact on European politics and society.
- Extra additions: UPSC questions often link Renaissance to modernity and individual freedom.

2. Geographical Discoveries and Colonialism

- Factors leading to Age of Discoveries: economic motives, technology, navigation.
- Major explorers: Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Magellan.
- Consequences: discovery of new world, exploitation of indigenous people.

- Rise of colonial empires: Spain, Portugal, later England, France, Netherlands.
- Columbian Exchange: impact on economy, crops, diseases.
- Extra additions: link between colonialism and rise of capitalism.

3. Industrial Revolution

- Causes: agricultural revolution, capital accumulation, scientific advancements.
- First Industrial Revolution: textiles, coal, steam engine, iron industry.
- Second Industrial Revolution: electricity, steel, chemicals, railways.
- Social impact: urbanization, working class, child labor.
- Political consequences: rise of trade unions, socialism, labor laws.
- Spread beyond Britain: Western Europe, USA, Japan.
- Extra additions: impact on colonized countries like India (deindustrialization).

4. American Revolution (1776)

- Causes: taxation without representation, mercantilist policies, Enlightenment ideas.
- Course: Boston Tea Party, Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence.
- Leaders: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin.
- Outcome: US independence, constitution, Bill of Rights.
- Global significance: spread of democratic and republican ideas.
- Extra additions: UPSC often links American Revolution with French and Indian nationalism.

5. French Revolution (1789)

- Causes: socio-economic inequalities, Enlightenment, financial crisis.
- Course: Estates-General, fall of Bastille, National Assembly, Reign of Terror.
- Leaders: Robespierre, Danton, Napoleon.
- Outcome: end of feudal privileges, rise of nationalism, declaration of rights.
- Impact on world: spread of revolutionary ideals, Napoleonic wars.
- Extra additions: comparison of French Revolution with 1848 revolutions in Europe.

6. Age of Revolutions (19th Century)

- Revolutions of 1830 and 1848 in Europe: causes, spread, results.
- Rise of liberalism and nationalism in Europe.
- Unification of Italy: Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour, Victor Emmanuel II.
- Unification of Germany: Bismarck, wars with Denmark, Austria, France.
- Latin American revolutions: Simon Bolivar, Jose de San Martin.
- Extra additions: UPSC often asks about impact of liberal and nationalist movements on Asia.

7. Imperialism and Colonization (19th Century)

- New Imperialism: causes, economic and political.
- Colonization of Africa: Scramble for Africa, Berlin Conference 1884–85.

- Colonization of Asia: India under British, Indochina under French.
- Impact: exploitation, cultural changes, resistance movements.
- Extra additions: link to Gandhian anti-colonial movements and present global inequalities.

8. Russian Revolution (1917)

- Causes: autocracy of Tsars, economic backwardness, World War I.
- 1905 Revolution: Bloody Sunday.
- February Revolution 1917: abdication of Nicholas II.
- October Revolution 1917: Bolsheviks under Lenin.
- Civil war and USSR formation.
- Impact: rise of communism, global ideological divide.
- Extra additions: role of women workers in 1917 protests.

9. World War I (1914–1919)

- Causes: militarism, alliances, nationalism, assassination of Archduke.
- Major battles: Western Front, Eastern Front, trench warfare.
- Role of colonies: Indian soldiers in Europe, Africa.
- End of war: Treaty of Versailles, League of Nations.
- Consequences: redrawing of maps, rise of US and Japan, decline of Europe.
- Extra additions: 2024 marked 110 years of WWI beginning – could be in news.

10. Interwar Period (1919–1939)

- Treaty of Versailles and its failures.
- Rise of fascism in Italy: Mussolini.
- Rise of Nazism in Germany: Hitler, Nazi ideology.
- Great Depression 1929: causes, global impact.
- Rise of militarism in Japan.
- Extra additions: link with Indian independence struggle (depression and Quit India movement).

11. World War II (1939–1945)

- Causes: Treaty of Versailles, economic crisis, aggressive expansionism.
- Course: German invasion of Poland, blitzkrieg, Pearl Harbor, D-Day.
- Role of colonies: Indian National Army, Africa.
- End: surrender of Germany and Japan, atomic bombs.
- Consequences: UN formation, Cold War beginnings, decolonization.
- Extra additions: commemoration of Hiroshima-Nagasaki anniversaries in 2025.

12. Cold War (1945–1991)

- Ideological conflict: capitalism vs communism.
- Major events: Berlin blockade, Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War, Afghan war.

- Formation of NATO and Warsaw Pact.
- Role of Non-Aligned Movement.
- Détente and arms control treaties.
- End of Cold War: fall of Berlin Wall, disintegration of USSR.
- Extra additions: Cold War lessons for today's multipolar world.

13. Decolonization and National Liberation Movements

- India's independence and partition.
- African decolonization: Ghana, Algeria, Kenya, South Africa.
- Southeast Asia: Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia.
- Arab world: Egypt, Palestine conflict.
- Latin America: Cuba under Castro.
- Extra additions: links between decolonization and present-day South-South cooperation.

14. Post-Cold War World (1991 onwards)

- US as sole superpower.
- Rise of multipolarity: EU, China, India.
- Globalization: WTO, IMF, World Bank, multinational corporations.
- Information revolution and digital age.
- Terrorism: 9/11, war on terror.
- Extra additions: current Ukraine-Russia conflict, China-US rivalry.

15. Contemporary World Issues (relevant for GS1 + essays)

- Climate change negotiations (Kyoto, Paris, COP).
- Refugee crises: Syria, Afghanistan.
- UN reforms debate.
- Rise of right-wing populism globally.
- Current wars and conflicts (Ukraine, Middle East).
- Extra additions: India's role in BRICS and G20.

16. Current Relevance (World History in 2024–25 news)

- 250th anniversary of American Revolution (2026 approaching).
- 80 years since WWII ended (2025).
- Ukraine war impact on global order.
- BRICS expansion 2024.
- COP30 Brazil 2025 and global climate politics.

Indian Polity and Constitution: Detailed Microtopics

1. Historical Background of Indian Constitution

- Regulating Act 1773: significance, governor-generalship.
- Pitt's India Act 1784.
- Charter Acts: 1813, 1833, 1853.
- Government of India Acts: 1858, 1909, 1919, 1935.
- Indian Councils Acts.
- Morley-Minto reforms (1909).
- Montagu-Chelmsford reforms (1919).
- Simon Commission, Nehru Report.
- August Offer, Cripps Mission, Cabinet Mission Plan.
- Indian Independence Act 1947.
- Extra additions: how GOI Act 1935 shaped today's Constitution (federal structure, PSCs, emergency).

2. Making of the Constitution

- Constituent Assembly: composition, elections, committees.
- Role of B.N. Rau, Sir Stafford Cripps, Cabinet Mission.
- Role of key leaders: Ambedkar, Nehru, Rajendra Prasad.
- Drafting Committee and sub-committees.
- Objectives Resolution.
- Criticism of the Constituent Assembly.
- Adoption, enforcement, significance of January 26.
- Extra additions: debates on secularism, federalism, language in CA proceedings.

3. Salient Features of the Constitution

- Longest written constitution.
- Blend of rigidity and flexibility.
- Federal system with unitary bias.
- Parliamentary system.
- Independent judiciary.
- Universal adult franchise.
- Fundamental Rights, Duties, Directive Principles.
- Secularism and socialism.
- Emergency provisions.
- Extra additions: comparison with US, UK, Canadian constitutions.

4. Preamble

- Text and importance.

- Keywords: sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic.
- Justice, liberty, equality, fraternity.
- Amendability: Kesavananda Bharati case.
- Berubari case.
- Extra additions: debates on secularism and socialism insertions in 1976.

5. Union and Its Territory

- Article 1 to 4: Union of States, admission, formation of new states.
- Reorganization of states: linguistic basis (1956).
- Important state reorganization movements.
- Recent developments: creation of Telangana, J&K reorganization 2019.
- Extra additions: UPSC often asks about Article 3 and its scope.

6. Citizenship

- Constitutional provisions (Articles 5–11).
- Citizenship Act 1955: modes of acquiring and losing.
- Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).
- Citizenship Amendment Act 2019: provisions, controversies.
- Dual citizenship debate.
- Extra additions: current debates on refugees and illegal migrants.

7. Fundamental Rights

- Right to Equality (14–18).
- Right to Freedom (19–22).
- Right against Exploitation (23–24).
- Right to Freedom of Religion (25–28).
- Cultural and Educational Rights (29–30).
- Right to Constitutional Remedies (32).
- Restrictions, exceptions, reasonable restrictions.
- Suspension of rights during emergency.
- Important judgments: Kesavananda Bharati, Maneka Gandhi, Puttaswamy (privacy).
- Extra additions: SC's interpretation of right to internet, same-sex marriage debate.

8. Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)

- Socialist, Gandhian, Liberal-intellectual principles.
- Difference between DPSPs and Fundamental Rights.
- Importance in governance.
- Landmark cases: Minerva Mills, Kesavananda Bharati.
- 42nd and 44th amendments.
- Extra additions: new ideas like Uniform Civil Code, right to health.

9. Fundamental Duties

- List of 11 duties.
- Swaran Singh Committee.
- Importance and criticism.
- Relation with rights.
- Enforcement issues.
- Extra additions: current debate on compulsory voting and environmental duties.

10. Amendment of the Constitution

- Article 368.
- Types of amendments: simple majority, special majority, special with states.
- Important amendments: 42nd, 44th, 52nd, 73rd, 74th, 86th, 101st (GST).
- Basic structure doctrine.
- Extra additions: recent debates on simultaneous elections and constitutional change.

11. Basic Structure of the Constitution

- Origin: Kesavananda Bharati case.
- Elements of basic structure: supremacy of constitution, federalism, secularism, judicial review.
- Later cases: Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain, Minerva Mills, SR Bommai.
- Extra additions: application of basic structure in contemporary judgments (CJI appointment, J&K).

12. Parliament and State Legislatures

- Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, President.
- Powers and functions: legislative, financial, judicial.
- Parliamentary privileges.
- Law-making process.
- Anti-defection law (52nd and 91st amendments).
- State legislatures: Vidhan Sabha, Vidhan Parishad.
- Special status of Legislative Councils.
- Extra additions: debates on simultaneous elections, anti-defection reforms.

13. Executive: Union and State

- President: election, powers, impeachment.
- Vice President.
- Prime Minister and Council of Ministers: powers, collective responsibility.
- Cabinet committees.
- Governor: appointment, powers, controversies.
- Chief Minister and State Council.
- Extra additions: recent SC rulings on Governor's discretionary powers.

14. Judiciary

- Structure: Supreme Court, High Courts, Subordinate courts.
- Appointment and removal of judges.
- Judicial review, judicial activism, PIL.
- Collegium system.
- Landmark cases: Kesavananda Bharati, NJAC case, Right to Privacy.
- Tribunals.
- Extra additions: recent debates on judicial accountability, AI in courts.

15. Federal System

- Division of powers: Union, State, Concurrent lists.
- Centre-state relations: administrative, legislative, financial.
- Inter-state councils, zonal councils.
- Governor's role.
- Extra additions: cooperative vs competitive federalism, GST Council disputes.

16. Local Government

- 73rd Amendment: Panchayati Raj system.
- 74th Amendment: Urban local bodies.
- Significance and challenges.
- Finance Commission role in local bodies.
- Extra additions: debates on women's reservation in local government.

17. Constitutional Bodies

- Election Commission.
- UPSC.
- Finance Commission.
- CAG.
- NITI Aayog (non-constitutional but important).
- Extra additions: reforms for electoral bonds, transparency.

18. Non-Constitutional Bodies

- NITI Aayog.
- NHRC, SHRC.
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas.
- CBI, NIA (statutory but key).
- Extra additions: relevance of data protection authority, new digital regulators.

19. Emergency Provisions

- Types: National, State, Financial.
- Articles 352, 356, 360.
- 42nd and 44th amendments.
- Judicial review of emergencies.
- Extra additions: 1975 Emergency case studies, current debates on misuse of Article 356.

20. Elections and Political Parties

- Election process: first-past-the-post, proportional representation.
- Delimitation.
- Political parties and anti-defection law.
- Electoral reforms.
- Role of Election Commission.
- Extra additions: simultaneous elections debate, EVM vs paper ballot.

21. Current Relevance (Polity in 2024–25 news)

- 75 years of Constitution enforcement (2025).
- Supreme Court judgments on same-sex marriage, Article 370.
- Debate on Uniform Civil Code.
- Electoral bonds verdict.
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 implementation.
- Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023) operationalization.

Indian Economy: Detailed Microtopics

1. Basic Concepts of Economy

- Sectors of economy: primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary.
- National income: GDP, GNP, NNP, per capita income.
- Methods of measuring GDP.
- Inflation: CPI, WPI, core inflation.
- Deflation, stagflation, disinflation.
- Fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, primary deficit.
- Monetary policy vs fiscal policy.
- Extra additions: GDP deflator, real vs nominal GDP, green GDP.

2. Economic Planning in India

- Planning commission: evolution and role.
- NITI Aayog: objectives, functions, differences from Planning Commission.
- Five-Year Plans: major objectives and achievements.

- Failures of planning: inefficiency, over-centralization.
- Current planning framework in India.
- Extra additions: SDGs and NITI Aayog's role.

3. Economic Growth and Development

- Difference between growth and development.
- Indicators of development: HDI, GDI, MPI.
- Inclusive growth: concept and strategies.
- Poverty estimation: Tendulkar, Rangarajan committees.
- Inequality: Gini coefficient, Oxfam inequality report.
- Sustainable development.
- Extra additions: India's progress in SDG Index 2025.

4. Agriculture Sector

- Land reforms: zamindari abolition, tenancy reforms, ceilings.
- Green revolution: achievements, limitations.
- Cropping patterns in India.
- Irrigation: types, importance, government schemes.
- Agricultural credit: NABARD, Kisan Credit Card.
- MSP and procurement system.
- Agri-marketing reforms: e-NAM, APMC Acts.
- Food processing industry.
- Organic and natural farming.
- Extra additions: PM-Kisan, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, millets as superfood (UN recognition 2023).

5. Industry Sector

- Industrial policies: 1948, 1956, 1991.
- Role of PSUs and disinvestment.
- MSME sector: importance, challenges, Udyam portal.
- Make in India, Start-up India, Production Linked Incentives (PLI).
- Industrial corridors and SEZs.
- Labour reforms: labour codes.
- Extra additions: gig economy, platform workers, EV and semiconductor industries.

6. Services Sector

- Role in GDP growth.
- IT and ITES industry.
- Tourism and hospitality sector.
- Banking and financial services.
- Communication and transport.

- Real estate and construction.
- Extra additions: India as global services hub, fintech growth, ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce).

7. Infrastructure and Investment

- Transport: railways, roads, ports, airports.
- Energy: coal, oil, renewable energy.
- Telecom: 4G, 5G rollout.
- Urban infrastructure: Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT.
- Investment models: PPP, BOT, hybrid annuity.
- National Infrastructure Pipeline.
- Extra additions: Gati Shakti Master Plan, green hydrogen mission.

8. Banking and Financial System

- Structure of banking: scheduled vs non-scheduled banks.
- RBI functions: monetary policy, regulation, inflation targeting.
- Monetary instruments: repo, reverse repo, CRR, SLR.
- Commercial banks, cooperative banks, RRBs, NBFCs.
- Financial inclusion: Jan Dhan Yojana, payment banks, small finance banks.
- Digital banking: UPI, digital rupee.
- Extra additions: insolvency reforms, twin balance sheet problem, bad bank (NARCL).

9. Public Finance

- Budget: components, types (revenue, capital).
- FRBM Act: targets and amendments.
- Subsidies: food, fuel, fertilizer.
- Taxation: direct vs indirect, GST.
- Non-tax revenues.
- Fiscal federalism: Finance Commission, devolution.
- Extra additions: GST Council disputes, 15th Finance Commission recommendations.

10. External Sector

- Balance of payments: current account, capital account.
- Foreign exchange reserves.
- Exchange rate regimes.
- India's trade policy: export promotion, FTAs.
- WTO and India.
- FDI and FPI flows.
- Remittances.
- Extra additions: India's trade with Global South, de-dollarization trends.

11. Inflation and Unemployment

- Types of inflation: demand-pull, cost-push.
- Impact on poor, middle class, economy.
- Unemployment types: disguised, structural, frictional, seasonal.
- Measurement issues.
- Government schemes to tackle unemployment.
- Extra additions: inflation targeting debate in India, stagflation fears.

12. Poverty and Inequality

- Causes of poverty.
- Poverty line debates.
- Rural vs urban poverty.
- Inequality of wealth and income.
- Policies for poverty alleviation: IRDP, NREGA, NRLM.
- Extra additions: World Bank poverty estimates 2025, multidimensional poverty index.

13. Government Schemes and Social Sector Initiatives

- Employment: MGNREGA, PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Health: Ayushman Bharat, Jan Aushadhi.
- Education: NEP 2020, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- Food security: NFSA, ICDS, Mid-day meal.
- Housing: PM Awas Yojana.
- Social security: Atal Pension Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- Extra additions: PM Vishwakarma Yojana 2023, Aspirational Blocks Programme.

14. Sustainable Development and Environment-Economy Linkages

- Climate change economics.
- Carbon markets, green finance.
- Energy transition: solar, wind, hydrogen.
- Circular economy.
- SDG financing.
- Extra additions: COP30 Brazil 2025 outcomes, India's updated NDCs.

15. Current Relevance (Economy in 2024–25 news)

- India's GDP growth rate and IMF projections 2025.
- 16th Finance Commission recommendations (due 2025).
- Digital Rupee expansion.
- India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) 2024.
- Global slowdown and India's resilience.
- WTO disputes on subsidies and trade.

- Inflation trends post-Ukraine war.

Geography: Detailed Microtopics

1. Physical Geography of the World

- Earth: shape, latitude-longitude, motions (rotation, revolution).
- Earth's interior: crust, mantle, core, seismic waves, earthquakes.
- Rocks: igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic.
- Plate tectonics: continental drift, sea-floor spreading, major plates.
- Volcanoes: types, distribution, landforms.
- Earthquakes: causes, distribution, measurement (Richter, Mercalli).
- Weathering and erosion: mechanical, chemical, biological processes.
- Agents of erosion: rivers, glaciers, winds, sea waves.
- Landforms: fluvial, glacial, aeolian, coastal, karst.
- Extra additions: recent Turkey earthquake 2023–24, volcanic eruptions and UPSC current affairs link.

2. Climatology

- Atmosphere: composition, layers, significance.
- Insolation: factors affecting, heat budget.
- Temperature distribution: inversions, isotherms.
- Pressure belts and winds: planetary, monsoon, westerlies, local winds.
- Jet streams and their role in Indian monsoon.
- Humidity, clouds, rainfall types.
- Cyclones: tropical and temperate, recent examples.
- El Niño, La Niña, IOD, monsoon variability.
- Climate classification: Koppen, Thornthwaite.
- Extra additions: link between climate change and extreme weather events in India.

3. Oceanography

- Ocean relief: continental shelf, slope, abyssal plains, ridges, trenches.
- Ocean currents: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean systems.
- Tides: types, significance.
- Marine resources: biotic, abiotic, energy.
- Coral reefs: types, distribution, threats.
- Marine pollution and conservation.
- Extra additions: deep-sea mining debates, International Seabed Authority, Arctic sea routes.

4. Biogeography and Environment

- Ecosystem: components, functions, productivity.

- Biogeochemical cycles: carbon, nitrogen, water.
- Biomes: forest, grassland, desert, tundra, marine.
- Biodiversity: types, hotspots, threats.
- Conservation: in-situ (biosphere reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries), ex-situ (zoos, gene banks).
- Endangered species and IUCN categories.
- Extra additions: new Ramsar sites in India, Cheetah reintroduction at Kuno National Park.

5. Human Geography (World)

- Man-environment relationship.
- Population: distribution, density, growth, migration.
- Settlement geography: rural and urban types.
- Resources: renewable and non-renewable.
- Economic activities: primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary.
- Industrial regions: Ruhr, Great Lakes, Japan, China.
- Agriculture types: shifting, subsistence, plantation, commercial, dairy, Mediterranean.
- Transport and communication networks.
- Extra additions: global demographic shifts (aging in Japan, youth bulge in Africa).

6. Indian Physical Geography

- Geological structure: Peninsular block, Himalayas, Indo-Gangetic plain.
- Physiographic divisions: mountains, plateaus, plains, coastal, islands.
- Rivers: Himalayan and Peninsular systems, interlinking projects.
- Lakes and glaciers.
- Soil types of India: formation, distribution, problems of soil erosion.
- Natural vegetation: forests, grasslands, wetlands, mangroves.
- Wildlife reserves and sanctuaries.
- Extra additions: GSI's new findings on Himalayan geology, glacial lake outburst floods.

7. Indian Climate

- Monsoon: mechanism, onset, retreat.
- Variability: droughts, floods, cyclones.
- Seasons in India.
- Climate regions (Koppen classification in India).
- Climatic hazards: desertification, heat waves, cloudbursts.
- Extra additions: IMD's new forecasting models, extreme weather in 2024–25.

8. Indian Resources

- Agriculture: distribution of major crops (rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane).
- Irrigation: canals, tanks, groundwater, micro-irrigation.
- Mineral resources: coal, iron ore, bauxite, mica, rare earths.

- Energy resources: thermal, hydro, nuclear, renewable.
- Water resources: river basins, disputes, groundwater crisis.
- Forest resources and management.
- Fisheries: inland and marine.
- Extra additions: lithium reserves discovery (J&K 2023), India's renewable energy push.

9. Indian Industries and Economic Geography

- Industrial regions of India: Mumbai-Pune, Chotanagpur, Bangalore, Coimbatore.
- Iron and steel, textiles, petrochemicals, automobiles.
- MSME clusters.
- IT hubs and digital economy geography.
- Ports and SEZs.
- Extra additions: India as semiconductor and EV hub.

10. Indian Population and Settlement

- Population size, growth, distribution.
- Census of India: trends (2001, 2011).
- Demographic dividend, ageing.
- Migration: internal, international, push-pull factors.
- Urbanization: trends, smart cities, slums.
- Rural settlements: clustered, dispersed.
- Extra additions: NFHS data on demographics, migration post-COVID.

11. Disaster Geography

- Natural disasters: earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts, landslides.
- Human-induced disasters: industrial, nuclear, oil spills.
- Disaster management framework: NDMA, SDRF, NDRF.
- Sendai Framework.
- Extra additions: 2024 Sikkim glacial flood, recurring heat waves.

12. Geographical Theories and Models

- Malthusian theory of population.
- Demographic Transition Model.
- Von Thunen's model of agriculture.
- Weber's theory of industrial location.
- Central Place Theory.
- Extra additions: application of models in Indian context (urbanization, agriculture).

13. Maps and Atlas-based Preparation

- World maps: currents, winds, volcanic zones.

- India maps: rivers, mountains, crops, minerals, industries, protected areas.
- Thematic mapping: population density, literacy, urbanization.
- Extra additions: UPSC prelims map-based trends (2023–24).

14. Current Relevance (Geography in 2024–25 news)

- IMD's new climate models.
- 2024–25 El Niño and Indian monsoon impacts.
- Lithium and rare earth mineral discoveries in India.
- India's renewable energy achievements (500 GW target).
- GLOF incidents in Himalayas.
- COP30 Brazil 2025 outcomes linked with climate geography.

Environment and Ecology: Detailed Microtopics

1. Ecology Basics

- Concept of ecology: organism, population, community, ecosystem.
- Levels of organization in ecology.
- Food chains and food webs.
- Ecological pyramids: energy, biomass, numbers.
- Biogeochemical cycles: carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, water cycle.
- Ecological succession: primary and secondary.
- Biomes: tundra, desert, rainforest, grasslands.
- Extra additions: ecosystem services and their economic value.

2. Biodiversity

- Definition and types: genetic, species, ecosystem diversity.
- India as a mega-diverse country.
- Biodiversity hotspots: Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Sundalands, Indo-Malayan.
- Threats: habitat loss, poaching, invasive species, climate change.
- Conservation methods: in-situ (protected areas, biosphere reserves, national parks, sanctuaries), ex-situ (zoos, seed banks, botanical gardens).
- IUCN categories: endangered, vulnerable, critically endangered.
- Biodiversity Act 2002 and National Biodiversity Authority.
- Extra additions: cheetah reintroduction at Kuno NP, new Ramsar sites 2024–25.

3. Indian Wildlife Protection Framework

- Wildlife Protection Act 1972: schedules and significance.
- Project Tiger and NTCA.
- Project Elephant.
- Important wildlife corridors and eco-sensitive zones.

- Important national parks and sanctuaries (map-based).
- Man-animal conflicts: causes, solutions.
- Extra additions: Great Indian Bustard protection updates, elephant corridors in news.

4. Environmental Pollution

- Air pollution: sources, particulate matter, ozone depletion, AQI.
- Water pollution: sewage, industrial, agricultural runoff.
- Soil pollution: pesticides, heavy metals.
- Noise pollution.
- Solid waste management: municipal, e-waste, biomedical.
- Plastic pollution: single-use plastics ban.
- Extra additions: smog episodes in Delhi, microplastics in Indian rivers.

5. Climate Change

- Greenhouse gases and global warming.
- Climate change evidence: melting glaciers, rising sea levels.
- IPCC reports.
- Climate change impacts on India: agriculture, monsoons, health, coastal areas.
- Adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Extra additions: IMD report 2024 on rising heatwaves; global carbon budget 2025

6. International Environmental Conventions and Protocols

- UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement.
- COP meetings: COP28 (Dubai 2023), COP29 (Azerbaijan 2024), COP30 (Brazil 2025).
- Montreal Protocol on ozone.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- CITES, Ramsar, CMS.
- UNCCD (Desertification).
- Extra additions: India's role in G20 climate agenda, Mission LiFE.

7. Environmental Governance in India

- MoEFCC: roles and functions.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- Pollution Control Boards (CPCB, SPCBs).
- Environment Protection Act 1986.
- Forest Conservation Act 1980, amended 2023.
- Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms.
- Extra additions: Forest (Conservation and Amendment) Act 2023 debates.

8. Sustainable Development and Green Economy

- Concept of sustainable development.
- Agenda 21, SDGs.
- Green finance and climate funds (Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund).
- Renewable energy push: solar, wind, biomass, hydro.
- Green buildings and smart cities.
- Circular economy.
- Extra additions: India's National Hydrogen Mission; Gati Shakti + sustainability.

9. Disaster and Environmental Hazards

- Natural disasters: floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides.
- Climate-linked disasters: cloudbursts, GLOFs.
- Human-induced disasters: Bhopal gas tragedy, Chernobyl, oil spills.
- Disaster management in India: NDMA, NDRF, Sendai Framework.
- Extra additions: 2024 Sikkim GLOF, Odisha cyclone 2025 warnings.

10. Renewable Energy and Energy Security

- Solar energy: India's achievements.
- Wind, hydro, biomass.
- Nuclear energy and safety concerns.
- International Solar Alliance.
- Hydrogen energy: India's Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Extra additions: India crossing 175 GW renewable milestone (2024–25).

11. Environmental Movements in India

- Chipko movement.
- Silent Valley movement.
- Narmada Bachao Andolan.
- Appiko movement.
- Bishnoi tradition of conservation.
- Recent youth-led climate movements.
- Extra additions: Mission LiFE as a mass movement for environment.

12. Current Relevance (Environment 2024–25)

- Forest (Conservation and Amendment) Act 2023 operationalization.
- New Ramsar sites in India (total crossed 80 in 2024).
- COP29 Azerbaijan and COP30 Brazil outcomes.
- IMD report: 2024–25 was one of the hottest years on record.
- India's progress in green hydrogen, EV policies.
- Supreme Court judgments on climate refugees and environmental rights.

Science and Technology: Detailed Microtopics

1. Space Technology

- ISRO: structure, objectives, achievements.
- Major satellite launches: INSAT, IRS, GSAT, Gaganyaan, Aditya-L1, Chandrayaan missions.
- PSLV, GSLV, GSLV Mk-III, SSLV.
- Navigation systems: NAVIC.
- Space applications: remote sensing, communication, meteorology, disaster management.
- Private sector participation in space: IN-SPACe, NSIL.
- International cooperation: NASA, ESA, JAXA, Artemis Accords.
- Extra additions: Chandrayaan-3 success (2023), Aditya-L1 solar mission (2024), Gaganyaan human spaceflight (scheduled 2025).

2. Defence Technology

- Missiles: Agni, Prithvi, Akash, BrahMos.
- Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) program.
- Nuclear submarines (INS Arihant), aircraft carriers (INS Vikrant).
- Fighter jets: Tejas (LCA).
- UAVs and drones.
- Strategic partnerships: DRDO, DPSUs, private sector.
- Defence indigenisation: Make in India in defence.
- Extra additions: Hypersonic missile development, swarm drone projects.

3. Biotechnology

- Basics: DNA, RNA, genes, genetic code.
- Recombinant DNA technology.
- Genetic engineering and CRISPR-Cas9.
- Stem cell research.
- Genomics and proteomics.
- Applications: agriculture (GM crops, Bt cotton), medicine (gene therapy, vaccines), environment (bio-remediation).
- Bioinformatics and computational biology.
- Extra additions: mRNA vaccines, genome sequencing of Indians (IndiGen project).

4. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- Basics of computer systems: hardware, software.
- Internet, broadband, mobile technology (4G, 5G).
- Artificial intelligence: machine learning, deep learning, neural networks.
- Robotics and automation.
- Blockchain technology.

- Cloud computing.
- Quantum computing.
- Cybersecurity: threats, CERT-In, Cyber Surakshit Bharat.
- Extra additions: IndiaAI Mission 2024, quantum mission (NQM), Digital India expansion.

5. Nuclear Technology

- Basics of nuclear energy: fission and fusion.
- Nuclear power plants in India.
- Nuclear safety and waste management.
- Civil nuclear liability.
- Nuclear treaties: NPT, CTBT, NSG.
- Extra additions: India's thorium program, SMRs (small modular reactors).

6. Nanotechnology

- Basics: nanoscale, nanomaterials.
- Applications: medicine (drug delivery), electronics, environment (nano-filters).
- Indian initiatives: Nano Mission.
- Risks and ethical concerns.
- Extra additions: nanomedicine research in India, nano-fertilizers.

7. Medical Science and Health Technology

- Vaccines: traditional, mRNA, DNA vaccines.
- Antibiotic resistance and AMR challenge.
- Medical devices and diagnostics.
- Organ transplantation technology.
- Genomics and personalized medicine.
- Public health programs: Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
- Extra additions: AI in medical imaging, telemedicine expansion.

8. Energy Technology

- Renewable energy: solar, wind, biomass, hydro.
- Hydrogen energy: green hydrogen mission.
- Nuclear energy.
- Fossil fuels: cleaner technologies.
- Smart grids and energy storage (batteries).
- Extra additions: lithium-ion alternatives, sodium-ion batteries.

9. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Science Policy

- Patents, copyrights, trademarks, geographical indications.
- TRIPS agreement.

- Indian patent system and innovation ecosystem.
- National Intellectual Property Rights Policy 2016.
- Extra additions: AI-generated content and IPR debates.

10. Emerging Technologies and Ethical Issues

- Artificial intelligence and ethics.
- Robotics and automation in jobs.
- Genetic engineering and bioethics.
- Surveillance, privacy and data protection.
- Cybersecurity ethics.
- Extra additions: deepfake challenges, AI regulations globally.

11. India's Science and Technology Policy

- Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2013.
- Draft STIP 2020.
- Research and innovation ecosystem in India.
- Atal Innovation Mission, Startup ecosystem.
- Extra additions: National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill 2023.

12. Current Relevance (S&T in 2024–25 news)

- Chandrayaan-3 success and Aditya-L1 solar mission results.
- Gaganyaan human spaceflight program (2025).
- IndiaAI Mission and global AI governance debates.
- India's National Quantum Mission implementation.
- CRISPR trials in India for genetic diseases.
- Cybersecurity incidents and CERT-In guidelines.
- India's achievements in EV battery and hydrogen technology.

Indian Society and Social Issues: Detailed Microtopics

1. Indian Society: Structure and Characteristics

- Salient features of Indian society: diversity, unity in diversity.
- Demographic features: caste, religion, language, region.
- Rural-urban divide.
- Secularism and pluralism.
- Family structures: joint vs nuclear.
- Marriage systems: arranged, inter-caste, interfaith.
- Social mobility and stratification.
- Extra additions: urban middle class expansion, changing youth aspirations.

2. Caste System and Social Stratification

- Origin and features of caste system.
- Varna vs Jati.
- Functions and dysfunctions of caste.
- Caste and politics.
- Caste in contemporary India: decline, persistence, transformation.
- Caste and affirmative action.
- Extra additions: caste census debates (2024–25), OBC reservation politics.

3. Religion and Society

- Major religions in India and their role in society.
- Secularism: constitutional provisions, challenges.
- Communalism: causes and impacts.
- Religious reform movements (Bhakti, Sufi, Arya Samaj, Aligarh).
- Religious minorities and state policies.
- Extra additions: debate on Uniform Civil Code, religious conversions.

4. Tribal Communities in India

- Distribution and characteristics of tribal groups.
- Issues: poverty, displacement, exploitation.
- Constitutional safeguards: Fifth and Sixth Schedules.
- Tribal movements: Santhal, Munda, Naga, Bhil.
- Development policies for tribes: TRIFED, Van Dhan Yojana.
- Extra additions: Forest Rights Act implementation issues, PVTG Development Mission (Budget 2023).

5. Women and Society

- Status of women in ancient, medieval, modern India.
- Women empowerment: education, employment, political participation.
- Issues: gender discrimination, domestic violence, dowry, female foeticide.
- Women's movements in India.
- Laws for women: Hindu Code Bills, Maternity Benefit Act, Sexual Harassment Act, Domestic Violence Act.
- Extra additions: Women's Reservation Bill (2023) implementation; debates on women in armed forces.

6. Population and Demography

- Population size, growth, distribution.
- Population policy of India: 2000, NFHS data.
- Demographic dividend.

- Ageing population.
- Migration trends: internal and external.
- Urbanization: problems of slums, overcrowding, housing.
- Extra additions: India overtaking China as most populous nation (2023).

7. Globalization and Its Impact on Indian Society

- Definition and process of globalization.
- Impact on economy: jobs, outsourcing, inequality.
- Impact on culture: westernization, hybridization.
- Impact on family and social relations.
- Resistance to globalization: localization movements.
- Extra additions: digital globalization, social media influence on youth.

8. Social Empowerment and Inclusive Policies

- Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: safeguards and policies.
- OBCs and reservation politics.
- Minorities: National Commission for Minorities.
- Persons with disabilities: RPwD Act 2016.
- Senior citizens and their rights.
- Extra additions: transgender rights (Transgender Persons Act 2019), LGBTQ+ debates.

9. Education and Society

- Role of education in social change.
- Access and equity issues in Indian education.
- Literacy rates and regional disparities.
- NEP 2020 reforms.
- Digital education and challenges (digital divide).
- Extra additions: UDISE+ 2024 data, AI in education.

10. Health and Society

- Public health indicators: IMR, MMR, life expectancy.
- Healthcare system: public vs private.
- Health insurance and Ayushman Bharat.
- Nutrition issues: stunting, anemia, obesity.
- Mental health challenges.
- Extra additions: India's response to pandemics, One Health concept.

11. Poverty, Inequality, and Development

- Causes of poverty.
- Rural vs urban poverty.

- Inequality of income and wealth.
- Regional disparities.
- Policies for poverty alleviation: MGNREGA, PDS, DBT.
- Extra additions: multidimensional poverty index 2023–24 (India's progress).

12. Social Problems in India

- Corruption and nepotism.
- Criminalization of politics.
- Communal violence.
- Naxalism and left-wing extremism.
- Regionalism and separatism.
- Substance abuse among youth.
- Cyber-crimes.
- Extra additions: social media misinformation, deepfakes.

13. Urbanization and Social Issues

- Causes of rapid urbanization.
- Urban problems: housing, slums, sanitation, pollution.
- Urban poverty and unemployment.
- Smart cities and sustainable urbanization.
- Extra additions: migration patterns post-COVID, gig economy in cities.

14. Social Justice and Welfare Policies

- Constitutional provisions: equality, affirmative action.
- Reservations and debates.
- Social security policies: pensions, food security.
- Role of NGOs and civil society.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Extra additions: debates on expanding reservation to private sector.

15. Current Relevance (Society in 2024–25 news)

- Caste census debates (2024–25).
- Women's Reservation Bill implementation (2026 delimitation).
- NFHS-6 findings on health, fertility, nutrition.
- Debate on Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- Rising communal incidents and secularism challenges.
- Youth unemployment and brain drain debates.
- India's ageing population challenge.

International Relations: Detailed Microtopics

1. Basics of India's Foreign Policy

- Principles of Indian foreign policy: Panchsheel, non-alignment, strategic autonomy.
- Continuity and change since independence.
- Nehruvian foreign policy.
- Cold War context and NAM.
- Post-Cold War changes: Look East, Act East, multi-alignment.
- India as a rising power.
- Extra additions: "Vishwaguru" narrative and diplomacy under G20 Presidency.

2. India and Its Neighbours

- Pakistan: disputes (Kashmir, terrorism, water), trade issues, cross-border infiltration.
- China: boundary dispute, 1962 war, Galwan clash 2020, trade dependence.
- Nepal: open border, political issues, new map controversy.
- Bangladesh: Teesta water sharing, border management, migration, connectivity.
- Sri Lanka: ethnic issues, fishermen dispute, Chinese presence.
- Myanmar: Rohingya crisis, insurgency in NE India, connectivity projects.
- Afghanistan: Taliban takeover, India's role in humanitarian aid.
- Bhutan: special relations, hydropower, China factor.
- Maldives: "India Out" campaign, defence cooperation.
- Extra additions: India's "Neighbourhood First" and "Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)" policies.

3. India and Major Powers

- USA: defence ties (COMCASA, BECA, LEMOA), Quad partnership, trade disputes.
- Russia: defence, energy (nuclear, oil), Ukraine war impact, rupee-rouble trade.
- European Union: trade, FTA negotiations, climate change cooperation.
- UK: post-Brexit ties, migration and student links.
- Japan: Act East, bullet train project, Indo-Pacific cooperation.
- France: defence (Rafale, submarines), Indian Ocean partnership.
- West Asia: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Israel – oil, diaspora, IMEC corridor.
- Extra additions: trilateral groupings like I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA).

4. India and Multilateral Institutions

- United Nations: role in peacekeeping, UNSC reforms, India's candidature.
- WTO: trade negotiations, agriculture, subsidies.
- IMF and World Bank: India's position and reforms.
- G20: India's presidency 2023 outcomes.
- BRICS: expansion in 2024, India's role.

- SCO: regional cooperation, security.
- SAARC: limitations, revival challenges.
- BIMSTEC: connectivity and energy.
- QUAD: Indo-Pacific focus.
- IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association).
- Extra additions: global south leadership by India.

5. India and International Organisations (Special Focus)

- WHO: role during pandemics, India's vaccine diplomacy.
- IAEA: nuclear cooperation and safeguards.
- FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF – India's contributions.
- UNHRC and India's human rights positions.
- Extra additions: COP29 (2024 Azerbaijan) and COP30 (2025 Brazil) for India's climate diplomacy.

6. Defence and Strategic Issues

- India's nuclear doctrine: No First Use policy.
- India's missile defence program.
- Indo-Pacific strategy.
- Indian Ocean geopolitics.
- Maritime security: SAGAR, anti-piracy operations.
- Strategic partnerships: QUAD, AUKUS (India's position).
- Extra additions: Arctic geopolitics and India's observer status.

7. Diaspora and Soft Power

- Indian diaspora: size, remittances, political influence.
- Role in US, UK, Gulf, Africa.
- Cultural diplomacy: yoga, Bollywood, cuisine.
- Education and technology as soft power.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- Extra additions: diaspora issues during Israel–Palestine conflict 2024, H-1B visa reforms in US.

8. Global Issues and India's Role

- Climate change and global negotiations.
- Terrorism and cross-border security.
- Cybersecurity and digital governance.
- Refugee and migration issues.
- Energy security.
- Sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Extra additions: AI governance, de-dollarization, food security after Ukraine war.

9. Regional Groupings and India

- ASEAN: Act East policy, RCEP withdrawal.
- BIMSTEC: Bay of Bengal cooperation.
- SAARC vs BIMSTEC.
- IORA and India's ocean strategy.
- GCC: energy and diaspora.
- African Union: India-Africa Forum Summit.
- Extra additions: IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Corridor) 2024 launch.

10. Current Relevance (IR in 2024–25 news)

- India-China border tensions continuing (2024–25).
- BRICS expansion in 2024: new members and India's role.
- G20 outcomes under India's presidency (2023) and Brazil's presidency (2024).
- COP30 in Brazil 2025: India's climate leadership.
- Russia-Ukraine war and India's balancing diplomacy.
- West Asia tensions (Israel– Hamas conflict 2023–24, India's balancing act).
- IMEC corridor and India's strategic rise.
- US elections 2024 impact on India-US ties.

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude: Detailed Microtopics

1. Ethics and Human Interface

- Ethics: definition, scope, determinants.
- Ethics vs morals vs values.
- Human actions and ethical dimensions.
- Consequentialism, deontology, virtue ethics.
- Ethics in private and public life.
- Case studies of ethical dilemmas in administration.
- Extra additions: relevance of Indian philosophy (Buddhism, Jainism, Gita) to ethics.

2. Human Values

- Importance of values in human life.
- Sources of values: family, society, education, religion.
- Role of teachers and leaders in value inculcation.
- Universal values: truth, compassion, tolerance, integrity.
- Extra additions: NEP 2020's focus on value-based education.

3. Attitude

- Meaning and components of attitude.

- Formation and change of attitude.
- Role of attitude in behavior.
- Influence of attitude on social harmony and governance.
- Prejudice and stereotypes.
- Extra additions: attitude change through social media campaigns.

4. Aptitude and Foundational Values of Civil Services

- Integrity: meaning, examples in governance.
- Impartiality and non-partisanship.
- Objectivity.
- Dedication to public service.
- Empathy, tolerance, compassion towards weaker sections.
- Extra additions: real-life examples from Indian civil servants.

5. Emotional Intelligence (EI)

- Definition and components: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, social skills.
- Importance in administration and leadership.
- Difference between EQ and IQ.
- Training and development of EI.
- Extra additions: use of EI in conflict resolution and policing.

6. Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

- Indian thinkers: Buddha, Mahavira, Chanakya, Swami Vivekananda, Gandhi, Ambedkar.
- Western thinkers: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, John Rawls.
- Contemporary relevance of their ideas in governance.
- Extra additions: linking Gandhian ethics to present environmental movements.

7. Public/Civil Service Values

- Probity in governance.
- Ethical governance: transparency, accountability.
- Citizen-centric administration.
- Role of civil servants in democracy.
- Conflict of interest and how to resolve it.
- Extra additions: importance of e-governance for ethics.

8. Governance and Ethical Issues

- Issues of corruption: causes, consequences, solutions.
- Ethics in public administration.
- Ethical dilemmas in policymaking.
- RTI and transparency.

- Role of media and social accountability.
- Extra additions: ethics in digital governance and AI.

9. Probity in Governance

- Concept of probity and good governance.
- Information sharing and transparency.
- Codes of ethics and codes of conduct.
- Citizen charters and service delivery.
- Work culture and quality of service.
- Utilization of public funds.
- Extra additions: Lokpal Act implementation, e-office practices.

10. Ethical Issues in International Relations and Funding

- Global ethics: humanitarian intervention, responsibility to protect.
- Ethics of foreign aid.
- Climate change justice.
- Trade and human rights.
- Extra additions: vaccine equity debates, AI governance at global level.

11. Case Studies (Applied Ethics)

- Everyday ethical dilemmas: honesty vs loyalty, law vs compassion.
- Ethical dilemmas in governance: conflict of interest, whistleblowing.
- Disaster management and ethical decision-making.
- Law enforcement vs human rights issues.
- Corporate ethics vs public interest.
- Extra additions: use of real cases from Indian civil services (e.g., Armstrong Pame, E. Sreedharan).

12. Current Relevance (Ethics in 2024–25 news)

- Debate on AI ethics and regulation.
- Data privacy and ethical concerns.
- Corporate governance failures (frauds, insider trading cases).
- Ethical issues in elections and political funding (electoral bonds verdict 2024).
- Ethical aspects of climate justice in COP30 (2025).

Current Affairs (Aug 2024 – Aug 2025)

1. Polity and Governance

- Supreme Court judgments:

- Electoral Bonds verdict (2024).
- SC on Governor's powers in state legislatures.
- SC on same-sex marriage (2023, continuing debates in 2024).
- Women's Reservation Bill (2023): implementation expected post-2026 delimitation.
- Uniform Civil Code (UCC): debates in Uttarakhand, national discussions.
- Simultaneous elections ("One Nation One Election") committee report.
- Forest (Conservation and Amendment) Act 2023: controversies in 2024.
- Police reforms and criminal law reforms (new laws replacing IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act effective 2024–25).
- Data Protection Act 2023 implementation challenges.
- Extra additions: Digital India Act draft, 2024.

2. Economy

- Union Budget 2024–25 highlights: fiscal deficit, capex focus, welfare schemes.
- RBI monetary policy stance: inflation targeting, repo rate changes.
- GST Council reforms and revenue growth.
- India crossing \$4 trillion GDP milestone (expected late 2024).
- Free Trade Agreements (FTAs): India-UK, India-EU negotiations.
- Semiconductor and EV industry push.
- Disinvestment and privatization updates.
- Startups and Unicorn trends in India.
- Extra additions: lithium reserves in J&K and Rajasthan; Global South economic leadership.

3. International Relations

- G20: outcomes of Brazil's presidency (2024) and upcoming South Africa (2025).
- BRICS expansion in 2024: new members and India's role.
- SCO 2024 summit outcomes.
- IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Corridor): progress and challenges.
- India-China border tensions continuing.
- India-US relations post-2024 US elections.
- Israel-Palestine conflict (2023–24) and India's balancing diplomacy.
- Russia-Ukraine war and India's stance at UN.
- COP29 Azerbaijan 2024 and COP30 Brazil 2025: climate negotiations.
- Extra additions: India-Africa Forum Summit 2025.

4. Environment and Ecology

- COP29 (2024) and COP30 (2025) major decisions.
- India's EV and renewable energy milestones (500 GW target progress).
- New Ramsar sites: India crossing 80 sites by 2024.
- Forest (Conservation and Amendment) Act 2023 implementation debates.
- Heat waves in 2024: IMD declaring record temperatures.
- Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) events in Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

- Extra additions: global biodiversity framework implementation.

5. Science and Technology

- ISRO missions:
 - Chandrayaan-3 success (2023, science results in 2024).
 - Aditya-L1 mission (2024) solar observations.
 - Gaganyaan human spaceflight (planned 2025).
- National Quantum Mission progress.
- IndiaAI Mission (2024).
- Cybersecurity incidents and CERT-In guidelines.
- Green Hydrogen Mission: pilot projects.
- Breakthroughs in genome editing (CRISPR) in India.
- Extra additions: AI ethics and global regulation debates.

6. Social Issues and Society

- Caste census debates in Bihar, Maharashtra, national-level discussions.
- NFHS-6 findings (2024): fertility, malnutrition, health indicators.
- Youth unemployment crisis and skilling policies.
- Brain drain vs reverse migration trends.
- Women's empowerment: higher participation in workforce.
- LGBTQ+ rights post-SC judgment on same-sex marriage.
- Extra additions: ageing population debates and social security.

7. Security and Disaster Management

- Internal security:
 - Naxalism decline, but sporadic violence in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
 - North East insurgency: peace agreements with ULFA, NSCN.
- Border security: India-China tensions; fencing India-Myanmar border debates.
- Terrorism: UN sanctions list updates, India's counter-terror diplomacy.
- Disaster events:
 - Sikkim 2024 GLOF.
 - Odisha cyclone 2025 warnings.
 - Urban floods in Delhi, Bengaluru (2024).
- Cybersecurity threats: ransomware attacks in Indian banks, govt servers.

8. International and National Reports/Indexes (2024–25)

- UNDP Human Development Report 2024.
- World Bank Ease of Doing Business replacement index.
- Global Hunger Index 2024 (India's rank).
- Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).
- IMF World Economic Outlook 2025.

- NITI Aayog SDG Index 2024.
- Extra additions: Oxfam inequality report 2025.

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