

UPSC Mains GS-1 syllabus

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

- Indian Culture Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian History from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- The Freedom Struggle its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence Consolidation and Reorganization within the country.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Role of Women and Women's Organization, Population and Associated Issues, Poverty and Developmental issues, Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Effects of Globalization on Indian society.

- Social Empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.
- Salient features of World's Physical Geography.
- Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical Phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclones etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Topics	Sub-topics
Indian Heritage and Culture	Art and culture



History	Ancient History
	Medieval History
	Modern History
	Post-Independence India
Geography of the World	World and Indian Geography
Society	Indian Society

Art and culture Indian Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times	
	■ Mural Paintings
	■ Miniature Paintings Number Painter
	• Mughai, Rajpui,
	Pahari Paintings
	o Dances in India
	Classical Dance
	Forms
	Folk Dance Forms
	■ Modern Dance
	o Music
	■ Classical Music
	■ Folk Music
	o Puppetry
	■ String Puppets
	■ Shadow Puppets



Rod Puppets Glove puppets Modern Puppetry Tribal Puppetry Pottery Ochre Coloured Pottery(OCP) Black and Red Ware (BRW) o Painted Grey Ware (PGW) Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) Glazed and **Unglazed Pottery** Drama/Theatre Classical Sanskrit Theatre Regional Theatre Modern Theatre Martial Arts Thang Ta Gatka Kalaripayattu Mallakhamb Silambam Other Important



	Martial Arts
	■ Visual Art
	Sculptures of
	Harappan
	Civilization
	Sculptures of the
	Mauryan Age
	Post-Mauryan
	Period
	Jain Sculptures
	Jam SculpturesBuddhist Sculpture
	Gupta Sculpture
	Medieval School of
	Sculpture
AYN SPM IA	Modern Indian
SHAPIN	Bhakti & Sufi Movements ■ Bhakti & Sufi Movements
	 Spread of Bhakti and Sufi
	Movements
	 Women Poets of Bhakti
Literature	 Classical Sanskrit Literature
	Vedas, Upanishads,
	Puranas
	Books written by
	Kalidasa,
	Kanuasa,



	Vishakhadatta etc
-	Ancient Buddhist Literature
•	Ancient Jainism Literature
•	Early Dravidian Literature (eg
	Sangam Period)
-	Medieval Literature
-	Trends in Medieval Literature
-	Modern Indian Literature
Architecture	
Architecture	
•	Harappan Architecture
-	Mauryan Architecture
	Post-Mauryan Period Gupta
	Period
S H A P I N G B	Temple Architecture
	Nagara Style
	o Dravida Style
	 Vesara Style
•	Cave Architecture
	o Buddhist Cave
	o Jaina Caves
	 Gupta Period Caves
•	Medieval and Indo-Islamic
	Architecture
	o Imperial Style
	Delhi Sultanate
	 Provincial Style



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	 Mughal Style
	 Sikh Style of
	Architecture
	 Rajput Architecture
	 Salient features
	■ Colonial Architecture & Modern
	Architecture
	o European Influence
	o Indo-Saracenic
	Architecture
	o Post-Independence
	Period
	■ Contribution of Buddhism &
	Jainism to the Development of
	Indian Architecture
SHAPIN	■ Rock Cut Architecture
	 South Indian
	 Western Indian
	o Eastern Indian

Ancient History	
Pre-historic	■ Stone Age
	■ Chalcolithic Age



	■ Iron Age
Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)	 Town Planning Harappan Society Characteristics of Major Centers Harappan Art & Architecture Decline of Harappan Culture
Vedic Society Spinish	 Original Home of Aryans Socio- Economic Characters of Vedic Society Vedic Literature Social Organization and Varna System Religion and Thought
Pre-Mauryan Period	 Mahajanapadas Haryanka dynasty Shishunaga dynasty Nanda dynasty
Jainism and Buddhism	 Gautam Buddha Mahavira Growth of Jainism and Buddhism
Mauryan Empire	 Chandragupta and Bindusara Arthasastra (Book by Kautilya) Megasthenes Asoka and His Successors



	 Asoka's Inscriptions and Sites
	■ Asoka' a Dhamma
	Mauryan. Administration, Economy,
	Society and Art
	■ Decline of Maurya
Post-Mauryan India	 Arrival of Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Parthians & Kushana
	Satavahanas and Other Indigenous Dynasties
	Schools of Art: Gandhara; Mathura; Amravati
	■ Imperial Guptas
	 Political history of Guptas
	○ Gupta Administration
(CLYJD) SPM IA	Development of Art & Culture
SHAPIN	○ Age of Golden age
	 Economic Conditions
	 Urban centres in Gupta period
	■ Harshavardana
	 Sources for Harsha's Period
	 Early life of Harsha
	 Harsha's Administration
	 Important Officials of the empire
	 Economy under Harsha
	 Huen Tsang
	o Society
	o Religion



■ The Southern Dynasties
Satavahanas (230 BC TO AD 225)
o Pallavas (AD 330–796)
o Chalukyas (AD 535–1190)
Pandyas of Madurai (AD 590–1323)
o Chola Dynasty (AD 850–1310)
o Rashtrakutas (AD 753–973)

Medieval History	
Delhi Sultanate S H A P I N	 Slave (Ghulam) or Mamluk Dynasty Khilji Dynasty Tughlaq dynasty Sayyid Dynasty Lodi dynasty
Struggle for Empire in North India (Afghans, Rajputs and Mughals)	
Mughals	 Babur Humayun Akbar Jahangir Shah Jahan Aurangzeb Later Mughals



	■ Decline of Mughal Empire
Sur Dynasties	
Maratha Empire	
Deccan Sultanate	■ Ahmednagar Sultanate
	■ Bijapur Sultanate
	■ Berar Sultanate
	■ Golconda Sultanate
	■ Bidar Sultanate

Modern History

Modern Indian History from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues

The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country

from different parts of the country	
Important Modern History Events Before 1857	■ Later Mughals
	■ Regional powers in 18th Century
	■ Carnatic Wars
	■ Battle of Plassey & Buxar
	■ Anglo-Mysore War
	Anglo Punjab War
	■ Socio-economic Condition of People
	■ European Penetration of India
	■ British Conquest of India
	■ British Policies & Their Impact –



Revolt of 1857	Economic, Administrative & Socio-cultural Socio-cultural Reform Movements Uprisings Against British Pre-1857 Causes, Leaders, and Nature of revolt of 1857 Suppression of revolt of 1857 Consequences of Revolt of 1857 Act of Good Governance 1858
Growth of Nationalism in India (1858-1905)	■ Political, Economic & Administrative Unification of the Country
SPM IA SHAPING	 Role of Western Education Role of Press Rediscovery of India's Past Early Political Movements Formation of INC Era of Moderates
Growth of Militant Nationalism & Revolutionary Activities (1905-1918)	 Swadeshi & Boycott Movement Surat Split International Influence Morley – Minto Reforms Growth of Communalism
Beginning of Mass Nationalism (1919-1939)	 Mahatma Gandhi – His Ideas & Leadership Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms Rowlatt Act, Satyagrah and



	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
	Non-cooperation & Khilafat Movement
	■ Swarajists & No-Changers
	■ Emergence of New Forces – Socialist Ideas, Youth & Trade Unionism
	■ Revolutionary Activity
	■ Simon Commission & Nehru Report
	■ Civil Disobedience Movement
	 Round Table Conferences
	■ Communal Award & Poona Pact
	 Participation in Elections to Central Legislature (1934) & Provincial Assemblies (1937)
	■ Government of India Act, 1935
Towards Freedom & Partition (1939-1947)	■ National Movement During World War II
	■ August Offer
	■ Individual Satyagraha
	■ Growth of Communalism
	■ Peasant Movements
	■ State People's Struggle
	Cripps Mission
	Quit India Movement
	■ Wavell Plan
	■ INA & Subhash Chandra Bose
	■ Cabinet Mission



■ Independence with Partition

Post-Indepen	ndence India
Nation Building	 Partition and Its Aftermath Integration of Princely States Linguistic Regionalism in India Reorganisation of States Issue of Official Language Tribal Consolidation Regional Aspirations
Foreign Policy S H A P I N O	 Non-Aligned Movement Panchsheel Wars with Pakistan & China Nuclear Policy
Economy	 Planned Development Green Revolution, Operation Flood & Cooperatives Agrarian & Land Reforms Industrial Reforms LPG Reforms
Polity	 Era of One-Party Dominance Emergence of Opposition Parties Emergency: Crisis of Democratic Order



	Rise of Regional PartiesCoalition Era
Social	 Popular Movements Communalism Indian Women Since Independence Issue of Women and Evolution of Women Movement Naxalism
Post-Independence Policy of Science And Technology	 India's Policy in the Field of the Science and Technology Impact of Economic Reform on the Science and Technology in India

S H A P Indian	Society R I L L I A N C E
Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India	 Features of Indian society Diversity (Types – caste, linguistic, social and religious, race, tribe and ethnicity, culture) Challenges posed by Diversity Unity Pluralism Unity in Diversity Inequality and Exclusion Family System Examples of above.
Role of Women and Women's Organization	■ Women's organizations in Indian



	history
	■ Types of women's organizations
	■ Level of penetration
	 19th Century Social Reform Movements and Early Women's Organisations –
	 Agrarian Struggles and Revolt
	■ Participation in Freedom Struggle
	Women's organization (With Examples)
	Problems faced by women's organizations
	 Is a larger vocal role possible and ways to achieve the same
SPM IA	 Role of SHGs, Micro finance Institution
Population and Associated Issues	■ Basic Demography of India
	Population Trends in India and their Implications
	■ Causes and Effects of Over Population
	■ Challenges of Population Explosion
	 Changing Age Structure of Indian Population
	 Demographic Dividend: Boon or Bane for India
	■ Population Aging in India
	■ India's Population Policy & Initiatives
Poverty and Developmental Issues	Concept of Development and PovertyTypes of Poverty



	Measurement of Poverty – Poverty Line
	Causes of Poverty
	Poverty as a Social Problem
	■ Socio-economic Spread of Poverty
	■ Consequences of Poverty –
	 Inequality
	 Continuation of Vicious Cycle
	• Who is worst affected by poverty?
	 Problem of Rising Urban Poverty
	 Poverty Alleviation Initiatives
	 Policy shifts from "Trickle Down" Economics to Inclusive or Pro-poor Development to Reduce Poverty
SHAPING	Relation between Poverty Reduction and Development: Poverty-Inequality-Development Nexus
	110/100
Urbanization, their problems and their remedies	 Urbanisation Trends in India and Their Implications - Demographic and Social Dimensions
	 Factors Driving Urbanisation
	 State of Service Delivery and Challenges posed by Urbanisation
	Problems of Urban Areas
	 Social Consequences of Urbanisation
	■ Impact of Urbanisation in Rural Areas
	 Urban Planning and Role of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
	 Reforms Required and Government



	Initiatives Taken So Far
	Problems of Slums
Effects of Globalization on Indian society	 Understanding Globalisation – Its Different Dimensions
	■ Globalisation & Culture - Homogenisation vs. Glocalisation
	■ Factors Driving Globalisation
	■ Globalisation & India
	■ Impact of Globalisation on India - Socio-cultural, economic, on women, agrarian sector etc.
	■ Does Globalisation cause Poverty?
Social Empowerment Sharp Shar	Which are the Socially Disadvantaged Groups?
	 Meaning and concept of social empowerment
	■ Dimensions of Social Empowerment
	■ Why do we need social empowerment?
	■ Government Initiatives to Aide Social Empowerment
	■ Empowerment in reality and India's experience
Communalism	■ Communalism – Its Characteristics
	■ Communalism in India in the Past
	■ Communalism in Contemporary India
	Causes of Communalism
	■ Consequences of Communalism
	■ Measures to Control & Eradicate



	Communation
	Communalism
	 Secularism as an Antidote to Communalism
Regionalism	■ Concept of Region & Regionalism
	■ Different Forms of Regionalism
	■ Regionalism in India
	■ Causes of Regionalism
	■ Concept of 'Sons of Soil'
	■ Consequences of Regionalism
	■ Federalism & Regionalism
	■ Role of Regional Parties
	 Measures to Contain Regionalism
SPM IA	 Regionalism in the International Sphere
Secularism S H A P I N O	■ Concept of Secularism N C E
	■ Indian Model of Secularism
	■ Secularism in India
	 Nature & Practice of Secularism in India
	■ Uniform Civil Code
	 Challenges faced by Secularism in India
	■ Measures to Make India Truly Secular

World and Indian Geography	
Salient features of World's Physical Geography	■ Geomorphology



Origin & Evolution of Earth Interior of the Earth Distribution of Continents & Oceans Plate Tectonic Theory Distribution of Earthquakes & Volcanoes Rocks & Rock Cycle Geomorphic Processes – Endogenic & Exogenic Landforms & their Evolution Geological Time Scale Oceanography Hydrological Cycle Seafloor Spreading Ocean Floor Configuration Temperature & Salinity of Oceans Movement of Oceans – Waves, Tides, Currents Climatology Earth's Atmosphere – Composition & Structure Solar Radiation, Heat Budget & Temperature Atmospheric Circulation & Weather **Systems** World Climate (examples)

Soil Geography

Soil & Soil Contents



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	Process of Soil Formation
	Soil Forming Factors
	■ Types of Soils (examples)
	■ Soil Erosion & Conservation
Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent)	 Soil Erosion & Conservation Types of Resources On the Basis of Origin, Ownership, Exhaustability etc. Land Resources Land Utilisation Land Use Pattern Land Degradation & Conservation Forest Resources Types & Distribution – Grasslands, Forests etc. Causes of Depletion Conservation of Forests Water Resources Marine & Freshwater
	 Water Scarcity & Need For Conservation
	Integrated Water Resources Management
	■ Agricultural Resources
	■ Types of Farming
	Cropping Patterns
	■ Contribution to Economy, Employment & Output
	■ Food Security



	■ Mineral & Energy Resources
	■ Classification of Minerals – Ferrous & Non-Ferrous
	 Occurrence of Minerals
	■ Conservation of Minerals
	 Classification of Energy Resources – Conventional & Non-Conventional
	■ Occurrence of Energy Resources
	■ Conservation of Energy Resources
Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)	 Classification of Industries
	 Location & Distribution of the Industries on the Basis of
	■ Raw Material
	■ Labour
	■ Market
	■ Capital L L I A N C E
	■ Land
	■ Grants & Financial Incentives
	■ Power
	■ Transport
	■ Water
	■ Communication
	 Distribution of Major Industries – Iron & Steel, IT, Cotton Textile
	■ Agglomeration & Footloose Industries
Important Geophysical Phenomena such as	■ Earthquakes
earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their	■ Why Does Earth Shake?



location-changes in critical geographical features (including Water-bodies and Ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes

- Earthquake Waves
- Shadow Zone
- Types of Earthquake
- Measuring Earthquake
- Effects of Earthquake
- Tsunami
- What Causes Tsunami
- Effect of Tsunami
- Mitigating the Impact of Tsunami
- Volcanoes
- Types of Volcanoes
- What Causes Volcanoes?
- Volcanic Landforms
- Intrusive volcanic Landforms
- Extrusive Volcanic Landforms
- Distribution of Volcanoes
- Cyclone
- Tropical Cyclones
- Anti-Cyclone
- Extra Tropical Cyclones
- Factors Causing Changes in Critical Geographical Features
- Examples of Changing Geographical Features - Melting of Ice Sheets, Desertification etc.
- Impact of Changing Geographical Features
- Physical Geography of India





Physiography of India
Drainage System
Climate
Soils in India
Natural Vegetation
Human Geography
Demography
Urbanization
Census
Economic Geography
Agriculture
Mineral resource
Energy resources
Industry
Transport and Communication