

UPSC Test Schedule (Nov 2025 – Aug 2026)

Phase I: Sectional Tests + 5 Essay Tests (Nov 2025 – Feb 2026)

Test No.	Date	Subject
1	2 Nov 2025	GS1 – Sectional 1
2	10 Nov 2025	GS1 – Sectional 2
3	18 Nov 2025	GS2 – Sectional 1
4	26 Nov 2025	GS2 – Sectional 2
5	4 Dec 2025	GS3 – Sectional 1
6	12 Dec 2025	GS3 – Sectional 2
7	20 Dec 2025	GS4 – Sectional 1
8	28 Dec 2025	GS4 – Sectional 2
9	6 Jan 2026	GS1 – Sectional 3
10	14 Jan 2026	GS2 – Sectional 3
11	24 Jan 2026	GS3 – Sectional 3
12	2 Feb 2026	GS4 – Sectional 3

Essay Tests (Before Prelims)

Test No.	Date	Paper
1	15 Nov 2025	Thematic Essay T1
2	25 Nov 2025	Thematic Essay T2
3	10 Dec 2025	Thematic Essay T3
4	25 Dec 2025	Thematic Essay T4
5	15 Jan 2026	Thematic Essay T5

Phase II: Remaining Sectionals+Full-Length GS Tests+5 Essay Tests (June – Aug 2026)

Test No.	Date	Subject
13	5 June 2026	GS1 – Sectional 4
14	9 June 2026	GS2 – Sectional 4
15	14 June 2026	GS3 – Sectional 4
16	18 June 2026	GS4 – Sectional 4
17	18 June 2026	GS1 – Full-Length
18	23 June 2026	GS2 – Full-Length
19	27 June 2026	GS3 – Full-Length

20	2 July 2026	GS4 – Full-Length
21	6 July 2026	GS1 – Full-Length
22	11 July 2026	GS2 – Full-Length
23	15 July 2026	GS3 – Full-Length
24	20 July 2026	GS4 – Full-Length
25	24 July 2026	GS1 – Full-Length
26	29 July 2026	GS2 – Full-Length
27	2 Aug 2026	GS3 – Full-Length
28	7 Aug 2026	GS4 – Full-Length
29	12 Aug 2026	GS1 – Full-Length
30	17 Aug 2026	GS3 – Full-Length

Essay Tests (After Mains)

Test No.	Date	Paper
Essay 6	20 June 2026	Full-Length Essay
Essay 7	30 June 2026	Full-Length Essay
Essay 8	10 July 2026	Full-Length Essay
Essay 9	25 July 2026	Full-Length Essay
Essay 10	5 Aug 2026	Full-Length Essay

Detailed Syllabus for Sectional Tests

UPSC Mains 2026: Sectional Test Schedule with Topic Breakdown

Test 1 – GS1 – Sectional 1

Topics Covered: Ancient Indian History + Art & Culture + Early Medieval India

Ancient:

Prehistoric period

Harappan/Indus Valley Civilization

Vedic Age

Mahajanapadas

Religious Reforms

Mauryan & Post-Mauryan Age

Sangam Age

Guptas & Post-Guptas

B)Early Medieval India: North & South

I)The Southern Dynasties

Satavahanas (230 BC TO AD 225)

Pallavas (AD 330–796)

Chalukyas (AD 535–1190)

Pandyas of Madurai (AD 590–1323)

Chola Dynasty (AD 850–1310)

Rashtrakutas (AD 753–973)

Vijayanagara & other regional kingdoms

Delhi Sultanate

Bhakti and Sufi Movements

Mughal Period

C)Art & Culture:

Architecture, Sculpture, Paintings

Music, Dance, Theatre, Cinema

Language & Literature

Religion & Philosophy

Science & Technology in Ancient India

Test 2 – GS1 – Sectional 2

Topics Covered:Modern Indian History (up to 1947) + Indian Society

Modern Indian History:

Struggle among European powers

Regulating Acts and Charter Acts (1773–1853)

Indian Kingdoms in the 18th century: Marathas, Mysore, Punjab, Hyderabad

Expansion Policies: Doctrine of Lapse, Subsidiary Alliance

Education and Economic Policies

Socio-Religious Reform Movements: Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, etc.

Revolt of 1857

Tribal Revolts

Post-1858 administrative changes: GOI Act 1858, Councils Act 1861 & 1892

Rise of political organisations, INC, Moderate Phase

Partition of Bengal, Swadeshi Movement, Revolutionary Phase I

Morley-Minto Reforms, Lucknow Pact, Home Rule League

Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms

Khilafat & Non-Cooperation Movements

Leftist Movements & Revolutionary Phase II

Nehru Report, Simon Commission

Civil Disobedience Movement (1st & 2nd phases)

GOI Act 1935

1937 Elections and Ministries

Praja Mandal Movements

WWII and National Movement, August Offer, Cripps Mission

Quit India, INA, Rajaji-Desai Plan, Wavell Plan, Simla Conference

1945 Elections, Naval Mutiny, Indian Independence Act 1947

Indian Society:

Salient features of Indian society

Role of women & women's organizations

Population issues, urbanization & remedies

Regionalism, Communalism, Secularism

Social empowerment, Poverty & Developmental issues

Test 3 – GS2 – Sectional 1

Topics Covered: Indian Polity – Part -1

Political systems: Democratic & Non-Democratic, Parliamentary & Presidential, Unitary & Federal, Direct & Representative, Republic & Monarchy

Constitutionalism

Historical underpinnings and evolution of the Constitution

Preamble, Union & its Territory, Citizenship

Fundamental Rights, DPSPs, Fundamental Duties

Amendment of Constitution, Basic Structure

Emergency Provisions

Constitutional Bodies: Election Commission, UPSC, SPSC, Finance Commission, CAG, Attorney General, Advocate General, Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities, NCSC, NCST, NCBC

Non-Constitutional Bodies:

NITI Aayog, NHRC, SHRC

CIC, SIC, CVC, CBI

Lokpal, Lokayukta, NCPCR

Test 4 – GS2 – Sectional 2

Topics Covered: Indian Polity – Part 2

Central Government:

President, Vice-President, Prime Minister

Council of Ministers & Cabinet Committees

Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretary

Parliament:

Rajya Sabha & Lok Sabha: Powers, Roles, Budget Process

Disqualification, Presiding Officers, Committees & Forums

State Government:

Governor, Chief Minister, State Council of Ministers

State Legislature

Federalism & Local Governance:

Centre-State Relations

Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, PESA Act

Judiciary:

Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts, Gram Nyayalayas

NALSA, ADRs

Electoral System & Political Representation:

Representation of People's Acts (1950, 1951)

Delimitation, Anti-Defection Law

Pressure Groups and Political Parties

Test 5 – GS3 – Sectional 1

Topics Covered: Indian Economy – Core Concepts, Land Reforms, Liberalisation, Industrial Policy, Infrastructure, Investment Models, and Agriculture

1. Indian Economy & Planning

Meaning and Need for Planning

Types: Imperative, Indicative, Structural

Objectives, Achievements & Failures of Planning

NITI Aayog vs Planning Commission

2. Mobilisation of Resources

Types: Financial, Human, Natural

Savings, Investment, Public Borrowing

Government Resources: Tax & Non-Tax

Banking, NBFCs, Capital Market, FDI, ODA

Challenges & Solutions

3. Growth & Development

Meaning, Differences & Indicators

Jobless Growth, Pro-poor Growth

Balanced vs Unbalanced Growth

Approaches: Market-based, Planned, Mixed Economy

4. Employment:

Rural vs Urban, Formal vs Informal

Key Terms: LFPR, Employment Rate, etc.

Sectoral Distribution

Restructuring & Quality of Employment

Govt. Initiatives

5. Inclusive Growth:

Concept, Elements, and Indicators

Challenges

Role of 12th Five-Year Plan

Government Schemes

6. Government Budgeting:

Need and Structure: Revenue & Capital

Budgetary Process (Post-2017)

Deficits: Revenue, Fiscal, Primary(recent trends included)

FRBM Act

Outcome & Zero-Based Budgeting

7. Land Reforms in India:

Rationale & Components of Land Reforms

Impact, Successes & Challenges

Recent Initiatives:

Land Leasing

Land Acquisition & R&R Act

8. Effects of Liberalisation on the Economy

Phases of Liberalisation

Impact on Agriculture, Industry, Services

9. Changes in Industrial Policy:

Before and After 1991

Phases of Growth & Industrial Reforms

Outcomes & Failures

National Manufacturing Policy

SEZs

Make in India

10. Infrastructure:

Energy

Ports

Roads

Railways

Airports

11. Investment Models:

Need and Sources of Investment

Domestic Models:

Public Investment

Private Investment

PPP (Public-Private Partnership)

Foreign Models:

FDI, FII(Recent trends in investment)

Sector-Specific & Cluster-Based Models

Indian Approach to Investment

Test 6 – GS3 – Sectional 2

Topics Covered: Science & Technology – Basics, Developments, Applications, and Governance

1. Basics of Science & Tech in India:

Evolution and development of S&T in India

Major institutions and policy bodies: DST, DBT, CSIR, DRDO, ISRO

Scientific temper, research promotion

National Innovation Foundation, Atal Innovation Mission

2. Space Technology:

ISRO's major past and recent missions (Aditya-L1, Chandrayaan-3, Gaganyaan)

Types of satellites and their applications: communication, earth observation, weather, navigation

International collaborations (NASA, ESA, JAXA)

Private sector and start-up role: IN-SPACe, NSIL

3. Defence Technology:

Indigenous missile systems: Agni, Prithvi, BrahMos

Role of DRDO in R&D and defence preparedness

Indigenisation efforts: Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), SRIJAN portal

Modernisation, Recent Initiatives & Make in India in defence

4. ICT – Information & Communication Technology:

Emerging areas: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain, Quantum computing

Cybersecurity and Data Protection frameworks

5G/6G technologies

Digital India, National Language Translation Mission, e-Governance

Digital payments ecosystem

5. Biotechnology

Genetic engineering, genome editing (CRISPR, gene therapy)

Applications in agriculture (GM crops), health (stem cells), environment

(bio-remediation)

COVID-19 vaccine development: Covaxin, DNA/mRNA vaccines

Ethical concerns & National Biotechnology Policy

6. Nanotechnology

Basic principles, properties and scope

Applications in medicine, environment, and energy

Nano Mission and regulatory framework

Safety concerns and governance

7. Robotics & Autonomous Technologies

Drones, UAVs, and self-driving tech

Role of AI in defence, manufacturing, and disaster response

8. Nuclear Technology

Nuclear power in India: reactors, safety mechanisms, waste disposal

Civil nuclear cooperation: Indo-US deal, NSG, NPT

India's thorium programme, Fast Breeder Reactors

9. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) & Innovation

Types of IPR: Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Geographical Indications

Role of IPR in promoting innovation and start-ups

Global IPR platforms: WIPO, TRIPS and India's position

10. Ethics, Regulation & Awareness

Ethical concerns: AI surveillance, GM crops, digital privacy

Balancing innovation with social and environmental needs

Importance of science communication and public trust in technology

Role of science in policy-making and sustainable development

Test 7 – GS4 – Sectional 1

Topics Covered:

1. Ethics and Human Interface

Essence, determinants and consequences of ethics in human actions

Dimensions of ethics

Ethics in private and public relationships

2. Human Values

Lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers, and administrators

Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values

3. Attitude

Content, structure, and function of attitude

Influence of attitude on thought and behaviour

Moral and political attitudes

Social influence and persuasion

4. Foundational Values for Civil Services

Integrity

Impartiality and non-partisanship

Objectivity

Dedication to public service

Empathy

Tolerance and compassion toward weaker sections

5. Emotional Intelligence

Concepts of emotional intelligence

Utilities and application of EI in administration and governance

6) Case Studies

Test 8 – GS4 – Sectional

Topics Covered:

1) Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

Thinkers and philosophers from India and the world relevant to public life and ethics.

2) Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration

Status and problems

Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions

Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance

Accountability and ethical governance

Strengthening ethical and moral values in governance

Ethical issues in international relations and funding

Corporate governance

3. Probity in Governance

Concept of public service

Philosophical basis of governance and probity

Information sharing and transparency in government

Right to Information

Codes of ethics and codes of conduct

Citizen's charters

Work culture

Quality of service delivery

Utilization of public funds

Challenges of corruption

4) Case Studies

Case studies on all the above topics to test decision-making, ethical reasoning, dilemma resolution, and administrative judgement

Test 9 – GS1 – Sectional

Topics Covered:

World Physical Geography :

1. Solar System & Earth's Structure

Overview of the Solar System

Shape and size of the Earth

Motions of the Earth: Rotation & Revolution

Effects of latitude and longitude (including time zones, International Date Line)

2. Geomorphology

Internal structure of the Earth: Core, Mantle, Crust

Plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes

Mountains, Plateaus, Plains: formation and types

Weathering, erosion, and depositional landforms

3. Climatology

Composition and structure of the atmosphere

Heat budget and temperature distribution

Winds, Pressure Belts, Cyclones, Jet Streams

Precipitation types and distribution

4. Oceanography:

Ocean floor features: ridges, trenches, basins

Ocean currents (warm & cold) and their effects

Tides and waves

Marine resources and coral reefs

5. Soils & Natural Hazards:

Soil types globally: characteristics and distribution

Soil erosion and conservation

Natural disasters: Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Cyclones, Volcanic eruptions

6. Continents Overview:

(Land, Climate, Resources, Human Settlement Patterns)

Asia

Africa

North America

South America

Antarctica

Europe

Australia

Indian Physical Geography:

1. Introduction to Indian Geography

Location, latitudinal & longitudinal extent, and significance

Area, boundaries, and neighboring countries

2. Structure and Relief:

Major physiographic divisions: Himalayas, Indo-Gangetic Plains, Peninsular Plateau, Coastal Plains, Islands

3. Drainage System

Major river systems: Himalayan (Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus) & Peninsular (Godavari, Krishna, Narmada)

Characteristics of rivers, river basin planning

4. Weather & Climate

Seasons in India: Winter, Summer, Monsoon, Retreating Monsoon

Climate types and regional variations

Western disturbances, cyclones, El Niño & La Niña impacts

5. Soils

Major soil types: Alluvial, Black, Red, Laterite, Arid, Forest soils

Soil degradation, erosion, and conservation efforts

6. Natural Vegetation & Wildlife

Types of forests and their distribution

Biodiversity hotspots

National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves

Endangered species and conservation initiatives

Test 10 – GS2 – Sectional 3

Topics Covered: Governance + Social Justice (Part 1)

A- Governance

1. Government Policies and Interventions:

Interventions for development in various sectors (Health, Gender, Education, Poverty, Economy, etc.)

Issues in design and implementation of government interventions

Challenges and concerns in policy execution

Suggestions for improvement

Rationalisation of centrally sponsored schemes

Analysis of major initiatives:

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

Smart City Mission

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

MGNREGA

Digital India

Make in India

Skill India

PM Jan Dhan Yojana

Start-up India

Schemes introduced in last 5 years

2. Development Processes and the Role of Social Capital Organisations

NGOs: Need, functions, foreign funding, legitimacy concerns

SHGs: Benefits, weaknesses, case studies like Kudumbashree, MAVIM

Cooperatives: Concept, issues, National Policy on Cooperatives (2002), 97th Constitutional Amendment

3. Transparency and Accountability in Governance

Concept and principles of Good Governance

Barriers and solutions to good governance

E-Governance: Features, models, scope, benefits, limitations

Citizen's Charter: Components, challenges, and effectiveness

RTI Act: Salient features, issues in implementation

Whistleblower Protection Act

Social Audit: Meaning, process, examples

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act

B. Social Justice (Part 1)

1. Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections

Scheduled Castes (SCs): Civil Rights Act, PoA Act, SC Sub Plan, NCSC

Scheduled Tribes (STs): National Commission for STs, Tribal Sub Plan, Forest Rights Act

Minorities: Linguistic and Religious Minorities, National Commission for Minorities

Women and Children:

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act

Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act

Dowry Prohibition Act

Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act

Child Marriage Prohibition Act

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act

POCSO Act

PC & PNDT Act

Gender Budgeting

National Policy for Women

Maternity Benefit Amendment Act

CARA and JJ Act

Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act

2. Specifically Abled Persons:

Rehabilitation Council of India Act

Equal Opportunities Act

National Trust Act

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act

3. Elderly: Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act

Test 11-GS-3 Sectional 3

1. Ecological Fundamentals & Biogeochemical Cycles

Ecosystem structure and functions: trophic levels, energy flow, food chains/webs, ecological succession

Biogeochemical cycles: carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, oxygen, sulphur, hydrological cycles

Human-induced disruptions to cycles

2. Biodiversity: Concepts and Conservation

Levels: genetic, species, ecosystem diversity

Biodiversity hotspots in India

Endangered, endemic, and keystone species

Wildlife protection initiatives: Project Tiger, Project Elephant, CAMPA and others

In-situ and ex-situ conservation methods

Role of BSI, ZSI, NBWL, NBA

3. Pollution and Environmental Degradation

Air pollution: sources, AQI, urban challenges

Water pollution: rivers, groundwater, industrial and agricultural effluents

Soil pollution: pesticides, microplastics, heavy metals

Noise pollution and light pollution: impacts on ecosystems and humans

E-waste and biomedical waste management

Microplastics in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems

Land degradation and desertification

4. Climate Change and Global Initiatives:

Causes, impacts, and vulnerabilities (especially for India)

Greenhouse gases and global warming

UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, COP summits

IPCC reports and findings

Climate finance and technology transfer (e.g., Green Climate Fund)

5. India's Climate Action and Green Policies:

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) – 8 missions

State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs)

LiFE Mission (Lifestyle for Environment)

Green Hydrogen Mission, National Bio-Energy Mission

Solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear energy transitions

Role of energy efficiency and behavioral change

6. Legal and Institutional Frameworks:

Environmental laws: EPA 1986, Forest Conservation Act, Water and Air Acts

Statutory bodies: CPCB, SPCBs, NGT, NEPA

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Draft EIA 2020

Environmental audit and green accounting

7. International Environmental Conventions

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Cartagena Protocol, Nagoya Protocol

CITES, Ramsar Convention, CMS, UNCCD(latest conventions included)

IUCN Red List, Stockholm Conference, Rio+20

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

8. Sustainable Development and Environmental Ethics

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – India's progress

Intergenerational equity and environmental justice

Natural capital and ecological footprint

Circular economy and green economy

ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) in business and finance

9. Disaster Management and Environmental Vulnerability

Environmental dimensions of disasters: floods, cyclones, droughts, forest fires

Coastal erosion and rising sea levels

Role of NDMA and local resilience strategies

10. Role of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge

Tribal communities and traditional ecological practices

Sacred groves and cultural conservation

People's Biodiversity Registers and Biodiversity Management Committees

11. Emerging Technologies and Tools

AI and satellite-based ecological monitoring

GIS and Remote Sensing in biodiversity mapping

Citizen science and crowd-sourced conservation efforts

Test 12-GS4-Sectional 3

Topics:

1. Ethics and Human Interface:

Essence, determinants and consequences of ethics in human actions

Dimensions of ethics

Ethics in private and public relationships

2. Human Values

Lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers, and administrators

Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values

3. Attitude

Content, structure, and function of attitude

Influence of attitude on thought and behaviour

Moral and political attitudes

Social influence and persuasion

4) Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

Thinkers and philosophers from India and the world relevant to public life and ethics

(Indian and Western Thinkers)

5) Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration

Status and problems

Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions

Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance

Accountability and ethical governance

Strengthening ethical and moral values in governance

Ethical issues in international relations and funding

Corporate governance

6) Case studies

Test-13-GS1-Sectional 4

Topics:

A. World Economic and Human Geography

1. Natural and Mineral Resources

Distribution of key natural resources across continents

Major mineral belts and strategic resources (oil, coal, iron, rare earths)

2. Agriculture

Types of agriculture practiced globally

Agro-climatic zones and global agricultural patterns

3. Industry

Major industrial regions of the world

Factors influencing location of industries

4. Infrastructure

Global patterns of transport (rail, road, air, waterways) and communication

Role of infrastructure in economic development

5. Population and Settlements

Population distribution and density across the world

Growth trends, migration patterns, and causes

Races, tribes, and ethnic groups

Types of settlements: rural and urban – global comparison

B. Indian Economic and Human Geography

1. Agriculture

Agricultural typology in India

Major crops and cropping patterns

Agro-climatic regions of India

2. Land and Resource Use

3. Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Role in rural economy

Major livestock and fish production zones

4. Water Resources

Availability and distribution of rivers, lakes, and wetlands

Major dams and irrigation projects

Interlinking of rivers – potential and challenges

Hydropower potential and distribution

5. Mineral Resources

Classification of minerals: metallic, non-metallic, atomic, minor

Spatial distribution of major minerals in India

6. Energy Resources

Conventional sources: coal, oil, natural gas

Non-conventional sources: solar, wind, biomass, small hydro, nuclear

7. Population and Human Settlements

Growth trends, distribution and density

Sex ratio, literacy rates, demographic dividend

Tribes and racial groups in India

Types and patterns of rural and urban settlements

8. Industries:

Classification: basic, heavy, agro-based, mineral-based, knowledge-based

Factors influencing industrial location

Major industrial corridors and zones

C) Buddhism and Jainism

D)World History

I)Beginning of the Modern World – Key Themes

- Renaissance and Reformation

Renaissance: Meaning, causes, and impact on Europe

Reformation and Counter-Reformation: Key figures and outcomes

- Age of Exploration

Discovery of sea routes and its global impact

European colonization of North America

Rise of the trans-Atlantic slave trade

- American Revolution and Civil War

Foundation and development of American colonies

Causes and course of the American War of Independence

Declaration and significance of U.S. independence

Impact of the American Revolution (domestic and global)

-French Revolution and Its Impact

Causes and phases of the French Revolution

Role of Napoleon and France under his rule

Impacts and global significance of the revolution

-Nationalism and Unification Movements

Rise of nationalism and the nation-state system

Unification of Italy and Germany: causes, leaders, and results

-Capitalism, Colonialism, and Imperialism

Rise of capitalism and its link to colonial expansion

Colonialism: motives and methods

The Age of Imperialism (1870–1914): features and impact

Imperialism in Asia and analysis of colonial practices

ii) World War I and II(Detailed)

E.Post Independence India

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:

Non-Aligned Movement

Panchsheel

Wars with Pakistan & China

Nuclear Policy

Test 14-GS2-Sectional-4

Topics Covered: International Relations + Social Justice (Part 2)

Part A: International Relations

1. India and Its Neighbourhood

China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan

Border disputes, water sharing, regional security

Trade corridors: Kaladan, BBIN, BIMSTEC grid

2. Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings

SAARC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, SCO, BRICS, QUAD, I2U2 and other organisations in news.

India in G20, G7, Commonwealth

CEPA/CECA, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

3. India's Foreign Policy

Evolution: Non-alignment to Strategic Autonomy

Gujral Doctrine, Look East/Act East, Neighbourhood First, Indo-Pacific Strategy

Vaccine diplomacy, defence diplomacy, maritime diplomacy

India's outreach: Africa, Central Asia, West Asia

4. Policies of Developed & Developing Countries

U.S. foreign policy, China's BRI, Russia-Ukraine conflict

West Asia dynamics: Taliban, Iran

Brexit and implications

5. Indian Diaspora

Role in bilateral ties (e.g., US, Gulf)

OCI/PIO, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Challenges: Xenophobia, labour rights, dual citizenship

6. International Institutions and Agencies

UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank, WHO, FATF, IAEA

India's reform agenda in global governance

Peacekeeping, disaster relief, global health

7. Contemporary Global Issues

Climate diplomacy: COP, UNFCCC, CBD

Global AI governance, cybersecurity, digital cooperation

Global terrorism, refugee issues (e.g., Rohingyas), India's position

Vaccine partnerships & pandemic response

Part B: Social Justice – Part 2

1. Health

India's performance on health indicators

Weaknesses of Indian healthcare system

Health infrastructure and UHC

National Health Mission, National Health Policy, NFHS

Maternal, child & adolescent health

Antimicrobial resistance, disease burden

Government health schemes and outcomes

2. Education:

Literacy status, educational structure

Challenges in access, quality, equity

ASER reports, education financing

Government reforms and schemes

Subramanian Panel recommendations

3. Human Resources & Skill Development

Skill gaps in India, youth employment issues

Government skill development programmes

Challenges & reforms in skilling

Sector-wise skill development

4. Poverty & Hunger

Poverty-hunger linkage, distribution trends

Causes and structural roots of malnutrition

Impact of poverty and food insecurity

MDGs, SDGs progress

Key schemes: NFSA, Mid-Day Meal, MGNREGA

Test-15- GS-3-Sectional-4

Topics covered: Internal Security+ Indian Economy

1. Linkages between Development and the Spread of Extremism

Socio-economic causes of extremism: poverty, inequality, unemployment, displacement, alienation of tribal communities

Naxalism (Left-Wing Extremism) in India: evolution, current status, and geography of affected areas

Role of underdevelopment and governance deficit in conflict-prone regions

Government strategies to combat extremism:

Operation Green Hunt, SAMADHAN Doctrine, Integrated Action Plan, Security and Development approach

Aspirational Districts Programme and its relevance to internal security

Rehabilitation and surrender policies

2. Role of External State and Non-State Actors in Internal Security

State-sponsored terrorism and proxy wars (especially with reference to Pakistan and cross-border infiltration)

Role of non-state actors: terrorist groups (e.g., LeT, JeM, ISIS, Al-Qaeda), insurgent outfits (e.g., NSCN, ULFA)

Drug cartels, human trafficking networks, fake currency networks, arms smuggling

Radicalisation through foreign funding and ideological propaganda

Challenges of diaspora funding and transnational extremism

3. Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks

Misuse of internet and social media for spreading extremism, communal violence, fake news, and misinformation

Cybercrime: phishing, data breaches, ransomware attacks, darknet usage

Emerging cyber threats to critical infrastructure (power grids, defence systems, banking)

sector)

Cyber terrorism and warfare

Government initiatives:

Information Technology Act (2000) and its amendments

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

CERT-In, Cyber Swachhta Kendra, NCIIPC, National Cyber Security Strategy (draft)

4. Money Laundering and Its Prevention

Definition, methods (hawala, shell companies, real estate, cryptocurrency), and impact on national security

Links between money laundering and terror financing

Legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms:

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND)

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

FATF (Financial Action Task Force) – global cooperation and India's obligations

5. Security Challenges and Their Management in Border Areas

Types of borders: land (LoC, LAC), riverine, coastal, and international boundaries

Border-related threats: infiltration, smuggling of drugs and arms, illegal migration, human trafficking

Challenges in managing porous borders with Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar

Coastal security: threats post 26/11 and reforms in Phase I & II of Coastal Security Scheme

Steps taken for border management:

Border fencing and smart surveillance (CIBMS – Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System)

Role of Border Security Force (BSF), ITBP, Assam Rifles, Indian Navy, and Coastal Police

Use of drones, satellites, and radars for border monitoring

Bilateral border cooperation mechanisms

6. Linkages between Organized Crime and Terrorism

Drug trafficking, arms smuggling, counterfeit currency as tools to fund terror

Nexus between underworld groups and terrorist organizations

Challenges in investigating transnational crimes

Role of Interpol, NATGRID, NIA, and international cooperation (UNODC, FATF)

7. Various Security Forces and Agencies and Their Mandate

Overview of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):

CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB – roles and responsibilities

Special forces and their roles:

NSG (anti-terror), NDRF (disaster response), Assam Rifles (NE insurgency), Marine Commandos

8. Intelligence agencies and coordination:

Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW), National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)

National Investigation Agency (NIA) and its expanding jurisdiction

Multi-agency coordination platforms: NATGRID, NCTC (proposed), MAC (Multi Agency Centre), Joint Task Forces

-9) Contemporary Topics

Drone-based threats (Punjab, Jammu borders)

Facial recognition and surveillance debates

Social media regulation and hate speech laws

Pegasus spyware and digital privacy concerns

Rohingya crisis and implications for internal security

Communal violence and its handling by state agencies

10) Agriculture (Economy Section)

A. Major Crops & Cropping Patterns:

Types & Importance of Cropping Patterns

Factors Influencing Cropping Choices

Emerging Trends & Long-Term Effects

B. Irrigation & Storage

Modes & Sources of Irrigation

Environmental Impact

Progress Under Five-Year Plans

National Water Policy

C. Transport & Marketing of Agri-Produce

Marketing Channels, Warehousing, Regulated Markets

Role of FCI, APMCs, e-NAM

Contract Farming, FPOs, Futures Trading

Challenges in Agricultural Marketing

D. Agricultural Pricing & Subsidies:

MSP System

Direct vs Indirect Subsidies

WTO Compliance

E. Technology in Agriculture

E-Technology and Missions

Digital Support to Farmers

F. Food Security & Buffer Stocks

PDS: Structure, Issues, and Reforms

Buffer Stock Policy

NFSA and Related Schemes

13: Food Processing Industries- Initiatives, challenges and trends.

14. Inflation, RBI and its recent steps

Test-16- GS4- Sectional-4

Topics:

1) Foundational Values for Civil Services

Integrity

Impartiality and non-partisanship

Objectivity

Dedication to public service

Empathy

Tolerance and compassion toward weaker sections

5. Emotional Intelligence

Concepts of emotional intelligence

Utilities and application of EI in administration and governance

2) Probity in Governance:

Concept of public service

Philosophical basis of governance and probity

Information sharing and transparency in government

Right to Information

Codes of ethics and codes of conduct

Citizen's charters

Work culture

Quality of service delivery

Utilization of public funds

Challenges of corruption

3) Case Studies

Case studies on all the above topics to test decision-making, ethical reasoning, dilemma resolution, and administrative judgement.

Full-Length Tests (GS1 to GS4)

Test 17 to Test 30th

Each full-length test will cover the entire syllabus of the respective paper as per the official UPSC Mains syllabus.

Note:

No separate syllabus has been issued for these tests.

Prepare each paper comprehensively as per the given UPSC Mains syllabus.

For GS2 and GS3, contemporary current affairs from January 2025 onwards will be essential and must be integrated with static portions.

Note on Thematic Essay Syllabus

The Essay Paper in the Civil Services Examination does not have a formally prescribed syllabus. However, the topics are generally drawn from themes mentioned in the General Studies papers and from issues of social and ethical relevance.

Thematic Essays in this schedule are designed to cover the following broad areas:

- Polity and Governance – democracy, leadership, accountability, justice, constitutional values, and participatory governance.
- Economy and Development – inclusive growth, reforms, employment, poverty, sustainable livelihoods, and welfare policies.
- Ethics and Human Values – morality, empathy, integrity, compassion, human purpose, and ethical leadership.
- Environment and Technology – climate change, conservation, sustainable living, innovation, artificial intelligence, and science–society relations.
- Global and Humanitarian Concerns – peace, human rights, cooperation, world order, and global inequality.
- Culture and Philosophy – Indian heritage, spiritual values, cultural resilience, and

harmony between tradition and modernity.

- Education, Media and Communication – role of education in social change, influence of media, and responsible communication in democracy.

Students are expected to approach these essays through balanced analysis, relevant examples, and a coherent structure. Each test will focus on one major theme and its contemporary and ethical dimensions.