

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

Official Optional Subject Syllabus

Anthropology

Anthropology covers biological, social, and cultural aspects of human evolution and society, with a specific focus on Indian society, tribes, and demographic profiles.

Paper I

Physical / Biological Anthropology

- **Evolution and Primates:** Meaning, scope and development of Anthropology; Relationships with other disciplines. Human Evolution and emergence of Man: Biological and Cultural factors. Characteristics of Primates.
- **Human Genetics:** Methods and Application: Methods for study of genetic principles in man-family study (pedigree analysis, twin study, foster child, co-twin method). Mendelian genetics in man-family study.
- **Concept of Human Growth and Development:** Stages of growth - pre-natal, natal, infant, childhood, adolescence, maturity, senescence. Factors affecting growth and development genetic, environmental, biochemical, nutritional, cultural and socio-economic.

Socio-Cultural Anthropology

- **Culture and Society:** Concept of culture and society, culture traits, culture complex, culture area, culture center.
- **Marriage, Family and Kinship:** Definition and universality; Laws of marriage. Definition and typology of family. Consanguinity and Affinity; Principles and types of descent.
- **Economic and Political Organization:** Meaning, scope and relevance of economic anthropology; Principles governing production, distribution and exchange (reciprocity, redistribution and market). Band, tribe, chiefdom, kingdom and state.
- **Religion:** Anthropological approaches to the study of religion (evolutionary, psychological and functional). Magic, religion and science.

Paper II: Indian Society and Culture

Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

- **Prehistoric India:** Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic cultures, Chalcolithic and Copper-Bronze Age; Indus Valley Civilization.
- **Demographic Profile:** Demographic profile of India: Ethnic and linguistic elements in the Indian population and their distribution. Indian population – factors influencing its structure and growth.

Indian Social Structure

- **Caste System:** The structure and nature of traditional Indian social system — Varnashram, Purushartha, Karma, Rina and Rebirth. Caste system in India— structure and characteristics.
- **Impact of Traditions:** Impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity on Indian society.

Tribal Situation in India

- **Tribal Demography:** Biogenetic variability, linguistic and socio-economic characteristics of the tribal populations and their distribution.
- **Problems of the Tribal Communities:** Land alienation, poverty, indebtedness, low literacy, poor educational facilities, unemployment, underemployment, health and nutrition. Developmental projects and their impact on tribal displacement.