



UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

Official Optional Subject Syllabus

Geography

Geography is a multidisciplinary subject that requires understanding of both spatial distribution and human-environment interactions. The syllabus covers Physical Geography, Human Geography, and Geography of India.

Paper I: Principles of Geography

Physical Geography

- **Geomorphology:** Factors controlling landform development; endogenetic and exogenetic forces; Origin and evolution of the earth's crust; Fundamentals of geomagnetism; Physical conditions of the earth's interior; Geosynclines; Continental drift; Isostasy; Plate tectonics; Recent views on mountain building; Vulcanicity; Earthquakes and Tsunamis.
- **Climatology:** Temperature and pressure belts of the world; Heat budget of the earth; Atmospheric circulation; Atmospheric stability and instability. Planetary and local winds; Monsoons and jet streams; Air masses and fronto genesis.
- **Oceanography:** Bottom topography of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; Temperature and salinity of the oceans; Heat and salt budgets, Ocean deposits; Waves, currents and tides; Marine resources: biotic, mineral and energy resources.
- **Biogeography:** Genesis of soils; Classification and distribution of soils; Soil profile; Soil erosion, Degradation and conservation; Factors influencing world distribution of plants and animals; Problems of deforestation and conservation measures.
- **Environmental Geography:** Principle of ecology; Human ecological adaptations; Influence of man on ecology and environment; Global and regional ecological changes and imbalances; Ecosystem their management and conservation.

Human Geography

- **Perspectives in Human Geography:** Areal differentiation; regional synthesis; Dichotomy and dualism; Environmentalism; Quantitative revolution and locational analysis.
- **Economic Geography:** World economic development: measurement and problems; World resources and their distribution; Energy crisis; the limits to growth.
- **Population and Settlement Geography:** Growth and distribution of world population; demographic attributes; Causes and consequences of migration; Concepts of over-under-and optimum population; Types and patterns of rural settlements; Hierarchy of urban settlements.
- **Regional Planning:** Concept of a region; Types of regions and methods of regionalisation; Growth centres and growth poles.
- **Models, Theories and Laws in Human Geography:** Systems analysis in Human geography; Malthusian, Marxian and demographic transition models; Central Place theories of Christaller and Losch.

Paper II: Geography of India

Physical Setting and Resources

- **Physical Setting:** Space relationship of India with neighboring countries; Structure and relief; Drainage system and watersheds; Physiographic regions; Mechanism of Indian monsoons and rainfall patterns, Tropical cyclones and western disturbances.
- **Resources:** Land, surface and ground water, energy, minerals, biotic and marine resources; Forest and wild life resources and their conservation.

Agriculture, Industry & Transport

- **Agriculture:** Infrastructure: irrigation, seeds, fertilizers, power; Institutional factors: land holdings, land tenure and land reforms; Cropping pattern, agricultural productivity, agricultural intensity; Green revolution.
- **Industry:** Evolution of industries; Locational factors of cotton, jute, textile, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilizer, paper, chemical and pharmaceutical, automobile, cottage and agro-based industries.
- **Transport, Communication and Trade:** Road, railway, waterway, airway and pipeline networks and their complementary roles in regional development.