



UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

Official Optional Subject Syllabus

History

History requires comprehensive understanding of chronological events, sociological changes, economic shifts, and historical interpretations of Ancient, Medieval, Modern India and World History.

Paper I: Ancient and Medieval India

Ancient India

- **Sources:** Archaeological sources (Exploration, excavation, epigraphy, numismatics, monuments); Literary sources (Indigenous and Foreign accounts).
- **Pre-history and Proto-history:** Geographical factors; hunting and gathering (paleolithic and mesolithic); Beginning of agriculture (neolithic and chalcolithic).
- **Indus Valley Civilization:** Origin, date, extent, characteristics-decline, survival and significance, art and architecture.
- **Megalithic Cultures & Aryans:** Distribution of pastoral and farming cultures. Vedic period migrations, society, economy, and religion.
- **Mauryan Empire:** Foundation of the Mauryan Empire, Chandragupta, Kautilya and Arthashastra; Ashoka; Concept of Dharma; Edicts; Polity, Administration.
- **Post-Mauryan and Guptas:** Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas; Polity and administration of Guptas, economy, literature, and science.

Medieval India

- **Early Medieval India:** Major dynasties (Cholas, Chalukyas, Pallavas); Feudalism concept; Arab conquest of Sind.
- **Delhi Sultanate:** Establishment, Expansion; Khaljis and Tughlaqs; Administrative structure, economy, and Sufi/Bhakti movements.

- **Mughal Empire:** Babur, Humayun, Akbar (Rajput and Religious policy), Jahangir, Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb; Mughal administration, Mansabdari system, Jagirdari system; Economy and culture.
- **Marathas & Regional States:** Rise of Marathas under Shivaji, Peshwas; Decline of the Mughal Empire.

Paper II: Modern India and World History

Modern India

- **European Penetration:** Early European settlements; The Portuguese and the Dutch; The English and the French East India Companies.
- **British Expansion:** Bengal, Mysore, Western India, Awadh, Punjab and Sindh.
- **Economic Impact of British Rule:** Land revenue settlements (Zamindari, Ryotwari, Mahalwari); De-industrialization; Commercialization of agriculture.
- **Indian Freedom Struggle:** Revolt of 1857; Rise of nationalism; INC formation; Moderates and Extremists; Swadeshi Movement; Gandhian era (Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India).
- **Post-Independence Consolidation:** Partition, integration of princely states, linguistic reorganization, economic planning.

World History

- **Enlightenment and Modern Ideas:** Major ideas of Enlightenment; Kant, Rousseau; Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies.
- **Industrial Revolution & Nation States:** Emergence of industrial capitalism; Rise of nationalism; Unification of Italy and Germany.
- **Imperialism and Colonialism:** South and South-East Asia; Latin America and South Africa; Australia; Imperialism and free trade.
- **World Wars:** Causes and consequences of WWI and WWII; The League of Nations and the United Nations.
- **Cold War Era:** Emergence of two blocs; Non-Alignment Movement; Collapse of Soviet Union and end of the Cold War.