

UPSC History Syllabus 2025

PAPER – 1

1. Sources

- Archaeological sources:
- Exploration, excavation, epigraphy, numismatics, monuments.
- Literary sources:
- Indigenous: Primary and secondary; poetry, scientific literature, literature, literature in regional languages, religious literature.
- Foreign account: Greek, Chinese and Arab writers.

2. Pre-history and Proto-history:

- Geographical factors; hunting and gathering (paleolithic and mesolithic); Beginning of agriculture (neolithic and chalcolithic).

3. Indus Valley Civilization:

- Origin, date, extent, characteristics-decline, survival and significance, art and architecture.

4. Megalithic Cultures:

- Distribution of pastoral and farming cultures outside the Indus, Development of community life, Settlements, Development of agriculture, Crafts, Pottery, and Iron industry.

5. Aryans and Vedic Period:

- Expansions of Aryans in India:
- Vedic Period: Religious and philosophic literature; Transformation from Rig Vedic period to the later Vedic period; Political, social and economical life; Significance of the Vedic Age; Evolution of Monarchy and Varna system.

6. Period of Mahajanapadas:

- Formation of States (Mahajanapada): Republics and monarchies; Rise of urban centres; Trade routes; Economic growth; Introduction of coinage; Spread of Jainism and Buddhism; Rise of Magadha and Nandas.
- Iranian and Mecedonian invasions and their impact.

7. Mauryan Empire:

- Foundation of the Mauryan Empire, Chandragupta, Kautilya and Arthashastra; Ashoka; Concept of Dharma; Edicts; Polity, Administration, Economy; Art, architecture and sculpture; External contacts; Religion; Spread of religion; Literature.
- Disintegration of the empire; Sungas and Kanvas.

8. Post-Mauryan Period (Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, Western Kshatrapas):

- Contact with outside world; growth of urban centres, economy, coinage, development of religions,
- Mahayana, social conditions, art, architecture, culture, literature and science.

9. Early State and Society in Eastern India, Deccan and South India:

- Kharavela, The Satavahanas, Tamil States of the Sangam Age; Administration, Economy, land grants, coinage, trade guilds and urban centres; Buddhist centres; Sangam literature and culture; Art and architecture.

10. Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas:

- Polity and administration, Economic conditions, Coinage of the Guptas, Land grants, Decline of urban centres, Indian feudalism, Caste system, Position of women, Education and educational institutions; Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi, Literature, scientific literature, art and architecture.

11. Regional States during Gupta Era:

- The Kadambas, Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami; Polity and Administration, Trade guilds,

- Literature; growth of Vaishnava and Saiva religions. Tamil Bhakti movement, Shankaracharya;
 - Vedanta; Institutions of temple and temple architecture; Palas, Senas, Rashtrakutas, Paramaras, Polity and administration; Cultural aspects. Arab conquest of Sind; Alberuni, The Chalukyas of Kalyana, Cholas, Hoysalas, Pandyas; Polity and Administration; Local Government; Growth of art and architecture, religious sects, Institution of temple and Mathas, Agraharas, education and literature, economy and society.
12. **Themes in Early Indian Cultural History:**
- Languages and texts, major stages in the evolution of art and architecture, major philosophical thinkers and schools, ideas in Science and Mathematics.
13. **Early Medieval India, 750-1200:**
- Polity: Major political developments in Northern India and the peninsula, origin and the rise of Rajputs.
 - The Cholas: administration, village economy and society “Indian Feudalism”.
 - Agrarian economy and urban settlements.
 - Trade and commerce.
 - Society: the status of the Brahman and the new social order.
 - Condition of women.
 - Indian science and technology.
14. **Cultural Traditions in India, 750-1200:**
- Philosophy: Shankaracharya and Vedanta, Ramanuja and Vishishtadvaita, Madhva and Brahma-Mimansa.
 - Religion: Forms and features of religion, Tamil devotional cult, growth of Bhakti, Islam and its arrival in India, Sufism.
 - Literature: Literature in Sanskrit, growth of Tamil literature, literature in the newly developing languages, Kalhan’s Rajtarangini, Alberuni’s India.
 - Art and Architecture: Temple architecture, sculpture, painting.
15. **The Thirteenth Century:**
- Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate: The Ghurian invasions – factors behind Ghurian success.
 - Economic, Social and cultural consequences.
 - Foundation of Delhi Sultanate and early Turkish Sultans.
 - Consolidation: The rule of Iltutmish and Balban.
16. **The Fourteenth Century:**
- “The Khalji Revolution”.
 - Alauddin Khalji: Conquests and territorial expansion, agrarian and economic measures.
 - Muhammad Tughluq: Major projects, agrarian measures, bureaucracy of Muhammad Tughluq.
 - Firuz Tughluq: Agrarian measures, achievements in civil engineering and public works, decline of the Sultanate, foreign contacts and Ibn Battuta’s account.
17. **Society, Culture and Economy in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries:**
- Society: composition of rural society, ruling classes, town dwellers, women, religious classes, caste and slavery under the Sultanate, Bhakti movement, Sufi movement.
 - Culture: Persian literature, literature in the regional languages of North India, literature in the languages of South India, Sultanate architecture and new structural forms, painting, evolution of a composite culture.
 - Economy: Agricultural Production, rise of urban economy and non-agricultural production, trade and commerce.
18. **The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century-Political Developments and Economy:**
- Rise of Provincial Dynasties: Bengal, Kashmir (Zainul Abedin), Gujarat.
 - Malwa, Bahmanids.

- The Vijayanagara Empire.
- Lodis.
- Mughal Empire, first phase: Babur, Humayun.
- The Sur Empire: Sher Shah's administration.
- Portuguese colonial enterprise, Bhakti and Sufi Movements.
- 19. **The Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Century- Society and culture:**
 - Regional cultures specificities.
 - Literary traditions.
 - Provincial architectural.
 - Society, culture, literature and the arts in Vijayanagara Empire.
- 20. **Akbar:**
 - Conquests and consolidation of empire.
 - Establishment of *jagir* and *mansab* systems.
 - Rajput policy.
 - Evolution of religious and social outlook. Theory of *Sulh-i-kul* and religious policy.
 - Court patronage of art and technology.
- 21. **Mughal Empire in the Seventeenth Century:**
 - Major administrative policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb.
 - The Empire and the Zamindars.
 - Religious policies of Jahangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb.
 - Nature of the Mughal State.
 - Late Seventeenth Century crisis and the revolts.
 - The Ahom kingdom.
 - Shivaji and the early Maratha Kingdom.
- 22. **Economy and society, in the 16th and 17th Centuries:**
 - Population Agricultural and craft production.
 - Towns, commerce with Europe through Dutch, English and French companies: a trade revolution.
 - Indian mercantile classes. Banking, insurance and credit systems.
 - Conditions of peasants, Conditions of Women.
 - Evolution of the Sikh community and the Khalsa Panth.
- 23. **Culture during Mughal Empire:**
 - Persian histories and other literature.
 - Hindi and religious literature.
 - Mughal architecture.
 - Mughal painting.
 - Provincial architecture and painting.
 - Classical music.
 - Science and technology.
- 24. **The Eighteenth Century:**
 - Factors for the decline of the Mughal Empire.
 - The regional principalities: Nizam's Deccan, Bengal, Awadh.
 - Maratha ascendancy under the Peshwas.
 - The Maratha fiscal and financial system.
 - Emergence of Afghan power Battle of Panipat, 1761.
 - State of, political, cultural and economic, on eve of the British conquest.

PAPER – 2

1. **European Penetration into India:**
 - The Early European Settlements; The Portuguese and the Dutch; The English and the French East India Companies; Their struggle for supremacy; Carnatic Wars; Bengal-The conflict between the English and the Nawabs of Bengal; Siraj and the English; The Battle of Plassey; Significance of Plassey.

2. **British Expansion in India:**
 - Bengal-Mir Jafar and Mir Kasim; The Battle of Buxar; Mysore; The Marathas; The three Anglo-Maratha Wars; The Punjab.
3. **Early Structure of the British Raj:**
 - The Early administrative structure; From diarchy to direct control; The Regulating Act (1773);
 - The Pitt's India Act (1784); The Charter Act (1833); The Voice of free trade and the changing character of British colonial rule; The English utilitarian and India.
4. **Economic Impact of British Colonial Rule:**
 - Land revenue settlements in British India; The Permanent Settlement; Ryotwari Settlement; Mahalwari Settlement; Economic impact of the revenue arrangements; Commercialization of agriculture; Rise of landless agrarian labourers; Impoverishment of the rural society.
 - Dislocation of traditional trade and commerce; De-industrialisation; Decline of traditional crafts; Drain of wealth; Economic transformation of India; Railroad and communication network including telegraph and postal services; Famine and poverty in the rural interior;
 - European business enterprise and its limitations.
5. **Social and Cultural Developments:**
 - The state of indigenous education, its dislocation; Orientalist-Anglicist controversy, The introduction of western education in India; The rise of press, literature and public opinion; The rise of modern vernacular literature; Progress of Science; Christian missionary activities in India.
6. **Social and Religious Reform Movements in Bengal and Other Areas:**
 - Ram Mohan Roy, The Brahmo Movement; Devendranath Tagore; Iswarchandra Vidyasagar; The Young Bengal Movement; Dayanada Saraswati; The social reform movements in India including Sati, widow remarriage, child marriage etc.; The contribution of Indian renaissance to the growth of modern India; Islamic revivalism-the Feraizi and Wahabi Movements.
7. **Indian Response to British Rule:**
 - Peasant movement and tribal uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries including the Rangpur Dying (1783), the Kol Rebellion (1832), the Mopla Rebellion in Malabar (1841-1920), the Santal Hul (1855), Indigo Rebellion (1859-60), Deccan Uprising (1875) and the Munda Ulgulan (1899-1900); The Great Revolt of 1857 —Origin, character, causes of failure, the consequences; The shift in the character of peasant uprisings in the post-1857 period; the peasant movements of the 1920s and 1930s.
8. **Factors leading to the birth of Indian Nationalism;** Politics of Association; The Foundation of the Indian National Congress; The Safety-valve thesis relating to the birth of the Congress; Programme and objectives of Early Congress; the social composition of early Congress leadership; the Moderates and Extremists; The Partition of Bengal (1905); The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal; the economic and political aspects of Swadeshi Movement; The beginning of revolutionary extremism in India.
9. **Rise of Gandhi;** Character of Gandhian nationalism; Gandhi's popular appeal; Rowlatt Satyagraha; the Khilafat Movement; the Non-cooperation Movement; National politics from the end of the Non-cooperation movement to the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement; the two phases of the Civil Disobedience Movement; Simon Commission; The Nehru Report; the Round Table Conferences; Nationalism and the Peasant Movements; Nationalism and Working class movements; Women and Indian youth and students in Indian politics (1885-1947); the election of 1937 and the formation of ministries; Cripps Mission; the Quit India Movement; the Wavell Plan; The Cabinet Mission.
10. **Constitutional Developments in the Colonial India between 1858 and 1935.**
11. **Other strands in the National Movement.**

- The Revolutionaries: Bengal, the Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P. the Madras Presidency, Outside India.
- The Left; The Left within the Congress: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress
- Socialist Party; the Communist Party of India, other left parties.
- 12. **Politics of Separatism**; the Muslim League; the Hindu Mahasabha; Communalism and the politics of partition; Transfer of power; Independence.
- 13. **Consolidation as a Nation**; Nehru's Foreign Policy; India and her neighbours (1947-1964); The linguistic reorganisation of States (1935-1947); Regionalism and regional inequality; Integration of Princely States; Princes in electoral politics; the Question of National Language.
- 14. **Caste and Ethnicity after 1947**; Backward Castes and Tribes in post-colonial electoral politics; Dalit movements.
- 15. **Economic development and political change**; Land reforms; the politics of planning and rural reconstruction; Ecology and environmental policy in post-colonial India; Progress of Science.
- 16. **Enlightenment and Modern ideas**:
 - Major Ideas of Enlightenment: Kant, Rousseau.
 - Spread of Enlightenment in the colonies.
 - Rise of socialist ideas (up to Marx); spread of Marxian Socialism.
- 17. **Origins of Modern Politics**:
 - European States System.
 - American Revolution and the Constitution.
 - French Revolution and Aftermath, 1789-1815.
 - American Civil War with reference to Abraham Lincoln and the abolition of slavery.
 - British Democratic politics, 1815-1850: Parliamentary Reformers, Free Traders, Chartists.
- 18. **Industrialization**:
 - English Industrial Revolution: Causes and Impact on Society.
 - Industrialization in other countries: USA, Germany, Russia, Japan.
 - Industrialization and Globalization.
- 19. **Nation-State System**:
 - Rise of Nationalism in 19th century.
 - Nationalism: State-building in Germany and Italy.
 - Disintegration of Empires in the face of the emergence of nationalities across the World.
- 20. **Imperialism and Colonialism**:
 - South and South-East Asia.
 - Latin America and South Africa.
 - Australia.
 - Imperialism and free trade: Rise of neo-imperialism.
- 21. **Revolution and Counter-Revolution**:
 - 19th Century European revolutions.
 - The Russian Revolution of 1917-1921.
 - Fascist Counter-Revolution, Italy and Germany.
 - The Chinese Revolution of 1949.
- 22. **World Wars**:
 - 1st and 2nd World Wars as Total Wars: Societal implications.
 - World War I: Causes and Consequences.
 - World War II: Causes and Consequences.
- 23. **The World after World War II**:
 - Emergence of Two power blocs.
 - Emergence of Third World and non-alignment.
 - UNO and the global disputes.

24 . Liberation from Colonial Rule:

- Latin America-Bolivar.
- Arab World-Egypt.
- Africa-Apartheid to Democracy.
- South-East Asia-Vietnam.

25. Decolonization and Underdevelopment:

- Factors constraining Development ; Latin America, Africa.

26. Unification of Europe:

- Post War Foundations ; NATO and European Community.
- Consolidation and Expansion of European Community
- European Union.

27. Disintegration of Soviet Union and the Rise of the Unipolar World:

- Factors leading to the collapse of Soviet Communism and Soviet Union, 1985-1991.
- Political Changes in East Europe 1989-2001.
- End of the Cold War and US Ascendancy in the World as the lone superpower.