

# UPSC GS 2 Syllabus

## Official UPSC GS 2 Syllabus

It is clear from the UPSC Mains GS Paper 2 syllabus that the paper broadly covers Governance, Polity, Social Justice, and International relations. To ace GS Paper 2 of the Mains Exam, one needs to know in detail all the topics covered in the subject so that candidates, while writing answers, can interlink and present full-fledged answers.

### General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- Separation of powers between various organs disputes redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, the conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry—the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.
- India and its neighborhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

## GS 2 Syllabus for Governance

Governance section under GS 2 Mains Syllabus includes Government Policies & Interventions for Development, Development Processes & the Development Industry, Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency & Accountability and Role of Civil Services in a Democracy. The detailed coverage of topics is as under:

### Government Policies & Interventions in Various Sectors

- Health, Gender, Education, Poverty, Economic etc

### Issues Arising Out of Their Design & Implementation

- Concerns/Issues
- Suggestions for Improvement
- Critical Assessment of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)
- Rationalisation of CSS

### Analysis of Main Schemes

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- Smart City
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- MGNREGA
- Digital India
- Make in India
- Skill India
- PM Jan Dhan Yojana
- Start-up India etc.

### Development Processes & the Development Industry

- Role of Social Capital Organisations
- Indian Context
- Classification
- Provisions for the Third Sector in the Indian Constitution
- National Policy on the Voluntary Sector 2007

### Non-Governmental Organisations

- Role and Impact of Non-governmental Organizations
- Issue Areas: Accreditation, Legitimacy & Accountability, Foreign Funding etc.

### Self Help Groups (SHGs)

- Need for SHGs
- Benefits of SHGs
- Weaknesses of SHGs
- Challenges
- Measures to Make SHGs Effective
- Case Studies: Kudumbashree (Kerala), Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (Maharashtra)

## Societies, Trusts and Cooperatives

- Societies
- Trust
- Religious Endowments
- Cooperatives
  - Need for Cooperatives
  - Constitutional Provisions
  - National Policy on Co-operatives, 2002
  - Issues and Challenges in the Cooperatives Sector

## Important Aspects of Governance

- Dimensions of Governance
- Good Governance (GG)
- Aspects of GG
- Barriers to GG
- Necessary Pre-conditions for GG
- How to Ensure GG

## E-Governance

- Applications
- Models
- Successes
- Limitations
- Potential
- Recent e-governance Initiatives by Government

## Citizens Charters (CC)

- Components of CC
- Features of CC
- Six Principles of CC
- Shortcomings of CC
- Measures to Make CC Effective
- Sevottam Model

## Aspects of Transparency and Means to ensure Transparency & Accountability- Elements & Types of Accountability

- RTI
- Social Audit
- Whistleblower Protection Bill
- Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act

## Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

- Advisory Role in Policy Making
- Institutionalise Socio-economic change

- Discharge Delegated Functions
- Administer Law of the Land
- Watchdogs
- Continuity in times of Political Instability
- Record-Keeping
- Channel of Communication

### **Ailments/Issues Afflicting Indian Civil Services**

- Lack of Professionalism & Poor Capacity Building
- Inefficient Incentive Systems
- Outdated Rules & Procedures
- Systemic Inconsistencies in Promotion
- Lack of Adequate Transparency & Accountability Procedures
- Arbitrary & Whimsical Transfers
- Political Interference & Administrative Acquiescence
- Gradual Erosion in Values & Ethics
- Redtapism
- Elitist in Nature
- Poor Pay
- Tendency to Capture Power

### **Reforming Bureaucracy to Strengthen Democracy**

- Setting Right the Asymmetry of Power
- Insulating Civil Servants from Undue Political Interference
- Professionalisation with Stability of Tenure & Competition
- Citizen-Centric Administration
- Accountability
- Outcome Orientation
- Promoting Public Service Values & Ethics

### **GS Paper 2 Syllabus for Polity**

The GS Paper 1 Syllabus for Polity covers Indian Constitution, Features of Indian Constitution, Amendments in Indian Constitution, Provisions and Constitutional and non-constitutional bodies. The GS 2 Mains Syllabus for Polity is vast and needs to be updated at regular intervals with all the developments and amendments happening. The detailed coverage of topics includes:

#### **Indian Constitution**

- Regulating Act (1773) to Independence Act (1947)
- Constituent Assembly
- Objective Resolution
- Enactment & Enforcement of Constitution

#### **Features of Indian Constitution**

- Written
- Flexible & Rigid
- Federal & Unitary

- Parliamentary Form of Government (Presidential vs. Parliamentary Type of Government)

## Amendments in Indian Constitution

- List of Significant Amendments & Their Provisions
- Procedure for Amending Constitution

## Provisions of the Constitution

- Fundamental Rights
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Judicial Review
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Separation of Powers
- Doctrine of Basic Structure- Judgments & Cases

## Functions & Responsibilities of the Union and the States

- 7th Schedule
- Legislative Functions
- Financial Functions
- Administrative & Quasi-Judicial Functions

## Issues & Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure

- Federal Structure in India - Is India truly Federal?
- Cooperative & Competitive Federalism

## Centre-State Relations

- Legislative Relations
- Administrative Relations
- Financial Relations
- Trends in Centre-State Relations

## Inter-State Relations

- Inter-state Water Disputes
- Inter-State Councils
- Public Acts, Records, and Judicial Proceedings
- Inter-State Trade and Commerce
- Zonal Councils

## Emergency Provisions

Role of President and Governor

## Reports of Various Commissions

- 2nd ARC, Punchhi, Sarkaria, etc.

## Devolution of Powers & Finances to Local Levels & Challenges Therein

- Role of State Government
- Role of State Finance Commission
- 11th & 12th Schedule
- Reasons for Ineffective Performance
- Panchayat Devolution Index ( NITI Aayog)
- Steps That Can Be Taken to Improve Their Performance

## Separation of Powers Between Various Organs

- Doctrine of Separation of Power
- Separation of Power in Indian Constitution
- Doctrine of Checks & Balances
- Provisions for Checks & Balances in Indian Constitution
- Related Judgments - Golaknath case, Kesavananda Bharati, *Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain*, *Ram Jawaya v. State of Punjab*

## Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions

- RTI
- PIL
- Tribunals, etc.

## Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme With That of Other Countries Parliament & State Legislatures

- Written Constitution
- Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility
- Federal System with Unitary Bias
- Parliamentary Form of Government
- Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy
- Integrated and Independent Judiciary
- Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties
- Secular State
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Emergency Provisions
- Three-tier Government
- Due Process of Law vs. Procedure Established by Law
- Impeachment of the President, etc.

## Structure, Organization & Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

- Union:
  - President
  - Prime Minister
  - Council of Ministers
  - Cabinet Secretariat
- State:
  - Governor
  - Chief Minister
  - Council of Ministers
  - Secretariat
  
- Judiciary
  - Three-Tier Structure
  - Chief Justice of India
  - SC & HC Judges
  - Jurisdiction

## Ministries and Departments of the Government

- Cabinet Ministries
- Other Ministries
- Parliamentary Secretaries

## Pressure Groups & Formal/informal Associations & Their Role in Polity

- Characteristics of Pressure Groups
- Pressure Groups & Political Parties
- Pressure Groups & Interest Groups
- Types of Pressure Groups
- Functions, Role & Importance of Pressure Groups
- Techniques/Methods of Pressure Groups
- Pressure Groups in India
- Shortcomings of Pressure Groups
- Salient Features of Representation of People's Act

## Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts

- Election Commission
- Union Public Service Commission
- State Public Service Commission
- Finance Commission
- National Commission for SCs
- National Commission for STs
- Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities

- Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Attorney General of India
- Advocate General of the State

## Statutory, Regulatory & Quasi-Judicial Bodies

- NITI Aayog
- RBI
- National Human Rights Commission
- State Human Rights Commission
- Central Information Commission
- Central Vigilance Commission
- Central Bureau of Investigation
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas
- National Commission for Women
- National Commission for Backward Classes
- National Commission for Minorities
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Competition Commission of India
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board
- Central Pollution Control Board
- Medical Council of India
- Inland Waterways Authority of India
- Central Ground Water Authority
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- Bar Council of India
- University Grants Commission
- Financial Stability and Development Council
- All India Council for Technical Education
- National Green Tribunal
- Competition Appellate Tribunal
- Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal
- Cyber Appellate Tribunal
- Intellectual Property Appellate Board

## International Relations Syllabus for UPSC GS 2

The International Relation Syllabus for UPSC GS Paper 2 includes India's Relations With Neighbouring nations, India's Major Foreign Policy Doctrines Since 1947, Bilateral Relations With other nations, Regional & Global Groupings, Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India's Interests, Indian Diaspora, Important International Institutions. The detailed topics covered under these are:



## India's Relations With Neighbouring Nations

- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Nepal
- Maldives
- [China](#)
- Pakistan
- Myanmar
- Bhutan

## India's Major Foreign Policy Doctrines Since 1947

- Non-aligned Movement (NAM)
- Nuclear Doctrine
- Gujral Doctrine
- Look East to Act East
- Think West, etc.

## Bilateral Relations With

- Major Powers Like – USA, Russia, Japan
- Central Asian Countries
- West Asian Countries
- African Countries
- Australia & New Zealand
- EU & European Countries
- Latin American Countries
- Pacific Countries

## Regional & Global Groupings

- SAARC
- BRICS
- BBIN & BCIM
- BIMSTEC
- IBSA
- ASEAN & RCEP
- India-Africa Forum
- [SCO](#)
- Ashgabat Agreement
- FIPIC
- IOR-ARC
- Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)
- Raisina Dialogue
- Heart of Asia Conference
- East Asia Summit
- G-20
- Asian Development Bank
- National Security Summit

- Multilateral Nuclear Export Regulatory Regimes: Wassenaar, MTCR, Australia Group
- APEC, etc

## Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India's Interests

- One Belt One Road
- International North–South Transport Corridor
- Global Trade War
- WTO Reforms
- South China Sea Conflict
- Brexit
- Deglobalisation & Protectionism – US Sanctions on Iran, US Pullout from Paris Agreement, H-1B Visa Issue etc.
- OPEC Oil Prices Manipulation, etc.
- Global Currency War
- Syrian Crisis
- UN Reforms

## Important International Institutions

- IMF
- World Economic Forum
- Commonwealth of Nations
- UN & its Agencies
- WTO
- World Bank, etc

## Indian Diaspora

- LM Singhvi High-Level Committee on the Diaspora
- Role played by Indian Diaspora
- Issues Concerning the Diaspora:
  - Dual Nationality
  - Remittances, etc.
- Spread of Indian Diaspora
- India's Diaspora Policy & Engagement Initiatives
  - OCI
  - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
  - Know India Programme, etc.

## GS 2 Syllabus for Social Justice

Social justice means a fair and just relationship between individuals and society. It aims to meet the challenge of socio-economic inequality and the rule of law. The GS 2 Syllabus for Social Justice includes Schemes and Performance of Schemes for the Vulnerable Sections, Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions & Bodies Constituted for Protection & Betterment of Vulnerable Sections, Issues Relating to Development & Management of Social Sector/Services, and Issues Relating to Poverty & Hunger.

The sub-topics covered under these topics include:

## **Schemes and Performance of Schemes for the Vulnerable Sections, which includes**

- SCs & STs
- Minorities
- Children
- Elderly
- Disabled
- Women
- Transgender

## **Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions & Bodies Constituted for Protection & Betterment of Vulnerable Sections**

- SCs:
  - The Protection of Civil Rights Act
  - The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
  - National Commission for Scheduled Castes
  - Scheduled Castes Sub Plan
- Disabled:
  - The Rehabilitation Council of India Act
  - The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act
  - Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act
  - The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act
  - Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act
- STs:
  - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
  - Tribal Sub Plan
  - TRIFED
  - Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act
- Minorities:
  - National Commission for Minorities
  - National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities
- Women & Children
  - The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
  - The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act
  - The Dowry Prohibition Act
  - The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act
  - The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
  - Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
  - Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
  - Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)

- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
  - Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal)
  - Pre-Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act
  - Gender Budgeting
  - National Policy for Women
  - Domestic Violence Act
  - Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act
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- Elderly
    - Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act

## Issues Relating to Development & Management of Social Sector/Services

- Status of Literacy in India
- Education Structure in India
- Challenges Faced by Education Sector in India
- Reforms Required
- Government Initiatives
- ASER Report
- Financing Education
- Subramanian Panel Report
- India's Performance on Various Health Indicators
- Weaknesses of Indian Healthcare System
- Health Infrastructure in India
- Universal Health Coverage
- 12th FYP Strategy
- Universal Health Coverage
- Health Insurance
- National Family Health Survey
- National Health Policy
- National Health Mission
- Maternal & Adolescent Health
- Child Health
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Disease Burden in India
- Measures to Ensure Good Health Outcomes
- Government Initiatives
- Need For Skill Development
- Skill Development Initiatives
- Challenges in Skilling Landscape in India
- Shortcomings of Current Skill Development Initiatives

## Issues Relating to Poverty & Hunger

- MDGs & SDGs
- Food and nutrition insecurity - a consequence of structural inequities

- Constraints in Reducing Poverty & Hunger
- Measure to Reduce Poverty & Hunger – National Food Security Act, Mid-day Meal Scheme, MGNREGA etc.
- Relation between Poverty & Hunger
- Distribution of Poverty & Hunger
- Magnitude & Trends of Poverty & Hunger
- Causes of Poverty & Hunger
- Cost/Impact of Poverty & Malnutrition

## Important Topics of GS Paper 2 Syllabus

To prepare for the upcoming UPSC Mains 2022 Exam, some of the important topics that should be covered for GS Paper 2 Syllabus are:

- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the states
- Issues and challenges related to the Federal Structure
- Devolution of powers and finances up to local government level
- Challenges in the devolution of power
- Separation of powers between various organs of the government
- Parliament and State Legislatures
- Salient features of the People's Representation Act
- Powers, functions and responsibilities of various constitutional bodies
- Statutory, regulatory, and various quasi-judicial bodies
- Important aspects of governance, transparency, and accountability
- E-governance
- India and its neighborhood
- Relations between India and neighboring countries
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's Interests
- Mechanisms, laws, institutions, and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections of the population
- Issues related to the development and management of the social sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.