UPSC Geography Syllabus

UPSC IAS Mains Geography Paper – I Syllabus 2018:

**Principles of Geography Physical Geography:**

1. **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; Concepts of geomorphic cycles and Landscape development; Denudation chronology
   - Channel morphology; Erosion surfaces; Slope development
   - Applied Geomorphology, Geohydrology, economic geology and environment.

2. **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 frontogenesis, Temperate and tropical cyclones
   - Types and distribution of precipitation
   - Weather and Climate; Koppen’s, Thornthwaite’s and Trewartha’s classification of world climates
   - Hydrological cycle; Global climatic change and role and response of man in climatic changes, Applied climatology and Urban climate.

3. **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
   - Coral reefs, coral bleaching
   - Sealevel changes; law of the sea and marine pollution.

4. **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
   - Social forestry; agro-forestry
   - Wild life; Major gene pool centres

5. **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
• Environmental degradation, management and conservation; Biodiversity and sustainable development
• Environmental policy
• Environmental hazards and remedial measures; Environmental education and legislation

Human Geography:

1. Perspectives in Human Geography:

• Areal differentiation; regional synthesis; Dichotomy and dualism; Environmentalism; Quantitative revolution and locational analysis
• Radical, behavioural, human and welfare approaches; Languages, religions and secularization
• Cultural regions of the world; Human development index

2. Economic Geography:

• World economic development: measurement and problems; World resources and their distribution; Energy crisis
• the limits to growth; World agriculture: typology of agricultural regions; agricultural inputs and productivity
• Food and nutrition problems; Food security; famine: causes, effects and remedies; World industries
• locational patterns and problems; patterns of world trade

3. Population and Settlement Geography:

• Growth and distribution of world population; demographic attributes; Causes and consequences of migration
• concepts of over-under-and optimum population; Population theories
• world population problems and policies, Social well-being and quality of life; Population as social capital.
• Types and patterns of rural settlements; Environmental issues in rural settlements; Hierarchy of urban settlements
• Urban morphology: Concepts of primate city and rank-size rule; Functional classification of towns
• Sphere of urban influence; Rural - urban fringe
• Satellite towns; Problems and remedies of urbanization; Sustainable development of cities

4. Regional Planning:

• Concept of a region; Types of regions and methods of regionalisation; Growth centres and growth poles
• Regional imbalances; regional development strategies; environmental issues in regional planning
• Planning for sustainable development
5. **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; Perroux and Boudeville; Von Thunen’s model of agricultural location
- Weber’s model of industrial location; Ostov’s model of stages of growth. Heartland and Rimland theories
- Laws of international boundaries and frontiers.

**UPSC IAS Mains Geography Paper – 2 Syllabus 2018:**

**Geography of India:**

1. **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
   - Floods and droughts; Climatic regions; Natural vegetation; Soil types and their distributions.

2. **Resources:**
   - Land, surface and ground water
   - Energy, minerals, biotic and marine resources
   - Forest and wild life resources and their conservation; Energy crisis.

3. **Agriculture:**
   - Infrastructure: Irrigation, Seeds, Fertilizers, Power; Institutional Factors: Land Holding, Land Tenure And Land Reforms
   - Cropping Pattern, Agricultural Productivity, Agricultural Intensity, Crop Combination
   - Land Capability; Agro And Socialforestry; Green Revolution And Its Socioeconomic And Ecological Implications
   - Significance Of Dry Farming
   - Livestock Resources And White Revolution; Aqua - Culture; Sericulture, Apiculture And Poultry; Agricultural Regionalisation;
   - Agro-Climatic Zones; Agro- Ecological Regions.

4. **Industry:**
   - Evolution Of Industries; Locational Factors Of Cotton, Jute, Textile, Iron And Steel, Aluminium, Fertilizer, Paper added in UPSC Geography Syllabus
   - Chemical And Pharmaceutical, Automobile
   - Cottage And Agro-Based Industries; Industrial Houses And Complexes Including Public Sector Undertakings; Industrial Regionalization
   - New Industrial Policies
   - Multinationals And Liberalization; Special Economic Zones; Tourism including eco - tourism.

5. **Transport, Communication and Trade:**

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• Road, railway, waterway, airway and pipeline networks and their complementary roles in regional development
• Growing importance of ports on national and foreign trade; Trade balance; Trade Policy; Export processing zones added in UPSC Geography Syllabus
• Developments in communication and information technology and their impacts on economy and society
• Indian space programme.

6. Cultural Setting:
• Historical Perspective of Indian Society; Racial, linguistic and ethnic diversities; religious minorities; major tribes
• Tribal areas and their problems; cultural regions; Growth, distribution and density of population
• Demographic attributes: sex-ratio, age structure, literacy rate, work-force, dependency ratio added in UPSC Geography Syllabus
• Longevity; migration (inter-regional, intra-regional and international) and associated problems
• Population problems and policies; Health indicators.

7. Settlements:
• Types, patterns and morphology of rural settlements; Urban developments; Morphology of Indian cities
• Functional classification of Indian cities; Conurbations and metropolitan regions; urban sprawl
• Slums and associated problems; town planning; Problems of urbanization and remedies. added in UPSC Geography Syllabus

8. Regional Development and Planning:
• Experience Of Regional Planning In India; Five Year Plans; Integrated Rural Development Programmes
• Panchayati Raj And Decentralised Planning; Command Area Development; Watershed Management
• Planning For Backward Area, Desert, Drought Prone, Hill, Tribal Area Development; Multi-Level Planning
• Regional Planning And Development Of Island Territories

9. Political Aspects:
• Geographical Basis Of Indian Federalism; State Reorganisation; Emergence Of New States; Regional Consciousness And Inter State Issues
• International Boundary Of India And Related Issues; Cross Border Terrorism; India’s Role In World Affairs added in UPSC Geography Syllabus
• Geopolitics Of South Asia And Indian Ocean Realm.

10. Contemporary Issues:
• Ecological issues: Environmental hazards: landslides, earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods and droughts, epidemics
• Issues relating to environmental pollution; Changes in patterns of land use; Principles of environmental impact assessment and environmental management
• Population explosion and food security
• Environmental degradation; Deforestation, desertification and soil erosion; Problems of agrarian and industrial unrest
• Regional disparities in economic development
• Concept of sustainable growth and development
• Environmental awareness; Linkage of rivers; Globalisation and Indian economy.