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Booklet



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Part 1 **HISTORY**

IAS ACADEMY

Excellence Through Perseverance

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Chapter 1: Indus Valley Civilization

A Civilization Lost in Time

Nearly 4,500 years ago, long before the rise of the Mauryas, Guptas, or even the composition of most Vedic texts, a remarkable civilization flourished in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. It was a civilization of well-planned cities, skilled craftsmen, prosperous traders, and innovative engineers. Its people built broad streets, sophisticated drainage systems, and thriving urban centres at a time when much of the world was still transitioning from village life to city life.

Today, we know this civilization as the **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)** or the **Harappan Civilization**. It is considered one of the four great river valley civilizations of the ancient world, alongside those of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China.

Yet, unlike these civilizations, the story of the Indus people remained buried beneath layers of soil for thousands of years. Their cities were abandoned, their script forgotten, and their achievements hidden from history. Only in the twentieth century did archaeologists uncover the remains of this extraordinary civilization and reveal a chapter of India's past that had long been lost.

Discovery of a Forgotten World

For centuries, people living near the ancient mounds of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro had no idea that they were walking over the ruins of one of the world's earliest urban civilizations.

The first major breakthrough came in 1921 when archaeologist **Daya Ram Sahni** began excavations at Harappa. The following year, **R. D. Banerji** discovered another ancient city at Mohenjo-daro. What initially appeared to be isolated settlements soon turned out to be part of a vast and highly organized civilization.

As excavations expanded, archaeologists uncovered hundreds of sites spread across modern-day Pakistan, northwestern India, and parts of Afghanistan. These discoveries transformed the understanding of ancient Indian history. Previously, many scholars believed that organized urban civilization arrived in India much later. The findings proved that large cities and sophisticated urban life existed in the subcontinent as early as 2600 BCE.

Today, more than 2,000 Harappan sites have been identified, making it one of the largest civilizations of the ancient world in terms of geographical spread.

The Land and Environment

The civilization developed mainly in the fertile plains surrounding the Indus River and its tributaries. Rivers played a crucial role in supporting agriculture, transportation, and settlement.

The Harappans selected locations that offered access to water, fertile soil, and trade routes. Their settlements extended from the mountains of Afghanistan to the coastal regions of Gujarat and from Punjab to western Uttar Pradesh.

Important sites include:

- Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan)
- Mohenjo-daro (Sindh, Pakistan)
- Dholavira (Gujarat)
- Lothal (Gujarat)
- Kalibangan (Rajasthan)
- Rakhigarhi (Haryana)
- Banawali (Haryana)
- Chanhudaro (Pakistan)
- Surkotada (Gujarat)

The sheer geographical spread of these settlements indicates strong cultural unity and efficient communication across vast distances.

A Walk Through Mohenjo-daro

Imagine entering Mohenjo-daro on a bright summer morning around 2500 BCE.

As you approach the city, you notice broad streets laid out in straight lines. Houses are built with uniformly sized baked bricks. The roads intersect each other at right angles, forming neat rectangular blocks. There is a sense of order and planning everywhere.

Children play in courtyards while merchants transport goods through busy streets. Craftsmen work in workshops producing beads, pottery, ornaments, and tools. Water flows through covered drains running beneath the roads, carrying waste away from residential areas.

This was not a randomly growing settlement. It was a carefully planned city designed by people who understood engineering, sanitation, and urban management.

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Town Planning: A Marvel of Ancient Engineering

One of the most remarkable achievements of the Harappans was their urban planning.

Most cities followed a grid pattern in which roads ran north-south and east-west. Such planning required careful measurement and centralized organization.

The city was usually divided into two sections:

The Citadel

The elevated western portion of the city was known as the Citadel. It contained important public buildings, granaries, reservoirs, and ceremonial structures. Being built on a raised platform protected it from floods and may have symbolized administrative authority.

The Lower Town

The larger residential area housed the general population. Streets were systematically arranged, and houses were constructed according to standard plans.

This division demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of urban management and public administration.

The World's Earliest Sanitation System

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Harappans was their concern for cleanliness and public health.

Almost every house had:

- A bathroom
- A drainage outlet
- Access to water
- Waste disposal facilities

The wastewater from homes flowed into covered street drains made of bricks. Inspection holes allowed maintenance and cleaning of these drains.

Even many modern cities struggled to achieve comparable sanitation systems until relatively recent times.

The drainage network reflects a society that placed great importance on civic responsibility and public welfare

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Houses and Everyday Living

Harappan houses varied in size, suggesting differences in wealth and status. However, even modest homes were built with care.

Most houses featured:

- Multiple rooms
- Courtyards
- Bathrooms
- Wells
- Storage spaces

Many homes opened into side lanes rather than main roads, providing privacy for residents.

The use of standardized bricks across cities demonstrates the existence of common construction practices and possibly regulated measurements.

Agriculture: The Foundation of Prosperity

Agriculture formed the backbone of the Harappan economy.

Farmers cultivated:

- Wheat
- Barley
- Peas
- Sesame
- Mustard
- Dates
- Cotton

The Harappans are among the earliest known cultivators of cotton in the world. Their agricultural success supported large urban populations and generated surplus production for trade.

Archaeological evidence suggests the use of ploughs and irrigation techniques, enabling efficient farming in diverse environments.

Crafts and Industries

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Harappan craftsmen were highly skilled and produced a wide variety of goods.

Important industries included:

- Pottery making
- Bead manufacturing
- Metalworking
- Jewellery production
- Shell carving
- Textile production

Artisans created beautiful ornaments from gold, silver, copper, ivory, shell, and semi-precious stones.

Beads made from carnelian and lapis lazuli were especially valued and traded across distant regions.

The quality and uniformity of these products indicate specialized production and technical expertise.

Trade and Commerce

Trade was one of the driving forces behind Harappan prosperity.

Within the civilization, goods moved between cities, villages, and production centres. Merchants exchanged agricultural products, raw materials, and manufactured goods.

The Harappans also maintained long-distance trade with regions such as Mesopotamia. Mesopotamian records mention a land called "Meluhha," which many historians identify with the Indus Valley Civilization.

Exports likely included:

- Cotton textiles
- Beads
- Precious stones
- Timber
- Metal goods

Imports may have included:

- Copper

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- Tin
- Silver
- Precious stones

Trade connected the Harappans with distant civilizations and contributed significantly to economic growth.

Lothal: The Port City

Among all Harappan sites, Lothal occupies a special place.

Located in Gujarat, it is famous for its dockyard, which is considered one of the earliest known maritime structures in the world.

Ships carrying goods likely sailed from Lothal to distant trading centres. Warehouses near the dock suggest organized storage and distribution of merchandise.

The existence of a dockyard demonstrates the advanced maritime knowledge of the Harappans.

The Mystery of the Seals

One of the most fascinating discoveries from Harappan sites is the large number of seals.

These seals were typically made of steatite and carried:

- Animal figures
- Symbols
- Short inscriptions

The most famous figure is the so-called "unicorn," a mythical animal appearing on many seals.

Scholars believe seals were used for trade, identification, and administrative purposes.

However, the inscriptions on these seals remain undeciphered. Since the Harappan script has not yet been read, many aspects of the civilization continue to remain mysterious.

Religion and Beliefs

The religious beliefs of the Harappans are not fully understood because no deciphered texts exist.

However, archaeological evidence suggests:

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- Worship of fertility symbols
- Reverence for trees and animals
- Ritual bathing practices
- Belief in supernatural powers

Terracotta female figurines are often interpreted as Mother Goddess representations, though this interpretation remains debated.

A seal depicting a seated figure surrounded by animals has led some scholars to associate it with later Shaivite traditions, but definitive conclusions cannot be drawn.

The Great Bath of Mohenjo-daro indicates that ritual purity and bathing may have held religious significance.

The Great Bath: A Monument of Public Life

The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro is one of the most impressive structures of the ancient world.

Built with baked bricks and waterproof materials, it consists of a large rectangular tank surrounded by rooms and corridors.

The structure demonstrates:

- Advanced engineering
- Architectural skill
- Public organization
- Water management expertise

Historians believe it may have served religious, ceremonial, or social purposes.

Regardless of its exact function, it reflects the importance of collective community activities.

Administration Without Kings?

One of the most intriguing questions about the Harappans concerns political authority.

Unlike Egypt and Mesopotamia, the civilization has not yielded clear evidence of:

- Powerful kings
- Massive palaces
- Royal tombs

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- Military monuments

This absence has led historians to propose that authority may have been decentralized or exercised through councils, merchant groups, or administrative elites.

Although the exact political structure remains unknown, the uniformity of weights, measures, bricks, and urban planning indicates strong administrative coordination.

Science, Measurement, and Technology

The Harappans displayed impressive scientific knowledge.

They developed:

- Standardized weights and measures
- Precise brick ratios
- Advanced drainage systems
- Metallurgical techniques
- Urban engineering methods

The use of uniform measurement standards across vast distances demonstrates remarkable organizational capability.

Their technological achievements laid the foundation for efficient trade, construction, and administration.

The Decline of the Civilization

Around 1900 BCE, the major urban centres began to decline.

For many years, historians debated the reasons behind this transformation. Modern research suggests that no single cause was responsible.

Possible factors include:

- Climate change
- River course shifts
- Repeated flooding
- Ecological stress
- Declining trade networks
- Resource depletion

Rather than a sudden collapse, the decline appears to have been gradual. Urban centres weakened, populations dispersed, and many people moved toward smaller rural settlements.

The civilization did not disappear entirely; instead, it underwent a long process of transformation.

Legacy of the Indus Valley Civilization

Although its cities eventually declined, the legacy of the Harappans remains immense.

The civilization demonstrated that:

- Urban life developed early in the Indian subcontinent.
- Scientific planning and engineering were highly advanced.
- Trade networks connected India to the wider world.
- Civic administration and sanitation were priorities.
- Cultural traditions evolved over thousands of years.

Today, the Indus Valley Civilization stands as one of humanity's greatest achievements and represents the earliest chapter of India's urban history.

Conclusion

The Indus Valley Civilization was far more than a collection of ancient ruins. It was a sophisticated urban society characterized by planning, innovation, trade, and organization. Its cities displayed engineering skills centuries ahead of their time, while its craftsmen and merchants connected the subcontinent to distant lands. Although many mysteries remain—especially its undeciphered script—the civilization continues to offer invaluable insights into the origins of urban life in South Asia. The story of the Harappans reminds us that the foundations of Indian civilization were laid not only through kingdoms and empires but also through the creativity, discipline, and ingenuity of ordinary people who built some of the world's first great cities.

Indus Valley Civilization - 50 Important questionnaire

1. What is another name for the Indus Valley Civilization?

Answer: The Harappan Civilization.

2. During which period did the Mature Harappan Civilization flourish?

Answer: Between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE.

3. Who discovered Harappa in 1921?

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Answer: Daya Ram Sahni.

4. Who discovered Mohenjo-daro in 1922?

Answer: R. D. Banerji.

5. Why is the civilization called the Harappan Civilization?

Answer: Harappa was the first site to be discovered.

6. Along which river system did the civilization mainly develop?

Answer: The Indus River system.

7. Which is the largest known Harappan site in India?

Answer: Rakhigarhi.

8. In which present-day country is Mohenjo-daro located?

Answer: Pakistan.

9. What was the basic pattern of Harappan town planning?

Answer: The grid pattern.

10. What material was commonly used for constructing Harappan buildings?

Answer: Baked bricks.

11. Into which two parts were most Harappan cities divided?

Answer: Citadel and Lower Town.

12. What was the elevated part of the city called?

Answer: The Citadel.

13. Which Harappan city is famous for the Great Bath?

Answer: Mohenjo-daro.

14. What does the Great Bath indicate about Harappan society?

Answer: The importance of public and ritual activities.

15. What is considered the greatest achievement of Harappan urban planning?

Answer: Its advanced drainage system.

16. Which crop made the Harappans among the earliest cultivators in the world?

Answer: Cotton.

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17. Name two major crops grown by the Harappans.

Answer: Wheat and barley.

18. What was the backbone of the Harappan economy?

Answer: Agriculture.

19. Which Gujarat site is famous for its dockyard?

Answer: Lothal.

20. With which ancient civilization did the Harappans trade extensively?

Answer: Mesopotamia.

21. What were Harappan seals generally made of?

Answer: Steatite.

22. Which mysterious animal frequently appears on Harappan seals?

Answer: The unicorn.

23. Why is the Harappan script still a mystery?

Answer: Because it remains undeciphered.

24. What evidence suggests administrative coordination in Harappan society?

Answer: Uniform weights, measures, and bricks.

25. Which structure reflects Harappan concern for public sanitation?

Answer: Covered drainage systems.

26. Did archaeologists find grand palaces or royal tombs in Harappan cities?

Answer: No.

27. What does the absence of royal monuments suggest?

Answer: A different form of political organization.

28. Around which year did the decline of major Harappan cities begin?

Answer: Around 1900 BCE.

29. Mention one reason proposed for the decline of the civilization.

Answer: Climate change.

30. Why is the Indus Valley Civilization historically significant?

Answer: It was the earliest urban civilization of the Indian subcontinent.

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31. Which Harappan site is located in Rajasthan?

Answer: Kalibangan.

32. Which Harappan site is famous for its sophisticated water management system?

Answer: Dholavira.

33. What type of economy did the Harappans primarily follow?

Answer: An agricultural economy.

34. Which metal was commonly used by the Harappans for making tools?

Answer: Copper.

35. What alloy was widely used by Harappan craftsmen?

Answer: Bronze.

36. Which semi-precious stone was extensively used in bead-making?

Answer: Carnelian.

37. What do the uniform brick sizes indicate?

Answer: Standardization in construction.

38. Why were many Harappan cities built near rivers?

Answer: For water, agriculture, and trade.

39. What was the probable function of Harappan granaries?

Answer: Storage of agricultural produce.

40. Which animal is believed to have been used for transportation and agriculture?

Answer: The bull.

41. What kind of script did the Harappans use?

Answer: An undeciphered script of symbols and signs.

42. Where are most Harappan inscriptions found?

Answer: On seals and sealings.

43. What do Harappan weights reveal about their economy?

Answer: Trade was organized and regulated.

44. Which craft industry flourished in Chanhudaro?

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Answer: Bead-making.

45. What do terracotta figurines suggest about Harappan culture?

Answer: They reflect the artistic and cultural life of the Harappans.

46. Which tree is believed to have held religious significance for the Harappans?

Answer: The Peepal tree.

47. What does the Great Bath demonstrate about Harappan engineering?

Answer: Advanced waterproof construction techniques.

48. Why is the Indus Valley Civilization called an urban civilization?

Answer: Because it had well-planned cities.

49. What evidence indicates long-distance trade in the Harappan Civilization?

Answer: Harappan seals found in Mesopotamia.

50. What is the most important contribution of the Harappans to urban development?

Answer: Scientific town planning and sanitation systems.

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PART 2



GEOGRAPHY

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States of India: Capital & Famous Geographical Feature

1. Andhra Pradesh

Capital: Amaravati

Famous Geographical Feature: Krishna-Godavari Delta

2. Arunachal Pradesh

Capital: Itanagar

Famous Geographical Feature: Eastern Himalayas

3. Assam

Capital: Dispur

Famous Geographical Feature: Brahmaputra Valley

4. Bihar

Capital: Patna

Famous Geographical Feature: Gangetic Plain

5. Chhattisgarh

Capital: Raipur

Famous Geographical Feature: Bastar Plateau

6. Goa

Capital: Panaji

Famous Geographical Feature: Konkan Coast

7. Gujarat

Capital: Gandhinagar

Famous Geographical Feature: Rann of Kutch

8. Haryana

Capital: Chandigarh

Famous Geographical Feature: Yamuna-Ghaggar Plain

9. Himachal Pradesh

Capital: Shimla

Famous Geographical Feature: Dhauladhar Range

10. Jharkhand

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Capital: Ranchi

Famous Geographical Feature: Chotanagpur Plateau

11. Karnataka

Capital: Bengaluru

Famous Geographical Feature: Western Ghats

12. Kerala

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Famous Geographical Feature: Backwaters

13. Madhya Pradesh

Capital: Bhopal

Famous Geographical Feature: Malwa Plateau

14. Maharashtra

Capital: Mumbai

Famous Geographical Feature: Western Ghats (Sahyadris)

15. Manipur

Capital: Imphal

Famous Geographical Feature: Loktak Lake

16. Meghalaya

Capital: Shillong

Famous Geographical Feature: Khasi Hills

17. Mizoram

Capital: Aizawl

Famous Geographical Feature: Lushai Hills

18. Nagaland

Capital: Kohima

Famous Geographical Feature: Naga Hills

19. Odisha

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Famous Geographical Feature: Chilika Lake

20. Punjab

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Capital: Chandigarh

Famous Geographical Feature: Sutlej-Beas Plains

21. Rajasthan

Capital: Jaipur

Famous Geographical Feature: Thar Desert

22. Sikkim

Capital: Gangtok

Famous Geographical Feature: Kanchenjunga Range

23. Tamil Nadu

Capital: Chennai

Famous Geographical Feature: Coromandel Coast

24. Telangana

Capital: Hyderabad

Famous Geographical Feature: Deccan Plateau

25. Tripura

Capital: Agartala

Famous Geographical Feature: Tripura Hills

26. Uttar Pradesh

Capital: Lucknow

Famous Geographical Feature: Ganga-Yamuna Doab

27. Uttarakhand

Capital: Dehradun

Famous Geographical Feature: Gangotri Glacier

28. West Bengal

Capital: Kolkata

Famous Geographical Feature: Sundarbans Delta

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States of India – 50 Questionnaire

1. What is the capital of Andhra Pradesh?

Answer: Amaravati.

2. Which geographical feature is associated with Andhra Pradesh?

Answer: Krishna-Godavari Delta.

3. What is the capital of Arunachal Pradesh?

Answer: Itanagar.

4. Which geographical feature is associated with Arunachal Pradesh?

Answer: Eastern Himalayas.

5. What is the capital of Assam?

Answer: Dispur.

6. Which geographical feature is associated with Assam?

Answer: Brahmaputra Valley.

7. What is the capital of Bihar?

Answer: Patna.

8. Which geographical feature is associated with Bihar?

Answer: Gangetic Plain.

9. What is the capital of Chhattisgarh?

Answer: Raipur.

10. Which geographical feature is associated with Chhattisgarh?

Answer: Bastar Plateau.

11. What is the capital of Goa?

Answer: Panaji.

12. Which geographical feature is associated with Goa?

Answer: Konkan Coast.

13. What is the capital of Gujarat?

Answer: Gandhinagar.

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14. Which geographical feature is associated with Gujarat?

Answer: Rann of Kutch.

15. What is the capital of Haryana?

Answer: Chandigarh.

16. Which geographical feature is associated with Haryana?

Answer: Yamuna-Ghaggar Plain.

17. What is the capital of Himachal Pradesh?

Answer: Shimla.

18. Which geographical feature is associated with Himachal Pradesh?

Answer: Dhauladhar Range.

19. What is the capital of Jharkhand?

Answer: Ranchi.

20. Which geographical feature is associated with Jharkhand?

Answer: Chotanagpur Plateau.

21. What is the capital of Karnataka?

Answer: Bengaluru.

22. Which geographical feature is associated with Karnataka?

Answer: Western Ghats.

23. What is the capital of Kerala?

Answer: Thiruvananthapuram.

24. Which geographical feature is associated with Kerala?

Answer: Backwaters.

25. What is the capital of Madhya Pradesh?

Answer: Bhopal.

26. Which geographical feature is associated with Madhya Pradesh?

Answer: Malwa Plateau.

27. What is the capital of Maharashtra?

Answer: Mumbai.

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28. Which geographical feature is associated with Maharashtra?

Answer: Western Ghats (Sahyadris).

29. What is the capital of Manipur?

Answer: Imphal.

30. Which geographical feature is associated with Manipur?

Answer: Loktak Lake.

31. What is the capital of Meghalaya?

Answer: Shillong.

32. Which geographical feature is associated with Meghalaya?

Answer: Khasi Hills.

33. What is the capital of Mizoram?

Answer: Aizawl.

34. Which geographical feature is associated with Mizoram?

Answer: Lushai Hills.

35. What is the capital of Nagaland?

Answer: Kohima.

36. Which geographical feature is associated with Nagaland?

Answer: Naga Hills.

37. What is the capital of Odisha?

Answer: Bhubaneswar.

38. Which geographical feature is associated with Odisha?

Answer: Chilika Lake.

39. What is the capital of Punjab?

Answer: Chandigarh.

40. Which geographical feature is associated with Punjab?

Answer: Sutlej-Beas Plains.

41. What is the capital of Rajasthan?

Answer: Jaipur.

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42. Which geographical feature is associated with Rajasthan?

Answer: Thar Desert.

43. What is the capital of Sikkim?

Answer: Gangtok.

44. Which geographical feature is associated with Sikkim?

Answer: Kanchenjunga Range.

45. What is the capital of Tamil Nadu?

Answer: Chennai.

46. Which geographical feature is associated with Tamil Nadu?

Answer: Coromandel Coast.

47. What is the capital of Telangana?

Answer: Hyderabad.

48. Which geographical feature is associated with Telangana?

Answer: Deccan Plateau.

49. What is the capital of Tripura?

Answer: Agartala.

50. Which geographical feature is associated with Tripura?

Answer: Tripura Hills.

Part 3



ECONOMY

IAS ACADEMY

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Education Schemes of India

1. Samagra Shiksha

Scheme Name: Samagra Shiksha

Why Scheme Named So:

"Samagra" means comprehensive, indicating an integrated approach covering education from pre-primary to Class XII.

Scheme Targets:

- Universal access to school education
 - Improve learning outcomes
 - Strengthen school infrastructure
 - Promote inclusive education
-

2. PM SHRI Schools

Scheme Name: PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India)

Why Scheme Named So:

The scheme aims to create model schools that reflect the vision of a developed India under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Scheme Targets:

- Develop exemplar schools
 - Implement NEP 2020
 - Smart classrooms and modern learning
 - Holistic student development
-

3. PM POSHAN

Scheme Name: PM POSHAN (Prime Minister Poshan Shakti Nirman)

Why Scheme Named So:

"Poshan" means nourishment, emphasizing nutrition as a foundation for learning.

Scheme Targets:

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- Provide nutritious meals to students
 - Increase school attendance
 - Reduce dropouts
 - Improve health and learning capacity
-

4. NIPUN Bharat

Scheme Name: NIPUN Bharat

Why Scheme Named So:

NIPUN stands for National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.

Scheme Targets:

- Foundational literacy
 - Foundational numeracy
 - Ensure learning by Grade 3
-

5. Vidyanjali

Scheme Name: Vidyanjali

Why Scheme Named So:

"Vidya" means knowledge and "Anjali" means offering, symbolizing voluntary contribution to education.

Scheme Targets:

- Community participation in schools
 - Volunteer support for students
 - Improve educational quality
-

6. ULLAS

Scheme Name: ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society)

Why Scheme Named So:

The scheme promotes lifelong learning beyond formal schooling.

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Scheme Targets:

- Adult literacy
 - Financial literacy
 - Digital literacy
 - Lifelong education
-

7. SWAYAM

Scheme Name: SWAYAM

Why Scheme Named So:

SWAYAM stands for Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.

Scheme Targets:

- Free online courses
 - Democratize higher education
 - Promote digital learning
-

8. SWAYAM PRABHA

Scheme Name: SWAYAM PRABHA

Why Scheme Named So:

"Prabha" means light, symbolizing the spread of knowledge through educational TV channels.

Scheme Targets:

- Educational television broadcasting
 - Remote learning support
 - Access to quality content
-

9. DIKSHA

Scheme Name: DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)

Why Scheme Named So:

Provides a digital platform for teachers, students, and educational resources.

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Scheme Targets:

- Teacher training
 - Digital content delivery
 - E-learning support
-

10. e-Pathshala

Scheme Name: e-Pathshala

Why Scheme Named So:

"Pathshala" means school, and the platform provides digital educational resources.

Scheme Targets:

- Digital textbooks
 - Online educational resources
 - Anywhere learning
-

11. PM eVIDYA

Scheme Name: PM eVIDYA

Why Scheme Named So:

Integrates digital and online education initiatives under one umbrella.

Scheme Targets: *Excellence Through Perseverance*

- Multi-mode digital education
 - Learning continuity
 - Inclusive learning access
-

12. NDEAR

Scheme Name: National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)

Why Scheme Named So:

Provides the digital framework for India's education ecosystem.

Scheme Targets:

- Digital integration

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- Interoperable educational platforms
 - Technology-enabled education
-

13. PARAKH

Scheme Name: PARAKH

Why Scheme Named So:

PARAKH stands for Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.

Scheme Targets:

- Standardized student assessment
 - Competency-based evaluation
 - Improve learning quality
-

14. NISHTHA

Scheme Name: NISHTHA

Why Scheme Named So:

National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement.

Scheme Targets:

- Teacher capacity building
 - Professional development
 - Better classroom teaching
-

15. National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

Scheme Name: NMMSS

Why Scheme Named So:

Scholarships are awarded based on merit and economic need.

Scheme Targets:

- Support meritorious students
- Reduce dropouts after Class VIII

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- Encourage secondary education
-

16. NSIGSE

Scheme Name: National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education

Why Scheme Named So:

Provides incentives for girls to continue secondary education.

Scheme Targets:

- Increase girls' enrolment
 - Reduce gender disparity
 - Prevent early dropout
-

17. PRAGATI Scholarship

Scheme Name: PRAGATI

Why Scheme Named So:

"Pragati" means progress, emphasizing advancement through education.

Scheme Targets:

- Support girls in technical education
 - Financial assistance
 - Women empowerment
-

18. Saksham Scholarship

Scheme Name: Saksham

Why Scheme Named So:

"Saksham" means capable or empowered.

Scheme Targets:

- Assist differently-abled students
 - Promote technical education
 - Ensure equal opportunities
-

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19. SHRESHTA

Scheme Name: SHRESHTA

Why Scheme Named So:

SHRESHTA stands for Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas.

Scheme Targets:

- Quality education for Scheduled Caste students
 - Residential schooling support
 - Social empowerment
-

20. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

Scheme Name: EMRS

Why Scheme Named So:

Named after Eklavya from the Mahabharata, symbolizing dedication to learning.

Scheme Targets:

- Quality education for tribal students
 - Residential schooling
 - Holistic development
-

21. PM-USHA

Scheme Name: PM-USHA (PM Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan)

Why Scheme Named So:

Focused on strengthening India's higher education system.

Scheme Targets:

- Improve State universities and colleges
 - Institutional reforms
 - Better infrastructure and quality
-

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22. PM-YUVA

Scheme Name: PM-YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors)

Why Scheme Named So:

Encourages young authors and creative writing talent.

Scheme Targets:

- Develop young writers
 - Promote reading culture
 - Strengthen Indian literature
-

23. National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)

Scheme Name: NATS

Why Scheme Named So:

Provides apprenticeship opportunities after graduation.

Scheme Targets:

- Industry-linked training
 - Skill development
 - Improve employability
-

24. Vidya Lakshmi Portal

Scheme Name: Vidya Lakshmi

Why Scheme Named So:

Acts as a single-window platform for educational loans and scholarships.

Scheme Targets:

- Simplify education loan access
 - Support higher education
 - Financial inclusion for students
-

25. Study in India Programme

Scheme Name: Study in India

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Why Scheme Named So:

Promotes India as a global education destination.

Scheme Targets:

- Attract foreign students
- Internationalize Indian education
- Increase global academic collaboration

Education Schemes of India – 50 Questionnaire**1. What does "Samagra" mean in Samagra Shiksha?**

Answer: Comprehensive or holistic.

2. Which level of education is covered under Samagra Shiksha?

Answer: Pre-primary to Class XII.

3. What does PM SHRI stand for?

Answer: PM Schools for Rising India.

4. Which policy forms the foundation of PM SHRI Schools?

Answer: National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

5. What does "Poshan" mean in PM POSHAN?

Answer: Nourishment.

6. What is the primary objective of PM POSHAN?

Answer: Providing nutritious meals to students.

7. What does NIPUN stand for?

Answer: National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.

8. By which grade does NIPUN Bharat aim to achieve foundational learning?

Answer: Grade 3.

9. What does "Vidya" mean in Vidyanjali?

Answer: Knowledge.

10. What does "Anjali" mean in Vidyanjali?

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Answer: Offering.

11. What is the main purpose of Vidyanjali?

Answer: Community participation in education.

12. What does ULLAS stand for?

Answer: Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society.

13. Which section of society is primarily targeted by ULLAS?

Answer: Adult learners.

14. What does SWAYAM stand for?

Answer: Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.

15. What is the primary purpose of SWAYAM?

Answer: Providing free online courses.

16. What does "Prabha" mean in SWAYAM PRABHA?

Answer: Light.

17. Through which medium does SWAYAM PRABHA deliver education?

Answer: Educational television channels.

18. What does DIKSHA stand for?

Answer: Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing.

19. Who are the primary beneficiaries of DIKSHA?

Answer: Teachers and students.

20. What does "Pathshala" mean in e-Pathshala?

Answer: School.

21. What is the main resource provided by e-Pathshala?

Answer: Digital textbooks.

22. What is the full form of NDEAR?

Answer: National Digital Education Architecture.

23. What is the main purpose of NDEAR?

Answer: Digital integration of education.

24. What does PM eVIDYA promote?

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Answer: Multi-mode digital education.

25. What does PARAKH stand for?

Answer: Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.

26. What is the primary objective of PARAKH?

Answer: Standardized student assessment.

27. What does NISHTHA stand for?

Answer: National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement.

28. Who are the primary beneficiaries of NISHTHA?

Answer: Teachers and school heads.

29. What does NMMSS stand for?

Answer: National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme.

30. On what two criteria are NMMSS scholarships awarded?

Answer: Merit and economic need.

31. What is the full form of NSIGSE?

Answer: National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education.

32. Which group is primarily targeted under NSIGSE?

Answer: Girls pursuing secondary education.

33. What does "Pragati" mean in PRAGATI Scholarship?

Answer: Progress.

34. Which category of students is supported under PRAGATI?

Answer: Girls in technical education.

35. What does "Saksham" mean?

Answer: Capable or empowered.

36. Which group benefits from the Saksham Scholarship?

Answer: Differently-abled students.

37. What does SHRESHTA stand for?

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Answer: Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas.

38. Which community is primarily targeted under SHRESHTA?

Answer: Scheduled Castes.

39. After whom are Eklavya Model Residential Schools named?

Answer: Eklavya.

40. Which group is primarily served by EMRS?

Answer: Tribal students.

41. What does PM-USHA stand for?

Answer: PM Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan.

42. Which sector is strengthened under PM-USHA?

Answer: Higher education.

43. What does PM-YUVA stand for?

Answer: Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors.

44. What is the main objective of PM-YUVA?

Answer: Encouraging young writers.

45. What does NATS stand for?

Answer: National Apprenticeship Training Scheme.

46. What is the primary goal of NATS?

Answer: Industry-linked skill training.

47. What is the purpose of the Vidya Lakshmi Portal?

Answer: Facilitating education loans and scholarships.

48. What type of platform is Vidya Lakshmi?

Answer: A single-window portal.

49. What is the primary objective of the Study in India Programme?

Answer: Attracting foreign students to India.

50. What does the Study in India Programme aim to promote globally?

Answer: Indian higher education.

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Part 4

Indian Polity

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Fundamental Rights: Your Constitutional Superpowers

Before We Begin

Imagine India as a huge school with more than 140 crore students.

If there were no rules protecting students:

- Strong students could bully weak students.
- Some students could be denied admission.
- People could be punished unfairly.
- Certain groups could dominate others.

Such a school would become unfair and chaotic.

To prevent this in school, school provides set of rules and provisions like “Uniform” , on similar lines the Constitution of India gives every citizen a special set of protections called **Fundamental Rights**.

Think of them as your **Constitutional Superpowers**.

These rights protect your freedom, dignity, equality, and justice.

1. Right to Equality (Articles 14–18)

"Nobody is Above the Law"

Imagine This Situation

A school announces:

"Only rich students can use the library."

Would that be fair?

Of course not.

Every student deserves equal treatment.

Similarly, the Constitution says every citizen is equal before the law.

What Does This Right Mean?

The government cannot treat people unfairly because of:

- Religion

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- Caste
- Gender
- Race
- Place of Birth

Whether you are:

- Rich or poor
- Famous or unknown
- Powerful or ordinary

The same law applies to everyone.

Real-Life Example

Suppose two people commit the same crime.

One is a millionaire.

The other is a daily wage worker.

The court must judge both according to the same law.

That is the Right to Equality.

Why Is It Important?

Without equality:

- Society becomes unfair.
- Discrimination increases.
- People lose trust in the system.

Equality creates fairness and justice.

2. Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22)

"You Are Free to Think, Speak and Live Your Life"

Imagine This Situation

Suppose someone tells you:

"You are not allowed to express your opinion."

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Or

"You cannot choose your career."

Would you feel free?

No.

That is why the Constitution protects freedom.

What Does This Right Mean?

You have the freedom to:

Speak

Express your thoughts and opinions.

Move

Travel anywhere in India.

Live

Stay in any state of India.

Work

Choose a profession you like.

Meet

Gather peacefully with others.

Form Groups

Join clubs, unions, and organizations.

Real-Life Example

A student from Kerala moves to Delhi for higher studies.

The government cannot stop him merely because he belongs to another state.

That is freedom.

Why Is It Important?

Without freedom:

- Creativity dies.

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- Innovation stops.
- People become afraid to express themselves.

Freedom allows people to grow and achieve their dreams.

Article 21: The Most Important Freedom

Right to Life and Personal Liberty

This right is much bigger than simply staying alive.

The Supreme Court has said:

Every person deserves a life with dignity.

What Does It Include?

The right to:

- Privacy
- Clean air
- Clean water
- Safe living conditions
- Human dignity



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Example

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If a factory pollutes a river and makes people sick, citizens can seek protection under Article 21.

Because life means a healthy and dignified life, not merely survival.

Article 21A: Right to Education

Every Child Deserves Learning

Imagine a child who wants to study but cannot afford school.

The Constitution says:

Every child between 6 and 14 years has the right to free and compulsory education.

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Why Is Education Important?

Education helps people:

- Think independently
- Earn a livelihood
- Understand their rights
- Improve society

That is why education is considered a Fundamental Right.

3. Right Against Exploitation (Articles 23–24)

"Nobody Should Be Treated Like a Slave"

Imagine This Situation

A child is forced to work in a dangerous factory instead of going to school.

Is that fair?

No.

Children deserve education, safety, and a happy childhood.

What Does This Right Protect Against?

Human Trafficking

Buying and selling human beings.

Forced Labour

Making people work against their will.

Child Labour

Protecting children from hazardous work.

Real-Life Example

If someone forces workers to work without pay, it violates this right.

Why Is It Important?

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Every person deserves dignity.

Nobody should be treated as property or forced into labour.

4. Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25–28)

"Your Faith Is Your Choice"

Imagine This Situation

Suppose the government tells everyone:

"You must follow only one religion."

Would that be fair?

India says no.

What Does This Right Mean?

You are free to:

- Follow any religion
- Practice any religion
- Change your religion
- Not follow any religion

Real-Life Example *Excellence Through Perseverance*

One friend visits a temple.

Another visits a mosque.

A third visits a church.

A fourth follows no religion.

All are equally free.

Why Is It Important?

India is home to many religions and beliefs.

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Religious freedom helps people live together peacefully and respectfully.

5. Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29–30)

"Your Culture Matters"

Imagine This Situation

Imagine a small community with its own language.

Over time, that language begins disappearing.

The Constitution protects such communities.

What Does This Right Mean?

Groups can preserve their:

- Language
- Culture
- Traditions
- Educational institutions

Real-Life Example

A minority community can establish schools to preserve its language and cultural heritage.

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Why Is It Important?

India's strength lies in its diversity.

Protecting cultures means protecting India's rich heritage.

6. Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)

"The Right That Protects All Other Rights"

Imagine This Situation

Suppose someone violates your rights.

What should you do?

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The Constitution gives you a solution.

You can approach the courts.

What Does This Right Mean?

If any Fundamental Right is violated:

- You can approach the High Court.
- You can approach the Supreme Court.

The courts can order the government to correct the violation.

Why Did Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Call It the "Heart and Soul" of the Constitution?

Imagine owning a smartphone with many amazing features.

But the battery does not work.

The phone becomes useless.

Similarly, without the power to enforce rights, all other rights become meaningless.

That is why Article 32 is called the **Heart and Soul of the Constitution**.

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Fundamental Rights – 50 Questionnaire

1. What are Fundamental Rights?

Answer: Basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution to every citizen.

2. Why are Fundamental Rights called "Constitutional Superpowers"?

Answer: Because they protect citizens' freedom, equality, and dignity.

3. What would happen if citizens had no Fundamental Rights?

Answer: Society could become unfair and discriminatory.

4. Which part of the Constitution contains Fundamental Rights?

Answer: Part III.

5. How many Fundamental Rights are currently recognized in India?

Answer: Six.

6. Which Articles deal with the Right to Equality?

Answer: Articles 14–18.

7. What is the main idea behind the Right to Equality?

Answer: Everyone is equal before the law.

8. Can the government discriminate on the basis of religion?

Answer: No.

9. Can the government discriminate on the basis of caste?

Answer: No.

10. Can the government discriminate on the basis of gender?

Answer: No.

11. Does the same law apply to both rich and poor citizens?

Answer: Yes.

12. What happens to society without equality?

Answer: Discrimination increases.

13. What does equality create in society?

Answer: Fairness and justice.

14. Which Articles deal with the Right to Freedom?

Answer: Articles 19–22.

15. What is the central idea of the Right to Freedom?

Answer: Freedom to think, speak, and live one's life.

16. Which Article provides the six freedoms?

Answer: Article 19.

17. What freedom allows citizens to express their opinions?

Answer: Freedom of Speech and Expression.

18. Which freedom allows citizens to travel throughout India?

Answer: Freedom of Movement.

19. Which freedom allows citizens to live in any state?

Answer: Freedom of Residence.

20. Which freedom allows citizens to choose a profession?

Answer: Freedom of Profession.

21. Which freedom allows people to gather peacefully?

Answer: Freedom of Assembly.

22. Which freedom allows people to form clubs and unions?

Answer: Freedom of Association.

23. Why is freedom important for society?

Answer: It promotes creativity and innovation.

24. What does Article 20 protect citizens against?

Answer: Unfair punishment.

25. Which Article protects life and personal liberty?

Answer: Article 21.

26. According to the Supreme Court, what kind of life should every person have?

Answer: A life with dignity.

27. Does Article 21 include the right to privacy?

Answer: Yes.

28. Does Article 21 include the right to clean air and water?

Answer: Yes.

29. Which Article provides the Right to Education?

Answer: Article 21A.

30. Which age group is covered under the Right to Education?

Answer: Children between 6 and 14 years.

31. Why is education considered important?

Answer: It helps people understand their rights and improve society.

32. Which Articles deal with the Right Against Exploitation?

Answer: Articles 23–24.

33. What is human trafficking?

Answer: Buying and selling human beings.

34. What is forced labour?

Answer: Making people work against their will.

35. What does the Right Against Exploitation protect children from?

Answer: Hazardous child labour.

36. Why is this right important?

Answer: It protects human dignity.

37. Which Articles deal with the Right to Freedom of Religion?

Answer: Articles 25–28.

38. What is the main idea of religious freedom?

Answer: Your faith is your choice.

39. Can a person follow any religion in India?

Answer: Yes.

40. Can a person choose not to follow any religion?

Answer: Yes.

41. Why is religious freedom important in India?

Answer: India has many religions and beliefs.

42. What does religious freedom promote?

Answer: Peaceful coexistence and tolerance.

43. Which Articles deal with Cultural and Educational Rights?

Answer: Articles 29–30.

44. What do these rights help communities preserve?

Answer: Their language, culture, and traditions.

45. Can minority communities establish educational institutions?

Answer: Yes.

46. Why are Cultural and Educational Rights important?

Answer: They protect India's diversity and heritage.

47. Which Article deals with the Right to Constitutional Remedies?

Answer: Article 32.

48. What can a citizen do if a Fundamental Right is violated?

Answer: Approach the courts.

49. What did Dr. B. R. Ambedkar call Article 32?

Answer: The Heart and Soul of the Constitution.

50. Why is Article 32 considered the Heart and Soul of the Constitution?

Answer: It allows citizens to enforce their Fundamental Rights.



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