BPSC Syllabus — Prelims & Mains

Bihar Public Service Commission — Combined Competitive Examination (CCE)
Topic-wise syllabus with exam pattern · studyforgs.com/bpsc/syllabus/

Exam pattern — Prelims

Paper	General Studies (single objective paper)
Questions / marks	150 questions · 150 marks
Duration	2 hours (12:00 PM – 2:00 PM in recent cycles)
Negative marking	1/3 mark deducted per wrong answer
Nature	Screening only — marks not counted in final merit
Shortlisting	About 10× the vacancies qualify for Mains

Exam pattern — Mains

General Hindi	100 marks — qualifying (30% needed), not counted in merit
General Studies Paper I	300 marks
General Studies Paper II	300 marks
Essay	300 marks
Optional subject	100 marks — objective (MCQ), qualifying only
Counted in merit	900 marks (GS-I + GS-II + Essay)

Syllabus at a glance — Prelims

- General Science
- Events of national and international importance (current affairs)
- History of Bihar and Indian history
- Geography of Bihar and India
- Indian polity and economy; changes in Bihar's economy after independence
- Indian National Movement and the role of Bihar in it
- General mental ability

Syllabus at a glance — Mains

- GS Paper I — Modern history of India and Indian culture (with Bihar's role), current events of national and international importance, statistical analysis (graphs, diagrams)
- GS Paper II — Indian polity, Indian and Bihar economy, geography of India and Bihar, role and impact of science & technology
- Essay — three essays (each ~100 marks) on contemporary, Bihar-specific and abstract themes
- General Hindi — qualifying: comprehension, grammar, letter/report writing
- Optional — one subject from the BPSC list, objective paper, qualifying only

BPSC Prelims — General Studies — topic-wise (306 topics)

150 questions · 150 marks · 1/3 negative marking

Bihar Special

Bihar — History

- Pre-historic Bihar — Chirand, Senuwar sites
- Vedic references to Videha and Mithila
- Mahajanapadas — Magadha, Anga, Vajji, Malla
- Vajji sangha and the Lichchhavi republic
- Haryanka dynasty — Bimbisara, Ajatashatru
- Shishunaga and Nanda dynasties
- Mauryan empire — Chandragupta, Bindusara
- Ashoka — Kalinga war, dhamma, edicts
- Mauryan administration and Arthashastra
- Shunga and Kanva dynasties
- Gupta empire — Chandragupta I to Skandagupta
- Nalanda, Vikramshila and Odantapuri universities
- Pala dynasty and Buddhism in Bihar
- Karnat dynasty of Mithila
- Sher Shah Suri — administration and reforms
- Bihar under the Mughals
- Battle of Buxar 1764 and its consequences
- Permanent Settlement and Bihar peasantry
- 1857 revolt in Bihar — Kunwar Singh, Amar Singh
- Separation of Bihar from Bengal, 1912
- Champaran Satyagraha 1917
- Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience in Bihar
- Quit India Movement 1942 in Bihar
- Bihar Kisan Sabha — Swami Sahajanand Saraswati
- Sampoorna Kranti and JP Movement 1974
- Bihar's freedom fighters — Rajendra Prasad, Anugrah Narayan
- Formation of Jharkhand, 2000

Bihar — Geography

- Location, extent and boundaries of Bihar
- Physiographic divisions — Shivalik, plains, plateau
- Ganga and its north-bank tributaries
- Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, Burhi Gandak
- South-bank rivers — Son, Punpun, Falgu, Karmanasa
- Floods in Bihar — causes and flood-prone districts
- Drought-prone areas of south Bihar
- Climate and rainfall pattern
- Soils of Bihar and their distribution
- Forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve and Kaimur sanctuary
- Minerals of Bihar
- Districts, divisions and administrative geography
- Population — density, sex ratio, literacy, urbanisation
- Migration from Bihar and remittances
- Canals, irrigation projects and river-linking
- Transport — NH network, waterway NW-1, airports
- Major bridges over the Ganga

Bihar — Polity & Administration

- Bihar Legislature — Assembly and Council
- Governor, Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
- Patna High Court and state judiciary
- Panchayati Raj in Bihar — three tiers
- 50% reservation for women in panchayats
- Urban local bodies in Bihar
- Bihar Right to Public Service Act 2011
- Caste-based survey 2023 and reservation changes
- State Election Commission and State PSC
- Prohibition policy in Bihar, 2016

Bihar — Economy

- Bihar Economic Survey — GSDP, growth, per capita income
- Sectoral composition — primary, secondary, tertiary
- Bihar Budget — size, deficit, allocations
- Agriculture — cropping pattern, agri roadmaps
- Makhana, litchi and GI-tagged products
- Dairy, fisheries and animal husbandry
- Industry, ethanol policy and investment
- Seven Nishchay — phases and components
- Women-focused schemes and Jeevika
- Poverty, MPI and employment in Bihar
- Power sector and electrification

Bihar — Art, Culture & Sports

- Madhubani and Manjusha painting
- Folk dances and folk music of Bihar
- Fairs and festivals — Chhath, Sonepur mela
- Languages — Bhojpuri, Magahi, Maithili, Angika
- Literary figures of Bihar
- Buddhist circuit — Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Vaishali
- Jain and Sikh heritage sites in Bihar
- UNESCO World Heritage sites in Bihar
- Sports and sportspersons of Bihar

History of India

Ancient India

- Stone Age cultures and prehistory
- Indus Valley Civilisation — extent and town planning
- IVC — economy, seals, script, decline
- Vedic period — early and later Vedic society
- Vedic literature — Vedas, Brahmanas, Upanishads
- Buddhism — life of Buddha, doctrines, councils
- Jainism — Mahavira, principles, sects
- Sixteen Mahajanapadas and rise of Magadha
- Persian and Greek invasions, Alexander
- Post-Mauryan — Satavahanas, Indo-Greeks, Kushanas
- Sangam age and south Indian kingdoms
- Gupta age — administration, art, science
- Harshavardhana and his times
- Chalukyas, Pallavas, Rashtrakutas, Cholas
- Ancient Indian art and architecture
- Ancient Indian science, mathematics and medicine
- Foreign travellers' accounts of ancient India
- Sources of ancient Indian history — inscriptions, coins

Medieval India

- Arab and Turkish invasions
- Delhi Sultanate — Slave dynasty
- Khilji and Tughlaq dynasties
- Sayyid, Lodi and regional kingdoms
- Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms
- Bhakti movement — saints and ideas
- Sufi movement and silsilas
- Mughal empire — Babur to Aurangzeb
- Mughal administration — mansabdari, land revenue
- Akbar's religious and administrative policy
- Marathas — Shivaji and the Peshwas
- Sikh gurus and the Khalsa
- Medieval art, architecture and literature

Modern India & National Movement

- Advent of Europeans and Anglo-French rivalry
- Battles of Plassey and Buxar
- Expansion of British rule — subsidiary alliance, doctrine of lapse
- Land revenue systems — Permanent, Ryotwari, Mahalwari
- Economic impact of colonial rule, drain of wealth
- Revolt of 1857 — causes, spread, consequences
- Socio-religious reform movements
- Formation of Indian National Congress
- Moderates, Extremists and the Swadeshi movement
- Partition of Bengal and its revocation
- Revolutionary nationalism
- Home Rule and Lucknow Pact
- Gandhian era — Rowlatt, Jallianwala Bagh, Khilafat
- Non-Cooperation Movement
- Simon Commission, Nehru Report, Lahore session
- Civil Disobedience and Round Table Conferences
- Government of India Act 1935
- Quit India Movement 1942
- Subhas Chandra Bose and the INA
- Cabinet Mission, partition and independence
- Integration of princely states
- Peasant, tribal and workers' movements
- Press, education and railways under the British
- Constitutional development 1773 to 1947
- Governors General and Viceroys
- Dalit movement and Ambedkar
- Women in the freedom struggle
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganisation of states

Geography

Physical Geography

- Earth's interior, rocks and plate tectonics
- Earthquakes and volcanoes
- Landforms and agents of erosion
- Atmosphere — layers, temperature, pressure belts
- Winds, cyclones and monsoon mechanism
- Oceans — currents, tides, salinity
- Climatic regions of the world
- Solar system, motions of the earth, eclipses
- Weathering, soil formation and mass wasting

Geography of India

- Location, physiographic divisions
- Himalayan and peninsular river systems
- Indian monsoon and rainfall distribution
- Soils of India and soil erosion
- Natural vegetation and forest types
- Agriculture — crops, cropping seasons, green revolution
- Minerals and energy resources
- Industries and industrial regions
- Transport — rail, road, waterways, ports
- Population — census, density, growth
- National parks, biosphere reserves, Ramsar sites
- States, union territories and their boundaries
- Irrigation, multipurpose river valley projects
- Tribes of India and their distribution
- Mountain passes, peaks and plateaus of India

World Geography

- Continents, major landforms and countries
- Important straits, canals and water bodies
- World agriculture, minerals and industries
- Latitude, longitude, time zones, maps

Environment & Ecology

- Ecosystem, food chain, biodiversity
- Climate change, global warming, carbon cycle
- Pollution — air, water, soil, noise
- Conservation laws and institutions in India
- International environmental conventions and COPs
- Disaster management framework
- Wildlife conservation projects — tiger, elephant
- Endangered species and IUCN Red List
- Renewable energy and India's climate targets
- Waste management and circular economy

Indian Polity

Constitution

- Making of the Constitution, Constituent Assembly
- Preamble and its key words
- Union and its territory, citizenship
- Fundamental Rights — Articles 12 to 35
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Fundamental Duties
- Amendment procedure and basic structure doctrine
- Important constitutional amendments
- Emergency provisions
- Schedules of the Constitution
- Sources and salient features of the Constitution
- Writs and their scope
- Right to Education and Right to Information
- Special provisions for SC, ST, OBC and minorities

Union & State Government

- President — election, powers, position
- Vice President, PM and Council of Ministers
- Parliament — composition, sessions, procedure
- Types of bills and the law-making process
- Parliamentary committees
- Supreme Court, judicial review, PIL
- High Courts and subordinate judiciary
- Governor, state legislature and state executive
- Centre-state relations
- Local self-government — 73rd and 74th amendments
- Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman
- Budget process and financial control by Parliament
- Inter-state councils, zonal councils, GST Council
- All India Services and civil services
- Tribunals and alternative dispute resolution

Constitutional & Statutory Bodies

- Election Commission of India
- CAG, Attorney General, Finance Commission
- UPSC, State PSCs
- NHRC, CIC, Lokpal and Lokayukta
- NITI Aayog and other key bodies
- National Commissions — SC, ST, OBC, Women
- CBI, CVC, ED and investigative agencies
- Political parties, elections and electoral reforms
- Anti-defection law, Tenth Schedule

Indian Economy

Basics & Planning

- National income — GDP, GNP, NNP, deflator
- Five Year Plans and NITI Aayog
- Economic reforms of 1991 — LPG
- Poverty estimation and committees
- Unemployment — types and measurement
- Inflation — types, measurement, control
- Human Development Index and related indices
- Demographic dividend and population policy
- Sustainable Development Goals and India

Money, Banking & Public Finance

- RBI — functions and monetary policy tools
- Banking system, NPAs, financial inclusion
- Capital markets, SEBI, mutual funds
- Budget — revenue, capital, deficits, FRBM
- Taxation — direct, indirect, GST
- Finance Commission and devolution
- Money supply, M1 to M4, and money multiplier
- Insurance, pension and IRDAI, PFRDA
- Digital payments, UPI and fintech

Sectors & External Sector

- Agriculture — MSP, subsidies, marketing
- Industry — MSME, PLI, industrial policy
- Services sector and IT
- Infrastructure — power, roads, housing
- Foreign trade, BoP, FDI, exchange rate
- International bodies — IMF, World Bank, WTO
- Major central government schemes
- Land reforms and cooperative movement
- Food security, PDS and buffer stock
- Labour reforms and social security codes
- Startups, ease of doing business, disinvestment

General Science & Technology

Physics

- Motion, force, laws of motion, gravitation
- Work, energy, power and simple machines
- Heat, temperature and thermodynamics basics
- Light — reflection, refraction, optical instruments
- Sound and wave motion
- Electricity and magnetism
- Atomic and nuclear physics basics

Chemistry

- Matter, atomic structure, periodic table
- Chemical bonding and reactions
- Acids, bases, salts and pH
- Metals, non-metals and alloys
- Organic chemistry basics, polymers, fuels
- Chemistry in everyday life

Biology

- Cell structure, tissues and division
- Human body systems
- Nutrition, vitamins and deficiency diseases
- Diseases — communicable and non-communicable
- Genetics and heredity basics
- Plant physiology and photosynthesis
- Biotechnology and its applications
- Blood groups, circulation and immunity
- Classification of plants and animals
- Microbes, bacteria, viruses and fungi

Science & Technology (Current)

- Space programme — ISRO missions
- Defence technology and missiles
- Nuclear programme and energy
- IT, AI, semiconductors and digital India
- Health technology, vaccines and public health
- Renewable energy and green hydrogen
- Robotics, drones and emerging technologies
- Cyber security and data protection
- Nanotechnology and new materials
- Agricultural science and food technology

Current Affairs

National

- Government schemes launched this year
- Union Budget highlights
- Major bills, acts and ordinances
- Supreme Court landmark judgments
- Reports, indices and India's rank
- Appointments and who's who
- Awards and honours
- Sports events and winners
- Obituaries of note

International

- Summits, conferences and India's participation
- India's bilateral relations and agreements
- Global conflicts and geopolitics
- International organisations in the news

Bihar Current Affairs

- Bihar government schemes and announcements
- Bihar budget and economic survey highlights
- Bihar politics, elections and appointments
- Infrastructure projects in Bihar
- Bihar in awards, sports and culture news

General Mental Ability

Reasoning

- Series — number and letter
- Analogy and classification
- Coding-decoding
- Blood relations
- Direction sense
- Ranking and ordering
- Syllogism and statement-conclusion
- Venn diagrams
- Calendar and clock

Numeracy

- Number system, LCM and HCF
- Percentage, profit and loss
- Ratio, proportion, average
- Simple and compound interest
- Time, work, speed and distance
- Mensuration basics
- Data interpretation — tables, graphs, charts

BPSC Mains — topic-wise (109 topics)

Hindi 100 (qualifying) · Essay 300 · GS-I 300 · GS-II 300 · Optional 300

General Hindi (qualifying)

Language & Composition

- Essay (निबंध) — 30 marks
- Grammar (व्याकरण) — 30 marks
- Syntax / sentence correction (वाक्य विन्यास) — 25 marks
- Precis writing (संक्षेपण) — 15 marks
- Sandhi and samas
- Upsarg, pratyay and shabd rachna
- Paryayvachi, vilom, anekarthi shabd
- Muhavare and lokoktiyan
- Ashuddhi shodhan — spelling and grammar correction
- Practice: one full Hindi paper under time

Essay Paper

Essay Skills

- Essay structure — introduction, body, conclusion
- Brainstorming and making an outline in 10 minutes
- Word limit discipline and time management
- Using data, examples and committee reports
- Quotations, proverbs and effective openings
- Balanced argument and multi-dimensional treatment

Common Essay Themes

- Bihar-specific development themes
- Agriculture, rural economy and migration
- Education, health and human development
- Women, children and social justice
- Governance, corruption and administrative reform
- Science, technology and artificial intelligence
- Environment, climate change and disaster
- Economy, employment and industrialisation
- Philosophical and abstract topics
- International relations and India's place
- Write and self-review 10 full essays

General Studies Paper I

Modern History of India

- Advent of Europeans to the consolidation of British rule
- Economic policies and their impact on India
- Revolt of 1857 — with special reference to Bihar
- Socio-religious reform movements of the 19th century
- Rise of nationalism and the early Congress
- Gandhian phase of the national movement
- Role of Bihar in the freedom struggle
- Revolutionary movement and Subhas Chandra Bose
- Partition, independence and integration
- Post-independence India — key developments

Indian Culture

- Architecture — temple, Indo-Islamic, colonial
- Sculpture, painting and schools of art
- Classical and folk dance forms
- Music — Hindustani and Carnatic traditions
- Literature and languages of India
- Religious movements and philosophy
- Culture of Bihar — art, crafts, festivals
- Heritage conservation and UNESCO sites

Current Events

- National issues and government policy debates
- Bihar-specific current developments
- International events affecting India
- Reports, indices and surveys
- Science, environment and health in the news
- Awards, sports and personalities

Statistical Analysis, Diagrams & Graphs

- Collection, classification and tabulation of data
- Measures of central tendency — mean, median, mode
- Measures of dispersion and variability
- Bar diagrams, pie charts and histograms
- Line graphs, frequency curves and ogives
- Interpreting a data set and drawing conclusions
- Practice: past-year statistical questions

General Studies Paper II

Indian Polity

- Constitutional framework and its philosophy
- Fundamental Rights, DPSP and duties
- Union executive and legislature
- Judiciary and judicial activism
- Federalism and centre-state relations
- Constitutional and statutory bodies
- Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies
- Bihar's political and administrative structure
- Governance, transparency and accountability
- Electoral system and reforms
- Social justice, reservation and welfare policy

Indian Economy

- Structure of the Indian economy and planning
- Agriculture and allied sectors
- Industry, infrastructure and services
- Money, banking and financial markets
- Public finance, budget and taxation
- External sector and globalisation
- Poverty, inequality and employment
- Bihar economy — structure and challenges
- Bihar's role in national development
- Bihar Economic Survey and state budget

Geography of India & Bihar

- Physical features and drainage of India
- Climate, soils and natural vegetation
- Resources — water, minerals, energy
- Population, settlement and urbanisation
- Bihar — physiography, rivers and floods
- Bihar — agriculture, industry and transport
- Environmental issues and sustainable development
- Disaster management with Bihar case studies

Science & Technology in Development

- Role of science and technology in India's development
- Agricultural technology and food processing
- Space, defence and nuclear programmes
- Information technology, AI and digital governance
- Biotechnology, health and pharmaceuticals
- Energy technology and climate solutions
- Science and technology initiatives in Bihar
- Ethics of technology and digital divide

Optional Subject

Your Optional

- Choose your optional and get the official syllabus
- Paper I — first half of the syllabus
- Paper I — second half of the syllabus
- Solve 10 years of optional past papers
- Answer writing practice for the optional

Answer Writing & Revision

Practice

- Understand the demand of the question — directive words
- Introduction, body, conclusion in a 15-mark answer
- Using diagrams, flowcharts and maps in answers
- Time management — attempting the full paper
- Handwriting, spacing and presentation
- Daily answer writing habit
- Get answers evaluated and act on feedback
- Full-length mock tests under exam conditions
- Revision cycle — notes, current affairs, PYQs

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