

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

PhD Entrance Examination – 2025-26

Syllabus

[Note: The Syllabus broadly covers the topics studied at the Masters Degree level]

1. ECONOMICS

1. Microeconomics
2. Macroeconomics
3. Indian Economy
4. Public Economics
5. Monetary Economics
6. Public Finance
7. Basic Statistics
8. Basic Econometrics
9. International economics

2. POPULATION STUDIES

Population Processes, Population and Environment, Formal Demography, Health Systems, Population Geography, Public Health, Data Sources and Quality Data, Social Demography, Reproductive Health.

3. DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

3.1 Agriculture Economics and Rural Development

Introduction to Agricultural Economics: Overview of the role of agriculture in India and world economies. Basics of economics and application of economic principles to agriculture.

Models of Agricultural Development: Importance of Agriculture in economic development, Critique of Dual Economy Models like Lewis Model, Ranis and Fei Model, Jorgenson Model, Johnston and Mellor Model, Issues and Challenges in land reforms. Agricultural Growth under Pre-Green Revolution and Post-Green Revolution Periods; Fall out of Green Revolution Technology.

Agriculture Credit Structure: Role of capital and rural credit; Rural savings and capital formation; Characteristics and sources of rural credit –institutional and non-institutional; Reorganization of rural credit – cooperatives, commercial banks, regional rural banks, Role of NABARD. Agricultural credit structure in India.

Agricultural Marketing and Agribusiness: Fundamentals of agricultural marketing, regulated markets and warehousing. Role of Co-operatives in Agriculture; Change in APMC Act and Market Model Act; Concept of Marketed surplus, distress sale and new methods of marketing Trends in Agricultural Marketing, SCM and Value additions in Agriculture.

Agricultural Productivity: Agricultural productivity – comparison with developed countries; Ways and Means for improving crop productivity; Bio Technology- meaning and Scope; Green house technique, BT techniques (transgenic crops). Mechanization in Agriculture, Scope of mechanization, Impact of mechanization in terms of production, productivity, Cropping intensity, Income generation, Employment of labour. Advantages & Disadvantages of Mechanization in Indian Agriculture. Govt. Support/Policy Options. Precision Farming and Drone Agriculture.

Agricultural Price Policy: Government Intervention into Agricultural Commodity Prices: Buffer-stock schemes to reduce price variability; MSP and Procurement System; Input Subsidies and Rationalisation.

Agricultural labour: Rural labour supply; Interlocking of factor markets; Mobility of labour and segmentation in labour markets; marginalization of rural labour; Nature, extent and trends in rural unemployment; Agricultural wages in India; Male-female wage differences; Non-agricultural rural employment – Trends and determinants. Indian Employment Guaranty Schemes - Nature, Scope and Objectives

Performance and Challenges of Agricultural allied sectors: Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Development. Issues and problems in rural industrialization and development of agro-based industries. Rural Development Programmes: Overview and Critiques. Food and Nutritional Security. Watershed development: Issues and Challenges.

Issues in Indian Agriculture: Contract farming in Agriculture - Meaning, status and models of contract farming; Climate change and sustainable development - principles & approaches, Resource degradation, policies & programmes, SDGs; Agricultural development, poverty and environment. Suicide of the farmers - causes and Remedies. Famine - Causes and Remedies. Sustainability issues in Agriculture- Methods & practices.

Agriculture Diversification: Diversification of Agriculture: Farm sector and non - farm sector, Crop diversification and enterprise diversification; Livestock resources and their productivity, White revolution; Fishery and poultry development; Forestry, horticulture and floriculture.

Rural Development: Rural economic structure and transformation, Rural socio – political institutions and processes, Rural natural resources and sustainable development, Rural settlement and infrastructure, Rural development programmes in India, Empowerment of weaker sections (sc/st/obcs, women and minorities), Rural poverty reduction Programmes

3.2 Environmental Economics

"Concept of Natural Resource Economics, Environmental Economics, Ecological Economics and Environmental Science, Market and institutional failure, Type of goods and property rights, Internalisation of Externalities: market and non-market approaches, equity, efficiency and sustainability of renewable and non-renewable resources, Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity, adaptation and mitigation strategies to Climate Change, Environmental Laws in India"

3.3 Economics

1. Economic Growth --concepts and Indian experience
2. Poverty- concepts and Indian experience
3. Income Inequality : Concepts, measurements and Indian Experiences
4. Employment and Discrimination
5. Sustainable Development Goals
6. Industrial Policy and Small & Medium Enterprises
7. Budget Making and basic fiscal concepts
8. India's general trade situation
9. Economic growth and environmental degradation;
10. sustainable development ;
11. climate change and its impact on the society;
12. Policies of climate mitigation and adaptation.
13. Role of Bank & Credit
14. Basic statistical concepts such as measures of central tendency, dispersion , correlation etc

3.4 Education

Economics of Education, Economics of Labour, Economics of health, Sociology of Education, Psychology of Education.

3.5 Political Science

1. Political economy of development in India
2. Indian urban development
3. Contemporary debates on rural development
4. State, urbanization and development
5. Federalism and development process
6. Public policy, policy processes and development
7. Contemporary debates on urban development

3.6 Urban Studies

1. Urban economics,
2. Regional disparities,
3. City finances,
4. Urban environment,
5. Migration,
6. Urban governance,
7. Urban economic and social inequality,
8. Urban research methods,
9. Urban basic services,
10. Informality in urban areas
11. Urban basic services and infrastructure

3.7 Social Development Studies

1. Marginality and development
2. Law and society
3. Risk studies
4. Health and development
5. Society, science and technology
6. Rural-urban, industrial and post-industrial societies
7. Mobility, livelihood and welfare
8. Labour studies, and
9. Social policy.