

UP - PCS

Provincial Civil Services

Prelims & Mains

Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, Prayagraj

General Studies

Uttar Pradesh GK & Current Affairs



UP - PSC

UTTAR PRADESH GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

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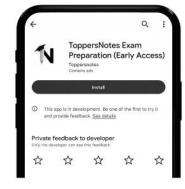
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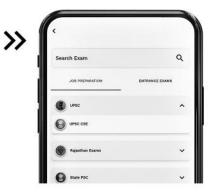
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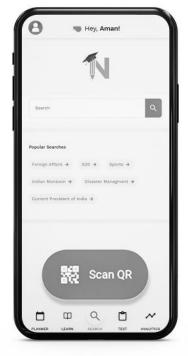
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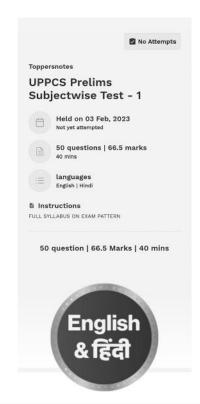


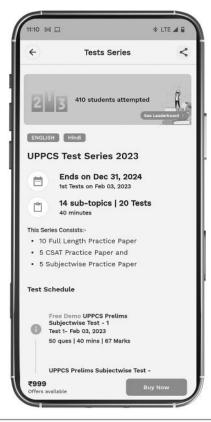


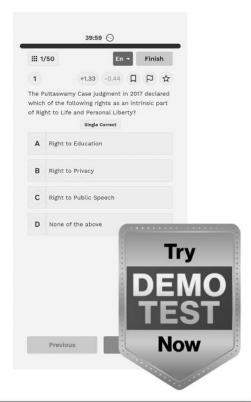
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UP Art & Culture

] CHAPTER

Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh

Cultural Heritage of UP

- UP one of the most ancient cradles of Indian culture.
- Antiquities found in Banda (Bundelkhand), Mirzapur and Meerut link its history to the early stone
 age and Harappan era.
- Chalk drawings or dark red drawings by primitive men are extensively found in the Vindhya ranges
 of Mirzapur districts.
- **Utensils** discovered in Atrangi-Khera, Kaushambi, Rajghat and Sonkh.
- Copper articles Kanpur, Unnao, Mirzapur, Mathura.
- Population Indo-Dravidian ethnic group.
 - Only a small population in the Himalayan region displays Asiatic origins.
- **Hindus**: 80 %, **Muslims**: > 15% and **other religious** communities include Sikhs, Christians, Jain and Buddhists.
- **Traditional handicrafts** textiles, metalware, woodwork, ceramics, stonework, dolls, leather products, ivory articles, Paper-Mache articles made of horns, bone, cane and bamboo, perfume and musical instruments.
- Cottage crafts Varanasi, Azamgarh, Maunath Bhanjan, Ghazipur, Meerut, Moradabad and Agra.
- Carpets Bhadohi and Mirzapur.
- Silks and brocades Varanasi
- Ornamental brassware Moradabad
- Chikan (a type of embroidery) work Lucknow
- Ebony work Nagina
- Glassware Firozabad
- Carved woodwork Saharanpur.
- Traditional pottery centres Khurja, Chunar, Lucknow, Rampur, Bulandshahr, Aligarh and Azamgarh.
- Exquisite brass utility articles Moradabad.
- Minakari on silver, gold and diamond-cut silver ornaments Varanasi and Lucknow.

2 CHAPTER

Arts of Uttar Pradesh

Paintings

- Can be traced back to **prehistoric times.**
 - o **Eg**. The cave paintings of Sonbhadra and Chitrakoot depict scenes of hunting, war, festivals, dances, romantic life and animals.
- The culture of painting in UP developed the most during the Mughal period aka "The golden period of painting".
- Attained its peak during the reign of Jahangir.
- Art of painting reached the epitome of perfection in the area of Bundelkhand when the king of Orchha reconstructed the temple of Keshav Dev in Mathura.
 - The **paintings** of **Mathura**, **Gokul**, **Vrindavan** and **Govardhan** depict scenes from the life of **Lord Krishna**.
- Other major schools- Garhwal school which was patronized by the king.

Rock Paintings

 Painted rock shelters - Chandauli, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Allahabad, Chitrakoot and Banda in northern Vindhyas and around Fatehpur Sikri and Agra in the Aravalli ranges.

Major Rock Paintings

Rock Paintings	About
Mirzapur and Sonbhadra	 Vindhya and the Kaimur ranges - 250 rock art sites. Range from the mesolithic to the chalcolithic ages. Major sites - Panchmukhi Rock Shelters (8 km from Robertsganj), Kauwa Khoh Rock Shelters (near Churk), Lakhania Rock Shelters (22 km from Robertsganj) and Lakhma caves (near Baghma).
Kauva Khoh	 Biggest rock shelter site in UP Houses the largest repertoire of Rock paintings
Wyndham Falls	Found near the source of the Wyndham waterfall.
Likhaniya Dari	 Located along the course of a drainage line of a mountain-fed stream known locally as the Garai river.



	 One painted panel is estimated to be painted continuously from Prehistory to the Historic period and contains upwards of fifty painted icons.
Chuna Dari Cave	 A very large and deep cave that bears many more paintings than Likhaniya Dari. Occur along the Garai river Full of painted icons and thematic panels mostly in red geru and occasionally in black. Except for the paintings which occur on the ceiling of the cave and have therefore survived defacement, most of the red paintings peep from below several layers of copious modern-day graffiti which has nearly obliterated the art Also development of a calcareous deposit on rocks which sometimes obliterates paintings which are older.
Morhana Pahar	 Occur on top of a rocky plateau on a tableland. The rock art imagery is far too large, indeed over hundreds of depictions spread over some sixteen shelters.
Other Destinations	Cave shelters of Lakhania, Panchmukhi, lakhma

Metal Ware

- Largest Brass and copper-making region in India.
 - O Copper utensils Etawah, Varanasi, and Sitapur.
 - **Ritual articles** copper-like Tamra Patra, panch Patras, sinhasans, and the kanchanthals (plates for offering flowers and sweets).
- Varanasi icon-casting.
- Moradabad Metal handicrafts.
 - Engraving embellishing metal ware Moradabad.

Pottery

- Khurja is also well known for its cheap ceramic pottery.
 - O Done with **relief work** and the **colours** used are not **loud** or **dark**.
 - Orange, light red and brown against the plain, white background.
 - Floral designs in sky blue are a visual delight.
 - o Famous for its pitcher-shaped vessel.
- **Chunar** potters glaze the wares with a brown slip that is interlarded with myriad other hues.
- Meerut and Hapur excellent water containers.
 - Adorned with striking designs and floral patterns.
 - Weirdly shaped spouts.



- Chinhat glazed pottery.
 - O Blue and brown colours used by the artisans.
 - White or cream surfaces.
 - Generally, adhere to the geometric designs.
- Nizamabad black pottery.
 - Articles are fired in an enclosed kiln with rice husks.
 - Smoke generated imparts the black colour.
 - **Designs** etched on the **dry surface** filled with **silver paint** made from **zinc** and **mercury**.
 - O Glossy look vessels coated with lacquer when they are still hot.

Terracotta

- Among the clay products of Uttar Pradesh, the wares of the potters of Gorakhpur are well known.
 - Animal figures like horses and elephants with hand-appliquéd ornamentation.
 - Figures of goddesses convened into lamps, mother and child motifs, and other ritual objects are all crafted here by hand.
- Potters in Uttar Pradesh make both utilitarian as well as decorative ware from clay.
 - O The **throwing** is done by only **men** as **women** getting **involved** in this stage is **considered inauspicious** whereas **women** carry out the **remaining stages** of this **craft**.
 - O Hindu potters- Prajapati
 - Muslim potters Kasgars.
 - Hindus do not use the ware twice, the decorative element is done away with while the opposite happens in the pottery produced by the Kasgars where the finishing and ornamentation are specifically taken care of.

Jewellery

- Lucknow is well known for its jewellery and enamelling work.
- Exquisite silverware with patterns of hunting scenes, snakes and roses are very popular.
- The Bidri and Zarbuland silver work of Lucknow find expressions on excellent pieces of huqqa farshi, iewel boxes, trays, bowls, cufflinks, cigarette holders etc.
- Renowned ivory and bone carving with motifs of flowers, leaves, creepers, trees, birds and animals are widely produced in Lucknow.
- The master craftsmen create intricate terms like knives, lampshades, shirtpins and small toys.

Perfume

- "Attars" or perfumes are also produced in Lucknow since the 19th century.
- The Lucknow perfumes experimented with and succeeded in making attar with delicate and lasting fragrances that are made from various aromatic herbs, species, sandal oil, musk, essence of flowers and leaves.
- The famous Lucknow fragrances are khus, keora, chameli, zafron and agar.

Tourism

- National and international tourists > 71 million domestic tourists (in 2003) and almost 25% of the all-India foreign tourists.
- Circuits listed by department of tourism, Government of UP, 2011:



Circuit	Districts and Regions covered
Agra Braj Circuit	Agra, Mathura, Vrindavan, Fatehpur Sikri, Soor Sarovar, Chambal
Buddhist Circuit	Kapilavastu, Sarnath, Varanasi, Sravasti, Sankisa, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Lumbini, Bodh Gaya.
Bundelkhand Circuit	Jhansi, Mahoba, Kakramath, Kalinjar, Deogarh, Samthar, Datia, Khajuraho, Chanderi, Baruasagar, Orchha.
Awadh-Ayodhya Circuit	Lucknow, Kukrail, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Ayodhya, Naimisharnya, Devasharif, Bithoor.
Varanasi and Vindhyachal Circuit	Varanasi, Vindhyachal, Pamnagar, Chunar, Allahabad, Kaimoor Wild Life Sanctuary, Chandra Prabha Wild Life Sanctuary
Mahabharata Circuit	Hastinapur, Baghpat, Bijnor
Ram Van-Gaman Yatra Circuit	Ayodhya, Bharatkund, Belha Devi-Pratapgarh, Shrangverpur, Allahabad, Chitrakoot
Circuit related to 1st War of Independence,1857	Jhansi, Meerut, Lucknow, Raibareilly, Unnao, Kanpur, Bithoor, Sitapur, Badaun, Bareilly, Hathras, Shahjahanpur, Mainpuri, Firozabad, Gorakhpur, Devaria, Azamgarh, Balia, Varanasi, Allahabad
Jain Circuit	Shravasti, Kaushambi, Allahabad, Ayodhya, Faizabad, Ronahi, Kampil, Hastinapur, Sauripur, Agra, Banaras, Kushinagar.
Sikh Circuit	Gurudwara Pakki Sangat (Allahabad) -Gurudwara Ahrora, Gurudwara Chota and Gurudwara Bhuili (Mirzapur) - Gurudwara Nichibagh, Gurudwara Gurubagh (Varanasi) - Guru Teg Bahadur Ji ki Tapsthali, Chachakpur, Gurudwara Paasmandal (Jaunpur) - Gurudwara Brahmkund (Ayodhya) -Gurudwara Ahyiyaganj (Lucknow) - Gurudwara Singh Sabha (Mathura) -Gurudwara Hathighat, Gurudwara Guru ka Taal (Agra).
Sufi Circuit	Fatehpur Sikri, Pampur, Badaun, Bareilly, Lucknow, Kakori, Dewasharif (Barabanki), Bahraich, Kichocha Sharif, Kade Shah - Kada (Kaushambi), Allahabad, Kantit Sharif (Mirzapur).
Christian Circuit	Merut-Sardhana, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Gorakhpur.
Handicraft Circuit	Lucknow, Agra, Aligarh, Firozabad, Rampur, Kanpur, Kannauj, Vrindavan, Muradabad, Khurja, Varanasi, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Chunar, Jaunpur, Gorakhpur.



- Agra 3 world heritage sites, Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and the nearby Fatehpur Sikri.
 - o Taj Mahal
 - A mausoleum built by Mughal emperor **Shah Jahan** in memory of its beloved wife **Mumtaz Mahal**.
 - aka "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage."

Agra fort

- 2.5 km northwest of **Taj Mahal**.
- Described as a walled palatial city.
- Fathepur Sikri
 - World famous 16th-century capital city near Agra,
 - By the Mughal emperor **Akbar**.
- Varanasi one of the oldest cities in the world.
 - o Famous for its **Ghats** (bathing steps along the river), full of **pilgrims** year-round who come to bathe in the sacred Ganga river.
- Mathura- colourful celebration of the holi festivals.
- Prayagraj- Magh Mela festival held on the banks of the Ganga.
 - O Organised on a larger scale every 12th year
 - o aka **Kumbh Mela**, where over 10 million Hindu pilgrims congregate-proclaimed as one of the largest gatherings of human beings in the world.
- Ghazipur Ganga Ghat, Tomb of British potentate Lord Cornwallis, maintained by archaeological survey of India.
- Lucknow Bara Imambara and Chhota Imambara.
 - O Damaged complex of the **Oudh-British resident's quarters**, which are being restored.
- Bareilly / "Nath Nagari" "The Jhumka City" and "Bamboo City".
 - 5 nath temple in Bareilly
 - O A mediator city between Lucknow and NCR Delhi.

Tribes of Uttar Pradesh

Tribes	About
Agariya	 Area- Mirzapur Language- Hindi, Agariya language and Chhatisgarhi
Aheria	 aka Aheri, Aheriya, Ahiria, Baheliya, Bahelia, Herbi, Beta, Heri, Hersi, karwal, Hesi, Karbal, Thori, Naik or Turi etc Speak mainly Hindi as they are believers of Hindu religion.
Baiga	Practices 'shifting cultivation' / Dahiya cultivation in the forest.



	Tattooing is an integral part of their lifestyle.Lead a semi-nomadic life.
Beldar	 Area - Lakhipur, Barabanki, Gonda, Khari, Gorakhpur, Ginda, Sitapur, Faizabad etc. An occupational caste and their traditional occupation is that of the navvies.
Bhoksa/ Buksa people	 Speak Buksa language which can be compared to Rana Tharu. Worship the tribal deity of Shakumbari Devi. Involved in cultivating land and many works as mountain guides Have some distinct settlements and they do not share the same with any caste of tribal grouping.
Bind Tribe	 Belong to the Other Backward Caste. Originated from the Vindhya Hills located in the central part of India. Main occupation - making the reed mats Languages - Awadhi and Bhojpuri Practice Hinduism and follow its customs.
Chero	 Southeastern Uttar Pradesh - Kol and Bhar, Muzaffarpur to Allahabad Mainly involved in agriculture and animal husbandry. Also, collect the Mahua flower that is available locally to be sold in the markets. Not endogamous.
Ghasiya or Ghasia	 A Hindu caste. Have the status of the scheduled caste and are found in Uttar Pradesh. Area - Sonbhadra and Mirzapur Follow clan exogamy strictly. Language - Hindi in Bundelkhandi dialect.
Kanjar	 aka Marwari Kumar, Banchra and Nath. Main occupation - hunting. Follow Hinduism and Sikhism and all of them worship the community deity, Mana.
Kewat	 Boatmen of North India traditionally. Controlled by the Charghat Panchayat which covers the region of the Awadh. Allahabad region is covered by the Baraghat panchayat.
Khairaha	 Hindu caste that has the status of the scheduled caste. Districts - Allahabad and Mirzapur



	 Communicate in Hindi language. Practice agriculture, fishing and animal husbandry.
Kharot	 An endogamous sub group which has got the title of the Scheduled Caste. Mainly found in the eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh. Most of them are agricultural laborers who do not have their own land.
Kol	 Allahabad, Varanasi, Banda and Mirzapur districts Largest tribe in Uttar Pradesh. Followers of Hinduism and speak in Baghelkhandi dialect. Do not have any land and depend upon the forest for the income.
Korwa	 Economically and socially poor community. Isolated tribes and most of them are hunter gatherers. Practice settled agriculture and are a part of the Hindu community. Communicate in their mother tongue Korwa which is also known as Singli and Ernga alternatively.
Kotwar	 They were village watchmen and said to have acquired their name on that account. Now a part of the Hindu caste and are found in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts. Inhibit the forested and undulating terrains and have the status of the Scheduled Caste. Medium and small sized farmers who practice agriculture in the present times.
Panika/ Panka	 Was involved in fan manufacturing and hence the origin of their name. Found in the areas of Mirzapur and Sonbhadra.
Parahiya	 Followers of Hinduism Practice slash and burn agriculture technique. Speak a Hindi dialect.
Patari	 In Sonbhadra Originally the Gond tribal who advised the Gond Kings and also specialized in the rituals. Communicate in Hindi. Practice agriculture and are sharecroppers and also animal husbandry.
Patharkat/ Sangtarash	 Literal meaning - stone cutter Located majorly in Lucknow, Raebareli, Sitapur, Hardoi and Unnao.



	Communicate in Ghiarai amongst themselves and speak in Hindi with the outsiders
Sahariya	 Scheduled Caste found in the Bundelkhand region. aka Banrawat, Rawat, Soarain and Banrakha. Traditional occupation - collecting honey, woodcutting, mining, making baskets, breaking stones etc.
Tharu	 Belongs to the Terai lowlands, amid the Shivaliks or lower Himalayas. Most of them are forest dwellers and some practiced agriculture. Worship Lord Shiva as Mahadev, and call their supreme being "Narayan".
Mahigeer	 In Nazibabad region of district Bijnor Also at Sahanpur, Jalalabad, Manera, Mandwar and Dharanagar.