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ANTHROPOLOGY Test Series 4+2

CSE-2026 Online/Offline SCHEDULE – (*please check on page no.22)*

From 7th Nov 2026



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Our Students From Classroom Foundation Course And Test Series Have Secured Top Ranks























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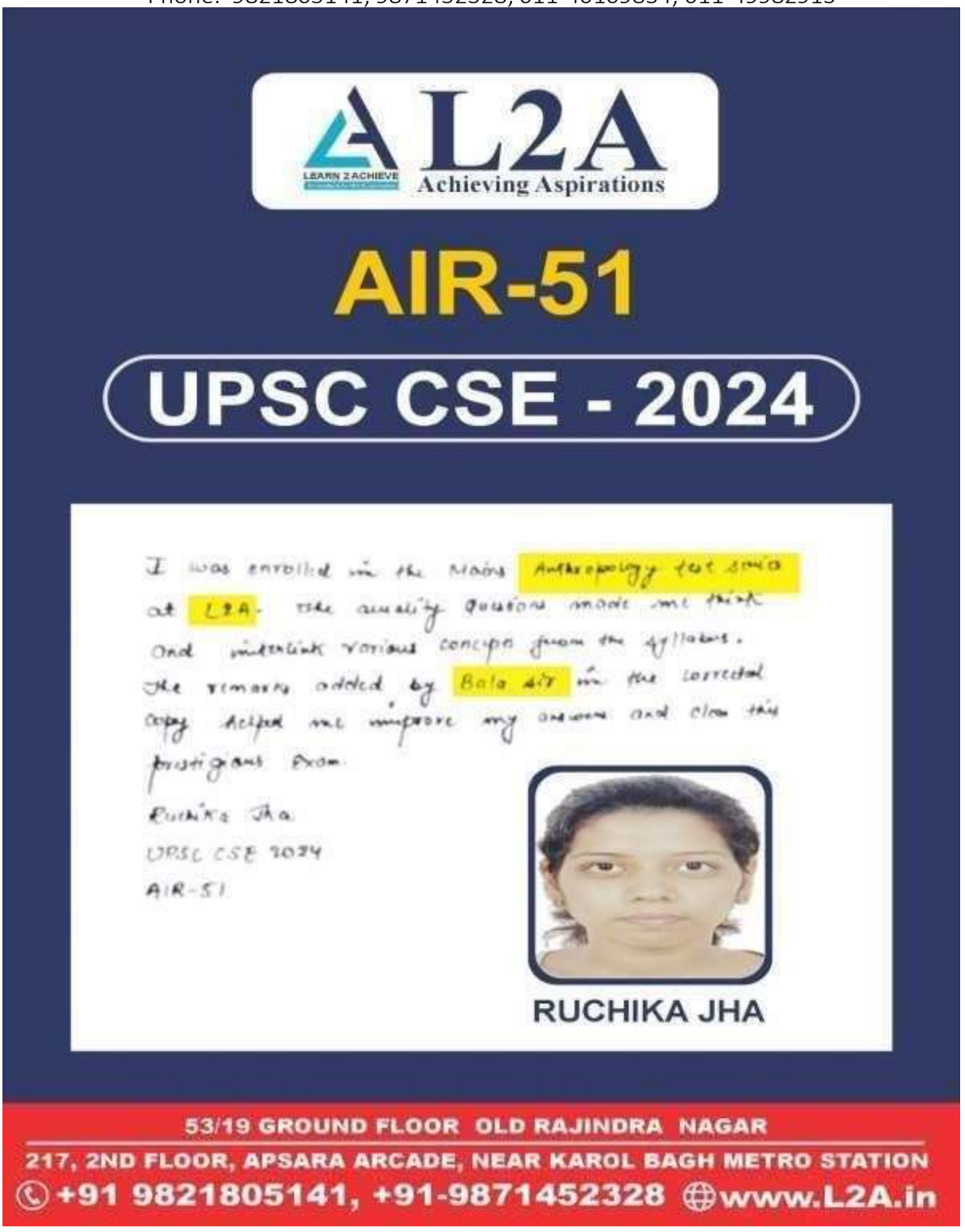
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L2A
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AIR-51
UPSC CSE - 2024
I was enrolled in the Mains Anthropology test series at L2A. The quality questions made me think and interlink various concepts from the syllabus. The remarks added by Bala Sir in the corrected copy helped me improve my answers and clear this prestigious Exam.
Ruchika Jha
UPSC CSE 2024
AIR-51
RUCHIKA JHA
53/19 GROUND FLOOR OLD RAJINDRA NAGAR
217, 2ND FLOOR, APSARA ARCADE, NEAR KAROL BAGH METRO STATION
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L2A Achieving Aspirations

Dear L2A team,

I was enrolled in the 8+4 Test Series CSE 2023. The pattern of questions was similar to the nature of UPSC Mains CSE. The evaluation was quick yet detailed with many inputs given as to how one can improve the quality of answers.

The videos were extremely useful as they gave insights regarding how one should approach any question. Moreover, all the topics from the test papers were covered comprehensively.

I suggest giving sufficient time to the explanation videos after writing tests to gain the maximum benefit.

My sincere thanks to Bala sir and the entire team of L2A.

Thank you
Zufishan Haque
AIR - 34, CSE 2023
(Anthropology Score – 289)



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Dear Team L2A,

I would like to extend a big thanks to Bala Sir and the entire organization for a very holistic and personalized guidance in Anthropology. The value added material, relevant feedback and timely checking of tests were a great help. Keep up the Good Work! :)



Regards
HARNIT SINGH SUDAN
AIR 177 CSE 2023
ANTHRO - 289 (PI 150)
(PII 139)

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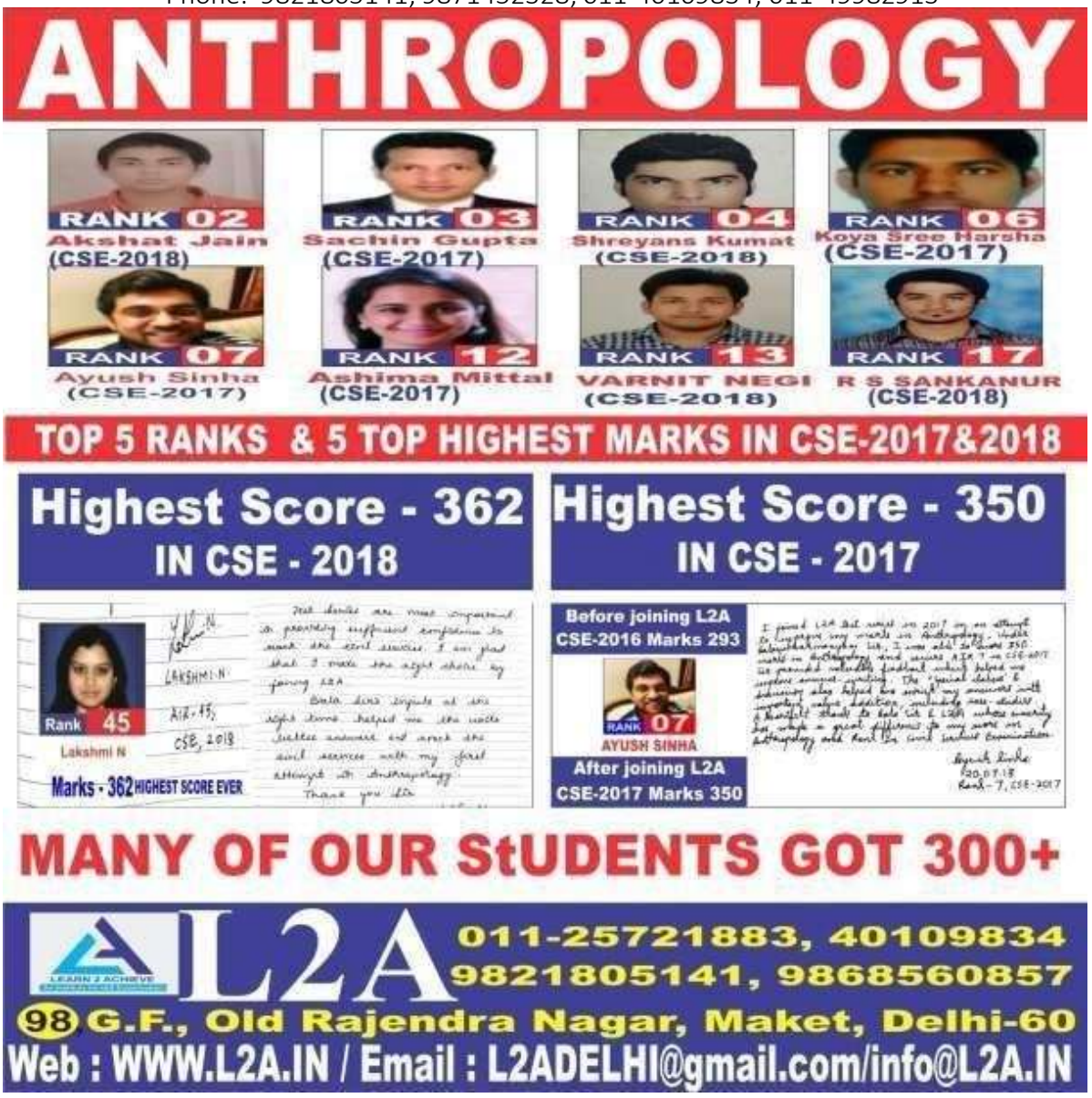
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I joined L2A Anthropology mains test series in 2019. Bala Sir's insightful suggestions and meticulous analysis of my answers helped me enrich, innovate and structure my answers well. I secured AIR 261 with 283 marks in my optional. I am very grateful to Bala sir and the entire L2A team for helping me in this journey.



- Preeti Kumari
AIR 261

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I joined L2A Anthropology test series in January 2019. Overall I had attempted 7 tests before CSE Mains and it helped me to improve my answers and provided the right simulation for the real exam. Also it helped me to fill the gaps in my preparation and gauge my performance. Some questions were asked directly from the test series.

I am grateful to Bala Sir for his support and guidance.

Thank you Sir and the entire L2A team !!

Regards,
Shubham Kumar
Rank 290, CSE 2019



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I joined Anthropology test series CSE-2019. It helped me to improve my answer writing skills. The quality of test papers were upto the mark. precise suggestions by Bala sir helped me to improve my answer quality

Thank you bala sir and entire staff of L2A.



Regards,
C. Siva Gopal Reddy
AIR 263, CSE-2019.
26/10/2020

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I would like to place my gratitude to Bala sir and the entire L2A staff. My success in the exam would not have been possible without L2A's help. I gained several important inputs from their anthropology test series, helping me to raise the quality of my content significantly. Bala sir was always very kind in entertaining my doubts, and suggesting me areas of improvement. His belief in me generated a lot of confidence in my abilities, ultimately giving me an excellent score in the optional subject.

Thank you sir and the entire team.



Yours Truly
Akshat
(Akshat Jain
AIR - 2
UPSC CSE 2018)

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I joined L2A Anthropology Test Series CSE-2018 to practice answer writing and guage my performance. In the limited number of tests I could attempt, I gained improvement points which became instrumental in my performance. Topper strategies and Topper copies from L2A website helped a lot.

I would like to extend my kind regards to Bala Sir and L2A team for helping me practice, reflect and improve in Anthropology



Thank You,

Shreyans Kumat
(Rank 4, CSE 2018)

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Anthropology Test Series 4+2 – CSE-2026

- **Programme includes 6 tests on UPSC mains examination pattern**
- **Syllabus is divided into small sections and 4 Section-wise tests are held**
- **Two full length tests; 1 test for paper-1 & 1 test for paper -2 will be held**
- **Each test is followed by Test Discussion classes.**
- **Test Discussion Class features – Designed to fetch extra marks and enhance value addition in content of the answers.**
    - **Classes include broad overview of the Question, approach & orientation to the Question's topic.**
    - **Special emphasis on the key words to focus**
    - **Emphasis to identify Topic/Question Specific thinkers**
    - **Providing dynamic inter-linkages**
    - **Focus on presentation and inclusion of Question/topic specific current case studies.**
    - **Emphasis on contemporary relevance and significance of the topics**
- **Model answers in PDF format will be provided for all tests,**
- **Model answers will not be in complete Q&A format and they can't be treated as a sample answer. Model answers will be broad pointers to the question.**

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1. CSE -2026 4+2 from 7th Nov 2026– validity 31st Aug 2026

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Online & offline

- Total tests 6 on UPSC pattern
- Total 250 marks
- 4 unit wise Tests and 2 Full Length tests
- Model answers in PDF format will be provided
- Recorded Test Discussion for all the tests provided on the day of the scheduled test

Please see the pdf schedule for c*omplete details*

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Total tests 6; 4 Unit Wise tests & 2 Comprehensive Tests

ANTHROPOLOGY MAINS TEST SERIES SCHEDULE ; CSE- 2026				
DATE	**TEST**	**TOPICS**	**DURATION**	**MARKS**
7 Nov 10:30 AM	**TEST-1**	**Social & Cultural Anthropology** Recorded Test Discussion Class	3 hours	250
14 Nov 10:30 AM	**TEST-2**	**Physical Anthropology –** Recorded Test Discussion Class	3 hours	250
21 Nov 10:30 AM	**TEST-3**	**Indian Anthropology-I** Recorded Test Discussion Class	3 hours	250
28 Nov 10:30 AM	**TEST-4**	**Indian Anthropology-II** Recorded Test Discussion Class	3 hours	250
5 Dec 10:30 AM	**TEST-5**	**1st Comprehensive Test - (Paper – I)** Recorded Test Discussion Class	3 hours	250
12 Dec 10:30 AM	**TEST-6**	**2nd Comprehensive Test - (Paper - II)** Recorded Test Discussion Class	3 hours	250

Students can take tests as per their convenient date & time.

Validity of Test series for 6 tests is till 31st Aug 2026

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Distribution of Chapters for the Classes & Tests in accordance to syllabus

Test Number	Papers	Topics	Units from Syllabus
Test –I	**Syllabus covered under paper – I**	**Social & Cultural Anthropology – I**	**1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3. 2.4, 2.5, 3, 4. 5, 6, 7, 8.**
Test –II		**Physical Anthropology- I**	**1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 (a) & (b) 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4. 9.5, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 10, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 12.**
Test –III	**Syllabus Covered Under paper – II**	**Indian Anthropology – I**	**From Paper – II; 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2, 3.1, 32, 3.3, 3.4, 4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.**
Test –VI		**Indian Anthropology – II**	**6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3.**
Test – V Comprehensive Test Paper – I	**Syllabus covered under paper – I**	**Complete Paper – I Syllabus**	*Please refer corresponding syllabus*
Test – VI Comprehensive Test Paper – II	**Syllabus covered under paper – II**	**Complete Paper – II syllabus**	*Please refer corresponding syllabus*

$ ***kindly follow numbering pattern according to the syllabus as per UPSC notification.***

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Syllabus

ANTHROPOLOGY

PAPER – I

1.1 Meaning, scope and development of Anthropology.

1.2 Relationships with other disciplines: Social Sciences, Behavioural Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Earth Sciences and Humanities.

1.3 Main branches of Anthropology, their scope and relevance:

(a) Social- cultural Anthropology.

(b) Biological Anthropology.

(c) Archaeological Anthropology.

(d) Linguistic Anthropology.

1.4 Human Evolution and emergence of Man:

(a) Biological and Cultural factors in human evolution.

(b) Theories of Organic Evolution (Pre- Darwinian, Darwinian and Post- Darwinian).

(c) Synthetic theory of evolution; Brief outline of terms and concepts of evolutionary biology (Doll's rule, Cope's rule, Gause's rule, parallelism, convergence, adaptive radiation, and mosaic evolution).

1.5 Characteristics of Primates; Evolutionary Trend and Primate Taxonomy; Primate Adaptations; (Arboreal and Terrestrial) Primate Taxonomy; Primate Behaviour; Tertiary

and Quaternary fossil primates; Living Major Primates; Comparative Anatomy of Man and Apes; Skeletal changes due to erect posture and its implications.

1.6 Phylogenetic status, characteristics and geographical distribution of the following:

(a) Plio-pleistocene hominids in South and East Africa - Australopithecines.

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(b) Homo erectus: Africa (Paranthropus), Europe (Homo erectus heidelbergensis), Asia Homo erectus javanicus, Homo erectus pekinensis).

(c) Neanderthal Man- La-Chapelle-auxsaints (Classical type), Mt. Carmel (Progressive type).

(d) Rhodesian man.

(e) Homo sapiens — Cromagnon, Grimaldi and Chancelede.

1.7 The biological basis of life: The Cell, DNA structure and replication, Protein Synthesis, Gene, Mutation, Chromosomes, and Cell Division.

1.8 (a) Principles of Prehistoric Archaeology. Chronology: Relative and Absolute Dating methods.

(b) Cultural Evolution- Broad Outlines of Prehistoric cultures:

(i) Paleolithic

(ii) Mesolithic

(iii) Neolithic

(iv) Chalcolithic

(v) Copper-Bronze Age

(vi) Iron Age

2.1 The Nature of Culture: The concept and characteristics of culture and civilization; Ethnocentrism vis-à-vis cultural Relativism.

2.2 The Nature of Society: Concept of Society; Society and Culture; Social Institutions; Social groups; and Social stratification.

2.3 Marriage: Definition and universality; Laws of marriage (endogamy, exogamy, hypergamy, hypogamy, incest taboo); Types of marriage (monogamy, polygamy, polyandry, group marriage). Functions of marriage; Marriage regulations

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(preferential, prescriptive and proscriptive); Marriage payments (bride wealth and dowry).

2.4 Family: Definition and universality; Family, household and domestic groups; functions of family; Types of family (from the perspectives of structure, blood relation, marriage, residence and succession); Impact of urbanization, industrialization and feminist movements on family.

2.5 Kinship: Consanguinity and Affinity; Principles and types of descent (Unilineal, Double, Bilateral, Ambilineal); Forms of descent groups (lineage, clan, phratry, moiety and kindred); Kinship terminology (descriptive and classificatory); Descent, Filiation and Complimentary Filiation; Descent and Alliance.

3. Economic organization: Meaning, scope and relevance of economic anthropology; Formalist and Substantivist debate; Principles governing production, distribution and exchange (reciprocity, redistribution and market), in communities, subsisting on hunting and gathering, fishing, swiddening, pastoralism, horticulture, and agriculture; globalization and indigenous economic systems.

4. Political organization and Social Control: Band, tribe, chiefdom, kingdom and state; concepts of power, authority and legitimacy; social control, law and justice in simple societies.

5. Religion: Anthropological approaches to the study of religion (evolutionary, psychological and functional); monotheism and polytheism; sacred and profane; myths and rituals; forms of religion in tribal and peasant societies (animism, animatism, fetishism, naturism and totemism); religion, magic and science distinguished; magico-religious functionaries (priest, shaman, medicine man, sorcerer and witch).

6. Anthropological theories:

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(a) Classical evolutionism (Tylor, Morgan and Frazer)

(b) Historical particularism (Boas); Diffusionism (British, German and American)

(c) Functionalism (Malinowski); Structural- functionlism (Radcliffe- Brown)

(d) Structuralism (L'evi - Strauss and E. Leach)

(e) Culture and personality (Benedict, Mead, Linton, Kardiner and Cora – du Bois).

(f) Neo - evolutionism (Childe, White, Steward, Sahlins and Service)

(g) Cultural materialism (Harris)

(h) Symbolic and interpretive theories (Turner, Schneider and Geertz)

(i) Cognitive theories (Tyler, Conklin)

(j) Post- modernism in anthropology

7. Culture, language and communication: Nature, origin and characteristics of language; verbal and non-verbal commu-nication; social context of language use.

8. Research methods in anthropology:

(a) Fieldwork tradition in anthropology

(b) Distinction between technique, method and methodology

(c) Tools of data collection: observation, interview, schedules, questionnaire, Case study, genealogy, life-history, oral history, secondary sources of information, participatory methods.

(d) Analysis, interpretation and presentation of data.

9.1 Human Genetics: Methods and Application: Methods for study of genetic principles in man- family study (pedigree analysis, twin study, foster child, co-twin method, cytogenetic method, chromosomal and karyo-type analysis), biochemical methods, immunological methods, D.N.A. technology and recombinant technologies.

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9.2 Mendelian genetics in man-family study, single factor, multifactor, lethal, sub-lethal and polygenic inheritance in man.

9.3 Concept of genetic polymorphism and selection, Mendelian population, Hardy-Weinberg law; causes and changes which bring down frequency – mutation, isolation, migration, selection, inbreeding and genetic drift. Consanguineous and non-consanguineous mating, genetic load, genetic effect of consanguineous and cousin marriages.

9.4 Chromosomes and chromosomal aberrations in man, methodology.

(a) Numerical and structural aberrations (disorders).

(b) Sex chromosomal aberrations – Klinefelter (XXY), Turner (XO), Super female (XXX), intersex and other syndromic disorders.

(c) Autosomal aberrations – Down syndrome, Patau, Edward and Cri-duchat syndromes.

(d) Genetic imprints in human disease, genetic screening, genetic counseling, human DNA profiling, gene mapping and genome study.

9.5 Race and racism, biological basis of morphological variation of non-metric and metric characters. Racial criteria, racial traits in relation to heredity and environment; biological basis of racial classification, racial differentiation and race crossing in man.

9.6 Age, sex and population variation as genetic marker- ABO, Rh blood groups, HLA Hp, transferring, Gm, blood enzymes. Physiological characteristics- Hb level, body fat, pulse rate, respiratory functions and sensory perceptions in different cultural and socio-economic groups.

9.7 Concepts and methods of Ecological Anthropology. Bio-cultural Adaptations – Genetic and Non- genetic factors. Man's physiological responses to environmental stresses: hot desert, cold, high altitude climate.

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9.8 Epidemiological Anthropology: Health and disease. Infectious and non-infectious diseases. Nutritional deficiency related diseases.

10. Concept of human growth and development: stages of growth - pre-natal, natal, infant, childhood, adolescence, maturity, senescence.

- Factors affecting growth and development genetic, environmental, biochemical, nutritional, cultural and socio-economic.
- Ageing and senescence. Theories and observations - biological and chronological longevity. Human physique and somatotypes. Methodologies for growth studies.

11.1 Relevance of menarche, menopause and other bioevents to fertility.
Fertility patterns and differentials.

11.2 Demographic theories- biological, social and cultural.

11.3 Biological and socio-ecological factors influencing fecundity, fertility, natality and mortality.

12. Applications of Anthropology: Anthropology of sports, Nutritional anthropology, Anthropology in designing of defence and other equipments, Forensic Anthropology, Methods and principles of personal identification and reconstruction, Applied human genetics – Paternity diagnosis, genetic counseling and eugenics, DNA technology in diseases and medicine, serogenetics and cytogenetics in reproductive biology.

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PAPER – II

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization — Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic - Chalcolithic). Protohistoric (Indus Civilization): Pre- Harappan, Harappan and post- Harappan cultures. Contributions of tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

1.2 Palaeo – anthropological evidences from India with special reference to Siwaliks and Narmada basin (Ramapithecus, Sivapithecus and Narmada Man).

1.3 Ethno-archaeology in India : The concept of ethno-archaeology; Survivals and Parallels among the hunting, foraging, fishing, pastoral and peasant communities including arts and crafts producing communities.

2. Demographic profile of India Ethnic and linguistic elements in the Indian population and their distribution. Indian population - factors influencing its structure and growth.

3.1 The structure and nature of traditional Indian social system — Varnashram, Purushartha, Karma, Rina and Rebirth.

3.2 Caste system in India- structure and characteristics, Varna and caste, Theories of origin of caste system, Dominant caste, Caste mobility, Future of caste system, Jajmani system, Tribe caste continuum.

3.3 Sacred Complex and Nature- Man-Spirit Complex.

3.4 Impact of Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity on Indian society.

4. Emergence and growth of anthropology in India-Contributions of the 18th, 19th and early 20th Century scholar-administrators. Contributions of Indian anthropologists to tribal and caste studies.

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5.1 Indian Village: Significance of village study in India; Indian village as a social system; Traditional and changing patterns of settlement and inter-caste relations; Agrarian relations in Indian villages; Impact of globalization on Indian villages.

5.2 Linguistic and religious minorities and their social, political and economic status.

5.3 Indigenous and exogenous processes of socio-cultural change in Indian society: Sanskritization, Westernization, Moderni-zation; Inter-play of little and great traditions; Panchayati raj and social change; Media and social change.

6.1 Tribal situation in India – Bio-genetic variability, linguistic and socio-economic characteristics of tribal populations and their distribution.

6.2 Problems of the tribal Communities — land alienation, poverty, indebtedness, low literacy, poor educational facilities, unemployment, underemployment, health and nutrition.

6.3 Developmental projects and their impact on tribal displacement and problems of rehabilitation. Development of forest policy and tribals. Impact of urbanization and industrialization on tribal populations.

7.1 Problems of exploitation and deprivation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.

7.2 Social change and contemporary tribal societies: Impact of modern democratic institutions, development programmes and welfare measures on tribals and weaker sections.

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7.3 The concept of ethnicity; Ethnic conflicts and political developments; Unrest among tribal communities; Regionalism and demand for autonomy; Pseudo-tribalism; Social change among the tribes during colonial and post-Independent India.

8.1 Impact of Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and other religions on tribal societies.

8.2 Tribe and nation state — a comparative study of tribal communities in India and other countries.

9.1 History of administration of tribal areas, tribal policies, plans, programmes of tribal development and their implementation. The concept of PTGs (Primitive Tribal Groups), their distribution, special programmes for their development. Role of N.G.O.s in tribal development.

9.2 Role of anthropology in tribal and rural development.

9.3 Contributions of anthropology to the understanding of regionalism, communalism, and ethnic and political movements.

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