

MOST IMPORTANT 100 TOPICS OF ANTHROPOLOGY TO REVISE FOR MAINS 2026/27

Paper-II (Must revise THEMES for 2026 MAINS)

High Priority Themes:

Topic	Did u revise ? (Mark here, if yes)
1. PVTGs in India — from “primitive tribes” to rights-based development PM-JANMAN, 75 PVTGs, customised development, habitat rights, health, nutrition and livelihood. The 2026 review specifically highlighted household-level PVTG mapping and targeted delivery.	
2. Forest Rights Act, 2006 — Individual vs Community Forest Rights Gram Sabha, CFR, habitat rights, implementation gaps and tribal empowerment. As of May 2025, over 51.2 lakh claims had been filed, with substantial rejection and pending-claim issues.	
3. PESA + Gram Sabha + tribal self-governance Particularly in Fifth Schedule areas; analyse constitutional decentralisation vs actual tribal autonomy.	★
4. Tribal displacement due to mining, dams, infrastructure and conservation Use Hasdeo, Bailadila, hydropower projects in tribal Andhra Pradesh as contemporary cases.	
5. Tribal development vs tribal autonomy — Verrier Elwin vs G.S. Ghurye Isolation → assimilation → integration → constitutional/developmental approach.	
6. Tribal identity, ethnicity and movements in contemporary India Adivasi identity, land-forest-culture nexus, ethnic assertion and demands for political recognition.	
7. Tribal health and nutrition — from biomedical intervention to culturally appropriate healthcare Malnutrition, maternal health, sickle-cell disease, traditional medicine and geographical isolation.	
8. Tribal languages and cultural preservation in the digital/AI era Language loss, mother-tongue education, documentation, digital archives and AI inclusion. Recent initiatives such as VAANI and	

community-curated tribal-language AI datasets make this especially contemporary.	
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High Yielding Themes :

9. Tribal-caste continuum — changing boundaries between tribe and caste	
10. Sanskritization, Westernization and Modernization — contemporary tribal transformation	
11. Tribal assimilation, integration and acculturation under globalization	
12. Impact of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam on tribal societies	
13. Nature-Man-Spirit Complex — tribal ecological worldview and conservation	
14. Sacred Complex — pilgrimage, religious change and tribal transformation	
15. Tribal customary institutions vs modern state institutions	
16. Tribal women — land rights, forest rights, political participation and intersectionality	
17. Tribal youth, education, migration and urbanization	
18. Tribal communities and climate change — vulnerability, traditional ecological knowledge and resilience	
19. Changing nature of caste — from ritual hierarchy to political/economic identity	
20. Dominant Caste — M.N. Srinivas and its contemporary relevance	
21. Sanskritization vs Westernization vs Secularization vs Modernization	
22. Jajmani system — decline, transformation and persistence in rural India	
23. Caste mobility — occupational, educational, political and economic mobility	
24. Caste and electoral politics — caste as a modern political resource	
25. Indian village as a social system — from M.N. Srinivas to contemporary rural transformation	
26. Globalization, migration and digitalisation transforming Indian villages	
27. Ethnic and linguistic minorities — identity, representation and cultural rights	
28. Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes — Fifth Schedule, Sixth Schedule, Articles 15(4), 16(4), 46, 244, 275(1), 330/332 and 338A	
29. Development-induced displacement + rehabilitation — an anthropological critique of the “development” paradigm	

30. Applied Anthropology in tribal policy — ethnography, participatory development, NGOs, Tribal Research Institutes and evidence-based policy	
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20 MUST READ 31-50

31. Tribes in different geographical regions of India mainly focusing on North East India & Central India	
32. Sacred Ecology - Sacred Grooves	
33. Morphological & Serological bio genetic variability of Andaman & Nicobar Islands	
34. Anthropology and Sustainability (SDGs)	
35. 30 Years of PESA & 20 Years of FRA	
36. Dharma and Constitution	
37. Casteism to the East and Racism to the West	
38. Tribe and Intellectual Property Rights UNDRIP	
39. Upper paleolithic sites in India- Bhimbhetka & Soan	
40. Recent archaeological discoveries across India include prehistoric rock shelters in Nagaland, Iron Age megaliths in Kerala & Telangana	
41. Post Harappan sites and its relevance	
42. Sub categorisation of SC's and OBCs	
43. Andre Beteille: Examined the intersection of caste	
44. New Indian Anthropologists on village studies- S S Jodhka, Dipankar Gupta, Anand Chakravarti, M Krishnamurthy	
45. National Sickle cell Mission & DAJGUA, Indigenous food systems	
46. Rural cosmopolitanism and Digital Reconfiguration of Social change	
47. Religion as living Heritage: Deepavali 2025-Sacred practice as Heritage – UNESCO 2025	
48. Digital and global caste identity-Suresh Yengdi & Gopal Guru	
49. Pashupastoralism and Aquatic Adaptations	
50. South Indian – ASHMOUND Cultures	

Paper I (Must revise THEMES for 2026 MAINS)

Very High Probable Themes :

Topic	Did u revise ? (Mark here, if yes)
1. Human evolution is a Network, Not a linear Tree(Scupin Phylogenetic status)	
2. Bayesian chronological Modelling Dating Method	
3. Neanderthal–Homo sapiens interaction and genetic admixture	
4. Denisovans — discovery, distribution, admixture and evolutionary significance	
5. Multiregional vs Out-of-Africa vs Assimilation models	
6. Homo erectus — anatomy, culture, dispersal and evolutionary significance	
7. Miocene hominoids — Dryopithecus, Ramapithecus/Sivapithecus and human evolution	
8. Primate social behavior, intelligence and culture & Jane Goodall	
9. Population genetics — Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and evolutionary forces	
10. Endogamy, genetic drift and founder effect in Indian populations	
11. Genetic diversity of Indian populations — ANI, ASI and AASI perspectives	
12. Foetal Origins of Adult Disease — David Barker hypothesis	
13. Developmental plasticity and nutritional stress	
14. Nutritional anthropology — diet, adaptation and human evolution	

15. Ageing from an evolutionary perspective	
16. Evolutionary significance of menopause	
17. Secular trend in human growth	
18. Migration, gene flow and admixture as forces of human variation	
19. Ancient DNA vs modern DNA — strengths and limitations	
20. Stable isotope analysis + ancient DNA in reconstructing ancient populations	
21. Forensic anthropology — skeletal identification and biological profiling	
22. Human osteology — sex, age, stature and ancestry estimation	

2025-26 Current Affairs-based Dynamic Themes

23. Ancient DNA research in India — BSIP, AnSI and emerging palaeogenomics infrastructure	
24. Ladakh ancient genomes — Himalayan population history and admixture	
25. AI and culture — cultural homogenisation, representation and linguistic diversity	
26. Endangered languages — language, culture and preservation through digital technologies	
27. Biocultural adaptation to climate change	
28. Human microbiome and evolutionary anthropology	
29. One Health / multispecies anthropology — humans, animals, environment and disease	
30. Joking and avoidance relationships — contemporary reinterpretation	
31. Live in Relationship v/s Marriage - Recent Judiciary interpretations	
32. Polavaram project and its implementation and its issues	
32. Louis Dumont views on Caste	
33. Uniform civil code & sarnaism and its impact	
34. Tribal Malnutrition and Health related issue	
35. Digital Ethnography and AI in Anthropology	
36. Sinauli & Rakhigarh Excavations	
37. MITOCHONDRIAL DNA related issues	
38. Defence Anthropology and its relance in War times	

39. Smart Drug RK251 & Anthropology and Climate Change	
40. Joan P. Mencher, an American anthropologist , dedicated her life to studying India, particularly South India	

10 MUST READ 41-50

41. Understanding the cultures Cognitively	
42. Endangered languages and steps taken by Govt to conserve the languages	
43. Caste based census & Census implications	
44. Delimitations and political Anthropology	
45. Compare & contrast LP Vidhyarthi and M N Srinivas	
46. Anti Conversion laws and FCRA and its impact on North East India and NGOs	
47. Globalization and Global Anthropology	
48. Ethical stewardship of research materials, and the social impacts of modern technology	
49. Indigenous Rights and Decolonization	
50. Iravati Karve & Radhika Govindrajan	

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