



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NET BUREAU

Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Code No. 92

SYLLABUS

Unit-I

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DUTIES: CONCEPT AND NATURE

- The Basic Concepts: Individual, Group, State, Non-State Actors, Civil Society, Liberty, Freedom, Equality, Rights, Justice; Human Values: Humanity, Compassion, Virtues, Human Dignity and Human Duties
- Human rights as universal, inherent, inalienable rights and moral rights; Universal human rights vs. Cultural Relativism, Naturalist-Positivists Debate
- Indian Concepts: *Raj Neeti*, *Lok Neeti*, *Danda Neeti*, *Nyaya*, *Dharma*
- Different Generations of Human Rights
- Liberal Perspective: Locke, Rousseau, Thomas Paine, J.S. Mill, Classical Liberalism, Neo-liberalism
- Marxian Perspective: Marx, Gramsci, Rosa Luxemburg
- Gandhian Perspective (Ruskin, Thoreau, Tolstoy): State, Power, *Swaraj*, Rights and Duties
- Dalit Perspective: Phule, Narayna Guru, Ambedkar
- Religious Perspectives
- Feminist Perspective

Unit-II

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Human Rights in Ancient Thoughts
- Human Rights in Middle Ages, *Magna Carta*
- Modern Movement of Human rights, Lockean Philosophy: Theory of Natural Rights, American Declaration of Independence, American Bill of Rights, The French Revolution and its goals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, Marxist Revolutions, Anti-Colonial Movements, Freedom Movement in India
- International Standard Setting – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- Impact of the UDHR on the Constitutions of the 'New' States
- International Standards: UN Sponsored or 'Core' International Conventions on Human Rights: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of ALL Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention against Torture, Rights of Child Convention, Convention on the Rights of Migrant workers, Convention against Racial Discrimination (CRD), Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- State Responsibility for Protection of Human Rights: The Concept of the "Responsibility to Protect"
- Vienna Declaration on Human Rights 1993
- Helsinki Declaration
- ASEAN Declaration

Unit-III

SOCIETY, ECONOMY, POLITY, RELIGION AND CULTURE – THEIR INTER-RELATIONSHIP

- Impact of Social Structure on Human Behaviour; Role of Socializations in Human Values, Human Rights and Duties
- Science and Technology, Modernization, Globalization and Dehumanization
- Social Stratification: Racial and Caste Prejudice and Discrimination; Human Rights Issues of Weaker Sections and Ethnic Minorities
- Women: Gender Discrimination, Domestic Violence and Offences against Women; Gender Sensitive Laws
- Children: Child Abuse, Child Labour, Street Children
- Social Structure and Social Problems: Social and Communal Conflicts and Social Harmony
- Rural Poverty, Unemployment, Bonded Labour, Modern Forms of Slavery
- Urban Poverty, Slums, Lack of Basic Civil Amenities, Sex Workers
- Rights of Refugees, Rights of Indigenous People, Aged Persons, Migrant Workers and Human Rights Violations, Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 Rights of Displaced Persons
- Challenges in Human Rights: Religious Fundamentalism, Terrorism, Underdevelopment, Human trafficking International Crimes,

Unit IV

STATE AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

- The Changing Nature of State with Special Reference to the Developing Countries
- Soft State, Interventionist State, Welfare State, Repressive State
- Political Regimes and Human Rights
- Impact of Science and Technology on Human Rights and Duties
- Human Rights and International Politics: Emergence of a New Global Order – Tehran Conference (1968) – Vienna Conference (1993)

- International Humanitarian Law: 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols of 1977 – International Red Cross Society
- International Criminal Tribunals (Rwanda and Former Yugoslavia) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- International Intervention: The Question of Nation-State, Citizenship and Sovereignty
- Right of Self-Determination: Autonomous Movements, Secessionist Movements
- Grassroots Movements and Human Rights

Unit-V

UN AND VARIOUS AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL (IGOs) AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (INGOs)

- UN: Establishment, Objectives, and the Charter Provisions
- UN Principal Organs: General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Security Council
- Subsidiary Organ: Human Rights Council
- The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
- Specialized Agencies: UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO, WHO
- INGOs such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Amnesty International (AI), Human Rights Watch, Greenpeace
- People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) and Other Civil and Democratic Rights Organizations in India.
- UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UN Commission on the Status of Women
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Unit-VI

GROWTH MODELS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Models of Development: Growth Approach, Basic Needs Approach, Sustainable Human Development, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, Rio +20, Conservation of Natural Resources, Agenda 21, Bio-Diversity Convention 1992
- Globalization and Human Rights: Dynamics of Globalization, Emergence of Market Forces, Assertion of Civil Society, Retreat of State, Privatization, Liberalization
- Emergence of Information Age
- Economic Growth Strategies (Developing Countries): Implications for Poverty Eradication, Employment issues, Planned Development and Social Inequality
- World Trade Organization: Implication for Human Rights, Impact on Developing Countries with special reference to India

- Intellectual Property Rights: Patents Law, Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS), General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS), Agreement On Agriculture (AOA)
- Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and Human Rights Situation in Developing Countries
- Right to Development: The Third World Concerns, Working Group Recommendations, UNDP – initiatives, UN Declaration on the Right to development
- State and Development of the Marginalized/Disadvantaged Groups in India: The Poor, the Unemployed and the Socially Dislocated People
- Workers' Rights, Minimum Wages Act – Problems of Implementation, Right to Security of Food, Health, Education

Unit-VII

DEVELOPMENT, UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL ACTION

- Need for Collective Action in Developing Societies and Methods of Social Action
- Land, Water and Forest Issues with special reference to India
- Social Movements: Political, Social and Religious Reform
- National Commission for Women, Children, Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- Backward Class, Dalit and Women Movements
- Agrarian and Peasant Movements
- Right to a Healthy Environment
- Principle of Sustainable Development
- Ecological and Environment Movements
- Civil Societies and NGOs, NGOs of India

Unit-VIII

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- Indian Civilization: Change and Continuity.
- Indian Constitution: Freedom Movement
- Indian Constitution: Sociological Foundation
- Constitutional Vision of Role of the State
- Constitutional Vision of Freedom: Fundamental Rights and the International standards
- Constitutional Vision of Justice: Directive Principles of State Policy and international standards
- Public Interest Litigation (PIL), Indian Judiciary and Human Rights
- Judicial Interpretations: Landmark Judgments Fundamental Duties
- Constitutional Amendments
- Fundamental Duties

Unit-IX

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

- Rule of law, Good Governance
- Constitutional Organs: Inter-and intra-Relationships/Conflict and Cooperation.
- Fundamental Rights and Repressive Laws: Preventive Detention and Anti-Terrorist Legislations, Armed Forces Special Power Act
- Imposition of National Emergency: The Societal Experience.
- The Criminal Justice System: Crime, Punishment and Human Rights with Special Reference to IPC & Cr. P.C. and Indian Evidence Act
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: The Directive Principles of State Policy: The Question of Effectiveness and Enforcement; their relationship with Fundamental Rights
- Legislation for the Weaker Sections: The Questions of Enforcement
- Law Enforcing Agencies: Police, Military and Para-Military Forces – Emerging Experience
- Human Rights Enforcement: The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, NHRC, State Human Rights Commissions, Human Rights Courts
- Human Rights Education: Problems and Prospects

Unit-X

INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Treaty Bodies under the 'Core' Human Rights Conventions: General Overview
- "Universal Periodic Review" and "Special Procedures"
- Human Rights Committee (HRC)
- Committee on Economic and Social Rights (CESCR)
- Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Court of Justice and Human Rights 2008
