

**TAMIL NADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**SYLLABUS**  
**ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**(UG Degree Standard)**

**Code:417**

**UNIT -I: INTRODUCTION**

Anthropology - Origin and History; Meaning and Definitions; Uniqueness and approaches - Holistic, Comparative, Integrative, Cross-Cultural, Human Friendly and Relativistic, etc; Scope and Utility; Subfields / Branches – Physical / Biological Anthropology, Archaeological / Prehistoric Anthropology, Social – Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics Anthropology; Relationship of Anthropology with Sociology, Psychology, Archaeology, History, Economics, Geography and Politics. Indian Anthropology.

**UNIT-II: HUMAN BIOLOGY AND VARIATION**

Emergence and dispersal of Homo sapiens-Characteristic and geographical distribution of early humans; Theories of human origin and Evolution; Position of Human in the Animal kingdom; Stages of Human Evolution; Adaptation and change; Race and Ethnicity; Peopling and People of India.

**UNIT-III: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIETY AND CULTURE**

Society - Characteristics and Types; Individual and Society; Status and Role; Groups, Association, Community, Institution, Social Structure, Socialization, Social Organization, Social System and Social stratification; Society in India.

Culture - Elements, Culture and Civilization; Material and Non-material Culture; Cultural trait, Culture complex, Culture area, Cultural diversity and Multiculturalism; Ethnocentrism, Egalitarianism, Enculturation, Acculturation, Cultural Lag and Culture Shock; Culture of India. Social and Cultural Change-Diffusion, Assimilation, Integration, Innovation, Syncretism, Dominance, and Subjugation. Institution and Organization - Meaning and Definition.

#### **UNIT-IV: MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND KINSHIP**

Marriage - Definition, Universal Definition of Marriage; Nature, Functions, and Forms of Marriage; Rules of Marriage, Incest Taboo; Ways of acquiring mates, Marriage Payments: Bride Price, Bride Wealth, and Dowry; Divorce; widowhood and remarriage; Marriage systems in India.

Family-Definition, Functions, and Universality of Family; Types and classification of Family; Nature of Family in India; Household vs Family; Lineage, Clan, Phratry, Moiety; Right - de-passage; Ritual, Myth, Folklore.

Kinship-Definition, Terminology, and Types of Kinship; Kinship Behaviour-Avoidance, Joking Relationship Teknonymy, Avunculate, Animate and Couvade; Descent and Descent groups; Importance of Kinship; Kinship system in India. Social and Cultural Change-Global and Indian context.

#### **UNIT-V: RELIGION, MAGIC AND SCIENCE**

Religion - History, Meaning and definition; Theories and Forms of Religion - Animism, Animatism, Fetishism, Ancestor Worship, Nature Worship, Zoomorphism, Anthropomorphism, Totemism, Polytheism and Monotheism; Oral Religion and Religion with books.

Concept of Magic: Meaning and definitions; Elements of Magic; Forms and Types of Magic.

Science - Meaning and definition; Elements and Features; Relevance of Science.

Relationship between Religion, Magic and Science.

#### **UNIT-VI: ECONOMIC ORGANISATION**

Economic Organisation-Meaning and definition; Key Concepts-Production, Distribution, Re-distribution and Consumption; Concept of Property and Wealth; Division of labour; Types of Traditional Economic Organizations - Hunting and Gathering, Fishing, Shifting Cultivation, Pastoralism, Agriculture; Forms of Exchanges - Ceremonial, Ritual etc.

#### **UNIT-VII: POLITICAL ORGANIZATION**

Political Organisation - Meaning and Definitions; Concept of Power, Leadership and Authority; Law, Conflicts and Social Control; Concept of Crime and Punishment; Typology of Political Systems - Band, Chiefdom, Big-man, Tribe, State.

## **UNIT-VIII: TRIBE, RURAL AND URBAN SOCIETIES**

Tribe - Meaning and Definition; Characteristics, Classification and Distribution in India; Tribal Administration and Constitutional safeguards; Tribal Development, Problems and Tribal movements in India; Tribal Communities of Tamil Nadu.

Rural or Village Society-Community, Peasant and their Significance; Structure and Function of Indian Village; Significance of Caste & Class System in India; Agrarian and Peasant movements in India. Panchayat Raj, Social Change and Impact of Market/Industrial Economy on Indian Villages.

Urban and Complex Society - Meaning and characteristics; Urbanism and Urbanisation; Folk - Urban - Continuum; Urban problems-Migration, Poverty, Culture of Poverty, Study on Slum, Study on Beggars, Drug, Alcoholism, Environmental degradation, Pollution and Health issues; Development and Globalisation in Indian Context.

## **UNIT-IX: APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY**

Applied Anthropology - Definition and Scope; Application-Teaching, Research, Administration, Governance, Planning and Development; Social Engineering and Social Doctor; Action, Advocacy and Public Anthropology; Utility in various other fields-Global, National, Local, and Domestic.

## **UNIT-X: RESEARCH AND PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY**

Research - Meaning, Definition, Objectives and Characteristics; Significance of research; Scientific Research; Qualitative and Quantitative Research; Research Methodology-Methods, Techniques, Tools, and Instruments; Fieldwork and Ethnography; Types of Research; Pilot study and Research Design; Steps involved in Research process. Practicing Anthropology-Applied, Advocacy, Action and Public Anthropology.