



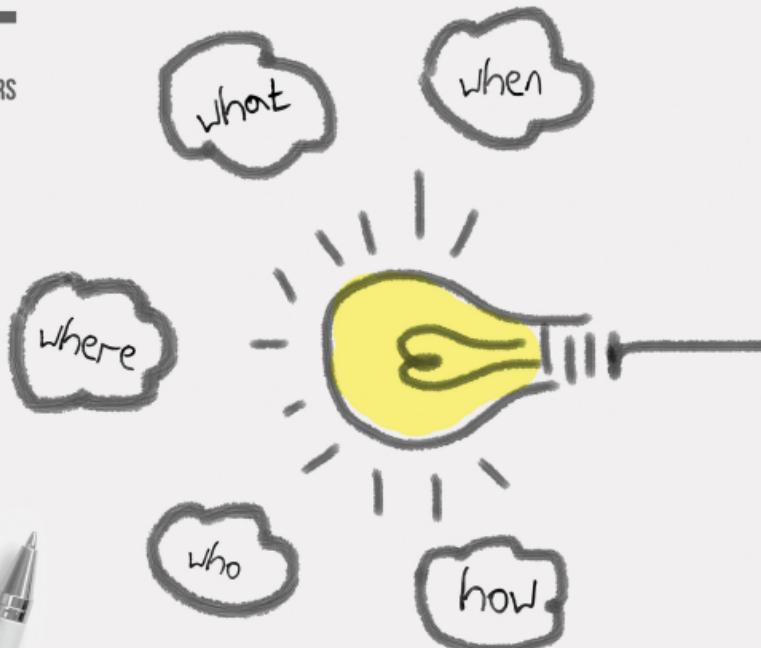
**FORTUNE  
IAS ACADEMY**

More than just an academy

# A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO UPSC PREPARATION

With tips from toppers !

**80+**  
RESULTS IN 4 YEARS



# Our Vision



To become the best institute in India providing coaching for UPSC Civil Services and other Competitive Examinations.

# Our Mission

01

To provide an aspirant driven approach suited to the needs of each individual.

02

To provide access to the best coaching for aspirants, regardless of their backgrounds and to help them achieve their dreams.

03

To mentor aspirants into becoming civil servants with integrity who shall remain "the steel pillars" of the nation for years to come.





**T.K.A.Nair IAS (Retd)**  
**Former Principal Advisor to the**  
**Prime Minister of India, Former Chief Secretary of Punjab**

Civil Service as a career has become far more attractive and hence competitive today than in the past on account of a number of socio-economic factors which form part of our developmental processes. Coming from diverse background from all over India cutting across barriers of language, religion, caste and family status, several lakhs of brilliant young women and men are aspirants to a few hundred vacancies in the Civil Services. Stiff competition amongst them is therefore inevitable, leading to the mushrooming of Coaching Centres across the country.

Against this background the Fortune IAS Academy at Thiruvananthapuram with which I have been associated in an honorary capacity, has done well in bringing out a ‘Beginners’ Guide to UPSC preparation which serves as a road map to Civil Service aspirants.

The handbook contains syllabus and rules of the examination, inspiring words from senior bureaucrats and success stories of recent toppers including a suggested booklist for preparation. Besides guiding the aspirants how to plan a strategy for the examination, it also motivates them to strive hard to achieve their goal.

Needless to stress, aspirants to the civil service are motivated by different considerations. You should be honest to yourself about what drives you to aspire for Civil Services as your



chosen career. Power or status associated with it should not be your main attraction towards the Civil Services in our present context. Being honest to ourself, cultivating the spirit of service to society and the humility to learn from others with an open mind, are to my mind the hallmark of a successful civil servant. The advent of internet and coaching centres like Fortune IAS Academy has helped many youngsters from Kerala crack the UPSC exam in the recent past. On the platform of Fortune IAS Academy, I have interacted with several successful aspirants from across Kerala who have had the benefit of its teaching and guidance. Based on my experience with the Fortune IAS Academy, I am confident that our students are qualified and well motivated with the potential to become successful civil servants.

Let me hope, the Fortune Beginner's Guide will dispel the many doubts and myths associated with the Civil Services Examinations & preparations for it, which still persists in the minds of many prospective aspirants.

“Well begun is half done”.

Best wishes to the many aspirants for their success and a satisfying career in the service of our country.



## Message from the Director

Dear Aspirant,

Congratulations on taking the decision to pursue Civil Services as a career. A career serving our nation and its people is one which will give both professional and personal satisfaction.

The first step towards this coveted career is the UPSC Civil Services Examination. The past few years has seen a great deal of dynamism in the examination but arguably the best part of the examination remains the fairness of the process. It gives an equal opportunity to all aspirants irrespective of their backgrounds to hold prestigious posts in the Indian administration. Any beginner to Civil Service examination would be faced with various choices – Which optional should I choose? How should I go about my preparation? Etc.

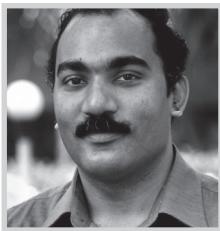
This booklet is Fortune IAS Academy's attempt to give a clear picture about the Civil Service Examination and provide guidance for those who are beginning their preparation – in short, a Beginners Guide!

Hope it would be of help to you in easing your path towards Civil Services

**Sylesh Fernandas**

Academic Director

Fortune IAS Academy



കെ. സേതുരാമൻ എഫ്‌പി‌എസ്  
ഹോറിന്റേഴ്സ് റിജനൽ റജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ  
ഓഫീസർ, കൊച്ചി

### പ്രയത്നിക്കാൻ തയ്യാറുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ

1973 മുന്നാർ ടാറ്റ് കീ എഡ്യൂറ്റിലെ ചോലമല ഡിവിഷനിലെ  
കൃഷ്ണയുമ്പുക്കും സുഖമുഖ്യാർക്കും ഒരു ആൺകുന്തൽ പിരിന്നു. നാലാം  
ക്ലാസ് വരെ പരിച്ച കൃഷ്ണയും ടാറ്റ് എസ്‌ദ്രോറ്റിലെ ജോലിക്കാരനായിരു  
ന്നു. സുഖമുഖ്യാർ സ്കൂളിൽ പോയിട്ടില്ല.

എഡ്യൂറ്റിലെ ലയത്തിൽ കളിച്ചുവളർന്ന ആ കൃഷ്ണ മറ്റു കൃഷ്ണക  
ഒഴു പോലെ അഞ്ചാം വയസ്സിൽ ചോലമല ഡിവിഷനിലെ എക്കായ്യാപക  
വിദ്യാലയത്തിൽ ചേർന്നു. രണ്ടു ക്ലാസ് രൂമുകളും ഒരു മാഷ്ടും. തമിഴ്  
ശീഡിയം. പല ക്ലാസിലെ കൃഷ്ണകൾ ഓന്തിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ടെക്നോളജി  
ബുക്കോന്നും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. ഒരു ദേശവും പെൻസിലേജ്മായിരുന്നു  
അതെകയുണ്ടായിരുന്ന പഠനാപക്രണാദ്ദേശം രണ്ടുകൊല്ലം അങ്ങനെ  
പോയി. രണ്ടാംക്ലാസ് പാസായെന്ന മാഷ്പ് പരിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ കൃഷ്ണയു  
മകനെ പെരിയവാരെ സ്കൂളിലേക്കയെച്ചു. അവിടെയും തമിഴിൽ  
തന്നെയായിരുന്നു പഠനം. നാലാം ക്ലാസ് കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ മുന്നാർ  
ലിറ്റിൽ ഫൗം ഗ്രേഡ് സ്കൂളിൽ ഒരു വർഷം. അഞ്ചാം ക്ലാസ്  
കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ ആൺകൃഷ്ണകൾ അവിടെ പരിക്കാൻ കഴിയില്ല.  
ആ പയ്യൻ അധ്യാപകരുടെ പ്രേരണയാൽ സെസനിക് സ്കൂൾ പ്രവേ  
ശന പഠിക്കാനെത്തുടർന്നിരുന്ന പാസായി. അങ്ങനെ ഉദ്യമത്തപ്പേട്ട അമരാവതി  
നഗർ സെസനിക് സ്കൂളിൽ ആരാം ക്ലാസിൽ ചേർന്നു. മലപ്പറമ്പം, ജില്ലാ  
പോലീസ് മേധാവിയുടെ ഓഫീസിനു പുറത്തെത്ത നെയിംപോറ്റിൽ  
ഇങ്ങനെ വായിക്കാം. കെ.സേതുരാമൻ എഫ്‌പി‌എസ്, മുന്നു വർഷ  
തേതാളമായിട്ടും പോലീസ് മേധാവിയെ മാറ്റാൻ മലപ്പറമ്പത്തുകാർ  
സമമതിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇതിനിട, ഇന്ത്യൻ ഭാഷകളുടെ സംരക്ഷണം ലക്ഷ്യ  
മിക്ക ഒരു പഠന-ഗവേഷണ പുസ്തകവും സേതുരാമൻ പുറത്തിരകി,  
മുന്നു പതിറ്റാണ്ടു മുൻപ് മുന്നാറിലെ തേയിലതേതാട്ടത്തിലെ ലയത്തിൽ  
നിന്ന് ജില്ലാ പോലീസ് മേധാവിയുടെ കസേരയിലേക്കുള്ള ധാര ഓരോ  
മലയാളിക്കുമ്പുള്ള നല്ലപാംമാണ്.

ഒരു എളുപ്പമുള്ള ധാരതയായിരുന്നില്ല അതെന്ന് സേതു  
രാമൻ ഓർക്കുന്നു. സ്കൂളിൽ ചേർന്ന ശ്രേഷ്ഠമാണ് ലോകമെന്നെന്ന്



അംഗീകാരിയുന്നത്. ജീവിതത്തിന് ലക്ഷ്യമുണ്ടാകുന്നത്. സെസനിക് സ്കൂളിലെ അധ്യാപകർ ശരിക്കും കുറ്റിക്കളെ ലക്ഷ്യബോധമുള്ളവരാകി വാർത്തയ ടുക്കുന്നവരായിരുന്നു. അതിൽ ഒരു കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ തന്നെ സിവിൽ സർവീസ് നേടാൻ എന്നിക്ക് കഴിയും എന്ന് അന്ന് അവിടെ പ്രധാനാധ്യാപകനായും പകനായിരുന്ന എ.എസ്.എഡ എന്ന പരിത്വാവിശ്വസിപ്പിച്ചു. എന്ന സംബന്ധിച്ചിട്ടേതാളം അത് അതിമോഹമായിരുന്നുകിലും മനസ്സിൽ ഒരു വിത്ത് മുള്ളയ്ക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. അത് കർണ്ണത്വപോകാതെ നോക്കേണ്ടത് എരുപ്പ് മാത്രം ചുമതലയായിരുന്നു. പല തടസ്സങ്ങളായിട്ടും അതു കൃത്യമായി ചെയ്യാൻ താൻ ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടെയിരുന്നു.

സെസനിക് സ്കൂളിൽ അധ്യായനം ഇംഗ്ലീഷിലായിരുന്നു. നേരാവള്ളും തമിഴോ മലയാളമോ എഴുതാൻ അംഗീകാരിയായിരുന്നു. ഒരു ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്! ആദ്യത്തെ രണ്ടുമുണ്ണുവർഷം നന്നേ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടി. അപ്പോൾ ചോക്കെ അവിടുത്തെ നല്ലവരായ അധ്യാപകർ ഒപ്പം നിന്നും.

**എഴുംവട്ടം ഏപ്പിഎസ്**

എഴുതവന്നയാണ് സേതുരാമൻ സിവിൽ സർവീസ് പരീക്ഷ എഴുതിയത് എ.എ.യു.ക്ക് പറിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തായിരുന്നു ആദ്യത്തെ. എ.എ.പിലിരുപ്പ് ആദ്യവർഷത്തിൽ സൈഡാമത്തെത്തും സൈഡിലും പ്രിലിമിന റി കടന്നു. മെയിനിൽ വീണ്ടും എ.എ.പിലിരുപ്പ് സൈഡാം വർഷമായിരുന്നു മുന്നാശ്രമം. ആദ്യ കടവയിൽത്തന്നെ വീണ്ടും. തുടർന്ന് 2000-ൽ പ്രിലിമിനി ജയിച്ചു. മെയിനിൽ വീണ്ടും. 2001 ലായിരുന്നു പ്രിലിമിനിയും മെയിനും കടന്ന് ഇൻഡ്രവും ഒരു എത്തിയത്.

2002-ൽ പ്രിലിമിനി ജയിച്ചു. മെയിൻ കടക്കാനായില്ല. 2003 ലാണ് സേതുരാമൻ സൈഡു പതിറ്റാണ്ഡുകൾ കൂടെ കൊണ്ടുനടന്ന ലക്ഷ്യം നേടുന്നത്. സിവിൽ സർവീസ് പരീക്ഷയിൽ ഓൾഡീ തലത്തിൽ 322, പട്ടികവിഭാഗത്തിൽ 23 എന്നിങ്ങനെ റാങ്കുകാരൻ.

**വഴിത്തിരിവ്**

ഡീഗ്രി എഴു വിഷയത്തിൽ വേണം എന്ന സംശയം വന്ന ഫ്രോൾ എടുത്ത തിരുമാനമാണ് ജീവിതത്തിൽ നിർണ്ണായകമായതെന്ന് സേതുരാമൻ കരുതുന്നു. പൂസ് ടുവിന് സയൻസ് ഗൗളി എടുത്ത് പഠിച്ച നല്ല മാർക്കറ്റുവാങ്ങിയെങ്കിലും ഡീഗ്രിക്ക് ഇക്കണ്ണാമിക്സ് എടുക്കുന്ന താണ് സിവിൽ സർവീസിലേക്കു തിരിയാൻ നല്ലതെന്ന് സയം ഉൾവിളിയുണ്ടായി. സാഹചര്യങ്ങളുടെ സമർപ്പം മുലം ഉൾവിളി ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചു തിരുവന്നെപ്പുരം മാർ ഇവാനിയോസ് കോളേജിൽ ബി.എസ്.സി കെമി സ്റ്റിക്കു ചേർന്നു. ഇതല്ല തന്റെ വഴി എന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ അധിക നാൾ വേണ്ടിവന്നില്ല. ഒന്നാം വർഷ പരീക്ഷ എഴുതും മുമ്പേ കെമിസ്റ്റി



## ബിരുദപഠനം ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചു.

ഇവാനിയോന് കോളേജിൽ തന്നെ ഇക്കണ്ണാമിക്സ് ബിരുദ ദത്തിൽ പഠിക്കാമായിരുന്നു. പകേഷ് അടുത്ത വർഷമേ ചേരാൻ കഴിയുമെങ്കാനു വന്നാൽ സഹപാർികൾ സീനിയേഴ്സ് ആകും. കോളേജ് മാറാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചുത് അതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. അങ്ങനെ തിരുവന്നപുരം യുണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി കോളേജിലേക്ക് സമരങ്ങളുടെ പുക്കാലമായിരുന്നു അത്. പറിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ഒരു സാഹചര്യവും കോളേജിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. സ്വയം പറിക്കുക എന്നതായിരുന്നു ആക്കയുള്ള വഴി. ഈ പിന്നീട് വലിയ പ്രയോജനം ചെയ്തുവെന്ന് സേതുരാമൻ, തുടർന്ന് എം.എ ഇക്കണ്ണാമിക്സിനു യുണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി കോളേജിൽ തന്നെ ചേർന്നു.

ഇതിനുശേഷം സൗസ്ഥ്യ ഹോർ ഡെവലപ്മെന്റ് ട്രസ്റ്റിൽ എം.പിലിന് റജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്തു. ഇന്ത്യാസ്വത്രണത്തിൽ ആര്ഥിവാസികളുടെ പങ്ക് എന്നതായിരുന്നു വിഷയം. സിവിൽ സർവീസ് പദ്ധതിയിൽ പരാജയങ്ങൾ എറ്റവും അവസാനം എന്ന് തോന്ത്രത്തുടങ്ങിയത് ഇക്കാലത്തായിരുന്നു. അവിധു നേടുകയാണ് പ്രധാനമന്ത്രായിരുന്നു അക്കാദമിയുടെ തിയറി. പബ്ലിക് ലൈബ്രറി, സൈറ്റീഷ് ലൈബ്രറി, ഐഎ.എം.ജി. ലൈബ്രറി, യുണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി ലൈബ്രറി എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലായി നേരവർഷം ജീവിതം. പിന്നീടുള്ള ഒന്നര വർഷം പി.ടി.പി. നഗരിലെ പട്ടികജാതിവർഗ്ഗ പരിശീലനക്രന്തതിൽ ഇതിനിട തിരുവന്നപുരത്ത് ഒരു സ്വകാര്യ പരിശീലന സ്ഥാപനത്തിൽ രണ്ടു വർഷത്തോളവും തുശ്ശുകിൽ പി.സി. തോമസ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്ഷൻ മുന്നു മാസത്തോളവും ഇന്ത്യൻ ഇക്കാലാംമി പറിപ്പിക്കാൻ പോയതും പ്രയോജനം ചെയ്തു. ഇതിനാലും സിവിൽ സർവീസ് പദ്ധതിയ്ക്കു തയ്യാറാടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു സുഹൃദ് സംഘത്തെ സംഘചരിച്ചുകൾക്കായി കിട്ടിയതും കാര്യമായി.

സിവിൽ സർവീസ് വഴിഭാത്തത്തിനു മുന്നിൽ തന്റെ കൈയക്ഷ രത്തിനു പങ്കുണ്ടാണ് സേതുരാമൻ അക്കാദമിയുടെ തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞത്. പലവട്ടം സ്വയം ശ്രമിച്ചുകൂടിയും വിരലുകൾ പിന്നാൽ തന്നെ നിന്നു ആയിട്ടുണ്ട് ഒരു ലേബനം കാണുന്നത്-മെഹദരാബാദിലെ നാഷൻ ഹാൻഡബാററിൽ അക്കാദമിയെപ്പറ്റി പത്രത്തിൽ കണ്ടപ്പറ്റി കൈയക്ഷരം മാറ്റാൻ ദിവസങ്ങളോളം എഴുതിയെഴുതി അധ്യാനിച്ചു. ഒരുവിൽ വിരലു കൾ വഴി.



സ്വപ്നം കണ്ട നാളുകൾ, കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളുടെയും

കോളേജിലെ സുഗ്രീതതുകളുടെ ഭാഷയിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ സേതുരാമൻ രാവിലെ എഴുന്നേൽക്കുന്നത് സിവിൽ സർവീസ് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടായിരുന്നു. കിടക്കുന്നേബാഴും സിവിൽ സർവീസ്, ഓരോ ശാസ്ത്രത്തിലും സിവിൽ സർവീസ് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാലും തെറ്റില്ല. ഒരേ യോരു ലക്ഷ്യം സിവിൽ സർവീസ്.

കഷ്ടപ്പാടിലെ കയ്പ് നന്നായറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട് സേതുരാമൻ. പലപ്പോഴും പീസ്ട്രയ്ക്കാൻപോലും പണാമില്ലാതെ അച്ചൻ കഷ്ടപ്പു കുന്നത് അനുഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അച്ചൻ കൂടുതൽ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കരുതെന്ന തീരുമാനത്തിൽ വിജയാഭ്യാസ ലോൺ എടുക്കാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചു. 1999-ൽ മുന്നു പ്രധാന ബാക്കുകളെ സേതു സമീപിച്ചു. ബയ്യോഡാറ്റായിലെ തോട്ടം തൊഴിലാളിയുടെ മകൻ എന്ന കോളം കണ്ണതോടെ പലരും നന്ദി ചുളിച്ചു. പോരാതത്തിന് പയറു പറിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നത് സിവിൽ സർവീസിനും! ആരും സഹായിച്ചില്ല. അതേസമയം പ്രാഹ്യസന്ത കോഴ്സ് ആയിരുന്നുകളിൽ ലോൺ ലഭിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. എന്നു ചെയ്യ സാമ്പന്നിയാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട ദിവസങ്ങൾ, തോട്ടം തൊഴിലാളികളായതിനാൽ സന്തമായ ഭൂമിയും ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു പണായം വയ്ക്കാൻ. പല നല്ല മനസ്സുകളുടെയും സഹായംകൊണ്ടാണ് പഠനം പൂർത്തിക്കാൻ കാനായത്. പഠനത്തോടൊപ്പം പണം കണ്ണതുനുതിനായി ബൈല്യിൽ കോളേജിലും തുശുരിലെ പി.എ. തോമസ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിലും പറിച്ചിക്കാൻ പോയി. തുശുരിൽ ഒരു ദിവസം 500 രൂപ കിട്ടുമായിരുന്നു. അന്ന് അത് വലിയ തുകയായിരുന്നു.

ഹോസ്റ്റലിൽ നിന്നുള്ള പഠനം ശരിയാകാതെ വന്നതിനാൽ പുതിയ താമസിച്ചാണു പറിച്ചിരുന്നത്. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തെ ജവഹർ നഗരിലെ നാണ്ഡപിള്ള സാറിന്റെ വീട്ടിൽ പേയിംഗ് ഗ്രൂപ്പ് ആയിട്ടായിരുന്നു താമസം. സാറിന്റെ സഹായവും കരുതലും മറക്കാനാവി ലഭ്യനും സേതുരാമൻ പറയുന്നു.

### അവസാന ഇൻഡ്രവും

എഴുതിയെഴുതി തഴക്കം ചെന്നിരുന്നു അപ്പോഴേക്കും പണ്ണഞ്ഞുമില്ലാതിരുന്ന ആത്മവിശ്വാസം കൂടിനെന്നതി. ഇന്ത്യൻവും ബോർഡിന് മുന്നിലെത്തിയപ്പോൾ പതിവുപോലെ അൽപ്പം ദെൻഷൻ. 2001 ലെ സിവിൽ സർവീസിന്റെ പ്രിലിമിനറിയും മെയിനും കടന്ന് സേതു രാമൻ ഇൻഡ്രവും ബോർഡിന്റെ മുന്നിലെത്തിയതാണ്. ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ വളരെ സിംഹിളായിരുന്നു. ചെത്തിന്റുറായ് മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയാം, ഉത്തരാ എൽ മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയാം ...? അന്നത് അജിത് ജോഗിയും നിരുപ്പനു സ്വാമി



യും ആയിരുന്നുന് സേതുരാമൻ അറിയാമായിരുന്നു. പകേശ വലിയെ ഒരു തസ്തികയിലേക്ക് പ്രവേശനം നൽകാനുള്ള വലിയൊരു ഇൻഡ്യൂസ്റ്റ്രിയൽ എന്നത് സേതുരാമൻ മുന്നിൽ വലിയൊരു നിശ്ചലായിത്തന്നെ നിന്നു. സേതുരാമൻ എല്ലാം മറന്നു.

ഇത്തവണ പത്രില്ലെന്ന് മനസ്സിലുറപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. മനസ്സ് പിടിച്ചിട്ടതുതന്നെ നിന്നു. 800, 1500, 5000 മീറ്റർ മത്സരങ്ങളിൽ വിജയിച്ച യുണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി കോളേജിലെ വ്യക്തിഗത ചാംപ്യനായിരുന്നു സേതുരാമൻ. സ്കൂൾ പഠനകാലത്ത് കോൺ കൺസ്ട്രിക്ടിലും തിളങ്കി. ഹൈസ് ബുരം ഇനങ്ങളിലേക്ക് എന്നാണ് തിരിയാത്തത് എന്നായിരുന്നു ഇൻഡ്യൂസ്റ്റ്രിയൽ ബോർഡിൽ ചോദ്യം. ദിർഘദാര മത്സരങ്ങൾക്കായി പരിശീലനം നടത്തുന്ന ആളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധിപ്പെക്കുതി സ്പിറ്റ് ഇനങ്ങൾക്കു പറ്റില്ലെന്നായിരുന്നു സേതുരാമൻ മറുപടി.

തുടർന്ന് ധനത്തരംശാസ്ത്രത്തിൽ നിന്നായി ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ റിസർവ് ബാങ് പലിശനിരക്ക് കുറയ്ക്കാൻ കാരണമെന്നത്? ലോക വ്യാപാര സംഘടനയുടെ കരാർ വികസിപ്പാണെങ്കിൽ എങ്ങനെ ബാധിക്കുന്നു എന്നിങ്ങനെ തുടർന്ന് കേരളത്തിലെ നാഷണൽമാരകകുർച്ചായി ചോദ്യം. എവിടെച്ചുനാലും അവരെയാണെല്ലാ കാണുന്നത്? സ്ക്രീണാക്ഷരതയും സ്ക്രീണികൾനാവും മാനൃതയുള്ള ജോലിയെന്ന ഇപ്പോൾത്തെ പരിശാനയും ഒക്കെ കാരണങ്ങളായി സേതുരാമൻ ചുണ്ടിക്കാട്ടി.

### ഹാർഡ് വർക്ക് അല്ല സ്മാർട്ട് വർക്ക്

നല്ല സ്കൂളും കോളേജും തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുക. കുട്ടികളുടെ മനോഭാവവും കാഴ്ചപ്പാടും വളർത്തിയെടുക്കുന്നതിനാൽ സ്കൂളും കൾക്കും കോളേജുകൾക്കും വലിയ പങ്കുണ്ട്. കുട്ടികളെ റാക്കുകൾക്കു വേണ്ടി വളർത്തിയെടുക്കുന്ന സ്കൂളുകളും കോളേജുകളുമല്ല എന്ന് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചത്. മരിച്ച് കുട്ടികളെ നല്ല കുട്ടികളായി വളർത്തിയെടുക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസങ്ങളാണ് തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നത്.

പരികുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളുടെ കുറിപ്പുകൾ കുത്യാമായി സുക്ഷിക്കുക ഭാവിയിൽ റിവിഷൻ അത് സഹായിക്കും. അത് ചെറിയ പ്രായത്തിൽ തന്നെ ശീലമാക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഇതിന് അധ്യാപകരും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്.

ഒരു പത്രങ്ങളുകിലും വായിക്കുന്നത് ദിനചരിയാക്കുക. ഒരെണ്ണും ഇംഗ്ലീഷും ഒരെണ്ണും മലയാളവും ആക്കുന്നത് നന്ന്. നമ്മുടെ ചുറ്റുപാടും നടക്കുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾ അറിയാനും വിലയിരുത്താനും മല



യാളുപത്രങ്ങളുടെ വായന നിർബന്ധമാണ്. നമുക്ക് താൽപ്പര്യമീലിംഖാത്ത വിഷയങ്ങളും വായിക്കണം. മാഗസിനുകളും എലിവിഷൻ ചർച്ചകളും മല്ലാം ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്തണം.

സംഘ ചർച്ചയ്ക്കായി നല്ലാരു സുഹൃദ്ദംസംഘത്തത രൂപ പ്പെടുത്തുക. പല പുതിയ അറിവുകളും വിവരങ്ങളും ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സുഹൃത്തുകളിൽ നിന്ന് ലഭിക്കും. അക്കാദമിക് കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു മാത്ര മല്ല, നമ്മുടെ ആര്ഥവിശ്വാസമുയർത്താനും ഇത്തരം സുഹൃദ്ദങ്ങൾ സഹായിക്കും.

എല്ലാം വായിക്കാൻ നിൽക്കാതെ വായിക്കേണ്ട പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുക. സമയം വളരെ ച്രാന്തമാണ്. കിട്ടിയതു മുഴുവൻ വായിക്കുന്നത് സമയ നഷ്ടത്തിന് ഇടയാക്കും.

സന്നം ഇല്ലായ്ക്കർ പോരാട്ടത്തിനുള്ള ഉംഖജ്ജമാകാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുക. എല്ലാം തിക്രിക്കുവരായിട്ടും എല്ലാവരും ജനിക്കുന്നതും വളരുന്നതും. എറുവും പ്രതിക്രൂലമായസാഹചര്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നുപോലും ഉന്നതനിലയിലെത്തിയ എത്രയോ പേരുണ്ടെന്ന് തിരിച്ചറിയുക.

എനിക്ക് കഴിയും എന്നു മനസ്സിനെ വിശ്വസിപ്പിക്കുക, എനിക്ക് പരീക്ഷയ്ക്കും അഭിമുഖത്തിനും തയ്യാറെടുക്കുക. ആര്ഥവിശ്വാസമാണ് ഒരാളുടെ എറുവും വലിയ കരുതൽ.

പല തവണ പരീക്ഷ എഴുതി ഉണ്ടം പാഠാക്കാതെ കഴിയുന്നതെ തയ്യാറെടുത്തതശേഷം പരീക്ഷ എഴുതുക. പഴയ ചോദ്യപ്പെട്ടുറുകളും മറ്റും ഉപയോഗിച്ച് സാധംപരിശീലനം നടത്തിനോക്കുക. എനിക്കു കഴിയും എന്നുറപ്പു വന്നാൽ പിരുന്നെയെരുമായി പരീക്ഷയ്ക്ക് പോകുക.

ഹാർഡ് വർക്ക് അല്ല സ്റ്റംഫ്‌ട്ട് വർക്ക് ആണ് സിവിൽ സർവീസ് വിജയത്തിന് അടിസ്ഥാനം.



## N. Prasanth, IAS

**You should enjoy the UPSC preparation journey: IAS ‘Collector Bro’**

Before we start out on any journey it is important to have a roadmap as to how to reach the destination. You need to study the exam before you study for any examination. Often beginners are at a loss to understand the how and what of the exam. The “Beginner’s guide to UPSC preparation” published by Fortune IAS academy can serve as a roadmap to a civil service aspirant.

It is also important to enjoy the journey if you have to reach the destination. UPSC preparation is often seen as a very gruelling and stressful process by many aspirants. I understand that the competition is tough but I believe it is the people who are able to enjoy the process that ultimately become winners. All work and no play makes Jack a dull, inefficient and ineffective boy! Hence a bit of humour and openness is what I would recommend as traits to imbibe during the preparation stage.

It would be advisable to carry such an attitude into your job also, once you become a civil servant. In India, the phrase ‘work is worship’ is taken so seriously that people tend to exhaust decades of their lifetime toiling in a work environment devoid of fun and enjoyment. The idea that one’s working place can only function properly if there is extreme order and hierarchical reverence is something that is unquestioningly practised in India in all Government offices and most private concerns.



Good humour is the best medicine to beat dullness at work. Not only does this open up doors for cordiality and directness in an organisational structure, but it also helps dissolve the hierarchical gap that has always remained between higher and lower echelons. Not only have I received some of the best feedback and advice throughout this process, but I have observed that our workspaces showcase better productivity and happier staffs. A similar approach would be worthwhile in an exam like UPSC where one needs to connect different subjects and also have a broad view to things around you.

The ‘Compassionate Kozhikode’ initiative, which had innovations like ‘Operation Sulaimani’ and ‘Tere Mere Beach Me’, wouldn’t have been possible without the collective brain-storming effort of the entire team. When we launched ‘Operation Sulaimani’, the name inspired by the Malayalam film, ‘Ustad Hotel’, we harped on an iconic dialogue from the film, “Every Sulaimani needs a bit of Mohabbat in it. When you sip, the world should slow down and pause here.”

This is precisely how anything in life should be undertaken—with a bit of Mohabbat. So why not emulate the same in one’s preparation strategy and work?



## How to start preparing for UPSC Civil Services examination?

Any aspirant who is to start preparing for civil services must bear in mind two things- Firstly, Civil Services is an exam which anyone can crack with determination, discipline and application. Secondly, one must be prepared to put their entire energies into the preparation as nothing less can guarantees success.

As soon as you have decided to pursue civil services, you must first go through the notification of the exam as brought out by the UPSC. Learn about UPSC's requirements for each stage so that you can prepare yourself accordingly. You can also call up people who have cracked the examination for their tips and strategies.

The first and most important step for preparation is to make yourself aware about the current events around you. Newspaper reading, listening to programmes in All India Radio or Rajya Sabha TV are some of the best avenues for the same.

Choose a really good newspaper to start reading. The Hindu and Indian Express are some of the best newspapers for a thorough analysis of current issues.

If you want to make notes from newspaper do make them but it should not be a cut and paste job. You must look into the objective facts behind the news and collect those. For e.g.: - Recently the French President visited India. A proper note about that visit would be about the various deals signed and how it



has benefitted both countries.

The knowledge base for your preparation should be your NCERT textbooks. NCERT texts of all major topics like History, Geography, Political Science, Economics, Environment, Science from VI-XII standard should be covered. A strong base in the NCERTs will help you in prelims, mains and interview. Another important step towards your preparation is choosing the correct optional subject which we would be covering in the coming pages.

#### Recruitment Process of Civil Service Examination

The Union Public Service Commission conducts the Civil Service Examinations for various posts in Group A, Group B & Indian Forest Services, every year. The Exam is conducted in three Phases:

1. Preliminary Examination
2. Mains Examination
3. Personality Test (Interview)

The preliminary exam is conducted in the month of June & the Mains examination is conducted in the month of September / October. The Preliminary Examination is common for both Civil Services & Indian Forest Services. The preliminary phase acts as the screening mechanism for selecting the candidates for Civil Service Examinations (Mains) & Indian Forest Services (Mains).

The number of vacancies undergo change every year & the number of vacancies is confirmed by the Cadre Controlling Au-



thorities. Reservation for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes (OBC) & Physically Disabled are available as per the norms fixed by the Government.

## Civil Service Examinations - Important Dates:

- Date of Notification : 19 February 2019
- Last Date for receipt of Applications : 18 March 2019
- Examination - Preliminary : 02 June 2019
- Examination - Mains : 20 September 2019
- Forest Service (Main) Examination : 01 December 2019
- Interview/Personality Test : February / March 2020 (Tentative)

Source: [www.upsc.gov.in](http://www.upsc.gov.in)

## CENTRES OF EXAMINATION

### 1. CENTRES FOR CIVIL SERVICES (PRELIMINARY)EXAM

Agartala	Ghaziabad	Gautam buddhna-gar
Agra	Gorakhpur	Panaji (goa)
Ajmer	Gurgaon	Patna
Ahmedabad	Gwalior	Port blair
Aizawl	Hyderabad	Puducherry



<b>Aligarh</b>	<b>Imphal</b>	<b>Pune</b>
<b>Allahabad</b>	<b>Indore</b>	<b>Raipur</b>
<b>Ananthapuru</b>	<b>Itanagar</b>	<b>Rajkot</b>
<b>Aurangabad</b>	<b>Jabalpur</b>	<b>Ranchi</b>
<b>Bengaluru</b>	<b>Jaipur</b>	<b>Sambalpur</b>
<b>Bareilly</b>	<b>Jammu</b>	<b>Shillong</b>
<b>Bhopal</b>	<b>Jodhpur</b>	<b>Shimla</b>
<b>Bilaspur</b>	<b>Jorhat</b>	<b>Siliguri</b>
<b>Chandigarh</b>	<b>Kochi</b>	<b>Srinagar</b>
<b>Chennai</b>	<b>Kohima</b>	<b>Thane</b>
<b>Coimbatore</b>	<b>Kolkata</b>	<b>Thiruvananthapuram</b>
<b>Cuttack</b>	<b>Kozhikode (calicut)</b>	
<b>Dehradun</b>	<b>Lucknow</b>	<b>Tirupati</b>
<b>Delhi</b>	<b>Ludhiana</b>	<b>Udaipur</b>
<b>Dharwar</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	<b>Varanasi</b>
<b>Dispur</b>	<b>Mumbai</b>	<b>Vellore</b>
<b>Faridabad</b>	<b>Mysuru</b>	<b>Vijayawada</b>
<b>Gangtok</b>	<b>Nagpur</b>	<b>Vishakhapatnam</b>
<b>Gaya</b>	<b>Navi mumbai</b>	<b>Warangal</b>

**CENTRES IN KERALA FOR PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:**

Cochin, Calicut, Thiruvananthapuram



## 2. CENTRES FOR CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAMINATION

Ahmedabad	Dehradun	Mumbai
Aizawl	Delhi	Patna
Allahabad	Dispur (guwahati)	Raipur
Bangaluru	Hyderabad	Ranchi
Bhopal	Jaipur	Shillong
Chandi	JAMMU	SHIMLA
garh	Jammu	Shimla
Chennai	Kolkata	Thiruvananthapuram
Cuttak	Lucknow	Vijayawada

Centres in Kerala for Mains examination:  
Thiruvananthapuram

## Eligibility Conditions

### (i) Nationality

- (1) For the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service, a candidate must be a citizen of India.
- (2) For other services, a candidate must be either: —
  - (a) a citizen of India, or
  - (b) a subject of Nepal, or
  - (c) a subject of Bhutan, or
  - (d) a Tibetan refugee who came over to India before 1st January, 1962 with the intention of permanently settling in India, or



(e) a person of Indian origin who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zaire, Ethiopia and Vietnam with the intention of permanently settling in India. Provided that a candidate belonging to categories (b), (c), (d) and (e) shall be a person in whose favour a certificate of eligibility has been issued by the Government of India. Provided further that candidates belonging to categories (b), (c) and (d) above will not be eligible for appointment to the Indian Foreign Service. A candidate in whose case a certificate of eligibility is necessary, may be admitted to the examination but the offer of appointment may be given only after the necessary eligibility certificate has been issued to him/her by the Government of India.

## **(ii) Age Limits:**

- (a) A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years and must not have attained the age of 32 years on the 1st of August 2018 i.e., he must have been born not earlier than 2nd August 1986 and not later than 1st August 1997. Necessary action to make corresponding changes in respective Rules/Regulations pertaining to various services is being taken separately.
- (b) The upper age-limit prescribed above will be relaxable:



- (i) up to a maximum of five years if a candidate belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe;
- (ii) up to a maximum of three years in the case of candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes who are eligible to avail of reservation applicable to such candidates;
- (iii) up to a maximum of three years in the case of Defence Services Personnel, disabled in operations during hostilities with any foreign country or in a disturbed area and released as a consequence thereof;
- (iv) up to a maximum of five years in the case of ex-servicemen including Commissioned Officers and ECOs/SSCOs who have rendered at least five years Military Service as on 1st August 2018 and have been released;
  - (a) on completion of assignment (including those whose assignment is due to be Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply. completed within one year from 1st August 2018 otherwise than by way of dismissal or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency; or
  - (b) on account of physical disability attributable to Military Service; or
  - (c) on invalidment.
- (v) up to a maximum of five years in the case of ECOs/SSCOs who have completed an initial period of assignment of five years of Military Service as on 1st



August 2018 and whose assignment has been extended beyond five years and in whose case the Ministry of Defence issues a certificate that they can apply for civil employment and that they will be released on three months' notice on selection from the date of receipt of offer of appointment.

- (vi) up to a maximum of 10 years in the case of
- (a) blindness and low vision;
  - (b) deaf and hard of hearing;
  - (c) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy;
  - (d) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness; and
  - (e) multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness.

	General	OBC	SC/ST	PH
Minimum Age	21	21	21	21
Maximum Age	32	35	37	42

### **(iii) Minimum Educational Qualifications:**

The candidate must hold a degree of any of Universities incorporated by an Act of the Central or State Legislature in India or other educational institutions established by an Act of Parliament or declared to be deemed as a University Under Section-3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, or possess an equivalent qualification.



Note I: Candidates who have appeared at an examination the passing of which would render them educationally qualified for the Commission's examination but have not been informed of the results as also the candidates who intend to appear at such a qualifying examination will also be eligible for admission to the Preliminary Examination. All candidates who are declared qualified by the Commission for taking the Civil Services (Main) Examination will be required to produce proof of passing the requisite examination with their application for the Main Examination failing which such candidates will not be admitted to the Main Examination. The applications for the Main Examination will be called sometime in the month of July/August 2018.

Note II: In exceptional cases the Union Public Service Commission may treat a candidate who does not have any of the foregoing qualifications as a qualified candidate provided that he/she has passed examination conducted by the other Institutions, the standard of which in the opinion of the Commission justifies his/her admission to the examination.

Note III: Candidates possessing professional and technical qualifications which are recognised by the Government as equivalent to professional and technical degree would also be eligible for admission to the examination.

Note IV: Candidates who have passed the final professional M.B.B.S. or any other Medical Examination but have not completed their internship by the time of submission of their



applications for the Civil Services (Main) Examination, will be provisionally admitted to the Examination provided they submit along with their application a copy of certificate from the concerned authority of the University/Institution that they had passed the requisite final professional medical examination. In such cases, the candidates will be required to produce at the time of their interview original Degree or a certificate from the concerned competent Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply. authority of the University/Institution that they had completed all requirements (including completion of internship) for the award of the Degree

**(iv) Number of attempts:**

Category	General	OBC	SC/ST	PH
Number of Attempts	6	9	No restriction	General: 9, OBC: 9, SC/ ST: No restrictions

**(vi) Physical Standards:**

Candidates must be physically fit according to physical standards for admission to Civil Services Examination, 2019 as per guidelines given in Appendix-III of Rules for Examination which will be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary in the month of February 2019.

**Fee**

Candidates (excepting Female/SC/ST/Persons with Benchmark Disability Candidates who are exempted from payment of fee) are required to pay fee of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One Hundred only) either by remitting the money in any Branch of State Bank of



India or by using Visa/Master/RuPay Credit/Debit Card or by using Internet Banking of SBI. Applicants who opt for “Pay by Cash” mode should print the system generated Pay-in-slip during part II registration and deposit the fee at the counter of SBI Branch on the next working day only. Such applicants who are unable to pay by cash on the closing date i.e during banking hours at SBI Branch, for reasons whatsoever, even if holding valid pay-in-slip will have no other offline option but to opt for available online Debit/Credit Card or Internet Banking payment mode on the closing date.

### **How to Apply:**

Candidates are required to apply online using the website <http://www.upsconline.nic.in>

Detailed instructions for filling up online applications are available on the above-mentioned website.

### **Reservation Criterion:**

Candidates seeking reservation/ relaxation benefits available for SC/ST/ OBC/Persons with Benchmark Disability/Ex-service-men must ensure that they are entitled to such reservation/ relaxation as per eligibility prescribed in the Rules/Notice. They should also be in possession of all the requisite certificates in the prescribed format in support of their claim as stipulated in the Rules/ Notice for such benefits, and these certificates should be dated earlier than the due date (closing date) of the application for Civil Services (Prelims) Examination, 2019.

## **PLAN OF EXAMINATION**

The competitive examination comprises two successive stages:

- (i) **Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination** (Objective Type) for the selection of candidates for Main Examination; and



**(ii) Civil Services (Main) Examination** (Written and Interview) for the selection of candidates for the various Services and posts.

The Preliminary Examination will consist of two papers of Objective type (multiple choice questions) and carry a maximum of 400 marks in the subjects set out in sub-section (A) of Section II. This examination is meant to serve as a screening test only; the marks obtained in the Preliminary Examination by the candidates who are declared qualified for admission to the Main Examination will not be counted for determining their final order of merit.

The number of candidates to be admitted to the Main Examination will be about twelve to thirteen times the total approximate number of vacancies to be filled in the year through this examination.

Only those candidates who are declared by the Commission to have qualified in the Preliminary Examination in the year will be eligible for admission to the Main Examination of that year provided they are otherwise eligible for admission, to the Main Examination.

**Note I:** The Commission will draw a list of candidates to be qualified for Civil Services (Main) Examination based on the criterion of minimum qualifying marks of 33% in General Studies Paper-II of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination and total qualifying marks of General Studies Paper-I of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination as may be determined by the Commission.

**Note II:** There will be negative marking for incorrect answers (as detailed below) for all questions except some of



the questions where the negative marking will be inbuilt in the form of different marks being awarded to the most appropriate and not so appropriate answer for such questions.

- (i) There are four alternatives for the answers to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, one-third (0.33) of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
- (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happen to be correct and there will be same penalty as above for that question.
- (iii) If a question is left blank i.e. no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

The Main Examination will consist of written examination and an interview test

Scheme and subjects for the Preliminary and Main Examination.

## A. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:

The Examination shall comprise of two compulsory Papers of 200 marks each.

Prelims Paper	Duration	Questions	Marks
Paper – I	2Hrs	100	200
Paper – II	2Hrs	80	200
Total			400

Note :

- (i) Both the question papers will be of the objective type (multiple choice questions).
- (ii) The General Studies Paper-II of the Civil Services (Prelimi-



nary) Examination will be a qualifying paper with minimum qualifying marks fixed at 33%.

- (iii) The question papers will be set both in Hindi and English.
- (iv) Details of the syllabi are indicated in Part A of Section III.
- (v) Each paper will be of two hours duration. Blind candidates and the candidates with Locomotor Disability and Cerebral Palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance of function (minimum of 40% impairment) will; however, be allowed an extra time of twenty minutes per hour for each paper.

## B. MAIN EXAMINATION :

The written examination will consist of the following papers:—

Sl. No	Paper	Subject	Marks
1	Paper A	Indian Language (Qualifying)	300
2	Paper B	English (Qualifying)	300
3	Paper – I	Essay	250
4	Paper – II	General Studies - I	250
5	Paper- III	General Studies - II	250
6	Paper – IV	General Studies - III	250
7	Paper – V	General Studies - IV	250
8	Paper – VI	Optional Subject Paper I	250
9	Paper – VII	Optional Subject Paper - II	250
<b>Total</b>			<b>1750</b>
		<b>Interview (Personality Test)</b>	<b>275</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2025</b>



Candidates may choose any one of the optional subjects from amongst the list of subjects given in para 2 below: —

**NOTE:**

- (i) The papers on Indian languages and English (Paper A and paper B) will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard and will be of qualifying nature. The marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.
- (ii) Evaluation of the papers, namely, ‘Essay’, ‘General Studies’ and Optional Subject of all the candidates would be done simultaneously along with evaluation of their qualifying papers on ‘Indian Languages’ and ‘English’ but the papers on Essay’, General Studies and Optional Subject of only such candidates will be taken cognizance who attain 25% marks in ‘Indian Language’ and 25% in English as minimum qualifying standards in these qualifying papers.
- (iii) Marks obtained by the candidates for the Paper I-VII only will be counted for merit ranking. However, the Commission will have the discretion to fix qualifying marks in any or all of these papers.
- (iv) For the Language medium/literature of languages, the scripts to be used by the candidates will be as under:—

Language	Script	Language	Script
Assamese	Assamese	Oriya	Oriya
Bengali	Bengali	Punjabi	Guru-mukhi
Gujarati	Gujarati	Sanskrit	Devanagari
Hindi	Devanagari	Sindhi	Devanagari or Arabic
Kannada	Kannada	Tamil	Tamil



Kashmiri	Persian	Telugu	Telugu
Konkani	Devanagari	Urdu	Persian
Malayalam	Malayalam	Bodo	Devanagari
Manipuri	Bengali	Dogri	Devanagari
Marathi	Devanagari	Maithilli	Devanagari
Nepali	Devanagari	Santhali	Devanagari or Olchik

## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

List of optional subjects for Main Examination :

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science
- (iii) Anthropology
- (iv) Botany
- v) Chemistry
- (vi) Civil Engineering
- (vii) Commerce and Accountancy
- (viii) Economics
- (ix) Electrical Engineering
- (x) Geography
- (xi) Geology
- (xii) History
- (xiii) Law
- (xiv) Management
- (xv) Mathematics
- (xvi) Mechanical Engineering
- (xvii) Medical Science
- (xviii) Philosophy
- (xix) Physics
- (xx) Political Science and International Relations
- (xxi) Psychology



- (xxii) Public Administration
- (xxiii) Sociology
- (xxiv) Statistics
- (xxv) Zoology
- (xxvi) Literature of any one of the following languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and English.

**NOTE:**

- (i) The question papers for the examination will be of conventional (essay) type.
- (ii) Each paper will be of three hours duration.
- (iii) Candidates will have the option to answer all the question papers, except the Qualifying Language Papers, Paper-A and Paper-B, in any one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India or in English. Notwithstanding this, the Candidate will have the choice to write the Optional Papers in English also if candidates opt to write Paper I-V except the Qualifying Language Papers, Paper-A and Paper-B, in any one of the language included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- (iv) Candidates exercising the option to answer Papers in any one of the languages included in the Eight Schedule to the Constitution of India mentioned above may, if they so desire, give English version within brackets of only the description of the technical terms, if any, in addition to the version in the language opted by them. Candidates should, however, note that if they misuse the above rule, a deduction will be made on this account



from the total marks otherwise accruing to them and in extreme cases; their script(s) will not be valued for being in an unauthorized medium.

- (vi) The question papers (other than the literature of language papers) will be set in Hindi and English only.
- (vii) The details of the syllabi are given below

## **General Instructions**

(Preliminary as well as Main Examination)

(i) Candidates must write the papers in their own hand. In no circumstances will they be allowed the help of a scribe to write the answers for them. However, blind candidates and candidates with Locomotor Disability and Cerebral Palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance of function (minimum of 40% impairment) will be allowed to write the examination with the help of a scribe in both the Civil Services (Preliminary) as well as in the Civil Services (Main) Examination.

(ii) Compensatory time of twenty minutes per hour shall be permitted for the Blind candidates and the candidates with locomotor disability and cerebral palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance of function (minimum of 40% impairment) in both the Civil Services (Preliminary) as well as in the Civil Services (Main) Examination.

Note (1) : The eligibility conditions of a scribe, his/ her conduct inside the examination hall and the manner in which and extent to which he/she can help the blind candidate in writing the Civil Services Examination shall be governed by the instructions issued by the UPSC in this regard. Violation of all or any of the said instructions shall entail the cancella-



tion of the candidature of the blind candidate in addition to any other action that the UPSC may take against the scribe.

Note (2): For purpose of these rules the candidate shall be deemed to be a blind candidate if the percentage of visual impairment is Forty per cent (40%) or more. The criteria for determining the percentage of visual impairment shall be as follows:

1	<u>All with corrections</u>		Percentage
	Better eye	Worse eye	
Category O	6/9-6/18	6/24 to 6/36	20%
Category I	6/18-6/36	6/60 to nil	40%
Category II	6/60-4/60 or field of vision 10-20°	3/60 to nil	75%
Category III	3/60-1/60 or field of vision 10°	F.C. at 1 ft to nil	100%
Category IV	F.C. at 1 ft to nil field of vision 100°	F.C. at 1 ft to nil field of vision 100°	100%
One eyed person	6/6	F.C. at 1 ft to nil	30%

Note (3): For availing of the concession admissible to a blind candidate, the candidate concerned shall produce a certificate in the prescribed proforma from a Medical Board constituted by the Central/State Governments along with their application for the Main Examination.

Note (4): (i)The concession admissible to blind candidates shall not be admissible to those suffering from Myopia.



- (ii) The Commission have discretion to fix qualifying marks in any or all the subjects of the examination.
- (iii) If a candidate's handwriting is not easily legible, a deduction will be made on this account from the total marks otherwise accruing to him.
- (iv) Marks will not be allotted for mere superficial knowledge.
- (v) Credit will be given for orderly, effective and exact expression combined with due economy of words in all subjects of the examination.
- (vi) In the question papers, wherever required, SI units will be used.
- (vii) Candidates should use only International form of Indian numerals (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 etc.) while answering question papers.
- (viii) Candidates will be allowed the use of Scientific (Non-Programmable type) Calculators at the conventional (Essay) type examination of UPSC. Programmable type calculators will however not be allowed and the use of such calculators shall tantamount to resorting to unfair means by the candidates. Loaning or interchanging of calculators in the Examination Hall is not permitted.

It is also important to note that candidates are not permitted to use calculators for answering objective type papers (Test Booklets). They should not therefore bring the same inside the Examination Hall.

## Interview Test

The candidate will be interviewed by a Board who will have before them a record of his career. He will be asked questions on matters of general interest.



The object of the interview is to assess the personal suitability of the candidate for a career in public service by a Board of competent and unbiased observers. The test is intended to judge the mental calibre of a candidate.

1. In broad terms this is really an assessment of not only his intellectual qualities but also social traits and his interest in current affairs.
2. Some of the qualities to be judged are mental alertness, critical powers of assimilation, clear and logical exposition, balance of judgement, variety and depth of interest, ability for social cohesion and leadership, intellectual and moral integrity.
3. The technique of the interview is not that of a strict cross-examination but of a natural, though directed and purposive conversation which is intended to reveal the mental qualities of the candidate.
4. The interview test is not intended to be a test either of the specialised or general knowledge of the candidates which has been already tested through their written papers.

Candidates are expected to have taken an intelligent interest not only in their special subjects of academic study but also in the events which are happening around them both within and outside their own State or Country as well as in modern currents of thought and in new discoveries which should rouse the curiosity of well-educated youth.



## SYLLABI FOR THE EXAMINATION

### **Part A—Preliminary Examination**

#### **Paper I - (200 marks)**

Duration: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- History of India and Indian National Movement.
- Indian and World Geography-Physical, Social, Economic Geography of India and the World.
- Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.
- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization
- General Science.

#### **Paper II-(200 marks)**

Duration: Two hours

- Comprehension;
- Interpersonal skills including communication skills;
- Logical reasoning and analytical ability;
- Decision making and problem solving;
- General mental ability;
- Basic numeracy (numbers and their relations, orders of magnitude, etc.) (Class X level), Data interpretation (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency etc. —



Class X level); Note 1 : Paper-II of the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination will be a qualifying paper with minimum qualifying marks fixed at 33%.

Note 2 : The questions will be of multiple choice, objective type.

## **Part B—Main Examination**

- The main Examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory.
- The nature and standard of questions in the General Studies papers (Paper II to Paper V) will be such that a well-educated person will be able to answer them without any specialized study.
- The questions will be such as to test a candidate's general awareness of a variety of subjects, which will have relevance for a career in Civil Services.
- The questions are likely to test the candidate's basic understanding of all relevant issues, and ability to analyse, and take a view on conflicting socio-economic goals, objectives and demands. The candidates must give relevant, meaningful and succinct answers.
- The scope of the syllabus for optional subject papers (Paper VI and Paper VII) for the examination is broadly of the honours degree level i.e. a level higher than the bachelors' degree and lower than the masters' degree. In the case of Engineering, Medical Science and law, the level corresponds to the bachelors' degree.



Syllabi of the papers included in the scheme of Civil Services (Main) Examination are given as follows:

## **QUALIFYING PAPERS ON INDIAN LANGUAGES AND ENGLISH**

The aim of the paper is to test the candidates' ability to read and understand serious discursive prose, and to express his ideas clearly and correctly, in English and Indian language concerned. The pattern of questions would be broadly as follows:

- (i) Comprehension of given passages.
- (ii) Precis Writing.
- (iii) Usage and Vocabulary.
- (iv) Short Essays.

### **Indian Languages:**

- (i) comprehension of given passages.
- (ii) Precis Writing.
- (iii) Usage and Vocabulary.
- (iv) Short Essays.
- (v) Translation from English to the Indian Language and vice-versa.

Note 1: The papers on Indian Languages and English will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard and will be of qualifying nature only. The marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.

Note 2: The candidates will have to answer the English and Indian Languages papers in English and the respective Indian language (except where translation is involved).



## PAPER-I Essay:

- Candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics.
- They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay to arrange their ideas in **orderly fashion, and to write concisely.**
- Credit will be given for **effective and exact expression.**

## PAPER-II General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and development



tal issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world(including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

### **PAPER-III General Studies- II:**

- Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.
- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.



- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens char-



ters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

- Role of civil services in a democracy.
- India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and their structure, mandate.

#### **PAPER-IV General Studies-III:** Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Government Budgeting.
- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; technology in the aid of farmers.
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System: objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.



- Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- Land reforms in India.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.
- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.



## PAPER-V General Studies- IV: *Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude*

This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem-solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects.

The following broad areas will be covered:

- Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
- Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthen-



ing of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

- Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
- Case Studies on above issues.

## **PAPER-VI & PAPER VII**

Optional Subject Papers I & II

Candidate may choose any optional subject from amongst the List of Optional Subjects

### **How to select the right optional for UPSC Civil Services**

In the present scheme of exam for Civil Services, optionals hold a position of paramount importance. Choosing the wrong optional could decide whether you become IAS, IPS or not even clear the mains.

So, what are the parameters you should have in mind when you choose an optional? The usual parameters are possibility of getting high marks, overlapping with GS syllabus, availability of guidance and material, number of people in service and also your personal interest in the subject. Let's look at them one by one:



## 1.Possibility of scoring High Marks

The bottom line in Mains examination is the marks you score. Optionals which help you score high are in great demand as it usually increases the probability of you getting into the top services.

Analysis of past 10 years UPSC marks shows that subjects like Mathematics, Physics, Engineering subjects and the Literature of Regional Subjects are those which fetch the absolute premium marks.

However, except the Literature subjects every other subject also comes with the risk of “hit or miss”, i.e. in subjects like Mathematics or Physics you may score really low as well.

Public Administration and Geography are two subjects which usually return high scores as well.

Both also have the same issue of “hit or miss” as certain years the papers were tough.

Political Science and International Relations, Anthropology have also been doing well in the past 2 or 3 years.

Economics did very well for a couple of years (2012 and 2013) but has been under the radar now mostly.

Sociology is one optional which may not always touch the real high marks but is always a stable subject.

## 2.Overlapping with GS Syllabus

Certain optionals have very high overlapping with GS syllabus which will help with the preparation for General Studies for Prelims, Mains and even Interview. The overlapping can greatly reduce the overall load on the student during preparation.

Public Administration is the subject which overlaps maximum with GS syllabus. Starting with polity topics Public administration is present in all four GS papers and will definitely help with



personality test/interview as well.

Political Science and International Relations has an overlap especially with General Studies Paper II in mains. It also covers polity topics which are important for prelims. It covers various topics which come for Personality Test as well.

Sociology has good linkages with mains and also is helpful for personality test or interview

Geography has overlap with Paper I and III of General Studies mainly and would be really helpful if you also want to try for Indian Forest Service exam.

History is another subject which would be helpful in Paper I (and a bit of Paper II/III) and in personality test/interview.

Philosophy and Psychology would be a tiny bit helpful in General Studies Paper IV i.e. Ethics.

### **3. Availability of Guidance and Material**

The major subjects like Public Administration, Geography, Sociology, History, Political Science etc. have tonnes of free material and guidance available in the internet. However, it is still advised that you go to a proper course for these topics in case you choose one of them.

Economics and science subjects are taken up at specialized institutes in Delhi only.

FortuneIAS Academy offers Sociology, Public Administration, Political Science and International Relations, Geography, Anthropology, English Literature and has a tie up for Malayalam Literature.



#### **4. Number of people who cleared with an optional**

As per data from UPSC annual reports over the past 10 years, Public Administration is the optional with maximum number of selections. The annual average has been ranging between 15 pc to 35 pc in final selections.

Geography comes second with an annual average ranging from 32 pc to 9 pc in final selections.

Political Science and International Relations is one optional which has had good number selections and also a very good conversion ratio of about 10 pc.

Sociology has maintained a stable number in most years in final selections over the past 10 years.

Literature of Malayalam Language has had excellent results and conversion ratio.

#### **5. YOUR INTEREST**

This perhaps is the most determining factor in deciding the optional. Even the toughest optional for the majority can be easy for certain people with an aptitude for it.

If you are good in Physics or Maths you can take it and clear with it. There are people who take Agriculture and clear as well. With all these aspects in mind, you must do soul searching and decide on the topic after reading essential material, conversing with the people who have cleared with the respective optional and also look up good institutes for the same.



# GEOGRAPHY

## PAPER I

### PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHY

#### Physical Geography:

1. Geomorphology : Factors controlling landform development; endogenetic and exogenetic forces; Origin and evolution of the earth's crusts; Fundamentals of geomagnetism; Physical conditions of the earth's interior; Geosynclines; Continental drift; Isostasy; Plate tectonics; Recent views on mountain building; Volcanicity; Earthquakes and Tsunamis; Concepts of geomorphic cycles and Land scape development; Denudation chronology; Channel morphology; Erosion surfaces; Slope development; Applied Geomorphology; Geomorphology, economic geology and environment.
2. Climatology: Temperature and pressure belts of the world; Heat budget of the earth; Atmospheric circulation; Atmospheric stability and instability. Planetary and local winds; Monsoons and jet streams; Air masses and fronto; Temperate and tropical cyclones; Types and distribution of precipitation; Weather and Climate; Koppen's Thornthwaite's and Trewartha's classification of world climate; Hydrological cycle; Global climatic change, and role and response of man in climatic changes Applied climatology and Urban climate.
3. Oceanography : Bottom topography of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; Temperature and salinity of the oceans; Heat and salt budgets, Ocean deposits; Waves, currents and tides; Marine resources; biotic, mineral and energy resources; Coral reefs coral bleaching; Sea-level changes; Law of the sea and marine pollution.



4. Biogeography : Genesis of soils; Classification and distribution of soils; Soil profile; Soil erosion, Degradation and conservation; Factors influencing world distribution of plants and animals; Problems of deforestation and conservation measures; Social forestry, agro-forestry; Wild life; Major gene pool centres.
5. Environmental Geography : Principle ecology; Human ecological adaptations; Influence of man on ecology and environment; Global and regional ecological changes and imbalances; Ecosystem their management and conservation; Environmental degradation, management and conservation; Biodiversity and sustainable development; Environmental policy; Environmental hazards and remedial measures; Environmental education and legislation.

### **Human Geography :**

1. Perspectives in Human Geography : Areal differentiation; Regional synthesis; Dichotomy and dualism; Environmentalism; Quantitative revolution and locational analysis; Radical, behavioural, human and welfare approaches; Languages, religions and secularisation; Cultural regions of the world; Human development index.
2. Economic Geography : World economic development: measurement and problems; World resources and their distribution; Energy crisis; the limits to growth; World agriculture: typology of agricultural regions; Agricultural inputs and productivity; Food and nutrition problems; Food security; famine: causes, effects and remedies; World industries: location patterns and problems; Patterns of world trade.
3. Population and Settlement Geography : Growth and distribution of world population; Demographic attributes; Causes



and consequences of migration; Concepts of over-under- and optimum population; Population theories, world population problems and policies, Social well-being and quality of life; Population as social capital. Types and patterns of rural settlements; Environmental issues in rural settlements; Hierarchy of urban settlements; Urban morphology; Concept of primate city and rank-size rule; Functional classification of towns; Sphere of urban influence; Rural-urban fringe; Satellite towns; Problems and remedies of urbanization; Sustainable development of cities.

4. Regional Planning : Concept of a region; Types of regions and methods of regionalisation; Growth centres and growth poles; Regional imbalances; Regional development strategies; Environmental issues in regional planning; Planning for sustainable development.
5. Models, Theories and Laws in Human Geography : System analysis in Human geography; Malthusian, Marxian and demographic transition models; Central Place theories of Christaller and Losch; Perroux and Boudeville; Von Thunen's model of agricultural location; Weber's model of industrial location; Ostov's model of stages of growth. Heart-land and Rimland theories; Laws of international boundaries and frontiers.

## PAPER-II

### GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

1. Physical Setting : Space relationship of India with neighbouring countries; Structure and relief; Drainage system and watersheds; Physiographic regions; Mechanism of In-



- dian monsoons and rainfall patterns; Tropical cyclones and western disturbances; Floods and droughts; Climatic regions; Natural vegetation, Soil types and their distributions.
2. Resources : Land, surface and ground water, energy, minerals, biotic and marine resources, Forest and wild life resources and their conservation; Energy crisis.
3. Agriculture : Infrastructure: irrigation, seeds, fertilizers, power; Institutional factors; land holdings, land tenure and land reforms; Cropping pattern, agricultural productivity, agricultural intensity, crop combination, land capability; Agro and social-forestry; Green revolution and its socio-economic and ecological implications; Significance of dry farming; Livestock resources and white revolution; Aqua-culture; Sericulture, Agriculture and poultry; Agricultural regionalisation; Agro-climatic zones; Agro-ecological regions.
4. Industry : Evolution of industries; Locational factors of cotton, jute, textile, iron and steel, aluminium, fertiliser, paper, chemical and pharmaceutical, automobile, cottage and agro-based industries; Industrial houses and complexes including public sector undertakings; Industrial regionalisation; New industrial policy; Multinationals and liberalisation; Special Economic Zones; Tourism including ecotourism.
5. Transport, Communication and Trade : Road, railway, waterway, airway and pipeline net works and their complementary roles in regional development; Growing importance of ports on national and foreign trade; Trade balance; Trade Policy; Export processing zones; Developments in communication and information technology and their impacts on economy and society; Indian space programme.



6. Cultural Setting : Historical Perspective of Indian Society; Racial linguistic and ethnic diversities; religious minorities; Major tribes, tribal areas and their problems; Cultural regions; Growth, distribution and density of population; Demographic attributes: sex-ratio, age structure, literacy rate, work-force, dependency ratio, longevity; migration (inter-regional, intraregional and international) and associated problems; Population problems and policies; Health indicators.
7. Settlements : Types, patterns and morphology of rural settlements; Urban developments; Morphology of Indian cities; Functional classification of Indian cities; Conurbations and metropolitan regions; Urban sprawl; Slums and associated problems; Town planning; Problems of urbanisation and remedies.
8. Regional Development and Planning: Experience of regional planning in India; Five Year Plans; Integrated rural development programmes; Panchayati Raj and decentralised planning; Command area development; Watershed management; Planning for backward area, desert, drought-prone, hill tribal area development; Multi-level planning; Regional planning and development of island territories.
9. Political Aspects : Geographical basis of Indian federalism; State reorganisation; Emergence of new states; Regional consciousness and inter-state issues; International boundary of India and related issues; Cross-border terrorism; India's role in world affairs; Geopolitics of South Asia and Indian Ocean realm.
10. Contemporary Issues : Ecological issues: Environmental hazards: landslides, earthquakes, Tsunamis, floods and droughts, epidemics; Issues related to environment



tal pollution; Changes in patterns of land use; Principles of environmental impact assessment and environmental management; Population explosion and food security; Environmental degradation; Deforestation, desertification and soil erosion; Problems of agrarian and industrial unrest; Regional disparities in economic development; Concept of sustainable growth and development; Environmental awareness; Linkage of rivers; Globalisation and Indian economy.

**NOTE :** Candidates will be required to answer one compulsory map question pertinent to subjects covered by this paper.

## **LITERATURE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

The syllabus consists of two papers, designed to test a first-hand and critical reading of texts prescribed from the following periods in English Literature:

**Paper 1: 1600-1900 and**

**Paper 2: 1900–1990.**

There will be two compulsory questions in each paper:

- (a) A short-notes question related to the topics for general study, and
- (b) A critical analysis of UNSEEN passages both in prose and verse.



## PAPER I

(Answers must be written in English) Texts for detailed study are listed below. Candidates will also be required to show adequate knowledge of the following topics and movements:

The Renaissance; Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama; Metaphysical Poetry; The Epic and the Mock-epic; Neo-classicism; Satire; The Romantic Movement; The Rise of the Novel; The Victorian Age.

### Section A

1. William Shakespeare : King Lear and The Tempest.
2. John Donne. The following poems : –Canonization; – Death be not proud; –The Good Morrow; –On his Mistress going to bed; –The Relic;
3. John Milton : Paradise Lost, I, II, IV, IX.
4. Alexander Pope. The Rape of the Lock.
5. William Wordsworth. The following poems : – Ode on Intimations of Immortality. – Tintern Abbey. – Three years she grew. – She dwelt among untrodden ways. – Michael. – Resolution and Independence. – The World is too much with us. – Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour. – Upon Westminster Bridge.
6. Alfred Tennyson : In Memoriam.
7. Henrik Ibsen : A Doll's House

### Section B

1. Jonathan Swift, Gulliver's Travels.
2. Jane Austen. Pride and Prejudice.
3. Henry Fielding. Tom Jones.



4. Charles Dickens. Hard Times.
5. George Eliot. The Mill on the Floss.
6. Thomas Hardy. Tess of the d'Urbervilles.
7. Mark Twain. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

## PAPER II

(Answers must be written in English) Texts for detailed study are listed below. Candidates will also be required to show adequate knowledge of the following topics and movements:

Modernism; Poets of the Thirties; The stream-of-consciousness Novel; Absurd Drama; Colonialism and Post-Colonialism; Indian Writing in English; Marxist, Psychoanalytical and Feminist approaches to literature; Post- Modernism.

### Section A

1. William Butler Yeats. The following poems : – Easter 1916.  
– The Second Coming. – A Prayer for my daughter. – Sailing to Byzantium. – The Tower. – Among School Children.  
– Leda and the Swan. – Meru. – Lapis Lazuli. – The Second Coming. – Byzantium.
2. T.S. Eliot. The following poems : – The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock. – Journey of the Magi. – Burnt Norton.
3. W.H. Auden. The following poems : – Partition – Musee des Beaux Arts – In Memory of W.B. Yeats – Lay your sleeping head, my love – The Unknown Citizen – Consider – Mundus Et Infans – The Shield of Achilles – September 1, 1939  
– Petition



4. John Osborne : Look Back in Anger.
5. Samuel Beckett. Waiting for Godot.
6. Philip Larkin. The following poems : – Next – Please – Deceptions – Afternoons – Days – Mr. Bleaney
7. A.K. Ramanujan. The following poems : – Looking for a Cousin on a Swing – A River – Of Mothers, among other Things – Love Poem for a Wife 1 – Small-Scale Reflections on a Great House – Obituary (All these poems are available in the anthology Ten Twentieth Century Indian Poets, edited by R. Parthasarthy, published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi).

## **Section B**

1. Joseph Conrad. Lord Jim.
2. James Joyce. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.
3. D.H. Lawrence. Sons and Lovers.
4. E.M. Forster. A Passage to India.
5. Virginia Woolf. Mrs. Dalloway.
6. Raja Rao. Kanthapura.
7. V.S. Naipaul. A House for Mr. Biswas.

## **MALAYALAM PAPER-I**

(Answers must be written in Malayalam)

### **Section A**

1—Early phase of Malayalam Language :

- 1.1 Various theories : Origin from proto Dravidian, Tamil, Sanskrit.
- 1.2 Relation between Tamil and Malayalam : Six nayas of A. R. Rajarajavarma.



1.3 Pattu School—Definition, Ramacharitam, later pattu works—Niranam works and Krishnagatha.

2—Linguistic features of :

2.1 Manipravalam—definition. Language of early manipravala works—Champu, Sandesakavya, Chandrotsava, minor works. Later manipravala works—medieval Champu and Attakkatha.

2.2 Folklore—Southern and Northern ballads, Mappila songs.

2.3.Early Malayalam Prose—Bhashakautaliyam, Brahmmandapuram, Attaprakaram, Kramadipika and Nambiantamil.

3—Standardisation of Malayalam :

3.1 Peculiarities of the language of Pana, Kilippattu and Tullal.

3.2 Contributions of indigenous and European missionaries to Malayalam.

3.3 Characteristics of contemporary Malayalam; Malayalam as administrative language. Language of scientific and technical literature—media language.

## Section B LITERARY HISTORY

4—Ancient and Medieval Literature :

4.1 Pattu—Ramacharitam, Niranam Works and Krishnagatha.

4.2 Manipravalam—early and medieval manipravala works including attakkatha and champu.

4.3 Folk Literature.

4.4 Kilippattu, Tullal and Mahakavya.

5—Modern Literature—Poetry :



- 5.1 Venmani poets and contemporaries.
- 5.2 The advent of Romanticism—Poetry of Kavitraya i.e., Asan, Ulloor and Vallathol.
- 5.3 Poetry after Kavitraya.
- 5.4 Modernism in Malayalam Poetry.

## 6—Modern Literature—Prose :

- 6.1 Drama.
- 6.2 Novel.
- 6.3 Short story.
- 6.4 Biography, travelogue, essay and criticism.

## PAPER-II

(Answers must be written in Malayalam) This paper will require first hand reading of the texts prescribed and is designed to test the candidate's critical ability.

### Section A

#### Unit 1

- 1.1 Ramacharitam—Patalam
- 1.2 Kannassaramayanam—Balakandam first 25 stanzas.
- 1.3 Unnunilisandesam—Purvabhagam 25 slokas including Prastavana.
- 1.4 MahabharathamKilippattu—Bhishmaparvam.

#### Unit 2

- 2.1 Kumaran Asan—Chintavisthayaya Sita.
- 2.2 Vailoppilli—Kutiyozhikkal.
- 2.3 G. SankaraKurup—Perunthachan.
- 2.4 N. V. Krishna Variar—Tivandiyilepattu.

#### Unit 3

- 3.1 O. N. V.—BhumikkoruCharamagitam.
- 3.2 AyyappaPanicker—Kurukshtetram.
- 3.3 Akkittam—PandathaMessanthi.
- 3.4 AtturRavivarma—Megharupan.



## Section B

### Unit 4

- 4.1 O. Chanthu Menon—Indulekha.
- 4.2 Thakazhy—Chemmin.
- 4.3 O. V. Vijayan—KhasakkinteIthihasam.

### Unit 5

- 5.1 M. T. Vasudevan Nair—Vanaprastham (Collection).
- 5.2 N. S. Madhavan—Higvitta (Collection).
- 5.3 C. J. Thomas—1128-il Crime 27.

### Unit 6

- 6.1 KuttikrishnaMarar—Bharataparyatanam.
- 6.2 M. K. Sanu—NakshatrangaluteSnehabhajanam.
- 6.3 V. T. Bhattathirippad—KannirumKinavum.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONALRELATIONS PAPER- I

### Political Theory and Indian Politics :

1. Political Theory: meaning and approaches.
2. Theories of state : Liberal, Neo-liberal, Marxist, Pluirlalist, post-colonial and Feminist.
3. Justice : Conceptions of justice with special reference to Rawl's theory of justice and its communitarian critiques.
4. Equality : Social, political and economic; relationship between equality and freedom; Affirmative action.
5. Rights : Meaning and theories; different kinds of rights; Concept of Human Rights.
6. Democracy : Classical and contemporary theories; different models of democracy—representative, participatory and deliberative.



7. Concept of power : hegemony, ideology and legitimacy.
8. Political Ideologies : Liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Gandhism and Feminism.
9. Indian Political Thought: Dharamshastra, Arthashastra and Buddhist Traditions; Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Sri Aurobindo, M. K. Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, M. N. Roy.
10. Western Political Thought : Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, John S. Mill, Marx, Gramsci, Hannah Arendt.

## **Indian Government and Politics**

1. Indian Nationalism : (a) Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle : Constitutionalism to mass Satyagraha, Non-cooperation, Civil Disobedience; Militant and Revolutionary Movements, Peasant and Workers Movements. (b) Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Liberal, Socialist and Marxist; Radical Humanist and Dalit.
2. Making of the Indian Constitution : Legacies of the British rule; different social and political perspectives.
3. Salient Features of the Indian Constitution : The Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles; Parliamentary System and Amendment Procedures; Judicial Review and Basic Structure doctrine.
4. (a) Principal Organs of the Union Government : Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and Supreme Court.  
(b) Principal Organs of the State Government : Envisaged role and actual working of the Executive, Legislature and High Courts.
5. Grassroots Democracy : Panchayati Raj and Municipal Government; Significance of 73rd and 74th Amendments; Grassroot movements.



6. Statutory Institutions/Commissions : Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Finance Commission, Union Public Service Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women; National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Minorities, National Backward Classes Commission.
7. Federalism : Constitutional provisions; changing nature of centre-state relations; integrationist tendencies and regional aspirations; inter-state disputes.
8. Planning and Economic development : Nehruvian and Gandhian perspectives; Role of planning and public sector; Green Revolution, land reforms and agrarian relations; liberalization and economic reforms.
9. Caste, Religion and Ethnicity in Indian Politics.
10. Party System : National and regional political parties, ideological and social bases of parties; Patterns of coalition politics; Pressure groups, trends in electoral behaviour; changing socio-economic profile of Legislators.
11. Social Movement : Civil liberties and human rights movements; women's movements; environmentalist movements.

## PAPER-II

Comparative Politics and International Relations Comparative Political Analysis and International Politics :

1. Comparative Politics : Nature and major approaches; Political economy and political sociology perspectives; Limitations of the comparative method.
2. State in Comparative Perspective : Characteristics and changing nature of the State in capitalist and socialist economies, and advanced industrial and developing societies.



3. Politics of Representation and Participation : Political parties, pressure groups and social movements in advanced industrial and developing societies.
4. Globalisation : Responses from developed and developing societies.
5. Approaches to the Study of International Relations : Idealist, Realist, Marxist, Functionalist and Systems theory.
6. Key Concepts in International Relations : National interest, security and power; Balance of power and deterrence; Transnational actors and collective security; World capitalist economy and globalisation.
7. Changing International Political Order : (a) Rise of super powers; Strategic and ideological Bipolarity, arms race and cold war; Nuclear threat; (b) Non-aligned Movement : Aims and achievements. (c) Collapse of the Soviet Union; Unipolarity and American hegemony; Relevance of non-alignment in the contemporary world.
8. Evolution of the International Economic System : From Brettonwoods to WTO; Socialist economies and the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance); Third World demand for new international economic order; Globalisation of the world economy.
9. United Nations : Envisaged role and actual record; Specialized UN agencies—aims and functioning; need for UN reforms.
10. Regionalisation of World Politics : EU, ASEAN, APEC, AARC, NAFTA.
11. Contemporary Global Concerns : Democracy, human rights, environment, gender justice terrorism, nuclear proliferation.



## India and the World

1. Indian Foreign Policy : Determinants of foreign policy; the institutions of policy-making; Continuity and change.
2. India's Contribution to the Non-Alignment Movement Different phases; Current role.
3. India and South Asia : (a) Regional Co-operation : SAARC- past performance and future prospects. (b) South Asia as a Free Trade Area. (c) India's "Look East" policy. (d) Impediments to regional co-operation : River water disputes; illegal cross border migration; Ethnic conflicts and insurrections; Border disputes.
4. India and the Global South : Relations with Africa and Latin America; Leadership role in the demand for NIEO and WTO negotiations.
5. India and the Global Centres of Power : USA, EU, Japan, China and Russia.
6. India and the UN System: Role in UN Peace-keeping; Demand for Permanent Seat in the Security Council.
7. India and the Nuclear Question : Changing perceptions and policy.
8. Recent developments in Indian Foreign Policy : India's position on the recent crises in Afghanistan, Iraq and West Asia, growing relations with US and Isreal; Vision of a new world order.



## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PAPER-I**

### **Administration Theory**

1. Introduction: Meaning, scope and significance of Public Administration, Wilson's vision of Public Administration, Evolution of the discipline and its present status. New Public Administration, Public Choice approach; Challenges of liberalization, Privatisation, Globalisation; Good Governance: concept and application; New Public Management.
2. Administrative Thought: Scientific Management and Scientific Management movement; Classical Theory; Weber's bureaucratic model its critique and post-Weberian Developments; Dynamic Administration (Mary Parker Follett); Human Relations School (Elton Mayo and others); Functions of the Executive (C.I. Barnard); Simon's decision-making theory; Participative Management (R. Likert, C. Argyris, D. McGregor.)
3. Administrative Behaviour : Process and techniques of decision-making; Communication; Morale; Motivation Theories content, process and contemporary; Theories of Leadership: Traditional and Modern:
4. Organisations : Theories systems, contingency; Structure and forms: Ministries and Departments, Corporations, Companies; Boards and Commissions; Ad hoc, and advisory bodies; Headquarters and Field relationships; Regulatory Authorities; Public- Private Partnerships
5. Accountability and Control: Concepts of accountability and control; Legislative, Executive and judicial control over administration; Citizen and Administration; Role of media, in-



terest groups, voluntary organizations; Civil society; Citizen's Charters; Right to Information; Social audit.

6. Administrative Law : Meaning, scope and significance; Dicey on Administrative law; Delegated legislation; Administrative Tri-bunals.
7. Comparative Public Administration: Historical and socio-logical factors affecting administrative systems; Administration and politics in different countries; Current status of Comparative Public Administration; Ecology and administration; Riggsian models and their critique.
8. Development Dynamics: Concept of development; Changing profile of development administration; 'Anti-development thesis'; Bureaucracy and development; Strong state versus the market debate; Impact of liberalisation on administration in developing countries; Women and development the self-help group movement.
9. Personnel Administration: Importance of human resource development; Recruitment, training, career advancement, position classification, discipline, performance appraisal, promotion, pay and service conditions; employer-employee relations, grievance redressal mechanism; Code of conduct; Administrative ethics.
10. Public Policy: Models of policy-making and their critique; Processes of conceptualisation, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review and their limitations; State theories and public policy formulation.
11. Techniques of Administrative Improvement: Organisation and methods, Work study and work management; e-governance and information technology; Management aid tools like network analysis, MIS, PERT, CPM.



12. Financial Administration: Monetary and fiscal policies; Public borrowings and public debt; Budget types and forms; Budgetary process; Financial accountability; Accounts and audit.

## PAPER-II

### Indian Administration

1. Evolution of Indian Administration: KautilyaArthashastra; Mughal administration; Legacy of British rule in politics and administration Indianization of Public services, revenue administration, district Administration, local self Government
2. Philosophical and Constitutional framework of Government: Salient features and value premises; Constitutionalism; Political culture; Bureaucracy and democracy; Bureaucracy and development.
3. Public Sector Undertakings: Public sector in modern India; Forms of Public Sector Undertakings; Problems of autonomy, accountability and control; Impact of liberalization and privatization.
4. Union Government and Administration: Executive, Parliament, Judiciary-structure, functions, work processes; Recent trends; Intra-governmental relations; Cabinet Secretariat; Prime Minister's Office; Central Secretariat; Ministries and Departments; Boards; Commissions; Attached offices; Field organizations.
5. Plans and Priorities: Machinery of planning; Role, composition and functions of the Planning Commission and the National Development Council; 'Indicative' planning; Process of plan formulation at Union and State levels; Constitutional Amendments (1992) and decentralized planning for economic development and social justice.



6. State Government and Administration: Union-State administrative, legislative and financial relations; Role of the Finance Commission; Governor; Chief Minister; Council of Ministers; Chief Secretary; State Secretariat; Directorates.
7. District Administration since Independence: Changing role of the Collector; Union-State-local relations; Imperatives of development management and law and order administration; District administration and democratic decentralization.
8. Civil Services: Constitutional position; Structure, recruitment, training and capacity building; Good governance initiatives; Code of conduct and discipline; Staff associations; Political rights; Grievance redressal mechanism; Civil service neutrality; Civil service activism.
9. Financial Management: Budget as a political instrument; Parliamentary control of public expenditure; Role of finance ministry in monetary and fiscal area; Accounting techniques; Audit; Role of Controller General of Accounts and Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
10. Administrative Reforms since Independence: Major concerns; Important Committees and Commissions; Reforms in financial management and human resource development; Problems of implementation.
11. Rural Development: Institutions and agencies since Independence; Rural development programmes: foci and strategies; Decentralization and Panchayati Raj; 73rd Constitutional amendment.
12. Urban Local Government: Municipal governance: main features, structures, finance and problem areas; 74th Constitutional Amendment; Global-local debate; New localism; Development dynamics, politics and administration with



special reference to city management.

13. Law and Order Administration: British legacy; National Police Commission; Investigative agencies; Role of Central and State Agencies including para military forces in maintenance of law and order and countering insurgency and terrorism; Criminalisation of politics and administration; Police-public relations; Reforms in Police.
14. Significant issues in Indian Administration: Values in public service; Regulatory Commissions; National Human Rights Commission; Problems of administration in coalition regimes; Citizen administration interface; Corruption and administration; Disaster management.

## **SOCIOLOGY PAPER– I**

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY**

1. Sociology - The Discipline:
  1. Sociology - The Discipline:
    - (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
    - (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences. (c) Sociology and common sense.
  2. Sociology as Science:
    - (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
    - (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
    - (c) Positivism and its critique.
    - (d) Fact value and objectivity.
    - (e) Non-positivist methodologies.
  3. Research Methods and Analysis:
    - (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.



- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

#### 4. Sociological Thinkers:

- (a) Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
- (b) Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
- (c) Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
- (d) Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables.
- (e) Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
- (f) Mead - Self and identity.

#### 5. Stratification and Mobility :

- (a) Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.
- (b) Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.
- (c) Dimensions - Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.
- (d) Social mobility - open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.

#### 6. Works and Economic Life :

- (a) Social organization of work in different types of society - slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society.
- (b) Formal and informal organization of work.
- (c) Labour and society.



## 7. Politics and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of power.
- (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups and political parties.
- (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
- (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

## 8. Religion and Society :

- (a) Sociological theories of religion.
- (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
- (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.

## 9. Systems of Kinship:

- (a) Family, household, marriage.
- (b) Types and forms of family.
- (c) Lineage and descent.
- (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
- (e) Contemporary trends.

## 10. Social Change in Modern Society :

- (a) Sociological theories of social change.
- (b) Development and dependency.
- (c) Agents of social change.
- (d) Education and social change.
- (e) Science, technology and social change.



## PAPER-II

### INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

#### A. Introducing Indian Society :

- (i) Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society :
  - (a) Indology (G.S. Ghure).
  - (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas).
  - (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai).
- (ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society :
  - (a) Social background of Indian nationalism.
  - (b) Modernization of Indian tradition.
  - (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.
  - (d) Social reforms

#### B. Social Structure:

- (i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:
  - (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.
  - (b) Agrarian social structure— evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.
- (ii) Caste System:
  - (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
  - (b) Features of caste system.
  - (c) Untouchability-forms and perspectives
- (iii) Tribal Communities in India:
  - (a) Definitional problems.
  - (b) Geographical spread.
  - (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
  - (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.
- (iv) Social Classes in India:
  - (a) Agrarian class structure.
  - (b) Industrial class structure.



- (c) Middle classes in India.
- (v) Systems of Kinship in India:
  - (a) Lineage and descent in India.
  - (b) Types of kinship systems.
  - (c) Family and marriage in India.
  - (d) Household dimensions of the family.
  - (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.
- (vi) Religion and Society :
  - (a) Religious communities in India.
  - (b) Problems of religious minorities.

## C. Social Changes in India:

- (i) Visions of Social Change in India:
  - (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
  - (b) Constitution, law and social change.
  - (c) Education and social change.
- (ii) Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India:
  - (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
  - (b) Green revolution and social change.
  - (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.
  - (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.
- (iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:
  - (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
  - (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.
  - (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
  - (d) Informal sector, child labour.
  - (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.
- (iv) Politics and Society :



- (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.
- (b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.
- (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.
- (d) Secularization.
- (v) Social Movements in Modern India :
  - (a) Peasants and farmers movements.
  - (b) Women's movement.
  - (c) Backward classes & Dalit movements.
  - (d) Environmental movements.
  - (e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.
- (vi) Population Dynamics :
  - (a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
  - (b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.
  - (c) Population Policy and family planning.
  - (d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.
- (vii) Challenges of Social Transformation :
  - (a) Crisis of development : displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.
  - (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.
  - (c) Violence against women.
  - (d) Caste conflicts.
  - (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
  - (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.



## BOOK LIST FOR PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

SUBJECT	BOOK LIST
Polity	NCERT 9 - 12, Indian Polity - M. Laxmikanth
Geography	NCERT 6 - 12, Certificate Physical & Human Geography, Majid Hussain, Orient Longman Atlas or Oxford Atlas
Ancient Indian History, Art and Culture and Medieval India:	Old NCERT: Ancient India, Old NCERT: Medieval India, Class XI NCERT – Introduction to Fine Art (part 1), CCRT website: <a href="http://ccrtindia.gov.in/index.php">http://ccrtindia.gov.in/index.php</a>
Modern India	Old NCERT: Modern India by Bipin Chandra, India's struggle for Independence – Bipin Chandra
India Economy	11th NCERT: Economics: Indian Economic Development, 12th NCERT: Economics: Macroeconomics, <a href="http://www.arthapedia.in">www.arthapedia.in</a> , Economic Survey
Ecology & Environment	NCERT Biology 12th – Unit 10 (chapter 13, 14, 15 & 16), NCERT Chemistry 11 th (Part II) – Chapter 14, ICSE Environmental Education 9th & 10th
Current Affairs	The Hindu Newspaper, PIB, Frontline, <a href="http://upsc361.com">upsc361.com</a> , India Year Book
General Science	6-12th NCERTs (11th and 12th Only Biology is important)



## **Booklist for UPSC Mains GS Paper – I**

Art & Culture – Spectrum on Art and Culture, An Introduction to Indian Art (Class XI NCERT)

Modern India and Freedom Struggle – Old NCERTs (Class VIII and XII) by Bipan Chandra

Post-Independence Consolidation – NCERT- India Since Independence

World History – NCERT Xth (Story of Civilisation), NCERT XIIth (Arjun Dev), Norman and Lowe specifically for decolonisation topics

Indian Society – Yojana, Kurukshetra magazines, NCERT (XI and XII)

Geography – NCERT (6 – 12), GC Leong

## **GS Paper -II**

Polity – Laxmikant, The Hindu and AIR news analysis

Governance – The Hindu, Yojana and Kurukshetra

International Relations – Challenge And Strategy : Rethinking India's Foreign Policy – Rajiv Sikri, News Analysis, India and the World (Rajya Sabha TV)

Gist of 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission Reports

\*There are little textbooks from which you can prepare Paper II for Mains. General awareness helps.

## **GS Paper – III**

Economic Survey of the Relevant year

Budget of the relevant Year

PIB documents

The Hindu

Internal Security – IDSA website

Science & Technology, Biotechnology and Environment – The Hindu, Frontline/Outlook



## GS Paper – IV

Lexicon of Ethics

Learn About PESTEL, Stakeholder Analysis, Value Chain, SWOT and Pro-Con

IGNOU material on Attitude, Social Psychology

Ethics and Governance – 4th report of 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission



## **BOOK LIST FOR A FEW OPTIONALS:**

### **ANTHROPOLOGY**

1. Physical Anthropology – P.Nath / S.Das
2. Fossil Evidence – S Das
3. Anthropology Theories – MakhanJha's
4. Social Anthropology – Maunder/Madan
5. Indian Anthropology – R.N Sharma / Nadeem Hasnain

### **ECONOMICS**

6. Microeconomics – Ahuja and Koutsysansis
7. Macroeconomics – Ahuja and Mankiw
8. International Economics – Salvatore and M.C Vaish
9. Public Finance – Lekhi, Balton and Bhatia
10. Money and Banking – Gupta and Ahuja
11. RBI Website
12. Indian Economy – Mishra and Puri,Dutt and Sundaram, Uma Kapila, Economic Survey, EPW, RBI
13. Any One Business Newspaper – ET, The Economist or Financial Express

### **GEOGRAPHY**

1. Physical Geography – Majid Hussain/ Savindra Singh
2. Modern Physical Geography – Strahler and Strahler (Optional)
3. Certificate Physical and Human Geography – Goh Cheng Leong
14. Physical Geography Made Simple – Rupa Publication
15. Dictionary of Physical Geography – Penguin
16. Evolution of Geographical Thought – Majid Hussain



17. Economic and Social Geography Made Simple – Rupa Publication
18. Models in Geography – Majid Hussain
19. Dictionary of Human Geography
20. Oxford Student Atlas
21. India – A Comprehensive Geography – Khullar
22. Regional Planning in India – Mahesh Chand
23. India Year Book – Publication Division
24. Yojana and Kurukshetra Magazines

## HISTORY

25. History of Modern India – Shekhar Bandopadhyaya/ Bipan Chandra
26. India's Struggle For Independence – Bipan Chandra and Others
27. India's Ancient Past – R.S. Sharma
28. The Wonder That Was India – A.L. Basham
29. Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas – Romila Thapar
30. Medieval India: From Sultanat to Mughals – 1- Satish Chandra
31. Medieval India: From Sultanat to Mughals -2 – Satish Chandra
32. Mastering Modern World History – Norman Lowe
33. History of the World – Arjun Dev

## MATHEMATICS

1. Linear Algebra: Schaum's outline on Linear Algebra: this book has explained linear algebra in a far better and simpler manner than Krishna Series. Due to its clarity, it can be read quickly also. Krishna Series on Matrices



2. Calculus: Krishna Series on Differential calculus, Krishna Series on Integral calculus, Mathematical Analysis by Malik and Arora : a must read book for both Paper I and II
3. Analytical Geometry :Krishna Series on Analytical Geometry : this book is better than Shantinarayan and has many solved examples, Krishna Series on Analytical Solid Geometry : for Conicoids, Generating Lines
4. Ordinary Differential Equations:Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations by MD Raisinghania, Advanced Differential Equations by MD Raisinghania : required for Laplace Transforms (Paper-I) and Boundary value problems (Paper-II)
5. Dynamics and Statics: Krishna Series on Statics, Krishna Series on Dynamics, Vector Analysis, Krishna Series on Vector Calculus (~ 330 pages), Schaum's outline on Vector Analysis
6. Abstract Algebra: This being my favourite topic, I had referred many books. But as many candidates find this topic tough, I would suggest referring to following books.  
Abstract Algebra, Group Theory by R Kumar (Vardhaman Publications)  
Abstract Algebra, Ring Theory by R Kumar (Vardhaman Publications)  
Abstract Algebra by Joseph Gallian (optional)
7. Real Analysis:Mathematical Analysis by Malik and Arora, Real Analysis by MD Raisinghania Complex Analysis:Krishna Series
8. Linear Programming: Operations Research by JK Sharma or Kanti Swarup or Krishna Series
9. Partial Differential Equations: ODE and PDE by MD Raisinghania



10. Engineering Maths by Grewal : for boundary value problems, Advanced Differential Equations by M.D Raisinghania (for boundary value problems)
11. Numerical Analysis and Computer programming: Numerical Methods by Jain and Iyengar (but questions are not coming from this book from past few years), Numerical Analysis chapter from Grewal, Engineering Mathematics.
12. Mechanics and Fluid Dynamics:Fluid Dynamics by MD Raisinghania, Krishna Series, Dynamics for Moment of Inertia and D Alembert's Principle, Krishna Series, Rigid Dynamics for Lagrangian and Hamiltonian.

## MEDICAL SCIENCES

1. Human Anatomy—B D Chaurasia
2. Embryology from I B Singh;
3. Human Physiology— Ganong; Guyton and A.K. Jain book
4. Biochemistry— by U. Satyanarayana book.
5. Pathology— Robbins, and Cotran
6. Textbook of PATHOLOGY- Harsh Mohan
7. Essentials of Medical Pharmacology-K D Tripathi
8. Illustrated Reviews Pharmacology -Lippincott
9. Microbiology— D R Arora
10. Medical Parasitology- D R Arora
11. Ananthanarayan and Paniker's Textbook of Microbiology
12. Essentials of Forensic medicine and Toxicology- Dr. K S Narayan Reddy
13. Park Textbook of Preventive and Social Medicine- K Park
14. General Medicine textbook of medicine- S N Chugh
15. Medicine: Prep Manual for Undergraduates- George Mathews
16. Emergency medicine- S N Chugh.



17. Manipal Manual of Surgery- K. Rajgopal Shenoy
18. Clinical surgery- S Das.
19. Pediatrics- Essential pediatrics by O P Ghai, Paul and Bagga.
20. Practical Aspects Of Pediatrics- Dr. Mayoor K Chheda
21. Illustrated Synopsis of Dermatology and Sexually Transmitted Diseases- Dr. Neena Khanna.
22. Textbook Of Obstetrics-D.C. Dutt

## PHILOSOPHY

### 1. Indian Philosophy

- An Introduction to Indian Philosophy- S Chatterjee
- A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy- C Sharma

### 2. Western Philosophy

- A History of Philosophy-Frank Thilly
- A Critical History of Western Philosophy- Y Masih
- Contemporary Western Philosophy- Dr. B.K. Lal

### 3. Social-Political Philosophy

- An Introduction to Political Theory by O P Gauba

### 4. Philosophy of Religion

- Introduction to Religious Philosophy By Y Masih
- Philosophy of Religion by John H. Hick

## PHYSICS

1. Classical Mechanics - DS Mathur/ JC Upadhyay/ Arthur Beiser (Relativity)
2. Electromagnetic Theory - Griffiths
3. Optics - Ghatak/ Brijlal/ Hecht (for Polarisation)
4. Thermodynamics - Garg- Bansal - Ghosh
5. Quantum Mechanics - HC Verma/ Aruldas / Beiser/ Griffiths / Zettili



6. Atomic Molecular Spectroscopy - Rajkumar (Atomic) / Banwell - McCash (Molecular)
7. Nuclear - SB Patel / Wikipedia / Beiser
8. Solid State Physics - SO Pillai/ Charles Kittel
9. Electronics - Boylestad/ Bell/ Floyd  
(Digital electronics)

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

1. An introduction to constitution- DD Basu
2. An introduction to political theory- O.P Gauba
3. Fifty major political thinkers- Ian Adams and R W Dyson
4. A History Of Political Thought: Plato To Marx – Mukherjee and Sushila Ramaswamy
5. An Oxford companion to politics in India-Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta
6. Foundations of Indian political thought- V. R Mehta
7. A new look at modern Indian history- B.L Grover and Alka Yagnik
8. India's Struggle For Independence – Bipan Chandra
9. Indian Government and Politics – B L Fadia
10. India's foreign policy – V P Dutt
11. International organizations- Spectrum Books Publication
12. International Relations -Khanna
13. Challenge and Strategy: Rethinking India's Foreign Policy- Rajiv Sikri
14. Does the Elephant Dance?: Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy- David M. Malone
15. Global politics- Andrew Heywood
16. MPS-004 Comparative Politics: Issues and Trends by Expert Panel of GPH



## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

1. Indian Public Administration – Arora and Goyal
2. Public Administration In India 1st Edition – Maheshwari
3. Public Administration In India – B L Fadia (optional)
4. Public Administration – Laxmikant
5. Administrative Thinkers – Prasad and Prasad
6. New Horizons of Public Administration – Mohit Bhattacharya
7. Public Administration – Fadia and Fadia
8. Public Administration and Public Affairs 12th Edition – Nicholas Henry
9. Essentials Of Organizational Behaviour 10th Edition – Robbins, Sanghi and Judge

## SOCIOLOGY

1. Sociology – Anthony Giddens
2. Sociology – Harlombos and Holborn
3. Sociological Thought – Francis Abraham and John Henry Morgan
4. Political Theory – O P Gauba
5. Social Change in India – M N Srinivas
6. Modernization of Indian Tradition – Yogendra Singh
7. Handbook of Indian Sociology – Veena Das
8. Indian Society and Culture – Nadeem Hasnain
9. Rural Sociology – Doshi and Jain
10. Social Background of Indian Nationalism – A R Desai



## MALAYALAM

### 1. Early phase of Malayalam Language:

- Various theories: origin from proto Dravidian, Tamil, Sanskrit.
- Relation between Tamil and Malayalam: Six nayas of A.R. Rajarajavarma.
- Pattu school-definition, Ramacharitam, later pattu works-Niranam works and Krishnagatha.

### 2. Linguistic features of:

- Manipravalam-definition. Language of early manipravala works-Champu, Sandesakavya, Chandrotsava, minor works. Later Manipravala works-medieval Champu and Attakkatha.
- Folklore-Southern and Northern ballads, Mappila songs.
- Early Malayalam prose-Bhashakautaliyam, Brahma-mandapuram, Attaprakaram, Kramadipika and Nambiantamil.

### 3. Standardization of Malayalam

- Peculiarities of the language of Pana, Kilippattu and Tullal.
- Contributions of indigenous and European missionaries to Malayalam.
- Characteristics of contemporary Malayalam: Malayalam as administrative language. Language of scientific and technical literature-media language.

### 4. Ancient and Medieval Literature:

- Pattu-Ramacharitam, Niranam works and Krishnagatha.
- Manipravalam-early and medieval manipravala works including attakkatha and champu.



- Folk literature.
- Kilippattu, Tullal and Mahakavya.

## 5. Modern Literature-Poerty

- Venmani poets and contemporaries.
- The advent of Romanticism-Poerty of Kavitraya i.e., Asan, Ulloor and Vallathol
- Poetry after Kavitraya.
- Modernism in Malayalam poetry.

## 6. Modern Literature-Prose

- Drama
- Novel
- Short story
- Biography, travelogue, essay and criticism.

# TREND ANALYSIS OF QUESTION PAPER – PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Topic / Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
History of India	12	17	14	13	12	13	9
Geography	15	20	22	26	18	3	8
Indian Polity and Governance	16	24	18	16	23	6	22
Economics	19	11	18	10	14	15	6
Environment Ecology	15	10	8	13	11	16	13
Science and Technology	19	14	19	16	12	7	4
Art and Culture	0	3	1	4	1	3	5
Current Affairs	4	1	0	2	9	37	33
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100



## TREND ANALYSIS OF QUESTION PAPER – MAINS EXAMINATION

<b>Broad classification of questions in GS 1 from 2013 to 2016</b>				
Category	2013	2014	2015	2016
History	140	100	75	75
Society	30	50	87.5	62.5
Geography	80	100	87.5	112.5
Total	250	250	250	250

## **Broad classification of questions in GS 2 from 2013 to 2016**

Category	2013	2014	2015	2016
Polity	90	100	100	100
Governance	40	25	62.5	50
Welfare	50	62.5	37.5	50
International Relations	70	62.5	50	50
Total	250	250	250	250

## **Broad classification of topics in GS paper 3 from 2013 to 2016**

Category	2013	2014	2015	2016
Economy	70	87.5	62.5	75
Agriculture/Food industry	40	25	50	50
Science/Tech/Environment/	85	75	75	75
Disaster				
Security	55	62.5	62.5	50
Total	250	250	250	250



# MANAGEMENT OF TIME, SYLLABUS AND STUDY

As you know, the Civil Service Examinations is one of the toughest examinations to be cracked. The examination is a marathon and not a sprint. To be a part of this marathon, and to complete the same successfully, every aspirant needs to develope and maintain a routine, so that they can concentrate on studies for longer duration and cover the syllabus within the stipulated time.

## How to Manage Time:

Civil Service Examinations are a hard nut to crack, hence time management is a very crucial part of the preperation. The reason being that the time available for preperation for the examination is not sufficient w.r.t the vast syllabus. Hence, the need of the hour is to not only work hard but also to do some smart work.

## Some Tips:

- Make a Schedule: Divide your day
- Keep atleast 8 to 10 hours on a daily basis
- While preparing for prelims, divide the study time into two parts: General Studies Paper I and CSAT.
- NCERTs are to be given the most importance as they are the material from which an aspirant has to make a strong base.
- Prioritising the subjects to be covered first is an important aspect of Smart work.
- REVISION is the key to success. Revisiting the books that you have already covered is the most important part of the preperation. Off the seven days of preperation every week,



one day needs to be devoted to Revision solely. Revision can be done on daily basis, weekly basis, monthly basis.

- Working on the previous year question paper will give an edge to the preparations.
- Doing Mock tests and practice tests are also important aspects of the preparation.
- Choose the Optionals wisely. Go through the detailed syllabus for the subject of your choice thoroughly. The subject of your choice should be able to excite you, make you know more about it, not put you to sleep, and the study materials for the same should be available easily.



## SUCCESS STORIES

### SIDDHARTH BABU IFS

AIR 15, 20a16.



1. To whom and to what do you credit your success?

Complete and unconditional backing offered by my family - especially my mother and grandfather. Help from my closest friends' mentors and teachers. I was able to write the exam in a relatively tension and stress free environment

2. Why did you choose Civil Services as a career?

I had an interest in international relations. I realized that being a career diplomat is the most suitable and effective way to work in this space. I was also brought up in an environment where patriotism was a cherished value. Serving the nation is something I dreamed about. These two factors coincided in the Indian Foreign Service

3. When did you consciously start your preparation for this examination?

January 2015

4. When should one ideally start the preparation process?

I think 12 months of effort before mains should be enough, if done in a diligent way.

5. It is said that the Civil Services examination is one of the toughest nuts to crack. It requires constant and sustained hard work. How did you keep yourself constantly motivated? What was your source of inspiration?

I used to watch a lot of YouTube videos and documentaries on topics which had something to do with IR and security issues. I also reached out to former diplomats and listened



to their experiences while in services.

These two things kept reassuring me that I am pursuing my dream job.

My friends also played an important role in keeping me emotionally happy. My family also ensured that I was never burdened with any household chores so that I spend my time away from studies the way I wanted.

6. In your opinion how crucial is the selection of Optionals for success in the examination?

I think it is perhaps the most important decision every candidate makes once he/she has decided to write the exam. I chose Political Science and International Relations because of my interest in IR and political theory. It was because I was passionate about the subject I was able to put in long hours. If I had chosen a subject I did not love I would have struggled to study the subject well

7. What should be the criteria for selecting them and how should one go about it? Should one opt for the subjects studied at college or go for new ones?

Love for the subject is the key determinant. If the candidate loves the subject he/she has studied in college, it would be the best bet for him/her.

8. How should one prepare for Prelims, Mains and Interview?  
(Please give a separate account for each)

My strategy is as follows

Prelims - breadth is the key here. I had covered prelims from a wide variety of sources like newspapers, NIOS, standard books like NCERT, Laxmikanth and Shankar. Focus is on facts.

Mains - keeping preparation simple is the key here. Stick to syllabus. Use standard books to cover the syllabus. Connect



important stories that come in newspapers with syllabus to anticipate responses if questions come. Nowadays GS questions are very dynamic - so spending too much time referring to static portions may not help

Interview - I think each person will have to identify strengths and weaknesses of his/her personality. Attending mock interviews is a good way of doing this. The DAF must be filled in a manner that one must be able to show a demonstrable interest.

#### 9. How can one score well in Essay, GS and Interview?

GS and interview - already covered above

Essay - It is important to practice full length essay tests before going for the examination. This will give candidates the opportunity necessary practice of time distribution

#### 10.What are the areas in GS Paper I and II in the Main examination in which the candidate can score marks easily?

There is no single area where it is easier to score marks. Question papers are very dynamic these days.

#### 11.Did you commit any mistake during your preparations?

Mistakes and corrections I made are as follows

GS 1,2,3 - did not stick to syllabus and connect syllabus with newspaper reading in first attempt - corrected this mistake

GS 4 - in first attempt I did not refer to model answers and answers of toppers after mock tests. So I could not improve my answers. In second attempt, I compared my answers with that of toppers. Incorporated their ideas and approaches in order to make mine better

#### 12.How many hours should one devote for the preparations regularly?

It may sound clichéd but making the hours count is more important than counting the number of hours



13.Besides text books what newspapers, magazines, novels and books of general interest should one read?How one should read newspaper?

Connect the newspaper with the syllabus. Whenever a very important issue connected with syllabus is being covered in newspaper, think of possible questions that may come.

14.What is more important for this exam, intelligence or hard work?

Hard work is absolutely necessary. Intelligence is also important. But it's more personal. Every candidate must channelize his/her intelligence to achieve targets they set for themselves.

15.Do candidates with a technical background have an advantage over general students?

Not at all, the playing field is level.

16.In the course of preparation one is faced with many problems, queries and difficulties, where should one go for help, especially the students staying in remote areas?

A support system built around the candidate can help him or her overcome the many challenges that the exam poses. This could be family, friends, mentors from coaching classes. This will be very candidate specific

17.Do coaching institutes help? If yes, how should one select, when there are so many of them?

Coaching institutes help in giving candidates a structure to go about their preparation. There is not one size fits all solution. Location, fee, support for optional paper are some of the important factors that a candidate must look at.

18.In which stage should one ideally opt for coaching?

One year before the mainstream a candidate is targeting.



19. Do you think that with increasing levels of competition, the preparation for Civil Services is getting too expensive? Each candidate has to find his or her path. For some it could be expensive, others it may not be so. There are people who manage expenses quite well by staying in their hometowns, using freely available resources on the internet etc

20. Could you suggest some ways of cutting down on expenses?

This is not something I managed quite well. My expenses were on the higher side and I couldn't bring them down. I may not be able to give relevant suggestions

21. Seeing the stiffness of the competition, is this exam meant for everyone who takes it?

There are people with average or below average academic record prior to writing this exam cracking it every year. And many people from prestigious institutions like IIT and IIMs do not crack it. Hence, it's possible for anyone to cross the frontier.

22. Is UPSC really unpredictable?

Yes, there is an element of uncertainty. This keeps the playing field level

23. What all do you think is needed to make it to the top?

Hard work, dedication and perseverance. Ability to find out one's own path to prepare effectively

24. How would you rate luck as far as success in Civil Services is concerned?

If candidates have the humility to understand that after putting in hard work, luck is an important factor in the exam. The risk is same for everyone. So do not be intimidated by numbers like 4.5 lakhs.

25. How was the atmosphere during your Interview?



Board was extremely cordial and friendly. Atmosphere was pretty soothing.

26.What do you think is the right way to face interview board confidently?

A senior civil servant once told a group of aspirants (of which I was a part) that one has nothing to lose by being tense, but had a lot to gain by being calm.

27.What types of questions did the Board ask? (Bio-data/Optional/Current Affairs)

Bio data for the most part, and a bit from optional. There was no question from current affairs.

28.What is the most important thing, one should keep in mind, while facing the Interview Board?

Make sure that candidate is well prepared on his or her DAF. Don't get too worked up and respond in a cool and even-handed manner. I think the board is looking at responses and not answers. So even if one does not know answers to questions, it's perfectly okay to say "I don't know" and move on to the next question

29.During the Interview, did the board member(s) ask you any tricky question(s)?

No. Questions were straightforward.

30.How do you foresee your future as an administrator?

In the Next 20-30 years, India's footprint in the world will increase manifold. I am excited to be part of the team in the Indian Foreign Service that would lay the foundations for India's rise as a great power.



## Hari Kallikat

(AIR 58, 2017)

### **Preparation Strategy Every journey is unique**

Suppose, you are on a journey with thousand other people. All of you are travelling in the same vehicle, thus tracing the very same path. Your starting points may be different, but craving for the same destination. Irrespective of the very same journey, with very same destination, the world outside as seen from the vehicle for everyone will be different. This is the apt briefing for Civil Service preparation since one should have own plans and strategies while preparing for Indian Civil Service Exam (ICS).

Everyone should have his/her strategy while preparing for this exam because, it is the originality/genuinity of your views or analysis or answers that fetch marks in ICS. To achieve it, what is needed is to develop basic ideas about all the static portions in the syllabus and follow newspapers regularly. But the million dollar question is how to achieve this originality? Answer is very simple, originality lies in ‘your’ answers

### **MY JOURNEY FROM 58 TO 58**

When did my civil service preparation start...? Although the institute based preparation started during the last year of my graduation, the real preparation started years before. The real preparation implies, the interaction with people around me, with my friends, in school, in college and the socio-political activities during those days. All those activities and the



knowledge accumulated alongwith them helped me significantly in my preparation.

But, entering the field of Civil Service competition opened unexpected surprises and a totally unfamiliar world. A lot of ‘myths’ regarding this exam revolving everywhere around us misled me too. It was Visakettan (Sreevisakh R K, IRS-IT, 2014 batch), who guided me into the realities of ICS. His approach (which I adopted later) was highly ‘utilitarian’. As per his advice, I started my preparation with ‘Syllabus’. I took a printout of UPSC ICS syllabus and this became my holy book during the entire period of my preparations.

I started reading basic texts, finishing one subject after other as per syllabus. Following are the basic texts which I referred.

Indian polity - Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

Economy - Indian Economy by Shankar Ganesh

Geography – NCERT’s of class 6,7,9,11

History – Modern India by Bipan Chandra

- Spectrum for Modern India
- NCERT class 6,7
- Tamil Nadu class 11
- Fine arts NCERT class 11 for art & culture
- Ecology – NCERT class 12 biology, last 4 chapters
- Shankar’s Environment text

Current affairs – Vision monthly magazine and InsightsOnIndia daily quiz

Along with these basic texts and materials, I regularly followed “THE HINDU” newspaper. Because of my ‘love’ towards “THE HINDU”, it was possible for me to skip other magazines, including ‘Yojana’ and ‘Kurukshetra’.

Back to preparation plans. After completing syllabus and ba-



sic texts once, I started preparing with previous year question papers (of new syllabus, post 2013). Here starts the ‘utilitarian’ part of preparation. At that point, I had finished basic texts once and had good idea of syllabus. From this point, I started revising texts on the basis of previous year question papers. The areas from which questions were asked more frequently was revised more intensively, for both prelims and mains. With such strategy and intense preparation for 2/3 months and good score in CSAT, I cleared prelims in very first attempt itself, in 2014. And for mains, I got good marks in GS and optional papers. However, my essay score was one of the lowest score secured by anyone from Kerala .i.e. 58. In that attempt, I was stopped by that 58 and hence a beautifully framed strategy and plan thus ended there.

In second attempt, I failed to clear prelims itself (since CSAT became qualifier ☺ ☺ ☺). It was the result of some level of over-confidence. I had the confidence of clearing the prelims with 2/3 months in 2014. So, I thought of clearing 2015 prelims with much ease. But, the over confidence factor back fired. From that point, I again started preparing for 2016 attempt. Again the ‘utilitarian’ preparation and intense hard work started. Completed static subjects and current affairs, revised well, attempted around 75-100 mock tests, I was again at the peak of confidence when I attended my 2016 prelims. I cleared that prelims with much ease. Right after the prelims, I was pretty confident that this was going to be my year. I thoroughly prepared on subjects, studied harder and harder. Cleared mains that time and attended my first UPSC personality test. On the result date, I was confident that I will be in the list somewhere. Afterall it was karma playing again. I failed to make that ‘royal’ entry in 2016.



After that failure, I started evaluating myself and the fact “why I failed?”. The most important task in front of me was to clear prelims that time since I got only 18 days after the results for prelims preparation. I solved 18 comprehensive papers within that short period, revised current affairs and polity and attended prelims with reduced confidence. Till the results were out, I was not completely confident about prelims. But, immediately after prelims, I started preparing for mains. The plan was not to widen the knowledge base, but error rectification. I thought of the errors that led to last year’s ‘failure’. I will say it is that failure, which led to the success of AIR 58 in 2017 CSE.

I identified the mistakes that I did in 2016. There was no writing practice, so, along with “Fortune test series”, I started writing sessions along with Remit Chennithala, Achuth and Siddharth Varma. And till the very end, because of the compulsion of Remit, I wrote a number of model papers and corrected within us. He is such a hard working person, and carried me along with him, on the last two months before mains. We shared ideas, discussed and debated on a number of topics, where were considered important. A companion like him was a blessing during such a mentally weak period.

Along with the writing practice sessions, I attended polity and governance classes. GS2 was generally a weak paper for me, even though I was pretty confident on IR. The classes helped me to improve the basic understanding of the subjects. Similarly, I brushed geography for GS1. These are parts of the syllabus that I focused on content enrichment.

Along with these approaches, I changed the answer presentation strategies. Earlier, I wrote GS mains answers in bullet points but in 2017, I shifted to multiple presentation ideas.



In order to avoid redundancy, I used paragraph models, bullet points, bubble presentations, tables, graphs, maps... and thus made the answers more presentable and made sure that the valid points virtually projecting outwards from the paper towards the evaluator. When I adopted such a strategy, what I had in mind was the views of the person evaluating my paper. He/She may not be interested in picking points from my paper, which was scattered all over the pages. Instead, it is my responsibility to make sure the valid points are catchy. With such a viewpoint, I presented answers diversely (to reduce redundancy of approach) and with more attractiveness (to make points appealing). It is these error rectification plans which helped me to improve by mains GS score by around 20+ marks. The writing practice also helped me to improve my optional score by 30+ marks. Also, essay scores increased by 15+ marks with the same.

I believe error identification and rectification are very crucial in civil service preparation. It will help every aspirant to increase their score by a small margin, which ultimately become too crucial. For this, test series and a second person's advice is needed, or at least that helped me a lot in my preparation. I consider mock tests and proper, regular feedbacks as the key to crack prelims and mains. Write, write, write... When you are tired, take a break, do something that makes you happy and regain the lost energy and momentum, and continue writing... Even when your preparation on static subjects is incomplete, don't skip tests. Attend tests with whatever you know. What is more important for Mains GS is writing practice and the ability to rise according to situations. Even when you don't know the answer, you should be able to give a logical reply to the question. Such an attitude should



be developed. Only with this attitude one can attend all the questions in GS.

What is needed is not the knowledge about all the things in the universe, but the ability to arrange what you know when the situation demands. Information nowadays is available at the fingertip for all of us. So, testing your memory is not a requirement in 21st century. What is needed is to check the logical nature of candidates. Be logical, presentable and develop the capability to identify errors. These strategies helped me to finish my journey towards AIR 58, which I was once halted just because of another 58. So, be confident about yourself, patiently wait for the success to embrace you and till the date she embraces, work hard and smart with proper plans and strategies.

Thank you!!!



## Ramit Chennithala

AIR -210, 2017

All India UPSC Interview Topper-206/275

### **PRELIMS**

The UPSC Syllabus mentions 7 topics to be covered for Prelims such as History, Geography, Current events, General science et al. To clear prelims, we need to understand the kind of questions that UPSC asks. Understanding the question paper has to be the first task of every civil service aspirant. Though UPSC does change the examination pattern once in a while, it has remained somewhat the same for the past three to four years. And hence, one must begin by going through the previous year UPSC question papers, understand the pattern and then start reading. This exercise must be done even once actual studies have begun so that we get a concrete picture of what UPSC “expects of us”. This is because our objective is not to learn “everything under the sun”, as the popular perception among the general public goes as far as civil service examinations are concerned, but to clear the examination based on the syllabus provided. It might seem very vast, but once you start studying, we realise that it’s very much under our control provided we remain ‘disciplined’ in our studies. There are certain focus areas for every prelims which must not be missed and I shall state them here:



1. International Organisations – reports and indices released by them
2. National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries – basically Ecology and Environment (arguably ‘the’ most favourite area for UPSC!)
3. India Year Book, Budget, Economic Survey – and similar government reports and materials
4. Government Schemes
  - In order to do “smart learning”, one need not try to read all the government schemes released. This remains a never-ending list. Instead what one must do is to cover them priority wise – first finish the schemes given in India Year Book and other government materials and then move on to other compilations. This way we can increase the ‘probability’ of us encountering a question, in the actual UPSC prelims, that we have learnt.

Prelims remains the toughest examination compared to the Main and Personality Test. This is primarily because the chances of even ‘genuine’ aspirants, i.e. those who have put in sincere effort towards the examination, not clearing Prelims is always there. Prelims is about the following strategies:

- Remembering a lot of facts – say for instance, under which Ministry does Swachh Bharat Abhiyan scheme fall under, through which National Park does river Brahmaputra flow, how many would one have to cover to travel from Shillong to Kottayam et al.
- CSAT (Paper 2): though it has been brought down to the level of a mere ‘qualifying paper’ where one needs to score only 33% i.e. 66 out of 200, the toughness level has been scaled up accordingly since the



reform was made in 2015. Besides, there are always rumours that Paper 2 marks are taken into consideration when hundreds of people score the same in Paper 1, say for e.g. if the cut-off happens to be 110 in Paper 1 and if there are 2,000 people on that mark then UPSC would choose to check their Paper 2 marks to avoid selecting too many to pass through Prelims. Rumour or otherwise, it is better we do not undermine the CSAT exam and prepare for Comprehension and Mathematical questions accordingly.

This is a list of books/materials I covered for prelims:

- History
  - Ancient: NCERT
  - Medieval: NCERT
  - Modern: NCERT, Bipan Chandra, Spectrum (by Rajiv Ahir)
- Geography: NCERT, Atlas
- Economics: NCERT, Ramesh Singh
- Ecology: Fortune IAS Academy notes
- Polity: Laxmikanth, NCERT
- India Year Book
- Union Budget, Economic Survey: Fortune IAS Academy gist
- Current Affairs: regular Newspaper reading

Towards the last two to three weeks just before the Prelims, one must minimize the study-time and instead attempt as many questions as possible. Fortune Prelims test series helped me a lot in this. The idea to understand is that the same bit of knowledge may be asked from a number of different perspectives. For e.g. think of the river Godavari. The questions may range from, which is the longest river to flow completely within In-



dia to the ascending order of rivers in the Indian Peninsula to through which all states of India does the river Godavari flow through. Tackling maximum number of questions helps us to understand this.

Remember, our objective is to merely ‘clear Prelims’ since it is just a qualifying examination and not to score the highest. Hence, do not pressurise yourself too much even if you do not come in the top most ranks mock prelims test series. Let me give some examples:

- 2017 Rank #1 Anudeep Durishetty: Prelims Paper 1 score 108 (cut-off 105)
- 2015 Rank #1 Tina Dabi: Prelims Paper 1 score 96 (SC cut off 94)

Even the toppers were aware that merely clearing prelims is enough!

## MAINS

Mains is centered on two words – ‘answer-writing’. Whatever knowledge we gain, unless we convert them into words and present it on our answer booklet, we won’t score marks. With this philosophy in mind, I used to write as many answers as possible, on a regular basis. Fortune Mains Test series really helped in this. Knowing my weaknesses, my strength and fine-tuning them accordingly. Even Essay, which is our first examination for Mains, has to be practiced once in a week. Websites such as “insighsonindia.com” post practise questions on a daily basis. Following them religiously helped me refine my writing ability to a great extent.

But all of this has to be accompanied with constant reading. Random reading will not help. Instead, read according to the syllabus at hand. This way we can ensure two things, one that



we have not missed out any portion and two, it boosts our confidence knowing that we have covered the syllabus completely.

I covered, at the least, the following books for mains:

- GS 1: Bipan Chandra (Modern Indian History), India After Gandhi (Post Independence Indian History), NCERT (Geography), Newspapers & Weekly Magazines (Outlook) (Society)
- GS 2: My optional being Public Administration, I did not have to refer to anything beyond what I already had prepared. For others, “From Government to Governance: A Brief Survey of the Indian Experience” by Kuldeep Mathur can give a good start.
- GS 3: Newspapers , ‘Evernote’ (app) note-making
- GS 4: as Dr.Babu Paul (former Additional Chief Secretary, Kerala) once said in an article, ethics and morality is what you have ‘within’. Go through all previous year questions and analyse how they can be answered. GS 4 lately has become a make-or-break-career examination but one need not worry too much about it provided we write ‘ethically sound’ answers and not make any blatant errors.
- Essay: practise essay-writing once every week. Reading and writing makes one’s skills better. It’s not the diction that they looking for, using high-sounding “Exasperating Farrago of distortions” kinda-words would not help much. It is the content of the Essay that matters which can fetch us marks.
- Public Administration
  - o Paper 1: Mohit Bhattacharya, IGNOU materials (available online for free)



- o Paper 2: Arora and Goyal, Bidyut Chakrabarti, Newspaper
- o Class notes of Mr. Muni Darsan

## **PERSONALITY TEST (INTERVIEW)**

Perceptions may differ, but for me, this was the comparatively easiest part. For one, here you get to speak out your mind. Two, it is a psychological game that we must play with the UPSC. My Personality Test preparation revolved around two things:

1. Know about myself – covered my DAF (Detailed Application Form - which is like one's resume that we submit once we clear prelims) from knowing the origin of my school to the history of the district I come from (just to give you an idea, in my case I had to cover Delhi since I was born and raised there, Alappuzha (father's native), Idukki (mother's native) and Thiruvananthapuram from where I graduated and been preparing for civil service
2. Read a lot of books – novels, fiction, non-fiction – almost anything and everything I could lay my hands on! I am a voracious reader and this was my exercise to keep my mind occupied.

What one must understand is this that it is okay if we unable to answer who the current President of say, Nauru is (it is a Pacific islands by the way!), but it is unpardonable if you do not know the name of your great-grand parents! This might sound ridiculous but the truth is many of today's "youth" do not know this even this much about one's own family lineage (this is not to assume that the UPSC panel members are sitting there to know our family lineage but just an example of sorts to



make one understand how much we must know of ourselves). What UPSC expects from us is 100% sincerity, honesty, integrity and even the ability to say “I don’t know”. Yes, that is an ability because most take a step back when the need arises to admit one’s lack of knowledge. As the UPSC itself claims, what they are looking for is not a ‘walking encyclopedia’, but a person who can ‘fit the shoes of a civil servant’! That is why it’s officially called a Personality Test and not an Interview.

### **Some Additional Personal Pointers:**

- Try to spend at least half an hour a day reading a book – it could be a novel, non-fiction – any genre you like – make reading and writing a habit and you would very soon realise how your personality has grown. This reading habit should be beyond your syllabus-oriented reading i.e. do not confine yourself to the books necessary for the examination lone. Joining a library would help. I have the habit of reading a lot of detective novels and historical fiction books. This is not a ‘must-to-do’ requisite, but it can help us be a better our personality.
- Read the newspaper religiously – be an “intellectually inquisitive” personality wanting to ‘know’ what is happening around us – in our city, in our state, in our society, in our world
- Know your enemy better than your friends! Understand every bit and part of UPSC exam pattern – the rest seems cake walk.



## ANAND MOHAN

AIR -472, 2017



### Preparation Strategy

I would like to share my detailed preparation strategy for Prelims, Mains and Interview with all of you with the hope that it would be of use to at least a few of you.

First of all let me burst some myths by narrating my preparation story. Unlike many people, Civil Services was not my childhood dream. Which means that I did not start my preparation from my school days or my college days. In fact I had not read farther than the Sports Page until I started my preparations. So the first myth that should be wiped out is that one needs to start young to clear this exam.

I was never an extra ordinary student. I never topped in any of my classes (school and college included). I was a good student, that is all. So the second myth to be discarded is that you need to be brilliant and extra-ordinary to be able to clear this exam. The very fact that I was able to clear this exam, and that too in my first attempt should make this amply clear to all of you.

Another misconception among the candidates regarding preparation is that only voracious readers can clear this exam. This again is false. Personally I am not the bibliophile that you would expect a civil service topper to be. I like reading, but I don't read much. Given a choice between a book and a movie, I would always pick the movie. The key in civil service preparation is focused reading and not voracious reading. Targeted and multiple reading of select sources would be much more beneficial than very wide reading for



civil services. So even if you are a lazy reader like me, civil services is still within your reach.

The reason for such a long introduction, was to tell you that the people who make it into the coveted PDF file is no different than you. We are all the same, people with some skills and a lot of failings. But the things that do make a difference is having the right attitude, working in the right direction, working smartly and most importantly working in a way which the exam demands of you. I hope that the preparation strategy that I detail below would help you take a right turn when you are at crossroads in your preparation journey.

## Prelims

I started my preparation in July 2016, which meant I had 11 months before I gave my first prelims in June 2017. When I began I was absolutely clueless as to where to begin and how. My general knowledge was next to nil, I hardly had any acquaintance with any of the static subjects. Which meant that I was badly in need to guidance if I had any chance of clearing the exam in the first attempt. So I enrolled in Fortune IAS Academy. I followed the classes at Fortune regularly and it gave me a solid foundation for my preparation.

For the first 4-5 months, my preparation consisted of, spending 3 hours in the classroom, 3 hours reading the newspaper and 3-4 hours revising the topics covered in the class. Also there was fortnightly tests based on NCERT text books, so I covered most of the NCERT texts in the first 4-5 months.

By December I had completed the static portions at least once. Starting December I enrolled in the Prelims Test Series offered by Fortune, and I divided my time between preparing Mains and Optionals with the weekly sectional mock tests.



I never stopped reading the newspaper and continued to spend atleast 2 hours on the The Hindu and also made notes. Since I was a little tensed about clearing prelims I devoted 90 days from March, April and May for focused prelims prep. In that period I made a time table so that I would be able to cover all the major portions including current affairs in 60 days' time. In the last 30 days before prelims, I did nothing but revise. Which meant I had nothing in front of my eyes in the last 30 days that I hadn't read before.

I combined my own notes from Newspapers and Vision Current Affairs compilation into very short written notes, I was able to reduce this one years' worth of notes into two 100 page notebooks. I read and re-read these two books multiple times in the last 30 days before prelims.

## Mains

There was no special preparation for Mains GS as such. Almost all the data that is required to write a good answer has been amassed on course of the year's preparation. My main focus was on answer writing practice. I had started writing answers very early. Me and my friend used to pick questions from "Insights Secure" and answer them in specified time. Then we would exchange our answers and review one another. This helped me immensely.

Also I had kept three notebooks separately for each of the GS papers and I noted down important events, news, trivia and incidents relating to each paper in the respective notebook. So I had a treasure of unique points which I could use in my answers.

After prelims, answer writing was intensified. I again enrolled in Fortune Mains Test Series which was a game changer for



me. This helped me immensely improve my writing skills. I strongly recommend joining a reputed Mains Test Series.

I also tried to write as many essays as possible and get it corrected by seniors as well as faculty members.

I also attended classes for Mains at Fortune. Governance classes were particularly useful. For Governance portion in GS 2, I read nothing more than the class notes.

I had completed the portions for Optionals once (though not conclusively) by Dec. After prelims I used to spend 3-4 hours on the Optional subject again. The stress here too was more on answer writing than rote learning.

## Interview

This is the part where I enjoyed the most. I basically had the freedom to do the things I always wanted to do. I began to read the newspaper so extensively that somedays I spend 5-6 hours on the newspaper alone. I did not make any notes, I just googled something interesting and then clicked another link from there, I just let the inquisitiveness of my mind run wild. The only thing I prepared was the DAF. I researched a lot about the hobbies that I had given, tried to develop my hobbies further and also prepared on my graduation subject. I also made it a habit to watch the “The Big Picture” on Rajya Sabha TV and also watched a lot of Al Jazeera for the World News.

The most important aspect in interview preparation is to be as much vocal as possible. Form a discussion group and discuss current affairs topics or some topic you think is relevant. What matters more is that you communicate well. Giving Mock Interviews are good, but don't try to do a lot. Pick and choose good panels and do not try to incorporate all



the suggestions that are thrown at you in a mock interview. Only accept those suggestions which you think are relevant. Make sure to read the paper on the day of the interview. Go with a smile. Be yourself and just dazzle them.

That is almost it. This is what I did as far as preparation is concerned. DO not try to mimic anyone's preparation strategy, it won't work. Try to incorporate facets of toppers' strategies that would be relevant to your mode of preparation. Wish you all the very best!!!

# Our Batches



## Regular Batch

Prelims + Mains

- 🕒 Covers the entire syllabus for UPSC civil services examination.
- 👥 Limited Batch Size.
- 🏆 Each topic is covered by expert faculty.
- 💻 Focus on building solid foundation on every topic.
- 💡 Analytical ability is inculcated through specifically designed interactive sessions.
- 📖 Regular NCERT tests.
- ✍️ Intensive Answer Writing Sessions.
- ⓘ DISHA mentorship programme to provide individual guidance for aspirants.
- 📅 Separate Current Affairs module also included in the course.



## Weekend Batch

- 👤 Catering to the needs of working professionals and college going students.
- 📅 The course aims to build a foundation for civil services preparation.
- ⌚ Convenient timings and regular tests.

# Modules

## Prelims

- Comprehensive coverage of all prelims topics.
- NCERT tests included to improve subject clarity.
- DISHA mentorship programme.
- Option to join Prelims Test Series as well.

## Mains

- Detailed coverage of all Mains topics.
- Focus on widening the perspectives of aspirants on every topic.
- Intensive Answer Writing sessions.
- DISHA mentorship programme.



# Subjects



## Indian History

- Indian History - a difficult subject for many aspirants.
- Key subject for Prelims and Mains.
- Module aims to deliver History in a way which makes the subject interesting for the aspirant.
- Focus on chronological aspects of History.
- Special emphasis on analysing various themes along with answer writing sessions.



## Indian Polity

- Indian Polity is the most important subject for Civil Services Examination.
- Polity module helps to build a solid foundation on the subject.
- The module aims to deliver important concepts related to the Constitution in an easy to understand manner for aspirants.



## World History

- World History – an important part of General Studies Paper I for Mains.
- Well-planned & systematic sessions to cover all key areas.
- Ensures complete coverage in short time.
- Detailed Answer writing sessions.



## Governance

- A topic which covers the entire mains spectrum from GS Paper I – IV & even General Essay.
- A unique module which very few academies in India can offer.
- Programme mixes theoretical aspects with practical examples & case studies.
- Regular answer writing and discussions.



## Art & Culture

- Art & Culture - a topic which many an aspirant finds difficult to cover.
- Programme aims to make the study of Art & Culture into a pleasant experience for the aspirant.
- Coverage of both Prelims and Mains topics.

# Optionals



## Public Administration

- Deals with the very subject matter of Civil Services Examination.
- Syllabus overlaps with 75 pc of General Studies Syllabus.
- Optional with most selections in past 10 years.
- Covers theoretical aspects of administration and Indian administration in detail.
- Incorporates the latest pattern changes in the civil service exam.

## Sociology

- Deals with various theoretical and practical aspects of Society.
  - Indian society- its salient features and evolution, part of subject matter.
  - Syllabus has good overlap with GS syllabus.
  - An Optional paper often considered a stable & 'safe' one with few dips in past 10 years.
- Course taken by the best available faculty in South India for the subject.

## Political Science & International Relations

- Deals with areas like philosophical aspects of State and Nation, Political thoughts & International Relations.
  - Overlaps significantly with General Studies Paper II.
  - Excellent results in the past 5 years with many results inside top 100.
  - Sessions include theory and answer writing to bring maximum clarity.
- Important topics would be detailed to help aspirant tackle any eventuality in exam.

## Geography

- A popular optional for Civil Service Aspirants.
- Good overlap with General Studies syllabus.
- Deals with various aspects of Geography including Physical, Economic and Human Geographies.
- Course handled by a former faculty of Vajiram & Ravi Institute, Delhi.
- Classes designed to give the aspirant an overall perspective of the subject.
- Critical concepts explained with a visual perspective to help aspirant grasp every aspect.

## English Literature

- An optional subject which has been popular with lovers of literature.
- Recent years has witnessed very good results in the subject.
- Course at Fortune helps the aspirant to appreciate the beauty of the subject.
- Faculty with rich experience to deal with the subject.

# DISHA

## Individual Mentorship Program



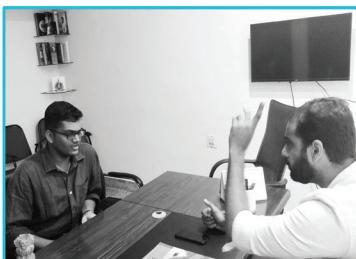
Each aspirant is provided a mentor.



The Mentor will guide the aspirant through Civil Service preparation Process.



Minimize the mistakes aspirants usually make & provide psychological support.



# Our exclusive programs

## Prelims

### INTEGRATED PRELIMS TEST SERIES (41 Direct Questions in 2017; 36 Direct Question in 2016)

- First time in India a Prelims Test Series which also covers Answer Writing.
- Aspirants are given mains questions along with every test to keep their mains preparation on track.
- The Prelims Test Series uses a self-learning algorithm to analyse the performance of each aspirant.
- Aspirants are given booster questions to help work on their weak areas based on analysis.
- Prelims Master assigned to aspirants to guide their preparation.

### PRELIMS CRACKER SERIES

- Special programs designed to help aspirants to give the best possible performance in UPSC prelims.
- Intensive sessions designed to give an extra edge to aspirants in the Prelims.

## Mains

### MAINS MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

- Fortune Mains Mentorship program combines a Test Series, Individual Guidance Program and our speciality- The Mains Quality Improvement Program.
- Covers all GS papers (Sectional + Comprehensive), Essay and the qualifying papers in various regional languages.
- Evaluation in the same pattern as UPSC.
- Individual Guidance Program involves detailed feedback after each test and problem solving to improve answer writing.

### MAINS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

- Programme to improve the quality of answers of aspirants appearing for mains.
- Regular sessions to explore different aspects of Mains preparation.
- It is offered free of cost to all Fortune students appearing for mains.
- The first QIP batch has over 50 pc conversion rate in 2017 mains.

# Interview

## INTERVIEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

- Fortune's Interview Mentorship Program(IMP) helps to prepare candidates in a holistic manner to face UPSC interview board.
- The Programme comprises of:
  - Detailed DAF analysis
  - T-Group Training Sessions
  - Personality Development
  - One on One Sessions

## MOCK INTERVIEWS

- Panels consisting of Civil Servants, Academicians and NGO activists in the exact model of UPSC boards.
- Designed to give the aspirant the exact feel of UPSC interview.



Interview Panel Chaired by Sri P K Sivanandan IAS & Nalini Netto IAS



Interview Panel Chaired by Smt. Shobha Koshy IPoS  
(Former Chairperson, Child Rights Commission,  
Kerala)



Interview Panel chaired by Sri Wajahat Habibullah  
(First Chief Information Commissioner of India, Former  
Director LBSNAA)

# Reading Room



State of the art  
infrastructure



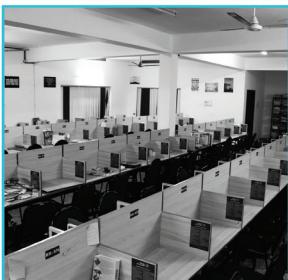
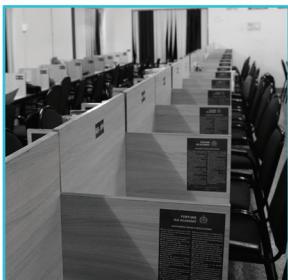
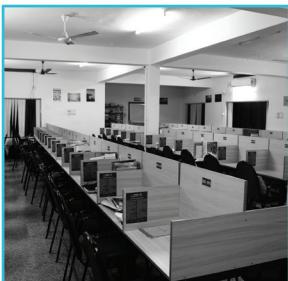
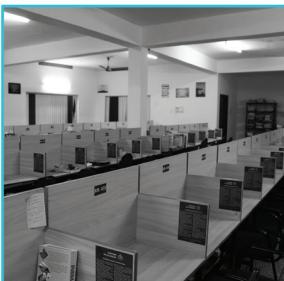
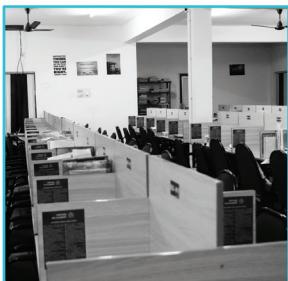
WiFi facility



Personalised cubicles for  
individual aspirant



Separate discussion rooms



# Our Results

## 2014-2015



Roshni, IFS, AIR 98



Simi, IPS, AIR 154



Sreevisakh, IRS, AIR 246



Kamal K, IAS, AIR 370



Saju V, IAS, AIR 429



Deepa, IPS, AIR 607



Krishnaraj, IPS, AIR 614



Hari, IRS, AIR 790



Jethin, RPF, AIR 1124

## 2015-2016



Anand O, IAS, AIR 33



Jeeva Mariya, IFS, AIR 147



Viswanad R, IPS, AIR 181



Asif K, IAS, AIR 215



Sreya A S, IRS, AIR 299



Anna Sosa, IRS, AIR 389



Padmaraj E, IRS, AIR 460



Subhaga, IRS, AIR 472



Ibson Shah, ICLS, AIR 575



Sidharth V, IRPS, AIR 584



Sunil George, IP&TAPS, AIR 587



Gayatri M, IRS, AIR 642



Ashif A, IRS, AIR 778



Vivek, IRS, AIR 783



Vaisakh P R, IIS, AIR 844



K Haripreeti



Vishnu A



Teresa Joseph



Neeraj P S



Rahul B K



Megha Sunny

# 2016-17



Sidharth B (AIR 15)  
Civil Service



Arya Sree (AIR 15)  
Indian Forest Service



Hamna Mariyam  
(AIR 28)



Dileesh Sasi  
(AIR 49)



Teresa Joseph  
(AIR 117)



Anju K S  
(AIR 150)



Albert John  
(AIR 179)



Cathy Tresa  
(AIR 210)



Sunaina R  
(AIR 240)



Arjun Pandian  
(AIR 248)



Chandni C  
(AIR 415)



Ankit Asokan  
(AIR 448)



Sreerag M  
(AIR 484)



Ibson Shah  
(AIR 540)



Febin Philip  
(AIR 548)



K Haripreeti  
(AIR 567)



Aishwariya S  
(AIR 632)



Vaishak P R  
(AIR 659)



Anjana S  
(AIR 662)



Ehjas Aslam  
(AIR 704)



Syama Saji  
(AIR 708)



Rehma R  
(AIR 735)



Abdul Rahim  
(AIR 755)



Arun Kumar P S  
(AIR 856)



Sabari Raj  
(AIR 867)



Shuhail T  
(AIR 885)



M Haneef  
(AIR 898)



Anu Vivek  
(AIR 980)



Athira Thampi  
(AIR 990)



Alen Jude Thampi



Arjun C Nilambur



Gautham S Kumar

# 2017-18 RESULTS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS !!



Hari Kallikat , AIR 58  
Integrated Program

"My Alma Mater in Civil Service preparation. The role played by Vishakhettan & Munichettan during all the years of my preparation is unmatched. Abhaychettan helped me in volumes for mains & interview preparation. In short, Fortune was the source of inspiration and guidance which helped me in converting my dream into reality.



Ramit Chennithala, AIR 210  
Integrated Program, PubAd

**ALL INDIA INTERVIEW TOPPER**  
My journey in Civil Services preparation begins & ends with Fortune. I became part of the Fortune family & as a family they gave 360 contribution towards my achievement. Of my result, only 1% belongs to me, the rest 99% is purely thanks to Fortune."



Anand Mohan , AIR 472  
Integrated Program

I cannot thank the entire Team Fortune enough for helping me through the entire Civil Services preparation. I've gained immensely from the class room sessions & Test series, but more than that I value the care & affection that teachers like Sylesh Sir & Munidarshan Sir have showered on me. Thank you Fortune!"



Sameera S , AIR 28  
IMP



Sathish B , AIR 125  
IMP



S Sursee ,AIR 151  
IMP



Abijith R,AIR 181  
IMP, PubAd, MQIP



Muhammad Junaid  
AIR 200, IMP



Albert John ,AIR 327  
Prelims & Mains test series 2016



Anjana U , AIR 382  
MTS, PubAd, IMP



Saddam Navas, AIR 384  
IMP



Naveen Chandra ,AIR 490  
IMP



Anna Sosa ,AIR 544  
IMP, PubAd



Devaki Niranjana ,AIR 605  
IMP, Mentorship



Irshad C M ,AIR 613  
IMP



Ibson Shah ,AIR 620  
IMP



Rehma R ,AIR 651  
IMP, GS Paper II



Amal N S, AIR 655  
IMP, Sociology



Chitra Vijayan ,AIR 681  
IMP, Mentorship



Afsal Hameed ,AIR 800  
IMP, Sociology



Navin Sreejith ,AIR 825  
IMP, Mentorship



"A very big thank you to the team at FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY for guiding me through the interview process. While the panels and the feedback were amazing, what helped me even more was the individual attention I got from Sylesh Fernandas Sir and Munidarsan Sir. They helped me make very important refinements to my personality which had made a world of difference in my approach to the interviews. I cannot be more thankful."

**Siddarth B, AIR 15**  
UPSC CSE 2016-17



"The exemplary guidance in Public Administration by Munidarsan sir helped me improve conceptual clarity and enabled me to score stellar marks in the subject. I have also attended the mock tests for prelims and the interview guidance programme at Fortune, both of which have helped me improve continuously and perform better."

**SUNAINA R AIR 240 UPSC 2016-17**



"I started my association with FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY through its comprehensive preliminary examination about 2 months before the 2016 prelims. Needless to say, the tests and the discussion helped me to prepare better for the prelims and I ended up clearing the Forest Service prelims. The Civil Services Mains Test Series helped me to get that writing practice which I found very useful during Forest Service Mains examination. The Academy was also kind enough to arrange a good mock interview session on a very short notice to help me prepare for my UPSC interview. Most importantly, the teachers at the academy were always approachable not just for clearing doubts but also when one doubts his/her own ability in clearing the examination. I would specifically like to mention Thomas Sir, Munidarsan sir and Sreevisak sir who were with me throughout the journey. The Academy has really helped me in all stages of my Forest Service Examination in one way or another and I'm deeply indebted to them."

**ARYA SREE, AIR 18, INDIAN FOREST SERVICE EXAMINATION 2016-17**



"Munidarsan Sir's guidance and the Public Administration Test Series helped me a lot in improving my optional papers score from 180 (2014) to 211 (2015) to 302 (2016). It helped me a lot in understanding the theories in Paper-I, giving contemporary examples and presenting better structured answers. Discussions in GS topics also helped me in giving appropriate examples and case studies while answering the GS papers and also during my interview."

**TERESA JOSEPH AIR 117, UPSC CSE 2016-17**

"The Prelims and Mains Test Series of FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY boosted my knowledge and analytical ability and also helped in improving my objective marking for Prelims. The Mains Test Series in particular improved

my presentation skills which paved the way for my success in Civil Services Examination 2016."

**ALBERT JOHN AIR 179**  
UPSC 2016-17



FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY has been instrumental in helping me reach my target. The Test Series at Fortune is highly structured and the discussions are also helpful to constantly improve my results."

**ANAND ORIKALAPAT, AIR 33, UPSC 2015-16**



"Public Administration by Munidarsan Sir helped me to grasp the concepts of the subject in a very effective manner and improve 60 marks under his guidance. The Interview Mentorship Programme at Fortune helped me perform well in my UPSC interview."

**JEEVA MARIA JOY, AIR 147, UPSC CSE 2015-16**

# 80+ Results in 4 years



# 80+

RESULTS IN 4 YEARS



## FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY

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+91 8138 940 888