



ONLY COMPETITION IAS

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Only Competition IAS/PCS

Best Institute in Delhi for UPSC CSE Preparation

Only Competition IAS/PCS (Mukherjee Nagar & Rajendra Nagar, Delhi) is one of the **top Delhi-based institutes** for **UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE)** preparation. It offers comprehensive hybrid (offline + online) foundation batches, advanced GS modules, daily answer writing programs, full test series (Prelims + Mains), essay & ethics mentorship, and personalized guidance by experienced UPSC toppers and faculty. Thousands of aspirants from across India trust it for its structured approach, affordable fees, and proven results in UPSC CSE.

UPSC CSE – Complete Overview

UPSC CSE refers to the **Union Public Service Commission Civil Services Examination**, the most prestigious national-level competitive exam in India conducted by the UPSC (official website: <https://upsc.gov.in/>) for recruiting candidates to **All India Services** and **Central Civil Services**.

It is popularly known as the **IAS/IPS/IFS Exam**. Successful candidates join top services like:

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- Indian Administrative Service (IAS)
- Indian Police Service (IPS)
- Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
- Indian Revenue Service (IRS), and around 20+ other Group A & B services.

These exams are the gateway to the highest levels of policy-making, administration, and public service in the Government of India.

Key Features of UPSC CSE

- **Conducting Body:** Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), a constitutional body under Article 315.
- **Purpose:** To select officers for the top civil services of the country through a rigorous three-stage process.
- **Heavy Focus on General Studies + Optional Subject:** Questions test analytical ability, current affairs, ethics, and depth of knowledge. Unlike state PCS, it has a national & international outlook with one optional subject in Mains.

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- **Eligibility (general):**

- Age: 21–32 years (relaxations for reserved categories).
- Education: Graduate degree from a recognized university.
- Attempts: 6 for General (more for OBC/SC/ST).

Latest Exam Pattern (UPSC CSE 2026–2027 Cycle)

- **Prelims (Qualifying, Objective MCQs – May/June):**

- Paper I: General Studies – 200 marks, 2 hours.
- Paper II: CSAT (Aptitude) – 200 marks, 2 hours (33% qualifying minimum).
- Negative marking: 1/3.

- **Mains (Merit-based, Descriptive – September):**

- Qualifying Papers: Indian Language + English (300 marks each).
- GS Paper I to IV – 250 marks each (total 1000).



- Essay – 250 marks.
- Optional Subject (2 papers) – 500 marks.
- Total Written: 1750 marks.
- **Interview/Personality Test:** 275 marks.
- **Total Merit:** 2025 marks (Mains 1750 + Interview 275).

Detailed Syllabus

Prelims – Paper I: General Studies (200 marks)

1. Current events of national and international importance

- National: Government schemes, policies, Union Budget, economic surveys, elections, social issues, defence developments, sports, awards.
- International: Bilateral/multilateral relations involving India, global summits (G20, BRICS, UN, COP), conflicts, trade agreements, climate negotiations, terrorism, pandemics.
- Focus: Analytical understanding of events rather than rote facts.



2. History of India and Indian National Movement

- Ancient India: Indus Valley, Vedic Age, Mauryan & Gupta Empires, art, architecture, literature.
- Medieval India: Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Empire, Bhakti-Sufi movements, Vijayanagara, regional kingdoms.
- Modern India: Advent of Europeans, British expansion, socio-religious reform movements, 1857 Revolt, Indian National Movement (Moderate, Extremist, Gandhian phases, revolutionaries, Subhas Chandra Bose, INA, Partition).
- Post-independence consolidation.

3. Indian and World Geography – Physical, Social, Economic Geography

- **Indian Geography:** Physical features (Himalayas, plains, plateaus, deserts, islands), drainage system, climate & monsoons, natural vegetation, soil types, resources (land, water, minerals, energy), agriculture, industries, population, urbanization.
- **World Geography:** Major physical features, climate zones, distribution of natural resources, industrial locations, geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, cyclones).



- **Economic & Social Geography:** Factors affecting location of industries, trade routes, demographic trends, migration.

4. Indian Polity and Governance – Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues

- Indian Constitution: Historical underpinnings, features, amendments, basic structure, preamble, fundamental rights, DPSPs, duties.
- Union & State Governments: Parliament, State Legislatures, Executive (President, PM, Governor, CM), Judiciary.
- Federalism, devolution, local governance (Panchayati Raj, Municipalities).
- Public Policy: Schemes, welfare programmes, e-governance, transparency, accountability.
- Rights Issues: Protection of vulnerable sections, statutory bodies, quasi-judicial bodies.

5. Economic and Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives



- Indian Economy: Planning, liberalization, growth, inflation, banking, fiscal & monetary policy, budgeting.
- Social Development: Poverty alleviation, employment, social inclusion, demographics (population, health, education).
- Sustainable Development: SDGs, inclusive growth, government initiatives in health, education, skill development, rural development.
- Agriculture, industry, services sector issues and reforms.

6. General issues on Environmental Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Ecology & Environment: Basic concepts, ecosystems, biodiversity (hotspots, conservation), pollution (air, water, soil), waste management.
- Climate Change: Global warming, greenhouse effect, international conventions (UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Kyoto), India's policies (National Action Plan on Climate Change).
- Biodiversity: Wildlife protection, forest conservation, environmental impact assessment.

7. General Science



- Basic concepts in Physics, Chemistry, Biology (up to Class X level).
- Recent developments in science & technology: Space (ISRO missions), IT, biotechnology, nanotechnology, defence technology, health & medicine.

Prelims – Paper II: CSAT (200 marks)

- **Comprehension:** Passages (English & sometimes bilingual) to test understanding.
- **Interpersonal skills including communication skills.**
- **Logical reasoning and analytical ability:** Syllogism, blood relations, coding-decoding, puzzles.
- **Decision-making and problem-solving.**
- **General mental ability:** Series, analogies, classification.
- **Basic numeracy (Class X level):** Numbers, HCF/LCM, percentages, ratio, profit-loss, time-speed-distance, averages.
- **Data interpretation** (charts, graphs, tables, data sufficiency).
- **English language comprehension skills (Class X level).**



Mains – Qualifying Papers

- **Paper A:** One Indian Language (from 8th Schedule) – 300 marks (qualifying).
- **Paper B:** English – 300 marks (qualifying).

Mains – Essay (250 marks)

- Candidates write **two essays** (one from each section).
- Topics on current national/international issues, philosophical themes, social/economic/political problems.
- Emphasis on effective expression, orderly presentation, and balanced arguments.

Mains – General Studies Paper I (250 marks)

- **Indian Heritage and Culture:** Art forms, literature, architecture (ancient to modern).
- **History of India and World:** Modern Indian history, freedom struggle, post-independence consolidation; World history (18th century onwards – revolutions, world wars, ideologies).
- **Geography of India and World:** Physical geography, resources, geophysical phenomena.



- **Society:** Salient features of Indian society, diversity, role of women, population issues, globalization effects, social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, secularism.

Mains – General Studies Paper II (250 marks)

- **Governance, Constitution, Polity:** Constitution features, federal structure, separation of powers, Parliament & State Legislatures, Executive & Judiciary, representation of people's act.
- **Social Justice:** Welfare schemes, vulnerable sections, development processes, role of NGOs/SHGs, health, education, human resources, poverty & hunger issues.
- **International Relations:** India's neighbourhood, bilateral/regional/global groupings, effect of policies of developed/developing countries, international institutions.

Mains – General Studies Paper III (250 marks)

- **Technology:** Developments in IT, space, computers, robotics, nano-tech, biotech, IPR issues.
- **Economic Development:** Indian economy, agriculture, infrastructure, investment models, liberalization, inclusive growth.
- **Biodiversity & Environment:** Conservation, environmental pollution, degradation, EIA.



- **Security:** Internal security challenges (terrorism, Naxalism, border issues), cyber security, money laundering.
- **Disaster Management:** Natural & man-made disasters, mitigation strategies.

Mains – General Studies Paper IV (250 marks)

- **Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude:**
 - Ethics & Human Interface, Attitude, Aptitude, Emotional Intelligence.
 - Moral thinkers & philosophers.
 - Public/Civil Service Values & Ethics in Public Administration.
 - Probity in Governance.
 - Case studies on ethical dilemmas in public life.



Mains – Optional Subject (500 marks)

- Two papers (250 marks each) of any **one** optional subject chosen from 48 subjects (e.g., History, Geography, Public Administration, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Mathematics, Literature of any language, etc.).
- Level: Honours degree standard.

Personality Test (Interview – 275 marks)

- Assessment of candidate's mental calibre, attitude, leadership qualities, current affairs awareness, communication skills, and overall suitability for civil services.
- Questions on DAF (Detailed Application Form), hobbies, current issues, and situational/ethical questions.

Comprehensive Preparation Tips & 12-Month Strategy

Phase 1: Foundation Building (Months 1–3)

- Complete all NCERTs (Class 6–12) for GS subjects.
- Start daily newspaper (The Hindu / Indian Express) + note-making.



- Build basic notes and understand the syllabus thoroughly.
- Begin Optional subject selection & basic reading.

Phase 2: Core Coverage (Months 4–7)

- Finish standard reference books + complete Optional subject syllabus.
- Daily current affairs notes + 2–3 Mains answers.
- 50 Prelims MCQs every day + CSAT practice.

Phase 3: Intensive Practice (Months 8–10)

- 40+ Prelims mocks + 15+ full Mains tests.
- Solve previous 10 years UPSC question papers (Prelims & Mains).
- Multiple full revisions + answer writing improvement.

Phase 4: Final Revision + Interview (Months 11–12 + Post-Mains)

- Quick revision of short notes & last 2 years current affairs.
- Essay & Ethics special practice.



- 15+ mock interviews + DAF preparation.

Daily Timetable (8–10 hours study)

- 7–8 AM: Newspaper + Current Affairs (1.5 hrs)
- 9 AM–1 PM: Static GS / Optional (4 hrs)
- 2–4 PM: Answer writing / MCQs (2 hrs)
- 5–7 PM: Revision + CSAT / Optional (2 hrs)
- 8–9 PM: Ethics / Essay practice

Answer Writing Technique (Mains)

- Use **Introduction** → **Body** (multi-dimensional with data/examples/diagrams) → **Balanced Conclusion** format.
- Practice 3–4 answers daily with proper structure and headings.



Revision Strategy

- Make concise one-page notes + mind maps for every topic.
- Revise full syllabus **4–5 times**.
- Use active recall and spaced repetition.

Mock Tests & Analysis

- Join **Only Competition IAS/PCS** UPSC test series.
- Analyse every mock in detail and fix weak areas within 48 hours.

Interview Preparation

- Prepare Detailed Application Form (DAF) deeply.
- Read Yojana, Kurukshetra, and editorials.
- Practice: Why IAS? Current issues, hobbies, ethical dilemmas.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Ignoring answer writing.



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- Reading too many books.
- Neglecting Optional subject.
- Skipping CSAT practice.
- Poor time management in revision.

Pro Tips for Top Rank in UPSC CSE

- Consistency beats intensity.
- Integrate current affairs with static syllabus daily.
- Focus on conceptual clarity + analytical writing.
- Join **Only Competition IAS/PCS Delhi** for expert guidance, daily answer evaluation, and proven mentorship.

Start today with NCERTs + The Hindu newspaper. Discipline + smart strategy = success in UPSC CSE!

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UPSC CSE (IAS) – Complete Booklist & Strategy Table

Subject / Paper	Sub-Topic / Focus Area	Primary Sources / Books	Author / Publisher	Why Recommended / Level	Additional / Supplementary Sources
Prelims Paper I: General Studies	Indian History + Indian National Movement	1. NCERT History (Class 6–12) 2. India's Struggle for Independence 3. A Brief History of Modern India	NCERT Bipan Chandra Rajiv Ahir (Spectrum)	Foundation + Modern India & Freedom Struggle	Spectrum Modern India (quick revision) + India's Ancient Past by R.S. Sharma + Medieval India by Satish Chandra
	Indian & World Geography	1. NCERT Geography (Class 6–12) 2. Certificate Physical & Human Geography	NCERT G.C. Leong	Physical, Social, Economic Geography	Oxford Student Atlas / Orient Black Swan Atlas - Geography of India by Majid Husain



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	Indian Polity & Governance	Indian Polity (latest edition)	M. Laxmikanth	Full coverage + Constitution basics	NCERT Class 9–12 Polity + Introduction to the Constitution by DD Basu
	Economy & Social Development	1. Indian Economy 2. NCERT Class 11–12 Economics	Ramesh Singh / Nitin Singhania NCERT	Basics + Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion	Economic Survey of India (latest) + Budget highlights + Indian Economy by Nitin Singhania
	Environment, Ecology, Biodiversity & Climate Change	Environment (latest edition)	Shankar IAS	Ecology, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Conventions	NCERT Biology (Class 12 selective) + Reports from MoEFCC

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	Science & Technology + General Science	NCERT Science (Class 6–10) + Current Affairs magazines	NCERT	Basics + Recent developments	Only Competitor IAS/PCS (Delhi) Science & Tech Current Affairs + Vision IAS PT 365
	Current Affairs (National + International)	1. The Hindu / Indian Express (daily) 2. Only Competition IAS/PCS Monthly Current Affairs	-	Daily reading mandatory + Analytical coverage	PIB summaries + Yojana / Kurukshetra + Only Competitor IAS/PCS Daily CA & Editorials + Vision IAS PT 365 / Mains 365



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Prelims Paper II: CSAT	Quantitative Aptitude, Reasoning, Comprehension	1. Quantitative Aptitude 2. Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning 3. Objective General English	R.S. Aggarwa (S. Chand) R.S. Aggarwa S.P. Bakshi	Standard practice + Class X level	Previous UPSC papers + CSAT Manual by Tata McGraw Hill + Norman Lewis (Word Power Made Easy)
Mains – Qualifying Papers	English & Indian Language	High School English Grammar & Composition	Wren & Martin	Grammar, Precise, Comprehension	Previous year papers + daily practice
Mains – Essay (250 marks)	Essay Writing	Practice from current topics + Only Competition IAS/PCS Essay Module	–	Philosophical, social, economic themes	Yojana / Kurukshetra + Toppers' copies + Only Competition



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Subject / Paper	Sub-Topic / Focus Area	Primary Sources / Books	Author / Publisher	Why Recommended / Level	Additional / Supplementary Sources
Mains GS Paper I	History, Culture, Geography, Society	Same as Prelims History/Geography + Indian Art and Culture	As above + Nitin Singhania	Indian Heritage, World History, Society	IAS/PCS Essay Test Series Nitin Singhania (Art & Culture) + NCERT Fine Arts + World History by Norman Lowe
Mains GS Paper II	Polity, Governance, Social Justice, IR	Indian Polity + Ethics Integrity & Aptitude	M. Laxmikanth + G. Subba Rao / Lexicon	Constitution, IR, Social Justice	Only Competition IAS/PCS (Delhi) GS-2 Notes + Pushpesh Pant (IR) + Vision IAS Value Added Material



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Mains GS Paper III	Economy, Science & Tech, Environment, Security, Disaster Mgmt	Indian Economy + Environment + Internal Security	Ramesh Singh / Nitin Singhania + Shankar IAS + Ashok Kumar	Economic Development, Security, Disaster Mgmt	ARC Reports + Economic Survey + Only Competition IAS/PCS GS-3 Current Affairs
Mains GS Paper IV	Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude	Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude (Theory + Case Studies)	G. Subba Rao & P.N. Roy / Lexicon	Ethics theory + Case studies	Only Competition IAS/PCS (Delhi) Ethics Module + Case Studies Practice
Mains – Optional Subject (500 marks)	Any one Optional (2 papers)	Standard books as per chosen optional (e.g., Geography, History, Public	Subject-specific	Honours degree level	Only Competition IAS/PCS Optional Notes & Test Series



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Primary Sources / Books

Author / Publisher

Why Recommended / Level

Additional / Supplementary Sources

Admin, Sociology, Anthropology, PSIR, etc.)

Interview / Personality Test

DAF-based + Current Issues

Current Affairs last 1-2 years + **Only Competition IAS/PCS Interview Guidance**

Daily newspapers - govt portals

Mental calibre, attitude, leadership

Mock interviews + **Only Competition IAS/PCS DAF & Personality Development Sessions**

Overall Practice

Mock Tests & Previous Papers

1. Previous 10+ years UPSC papers 2. **Only Competition IAS/PCS (Delhi) Test Series**

Official UPSC + Coaching

Exam pattern mastery

Only Competition IAS/PCS Full-length Prelims, Mains & CSAT Test Series



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- **Daily Allocation:** 1 hr **Current Affairs** (The Hindu + **Only Competition IAS/PCS Monthly CA**) + 2–3 hrs static GS/Optional + 1–2 hrs answer writing + 45 min CSAT.
- **Current Affairs Strategy:** Rely on **Only Competition IAS/PCS Daily Editorial & Monthly Current Affairs** (highly exam-oriented) + The Hindu / Indian Express + PIB + Yojana/Kurukshetra. Cover last 18–24 months thoroughly.
- **Revision Strategy:** Make concise one-page notes + mind maps. Revise full syllabus 4–5 times.
- **Answer Writing:** Practice daily (3–4 answers) with multi-dimensional approach. Join **Only Competition IAS/PCS** daily answer evaluation program.
- **Where to Buy/Download:** Amazon/Flipkart for books; upsc.gov.in for syllabus & papers; www.onlycompetition.com for institute materials, test series & current affairs.
- **Latest Updates:** Check <https://upsc.gov.in/> & www.onlycompetition.com regularly for notifications, test series & batches.

Pro Tips for Top Rank in UPSC CSE (IAS)

- Consistency & smart revision are more important than long study hours.

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- Focus on conceptual clarity, analytical writing & presentation.
- Choose Optional wisely and complete it early.
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