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# **General Studies: Indian History and Culture**

**(Success Mantra for UPSC/PCS Prelims – Exam)**

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This First Edition published in 2025

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**Title: General Studies: Indian History and Culture (Success Mantra for UPSC/PCS Prelims - Exam)**

**Author:** Akhilesh Jha

**Description:** First edition | New Delhi Publishers 2025 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

**Identifiers:** ISBN 9788197860379 (Print) | 9788197860317 (eBook)

**Cover Design:** New Delhi Publishers

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**NEW DELHI PUBLISHERS**

**Head Office:** 90, Sainik Vihar, Mohan Garden, New Delhi, India

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**Author**

**Akhilesh Jha**

**IPS (Retd), Gold Medallist**



**NEW DELHI PUBLISHERS**

New Delhi, Kolkata



# Foreword

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I wholeheartedly commend the work of Shri Akhilesh Jha in authoring this book “General Studies : Indian History and Culture, Success Mantra for UPSC/PCS (Prelims) Exams”. The Civil Services and State Services Preliminary Examinations demand comprehensive preparation, especially given the growing number of aspirants and the increasing complexity of the questions. Contemporary examinations are characterised by their heightened intricacy, diversity, and unpredictability. The subject matter continues to expand, necessitating a more rigorous approach to study. I recall my own journey of clearing the Preliminary Civil Services examinations, which, in retrospect, appear comparatively straightforward. Today, when I review some of the questions posed, I find them more challenging, demanding a deeper level of contemplation and analysis, and a longer duration for comprehension and accurate response.

A single General Studies book is no longer adequate to meet the contemporary demands of competitive examinations. What distinguishes this book is its remarkable clarity of exposition, supplemented by a wealth of academic content. Reading it, I felt as though I were engrossed in the works of eminent historians like Bipan Chandra, Romila Thapar, or DN Jha. The special attention given to Indian Culture is also a laudable feature of the book. The author’s expertise in Civil Services and State Services preparation shines through this text. In recent years, I have been closely involved with Civil Services Personality Tests, and I believe this book will prove to be highly beneficial in that context also.

In competitive exams, time is of the essence. It’s essential to prepare concise notes that can be revisited quickly. Over time, this book is likely to become the main text for candidates preparing for Civil Services, State Services, and other competitive exams.

In conclusion, I would like to underscore three points. First, it is imperative to maintain a regular study routine. Second, engaging in discussions and collaborative learning is invaluable. Third, strive to augment your knowledge a bit more each day and cultivate the ability to work swiftly by sufficient practice of Multiple-Choice Questions and focus on Reasoning and Critical Analysis. If aspirants adhere to these three principles, no obstacle can impede their path to success. I extend my best wishes to the author and to all the candidates who stand to gain immeasurably from this book.

**With Best Wishes,  
Mr Mohan Jha  
I.P.S. (1985) RR (Retd.) and  
Former D.G.P., Gujarat State**



# Preface

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It gives me immense happiness to bring out the book “General Studies : Indian History and Culture, Success Mantra for UPSC/PCS (Prelims) Exams”. This book contains important topics and related multiple choice questions. It would be very much helpful in self-preparation and self-evaluation. It has been my endeavour to develop a clear concept of students on every topic.

I would like that students should first of all read and mug up important topics from different books. I have incorporated a list of reference books at the fag end of this book. I would suggest that students should practise multiple choice questions and evaluate themselves. It is pertinent to note that the syllabus of UPSC is vast and it is incumbent, therefore, for every student to abreast with each and every topic. More stress has been given to those topics which are frequently asked in UPSC/PCS examinations. More focus has been given on Indian culture because a good number of questions are asked from this topic in the examination. An effort has been made to include as many multiple choice questions as possible.

I have also given the details of each topic in a nutshell so that students should have a clear grasp over the topic. Glossaries related to Indian history have also been added at the fag end of this book for the better understanding of the typical terms of Indian History. Since the pattern of the examination of UPSC Prelims is slightly being changed and more focus is on reasoning and critical analysis, I have tried to include questions which would provoke students to use their minds to analyse critically and arrive at the right answers.

The language of the book is very simple and lucid. Important maps/photos/tables have been incorporated for the sake of the first glimpse of every topic. I have also included previous years' questions and explanatory notes of UPSC and various PSCs. I hope this book would cater to the needs of aspirants of UPSC/PCS and other competitive examinations.

**With Best Wishes**  
**Akhilesh Jha, IPS (Retd)**  
**Gold Medallist**





# Acknowledgement

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I owe a debt of gratitude to the former DGP of Gujarat, Shri Mohan Jha, IPS for the constructive feedback given to me while preparing the manuscript of the book. I am indebted to my wife, Smt. Rita Jha, who allowed me ample time to write this book.



**Smt. Rita Jha**

I would like to mention my daughter, Mrs Pragya Jha who always encouraged me through thick and thin inspite of having busy schedule at London. My sincere thanks are due to my staff Miss Deepika Pare who laboured hard to prepare the manuscript of this book. I also offer my appreciation to my childhood friend, Keshav Jha who always motivated me whenever I was in doubt and work load seemed too much upon me resulting into a bit of desperation. Acknowledgements are also due to various scholars of repute whose valuable books helped me enrich my knowledge in developing this piece of work. Finally, I express my sincere gratitude to my all well-wishers and New Delhi Publishers who brought out this book in a better way. I hope this book would help students in gaining better understanding of the Indian History and rich cultural heritage of India.

**Akhilesh Jha, IPS (Retd)**

**Gold Medalist**



# *Dedication*



## **Late Amrithesh Jha**

This book is dedicated to my son Amrithesh who left for his heavenly abode during pandemic corona.



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