

INDIAN ART AND CULTURE

for Civil Services Preliminary and
Main Examinations



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NITIN SINGHANIA

**INDIAN
ART and
CULTURE**

**FOR CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMINARY AND MAIN
EXAMINATIONS**

Second Edition

About the Author



Nitin Singhania holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Economics from Presidency College, Kolkata. He is also a Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary. He worked in Coal India Ltd. before joining the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) in 2013 in West Bengal Cadre.

He has deep interest in Indian Art and Culture and is known for guiding students in this area.

Presently, he is posted as Sub divisional Officer in Purba Bardhaman District of West Bengal. Earlier he has worked as Assistant Secretary in Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and as Assistant Collector in Burdwan, West Bengal.

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*To
Dadiji and Dadaji
and
Maa and Papaji*

Preface to the Second Edition

It gives me immense pleasure to find acceptance of the first edition of *Indian Art and Culture* among the readers. I thank everyone who found this book useful in the pursuit of their aims.

I am indebted to all the readers who took the pain of providing important feedbacks for the rectification of inadvertent mistakes and suggesting new topics, keeping in mind the changing trend of questions asked by the UPSC in the Civil Services examination and other State level examinations in 2016 and 2017.

This new edition incorporates additional information from various e-sources and books read over the past several years, which are too many to mention. I express my sincere thanks to each one of them.

In the second edition, the following **two new chapters** and **an appendix** have been added:

Chapter 23: Coins in Ancient and Medieval India

Chapter 24: Indian Culture Abroad

Appendix 05: Recent Geographical Indications in India

Furthermore, many relevant topics have been added in the existing 22 chapters and four appendices to make the title more focused and comprehensive.

An illustrative list of the **new topics** is given below:

Indian Architecture, Sculpture and Pottery: Various mudras related to Buddha, Greek and Roman art under Gandhara School, Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves, ancient inscriptions and edicts, ancient universities, extensive list of Buddhist and Jain pilgrimage sites, list of Sun temples and

fire temples, list of other important temples in India and abroad and 12 jyotirlingas, Shershah's contribution to medieval architecture, architecture in Jammu and Kashmir, contributions by Charles Correa, etc.

Indian Paintings: Bhimbetka rock paintings, Jogimara cave paintings, Murals at Badami cave temples, Phad painting, Cheriya Scroll painting, Pithora painting and Saura painting.

Indian Handicrafts: A detailed list of traditional regional sarees, a list of embroideries and a list of various region specific floor designs.

Indian Music: Mando and Kollatam folk music, extended list of other folk music traditions, list of prominent folk instruments and various regional communities related to music.

Indian Dance Forms: More detailed information in each of the eight classical dances, extended list of folk dances, etc.

Indian Theatre Forms: Characters in ancient Sanskrit plays, extended list of folk theatres, Modern Indian theatre, and recent additions to the UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.

Languages in India: Detailed note on Prakrit, Pali and Apabhramsa languages, an illustrative list of ancient scripts in India.

Religions in India: Detailed note on various concepts under Buddhism and Jainism, sub-sects of Jainism and Buddhism, prominent bodhisattvas and ascetics, cults and sects under Hinduism, various avatars of Vishnu and a brief note on Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Christianity.

Indian Literature: Buddhist literature, Jain literature, Zoroastrian literature, Sikh literature.

Indian Cinema: A brief note on South Indian Cinema.

Fairs and Festivals: Festivals related to Jainism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism and an extensive list of fairs held in India.

Calendars in India: Detailed notes on different eras.

Famous Personalities: Prominent personalities of ancient and medieval India.

In addition to above, the questions and answers of the recent civil services

examinations have also been incorporated for ready reference.

There are so many people whom I wish to thank for this second edition.

First, I am beholden to Shri Ankit Jalan and Shri Neeraj Rao for their kind assistance in improving the content.

Sincere regards are also due to Maa and Papaji for allowing me time and support to complete this second edition in time.

To dear Sudipta, Nancy and Noyal – this second edition would not have been possible without your hand holding. I am deeply indebted to your loving support.

I am equally thankful to Shri Tanmoy Roychowdhury, Ms. Shukti Mukherjee, Janab Suhaib Ali and all the members of McGraw Hill Education who so patiently and cheerfully goaded, prodded, pushed and cajoled me to finish this second edition in time.

I hope this revised book will prove handy and useful to the aspirants and other readers. Comments and suggestions are most welcome for further improvement of the book.

October, 2017

NITIN SINGHANIA

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Preface to the First Edition

This book **offers comprehensive and latest information covering the broad field of knowledge on Indian art and culture.** The main purpose for writing this book is to ease the learning process for educators and civil services aspirants who need relevant information.

Reflecting the beauty of Indian culture, this book tries to provide the readers with productive, knowledgeable and integrated information about topics as broad as Indian art, paintings and architecture. Several new topics such as northeastern festivals, festivals in remote parts of the country and recent debates on art and culture have been included in the book. **The chapters on Indian Law and Culture, Martial Arts, and Calendar Forms are add-ons. In every chapter, the keywords have been highlighted so that it becomes easy for the reader to make a note of important points.**

The book also hopes to provide information to readers who wish to delve deeply into specific subject areas. The book contains standard material drawn from various primary sources and has been written primarily for students preparing for the Civil Services examination and other competitive examinations. It is hoped that the book will also be useful to students focusing on Indian culture.

The need for such a book arises in view of the fact that Indian culture has become one of the major topics to be covered in the Civil Services examination. The chapters in this book collectively constitute a **comprehensive, dependable and impressive source of knowledge for answering the questions asked in the examination.**

I sincerely hope that all the readers of the book will appreciate its content.

Any comments/suggestions towards enhancing the content and its richness will be most welcome. Your valuable suggestions will go a long way in making this book error-free in the future.

All the Best!

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Acknowledgements

It is a matter of immense pleasure to know that the handwritten notes developed by me in the past years have received such appreciation amongst the aspirants involved in the preparation of the Civil Services Examination. My humble thanks to all of them.

I am indebted to my parents, and wife Sudipta for allowing me time away from them to research and write.

“Maa and Papaji, my respect and deepest gratitude to you for being my idols. When the time got demanding, your support and encouragement were the only pillars of strength for me.”

Every project, big or small, is the fruit of hard work put up by many people who give their valuable advice and lend a helping hand. The contributions of my friends Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh, IAS and Shri Somesh Mishra, IAS cannot be expressed in words.

My sincere thanks to Ms. Sonia Wigh and Shri Shounak Chakroborty without whose assistance the project could not have been completed on time.

I offer my appreciation for the learning opportunities provided by Shri R.S. Agrawal (Ranker’s Classes), Vajiram and Ravi, ALS and Vision IAS which motivated me to write this book. Acknowledgements are also due to scholars of repute whose valuable works were highly useful in writing this piece of work.

The contribution of Gandhi Smriti Library, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie and Atul Photostat,

Mukherjee Nagar is immense as they provided me the sources to enrich my thoughts and ideas.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Tanmoy Roychowdhury, Ms. Shukti Mukherjee, Ms. Jubi Borkakoti, and the entire support team of McGraw Hill Education India for their unstinted cooperation and support in making this task interesting and as trouble-free as possible.

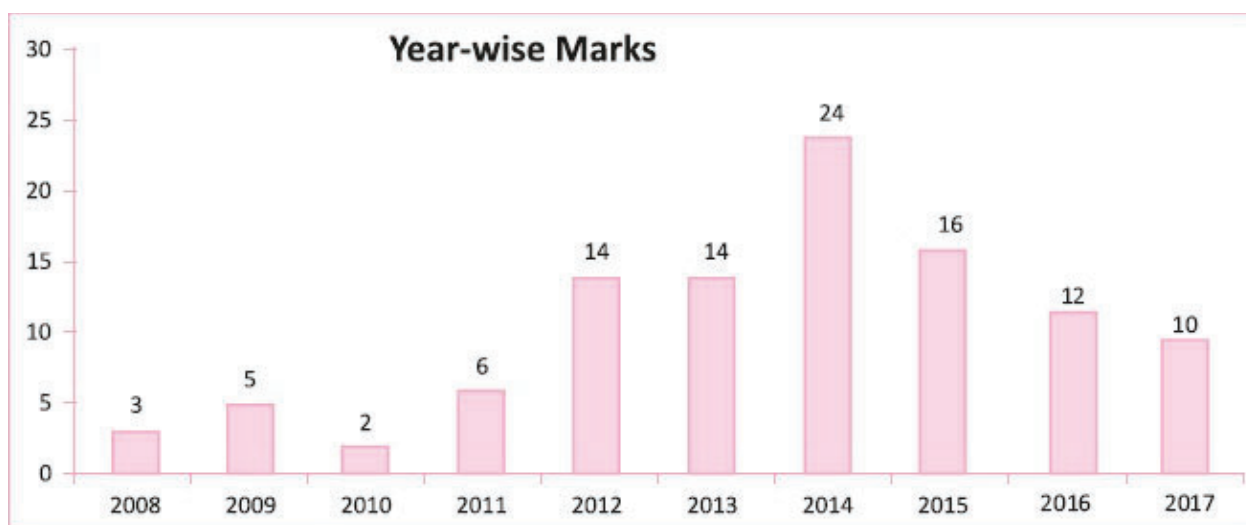
I finally hope that this book will help the readers in a better understanding of the Culture of India.

NITIN SINGHANIA

TRENDS ANALYSIS



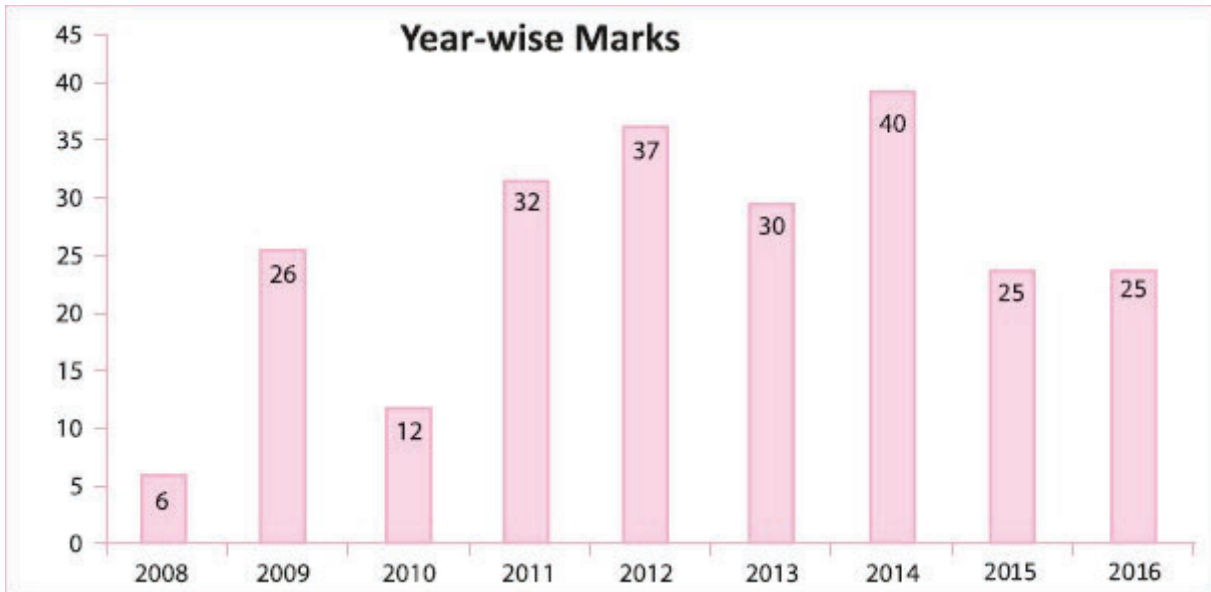
Year-wise Marks in Preliminary Examination



Note: In 2011, UPSC changed the pattern and syllabus of the preliminary examination. In the new scheme, Indian Art and Culture is included in General Studies Paper-I where every question carries 2 marks each.



Year-wise Marks in Main Examination



Note: In 2013, UPSC changed the pattern and syllabus of the main examination. In the new scheme, Indian Culture and Heritage is included in General Studies Paper-I which carries 250 marks.

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2017
PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION
QUESTIONS



Preliminary Examination Questions - 2017

1. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:
 1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of **Jainism**.
 2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary but existed forever in a latent form.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. The painting of **Bodhisattva Padmapani** is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at:
 - (a) Ajanta
 - (b) Badami
 - (c) Bagh
 - (d) Ellora
 3. Consider the following pairs:

Traditions			Communities
1. Chaliha Festival	Sahib	-	Sindhis
2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra		-	Gonds
3. Wari-Warkari		-	Santhals

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?