

## Pratibha- Foundation Classes for Competitive Exams



### **Motto:**

The motto of PRATIBHA: Foundation Classes for Competitive Exams is to add value to the formal education of students studying at the University of Delhi by orienting and equipping them with the necessary knowledge, skill set, aptitude, and attitude required to prepare for various competitive examinations. The programme aims to empower students and maximise their potential to achieve success in competitive exams. The classes are open to all bona fide current as well as former students of the University of Delhi. Since its inception in 2018, PRATIBHA has successfully provided orientation and guidance to both current and former students.

### **Vision**

The PRATIBHA classes strive to provide constant support and guidance to students who wish to prepare for various competitive examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commissions, and other agencies, with a vision to enable them to secure their cherished careers alongside their regular studies. The programme seeks to provide a platform for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds to realise

their aspirations. It also aims to build character and enhance students' capabilities by providing them with foundational knowledge and proper guidance on various concepts, thereby leading them towards their desired goals.

## **Mission**

**To realise the above-mentioned vision, the PRATIBHA classes aim to:**

- Orient students to discover their hidden talents and abilities through quality and innovative teaching techniques, ensuring they are well prepared to face the challenges of various competitive examinations after completing their studies.
- Nurture young and passionate minds so that students can realise their fullest potential.
- Inspire and support financially weak but deserving students so that they can join the PRATIBHA Foundation Classes.
- Conduct mock tests, mock test discussions, and personalised mentoring/guidance sessions to familiarise students with the nature and pattern of competitive examinations.
- Inspire students to become responsible citizens and motivate them to render selfless service to society and the nation by joining various public services.

## **Essential Details for the 2026 Add-on Course**

**Name of the Course:** Mastering the Basics of Competitive Exams

**Lecture Schedule:** Lectures will be conducted every Friday and Saturday from 6:00 PM–8:00 PM, and on Sundays from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM.

**Mode:** Online (Google Meet/ Zoom)

**Total Number of Modules:** 10

**Duration:** Each module will be of two hours

**Eligibility Criteria:** The course is open to both male and female bona fide students (current and former) from universities across India.

## **List of Modules**

### **1. Orientation About Competitive Exams Module (1 Lecture)**

**Objective:** To provide a clear roadmap for the structure, pattern, and expectations of major competitive exams.

**Components:**

- Overview of UPSC CSE, State PCS, NTA, and other examinations
- Syllabus demystification
- Examination pattern, stages, and marking schemes
- Strategy formulation for Prelims, Mains, and Interview
- Time management and study planning
- Do's and Don'ts for beginners

### **2. NCERT Readings Module (2 Lectures)**

**Objective:** To build strong foundational concepts essential for all competitive examinations.

**Components:**

- Coverage of Class VI–XII NCERTs (History, Polity, Geography, Economics)
- Identification of key themes and exam-relevant areas
- Concept-to-application techniques for Prelims and Mains
- Linkage with advanced standard books

### **3. Newspaper Reading Module (2 Lectures)**

**Objective:** Train students to extract exam-relevant content efficiently from newspapers.

**Components:**

- How to read The Hindu / Indian Express strategically
- Identifying exam relevant issues in newspapers
- Note-making techniques (digital + handwritten)
- Editorial analysis
- Linking newspaper content to General Studies papers

#### **4. Current Affairs Module (2 Lectures)**

**Objective:** To build a strong and dynamic understanding of national and international events.

**Components:**

- Approaching different current affairs sources such as newspapers and magazines
- Distinction between issues and events
- Mapping current affairs with the static syllabus
- Thematic analysis (Economy, Polity, Environment, International Relations, Society, etc.)

#### **5. MCQs Module (3 Lectures)**

**Objective:** To strengthen conceptual clarity and improve accuracy in solving multiple-choice questions.

**Components:**

- Understanding traps, distractors, and negative marking
- Techniques: elimination method, intelligent guessing, and time management
- Performance analysis and error-correction strategies

#### **6. Answer Writing Module (3 Lectures)**

**Objective:** To develop the skill of writing crisp, analytical, and high-quality answers for Mains.

**Components:**

- Understanding the demand of questions: keywords and directives

- Introduction–Body–Conclusion structure
- Use of flowcharts, diagrams, and examples
- Writing balanced, multi-dimensional answers
- Model answers and discussion
- Improving speed, clarity, and expression

## **7. Essay Writing Module (2 Lectures)**

Objective: To develop the ability to write analytical, structured, and high-quality essays.

### **Components:**

- Understanding essay structure: introduction, body, and conclusion
- Techniques for brainstorming and theme-building
- Use of examples, case studies, data, and arguments
- Maintaining coherence, flow, and originality
- Model essays and their discussion
- Evaluation criteria based on UPSC standards

## **8. Interview Skills Module (2 Lectures)**

Objective: To develop confidence, clarity, and personality-based responses for interviews.

### **Components:**

- Understanding the expectations of interview boards
- Detailed Application Form (DAF) analysis and personality profiling
- Body language and communication skills
- Handling stress-based and opinion-based questions
- Ethical and balanced answer framing
- Voice modulation and articulation exercises

### **9. Assessment Test Module (1 Lecture)**

An assessment test covering MCQs, short answers, and essay writing.

### **10. Discussion on Assessment Test Module (1 Lecture)**

Detailed discussion and feedback on the assessment test.

## **Management**

PRATIBHA: Foundation Classes for Competitive Exams is managed through the core committee as follows:

### **Convenor:**

Mr. Ahirrao Dinesh Bharat  
Department of Political Science

### **Members:**

Dr. Md. Zubeer Ahmed  
Department of Political Science

Dr. Raju Keshari  
Department of Political Science

Ms. Chanpreet Kaur  
Department of Mathematics

Dr. Abhinav Mishra,  
Department of History

Dr. Kush Kumar Gayasen.  
(IQAC Coordinator)

Prof. Swati Pal  
(Principal)

Dr. Shiwani Burnwal  
(Deputy IQAC Coordinator)