Union Public Service Commission Museum

Dholpur House
Shahjahan Road, New Delhi
The need for good governance was felt from ancient times. Kautilya's Arthashastra, circa 300 BC, the earliest known rhetoric that not only classified various roles of the State but also suggested measures to manage each, lays down a detailed roadmap of the state's resources to include human resources, and also ways to harness them. Under the scheme as evolved in these early sources, the higher bureaucracy consisted of the Mantris and the Amatyas; the Mantris being the topmost advisors to the King and the Amatyas, the high ranking Civil Servants. A new stage in the evolution of the administrative set-up occurred under the Delhi Sultanate and further under the Mughals, which being better organized and long lasting, outclassed all earlier systems.

The administrative system in post-Mughal India, devised by the British, was based essentially on the Mughal pattern, albeit with certain refinements. Big changes in the Civil Service set-up came after the Macaulay's Report in 1854 was implemented. In its report, the Macaulay Committee, which gave India its first modern Civil Service, recommended that the patronage based system of the East India Company, that is, Company's Directors choosing persons for performing civil service from among their own loyalists, should be replaced by a permanent merit-based civil service, merit ascertained through competitive entrance examinations. The Report insisted that the civil servants of the Company should be the best and the brightest and should have received the best, most liberal and quality education that the country afforded. As such, they should have taken the first degree in Arts from Cambridge or Oxford Universities. Accordingly, after 1855, recruitment to the ICS came to be based totally on merit. Initially, seeking its recruits from Oxford and Cambridge the ICS was an elite service. Subsequently, it
was opened to Indians and from 1922 onwards the Indian Civil Service Examination began to be held in India.

For examining various aspects of Civil Service and to finally take the responsibility of recruiting proper candidates, on October 1, 1926, a regular Public Service Commission with Sir Ross Barker as its first Chairman, was established. Later, to the Government of India Act, 1935 were added a few Sections relating to the Public Service Commissions. The Act was brought into force on April 1, 1937, and the then Public Service Commission at the Centre became the Federal Public Service Commission. The Constituent Assembly realised the need of ensuring unbiased recruitment to Civil Services as also for the protection of service interests, and for that it was deemed essential that Public Service Commissions, both at Federal and Provincial levels, were given a more secured and autonomous status. After independence the Federal Public Service Commission became the Union Public Service Commission and correspondingly its provincial units, each State’s Public Service Commission. Since 26th January 1950, the day when the Constitution was promulgated, the Public Service Commission was given constitutional status.

The Commission:
The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is a Constitutional Body established under Article 315 of the Constitution of India. The functions of the UPSC, scope, jurisdiction, term of office of Chairman and Members, their rights and privileges, and other related matters are governed by Articles 315-323 of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the Commission comprises a Chairman and 10 Members appointed by the President of India for a term of 6 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier. The Chairman and the Members are eminent scholars in their fields or senior civil servants with outstanding service record. Besides an appropriately manned Secretariat headed by a Secretary-level officer, the Commission also seeks services of various subject experts of repute.

Functions:
The functions of the UPSC have been laid down in Article 320 of the Constitution. These include:

(a) Conduct of examinations for appointment to the Services of the Union.
(b) Direct recruitment by selection through interviews.
The Commission shall also be consulted in:-
(i) Appointment of officers on promotion /deputation/absorption.
(ii) Framing and amendment of Recruitment Rules for various Services and posts under the Government of India and Union Territories.
(iii) Disciplinary cases relating to different Civil Services, and any matter referred by the President of India.

Museum
There prevailed for long a feeling that an institution like the Union Public Service Commission that has in its possession a rich treasure of archival material: original Pamphlets, Documents, Reports and other Records not easily accessible to the public, should have a Museum providing the public a window to have a vision of the great journey of this august institution. Accordingly, the Union Public Service Commission decided to set up a Museum where such materials could be aesthetically displayed for discerning visitors.

Broad scheme of the Museum
The Museum has been planned with three basic components, each forming a section in the Museum's display. The first section provides information and puts on display materials that highlight the history of UPSC, mainly the vision of administrative set-up in ancient India, administrative management of the State during medieval days and significant phases such as the Government of India Acts, 1919 and 1935 in the growth of administrative system in modern India. The section also includes some rare Pamphlets of Civil Service of India, 1916 and 1918, Indian (Imperial) Police Service Examination 1926 and Combined Competitive Examination, 1938. This section also provides information regarding Civil Services in other countries like China, USA, France, Japan and Bhutan. The other important exhibits on display are the 3rd Century BC Ashoka Lion Capital from Sarnath (replica) which is the national emblem of India. The photograph of the Members of the Constituent Assembly, Constitution of India in English and Hindi and extracts of views of leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in regard to Civil Services is also put on display. Efforts have been made for according each exhibit an appropriate ambience.

The second section displays some sample material related to UPSC itself, especially the pamphlets related to examinations such as Civil Service (Main), 1979, Indian Economic Service/Indian Statistical Service, 1971, Special Class Railway Apprentices, 1973, Engineering Services, 1987, Indian Forest Service, 1987, Section Officers/Stenographers (Grade
B/Grade I), Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 1981. The display also covers the examinations conducted by the UPSC such as civil Services, Engineering Services, Indian Economic Service/Indian Statistical Service, Indian Forest Service, National Defence Academy, Combined Defence Services, Combined Medical Services, Central Armed Police Services, Geo-Scientist and Geologist Examination etc. The three rare documents vitally important in the development of this institution, the Reports of Islington Commission, Lee Commission, and J.R. Cylnes Commission, are also put on display. Some significant mementos received by UPSC are also displayed in a specially designed showcase. The gallery also displays the portrait of Raja Udaybhanu Singh of Dholpur, the builder of Dholpur House that houses UPSC office, model of UPSC building and two stamps released on the occasion of Golden and Platinum Jubilees.


Archival Records and Documents such as Composition of the Public Service Commission, 1924, Indian Administrative Service (Recruitment) Rules, 1952, Notification of Indian Civil Service Commission, 1935 Rules and Regulations relating to Indian Police Service, 1937 etc. are also displayed. The archival materials, which has been displayed aesthetically provides an interesting and informative experience to the visitors.

Among other material put on display are books written by bureaucrats – products of this institution, as also the photographs of its former Chairmen tastefully mounted in chronological order. Objects related to Platinum Jubilee celebration of the UPSC are also displayed in a specially designed showcase. Panels of the Toppers of Civil Services, IES/ISS, Engineering Services, Indian Forest Service, Geologist Examinations, Combined Defence Services Examination, and Assistant Commandant of Armed Forces Examination are also displayed. The UPSC Museum has been conceived to give an idea of the development of UPSC, process of recruitment to various posts and thereby a vision of the country’s administrative system, its character and quality is on display.
Museum Building
The Museum Building is located within the premises of the UPSC, the Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi. The Dholpur House was constructed in 1920 by Raja Udaybhanu Singh, the Jat Ruler of erstwhile princely state of Dholpur in Central India. It was built for his transit residence whenever he was at Delhi. After India's independence on April 7, 1949, Maharaja Rana Udaybhanu Singh acceded Dholpur State into the Union of India. Dholpur was merged with three neighboring states to form the Matsya Union within the Union of India of which he was made Rajpramukh. Later, the present day State of Rajasthan was created by merging Matsya and several other unions. In 1949 with the merger of Dholpur State with the Union of India, Dholpur House became part of Indian Government's property. In 1952, the office of UPSC was shifted to Dholpur House.

General Information about the Museum
Timings: 10 am to 2 pm (Monday to Saturday)
Closed: Sunday and other gazetted holidays
Entry: Free
Photography: Allowed
Videography: After prior permission of the competent authority.

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