

## UPSC 2025 Application Form Evidence Based Guidance

### 1. Service Preference Order

Here's an **ideal approach to filling the form** for a UPSC aspirant, especially for someone doing it for the first time: To help aspirants decide their service preferences for the UPSC DAF, let's analyze the two images and offer detailed guidance:

#### Image 1: Full Preference List

- The candidate has opted for a **rank-based and strategic selection**.
- Top priorities (1-3):** Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and Indian Police Service (IPS), aligning with prestige, career growth, and societal impact.
- Middle-range preferences (4-12):** Includes Revenue Services, Audit & Accounts Service, and Information Services, focusing on financial, administrative, and media roles.
- Lower priorities (13-23):** Railways, Trade Service, and DANICS/DANIPS, emphasizing roles with lesser decision-making autonomy but regional relevance

INDIAN POLICE SERVICE ON THE BASIS OF THE RESULTS OF AN OTHER EXAMINATION AND CONTINUES TO BE A MEMBER OF THAT SERVICE SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO OPT FOR THE INDIAN POLICE SERVICE

S.N.	Name of Services/Post	Order of Preference
1	Indian Administrative Service	2
2	Indian Foreign Service	1
3	Indian Police Service	7
4	Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Group "A"	5
5	Indian Civil Accounts Service, Group "A"	9
6	Indian Corporate Law Service, Group "A"	8
7	Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group "A"	10
8	Indian Defence Estates Service, Group "A"	11
9	Indian Information Service, Group "A"	6
10	Indian Postal Service, Group "A"	12
11	Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service, Group "A"	13
12	Indian Railway Management Service (Traffic), Group "A"	14
13	Indian Railway Management Service (Personnel), Group "A"	15
14	Indian Railway Management Service (Accounts), Group "A"	16
15	Indian Railway Protection Force Service, Group "A"	17
16	Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes) Group "A"	4
17	Indian Revenue Service, (Income Tax) Group "A"	3
18	Indian Trade Service, Group "A" (Grade III)	18
19	Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service, Group "B" (Section Officer's Grade)	19
20	Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Civil Service (DANICS), Group "B"	20
21	Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Police Service (DANIPS), Group "B"	21
22	Pondicherry Civil Service (PONDICS), Group "B"	22
23	Pondicherry Police Service (PONDIPS), Group "B"	23
		SAVE & CONTINUE

participating in the Civil Services Examination for the year, for which he is interested to be allocated to. No change in preferences for Services once submitted by a candidate would be permitted. In case preference for none of the Services is indicated, the candidate will not be considered for Service Allocation [as per Rules of CSE, 2025].

Note 3: The services which are not required to be opted have been shown as 'NOT OPTED.'

Note 4: A candidate who is appointed to the Indian Police Service on the basis of the results of an earlier examination and continues to be a member of that service shall not be eligible to opt for the Indian Police Service in Civil Services Examination, 2025.

S.N.	Name of Services/Post	Order of Preference
1.	Indian Administrative Service	<b>02</b>
2.	Indian Foreign Service	<b>Not Opted</b>
3.	Indian Police Service	<b>01</b>
4.	Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Group "A"	<b>08</b>
5.	Indian Civil Accounts Service, Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
6.	Indian Corporate Law Service, Group "A"	<b>03</b>
7.	Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
8.	Indian Defence Estates Service, Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
9.	Indian Information Service, Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
10.	Indian Postal Service, Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
11.	Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service, Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
12.	Indian Railway Management Service (Traffic), Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
13.	Indian Railway Management Service (Personnel), Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
14.	Indian Railway Management Service (Accounts), Group "A"	<b>Not Opted</b>
15.	Indian Railway Protection Force Service, Group "A"	<b>07</b>
16.	Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes) Group "A"	<b>05</b>
17.	Indian Revenue Service, (Income Tax) Group "A"	<b>04</b>
18.	Indian Trade Service, Group "A" (Gr. III)	<b>Not Opted</b>
19.	Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service, Group 'B' (Section Officer's Grade)	<b>Not Opted</b>
20.	Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Civil Service (DANICS), Group "B"	<b>Not Opted</b>
21.	Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Police Service (DANIPS), Group "B"	<b>Not Opted</b>
22.	Pondicherry Civil Service (PONDICS), Group "B"	<b>Not Opted</b>
23.	Pondicherry Police Service (PONDIPS), Group "B"	<b>06</b>

### Image 2: Limited Preference List

- The candidate has only **opted for select Group "A" services** and marked others as "Not Opted."
- Top priorities (1-5):** IAS, IFS, IPS, and Indian Revenue Services (Income Tax and Customs), reflecting a preference for higher autonomy and impact.
- Not opted for:** Indian Audit, Railways, DANICS, DANIPS, etc., likely due to lower personal interest or perceived limitations in scope.

### Guidelines for Filling Service Preferences

- Understand the Role and Scope**
  - IAS:** Top preference for aspirants aiming for policymaking, administration, and fieldwork.
  - IFS:** For those interested in diplomacy and representing India globally.
  - IPS:** For those inclined toward law enforcement and internal security.
  - Other Group "A" services like IRS, IAAS, etc., are excellent for roles in taxation, auditing, and finance.
- Consider Long-term Goals**
  - Opt for services aligning with your **career aspirations** (policy-making, international relations, or law enforcement).
  - Reflect on job location preferences (central vs. state roles).

### 3. Work-Life Balance

- Services like Railways and Postal may offer a relatively balanced work-life compared to IAS/IPS.

### 4. Growth Opportunities

- Some services, like IAS and IPS, have direct opportunities for leadership and decision-making, while others (like DANICS/DANIPS) might involve regional governance with limited national exposure.

### 5. Personal Interest and Aptitude

- If you are passionate about finance, go for IRS.
- For roles involving strategy, opt for IAAS or Indian Trade Service.

### 6. Strategic Selection

- Prioritize services where rank alignment matches probability of allocation.

## Practical Advice for Aspirants

- **Do Your Research:** Understand the job profile and challenges of each service.
  - **Be Realistic:** Based on your expected rank, set preferences strategically to maximize chances.
  - **Avoid Leaving Many Blank:** Not opting for services may reduce your chances of selection if rank falls slightly.
- Let me know if you need further elaboration!

Particulars at the University/State/National Level in respect of following :-

Prizes, Medals, Scholarships, etc.

Sports/N.C.C. etc.

Position(s) of distinction Leadership held in School/College

Other extracurricular activities and interests.(Such as hobbies etc.)

## 2. Prizes, Medals, Scholarships, etc.

Include any academic or extracurricular achievements such as:

- Academic excellence awards (e.g., school/college topper).
- Scholarships received for education (e.g., Merit Scholarship, INSPIRE Scholarship).
- Medals or recognition in competitive exams or Olympiads (e.g., NTSE, KVPY, or subject-specific competitions).
- Certificates of merit in debates, essay writing, or quiz competitions.

## 3. Sports/N.C.C. etc.

Highlight participation or achievements in sports or NCC-related activities:

- District/State/National level representation in sports (e.g., cricket, badminton, athletics).
- NCC or NSS participation with specific ranks or leadership roles (e.g., Senior Under Officer).
- Adventure activities like trekking, marathons, or other endurance sports.
- Any certifications or medals received during camps or competitions.

#### 4. Position(s) of Distinction/Leadership Held in School/College

Mention leadership roles or significant positions held:

- School captain, head boy/girl, or class representative.
- President/Secretary of a college or school club (e.g., debate, literary, or environment club).
- Organizing events, cultural fests, or academic seminars.
- Leadership in community service programs or NGOs.

#### 5. Other Extracurricular Activities and Interests (Such as Hobbies)

This section should reflect genuine hobbies and extracurricular involvement. Some examples:

- Reading books (non-fiction, biographies, poetry).
- Writing (creative writing, journaling, blogging).
- Participating in debates, MUNs, or public speaking.
- Volunteering for NGOs or social causes.
- Pursuing arts like painting, music, or dance.
- Playing strategic games (e.g., chess) or outdoor sports.
- Adventure activities like trekking or cycling.

Category	Hobbies
<b>Intellectual &amp; Analytical Hobbies</b>	Reading (non-fiction, fiction, biographies, self-help books, poetry)
	Watching educational documentaries and socially relevant films
	Engaging in international affairs discussions (especially for PSIR optional)
	Debating on contemporary issues
	Listening to informative podcasts
	Solving puzzles (Rubik's Cube, Sudoku, logical reasoning challenges)
	Reflective journaling & creative writing
	Writing poetry and personal reflections
	Classical and freestyle dancing
	Singing (old Bollywood songs, classical music, contemporary)
<b>Fitness &amp; Wellness-Oriented Hobbies</b>	Playing musical instruments
	Cooking (regional cuisine, healthy recipes, experimental cooking)
	Yoga, meditation, and Vipassana
	Strength training and powerlifting
	Running (short-distance, long-distance, marathons)
	Jogging and cycling
<b>Strategic &amp; Competitive Hobbies</b>	Trekking and adventure sports
	Gym workouts and endurance training
	Playing chess, badminton, football, and e-sports
	Watching and analyzing sports (cricket, football, Formula 1)
<b>Social &amp; Service-Oriented Hobbies</b>	Engaging in strategy-based games and competitions
	Following motorsports (Formula 1, rally events)
	Volunteering for social causes
	Mentoring and guiding students/aspirants
<b>Entertainment &amp; Leisure Hobbies</b>	Teaching underprivileged children
	Participating in community development initiatives
	Watching thriller web series and sitcoms
	Exploring historical tourism and cultural heritage
	Listening to spiritual and motivational music
	Watching documentaries and learning about diverse cultures



**Key Tips for Filling the Form:**

1. **Be Honest:** Avoid exaggeration or fake entries. Only list things you can confidently talk about during the interview.
2. **Be Specific:** Instead of generic terms like "sports," specify "district-level badminton player."
3. **Prepare in Advance:** If you feel your extracurriculars or hobbies are limited, invest time in developing them before submission.
4. **Alignment with Personality Test:** Remember, anything you mention here might lead to detailed questions in the UPSC interview, so be well-prepared.

**TIPS FOR BEGINNERS**

If an aspirant is a **beginner** without significant credentials, achievements, or leadership roles to mention in the UPSC DAF, the following strategies can help them fill the form effectively and strategically:

**1. Prizes, Medals, Scholarships, etc.**

If you don't have significant awards or scholarships:

- **Focus on Academic Achievements:** Mention any small-scale recognition, such as subject-specific prizes or high marks in school/college exams. For example:
  - "Certificate of Merit for securing above 90% in Class 12 Board Exams."
  - "Topper of college department/stream."
- **Participation-Based Recognition:** Mention participation certificates in school/college competitions (debates, quizzes, science exhibitions).
- If nothing stands out, this section can be left blank as it isn't mandatory to fill.

**2. Sports/N.C.C. etc.**

If you lack formal sports or NCC experience:

- **Highlight Casual Sports Engagement:** Mention regular participation in sports or fitness activities during school/college.
  - Example: "Played cricket/badminton in inter-class tournaments."
  - Example: "Regular participation in marathon events or school-level athletics."
- **Outdoor Activities:** If you've participated in trekking, cycling events, or fitness routines, mention them here.
- **NCC/NSS Participation:** If you have no NCC/NSS background, this can be left blank without worry.

**3. Positions of Distinction/Leadership Held in School/College**

If you haven't held formal leadership positions:

- **Highlight Informal Roles:** Any role where you coordinated or organized activities:
  - "Organized cultural events in college fests."
  - "Team leader during a college project or group assignment."
- **Volunteer Work:** Mention involvement in organizing events for NGOs, social drives, or community work.
  - Example: "Volunteer at a blood donation camp or cleanliness drive."
- **Focus on Initiative-Taking:** Highlight instances where you showed initiative, even if informally.

**4. Other Extracurricular Activities and Interests (Such as Hobbies)**

This section is ideal for beginners:

- **Be Genuine:** Mention hobbies or interests you genuinely pursue or want to develop.
  - Examples: Reading (fiction/non-fiction), writing, blogging, cooking, journaling, gardening, yoga, fitness, or playing casual games like chess.
- **Start Developing New Hobbies:** If you feel your hobbies are generic, spend the next few months cultivating meaningful ones (e.g., trekking, volunteering, or learning a musical instrument).

- **Avoid Overclaiming:** Don't mention hobbies that you have never pursued; UPSC interviewers may ask detailed questions about them.

### Tips for Beginners

1. **Honesty is Key:** It's better to leave a section blank than fabricate achievements.
2. **Focus on Progress:** Start engaging in hobbies, volunteer work, or fitness activities now so that you can confidently showcase them in future forms or interviews.
3. **Don't Worry About Comparisons:** UPSC evaluates candidates holistically, and the absence of significant achievements doesn't disqualify you.
4. **Prepare for Questions:** Be ready to explain why you didn't pursue certain activities (e.g., focus on studies or lack of opportunities) and how you're making up for it now.

**Final Advice:** Use the form as an opportunity to reflect on areas to develop. UPSC values sincerity, consistency, and depth in your interests more than flashy credentials. You still have time to align your hobbies and interests with your personality!

The road to UPSC 2025 may seem challenging, but with the right tools and consistent effort, success is within reach. At **Margdarshan IAS**, we've crafted the **PYQsAstra Programme**—a game-changer for your preparation. This includes:

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Let's make it happen together!  
Your big brother,  
**Siddharth Bhaiya**

