



Comprehensive Coverage of JAMMU & KASHMIR and LADAKH

By

Dr. Gulam Mohammed Sheikh

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Preface

In the heart of the Indian subcontinent lies a land of enchanting beauty, rich history, and diverse cultures - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Nestled among the majestic Himalayan mountains, this region has captivated the imagination of travelers, scholars, and explorers for centuries. From the snow-capped peaks of the Kashmir Valley to the vibrant traditions of Jammu and the rugged landscapes of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir is a microcosm of India's cultural, geographical, and historical diversity.

This comprehensive book, meticulously curated for competitive examinations, takes you on a journey through the multifaceted tapestry of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Divided into two parts - Part A focusing on Jammu and Kashmir and Part B delving into the distinct Ladakh region - this book seeks to provide an in-depth understanding of the region's history, culture, governance, geography, environment, society, and economy.

Part A (Jammu and Kashmir) begins by unraveling the historical narrative of this region, from the ancient civilizations that once thrived here to the legacy of the Dogra rulers and the princely state's intricate past. The rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir is explored through its festivals, folk music, dances, languages, literature, arts, crafts, and cuisines. It also delves into the lives and aspirations of the resilient people who call this land their home.

The political landscape is dissected in detail, covering the significant Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, the unique constitutional provisions, and its transformation into a Union Territory. The book offers insights into the legislative, executive, and judicial structures, as well as the grassroots governance through Panchayati Raj institutions.

Part A further explores the geography and environment of Jammu and Kashmir. It describes the diverse topography, climate, rivers, lakes, mountain ranges, passes, glaciers, and the breathtaking natural beauty that makes it a tourist's paradise. Conservation efforts and the unique wildlife sanctuaries and national parks are also highlighted.

The societal and economic aspects of Jammu and Kashmir are comprehensively covered, including topics such as the Indus Water Treaty, land reforms, transportation networks, industries, energy resources, agriculture, horticulture, education, healthcare, and famous personalities hailing from the region. The book also touches upon the region's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and its vibrant sports culture.

Part B (Ladakh) is a tribute to the captivating region of Ladakh, which boasts its own distinct history, culture, and geography. It takes readers on a journey through Ladakh's historical evolution, its unique festivals, music, dances, languages, literature, and culinary delights.

The political landscape of Ladakh is explored, from its emergence as a Union Territory to the functioning of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. The book offers insights into the judicial system, administrative setup, and the geographical and environmental aspects, including the region's pristine lakes, rivers, glaciers, and national parks.

Society and economy in Ladakh are also discussed in detail, covering transport networks, industries, energy resources, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, wildlife, and the region's contributions to centrally sponsored schemes and sports.

This book is more than just a compilation of facts and figures; it is a tribute to the resilience, diversity, and cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It is a resource designed to equip readers with a comprehensive understanding of this captivating region, making it an invaluable companion for aspirants preparing for competitive examinations or anyone seeking to explore the beauty and complexity of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. We hope this book not only informs but also inspires a deeper appreciation for this magnificent part of India.

—Dr. Gulam Mohammed Sheikh

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