

Mains Guidance Program

2021

Mentor Supported, Test Series Based Self Study Program for Civil Services Examination

Under the guidance of **Mr. Ayush Sinha**, Founder, ForumIAS

This document has detailed guidelines for Civil Services Mains Preparation, and how the Mains Guidance Program aids in the preparation.

It has the approach adopted by ForumIAS Academy for guidance of its students but are useful for anyone wanting to get started.

Feel free to email, share or WhatsApp it.

Do not print this document. The colors won't come nice if you, like us, have a black and white printer.

A more print friendly, smaller format for print purpose with program details is available at <http://go.forumias.com/mgp>.

Top Rankers of ForumIAS Academy

1. Anudeep D (IAS Rank 1)
2. Sachin Gupta (IAS Rank 3)
3. Pratham Kaushik (IAS Rank 5)
4. Varun Reddy (IAS Rank 7)
5. Anubhav Singh (IAS Rank 8)
6. Abhishek Surana (IAS Rank 10)
7. Siddharth Jain (IAS Rank 11)
8. Varnit Negi (IAS Rank 13)
9. Ankita Chaudhary (IAS Rank 14)

Successful Women Candidates from ForumIAS Academy

1. Mittali Sethi, IAS (Maharashtra)
2. Pushplata, IAS (Haryana)
3. Ankita Mishra, IAS (Uttar Pradesh)
4. Kajal Jawla, IAS (Haryana)
5. Aparajita Sinsinwar (Haryana)
6. Dhatri Reddy IPS (Andhra P)
7. Juhi Jalota, IFS (Punjab)
8. Shwetha M, IFS (Karnataka)
9. Ilma Afroj, IPS (Uttar Pradesh)
10. Jyoti Yadav, IPS (Haryana)
11. Mary Renjana Verghese, IAS (Kerala)
12. Shafqat Amna, IPS (Bihar)

ForumIAS Academy Students are from every region

1. Sumit Rai, IAS (Bihar)
2. Vijay Saraswat, IPS (Haryana)
3. Varun Reddy, IAS (Andhra)
4. Ganesh U, IFoS, (Tamil Nadu)
5. Digvijay Bodke, IAS (Maharashtra)
6. Namrata Jain, IAS (Chhattisgarh)
7. Minal Karanwal IAS (Uttarakhand)
8. Abhishek Surana, IAS (Rajasthan)
9. Bhawna H S, IFS (Karnataka)
10. Prajit Nair, IAS (Kerala)
11. Mohnish Digra, IRS (J & K)
12. Jai Shivani, IAS (MP)

3 Times Rank 1 in Indian Forest Service

IFoS Rank 1 – Vaibhav Srivastava (2017), M Naveen Reddy (2018) , Rishi Kumar (2019) | All are MGP Students

*This is a small list of students who enrolled in ForumIAS Academy premium, paid courses. They may or may not be members of the FREE ForumIAS Community Platform or followers of free blog initiatives. The list is not arranged in a hierarchy of service, rank, state, seniority or on any other parameter. The list is created to showcase the diversity of ForumIAS Students, and not the numbers – which is a little too big to accommodate in a single page.

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Mentorship

Online, Seamless, Hassle-Free

Mentorship – Available Online Seamlessly

What is common to the majority of our students who have secured Ranks in Top 100 including Rank 1?

- (1) They have written at least 80% of the Tests on time.
- (2) They may have never visited the Offline Centre, but kept in touch through Email/ WhatsApp / Phone and Support Tickets

Starting MGP 2021, our exclusive focus will be on providing seamless, hassle free, mentorship to you – without having to wait in a queue at the Offline Centre. Once you have written a Test and your copy has been evaluated, you can reach out to us for a mentorship session on your copy.

Who is a good Mentor for me?

A good mentor is one who understands the demand of the examination. Thus, a candidate who has recently appeared for the exam or cleared the Prelims three time in a row maybe a good mentor for Prelims. Someone who has cleared Mains two times – (one time can be fluke, two times cannot) can give you some good insights on Mains examination.

Similarly, a good mentor is one who is closely associated with the exam, has relevant experience, and continuously updates himself can be a good mentor.

But most importantly, the mentor has to be such that he is interested in your success and has your best interest in mind.

Which is why, the best mentor you have is an elder sibling or your parent –This is because they have your best interest in mind – and your success is their success.

ForumIAS Mentors consists of

- People who have a deep understanding of the examination
- People who have relevant Mains & Interview experience
- People who have been selected with good ranks

Every year, ForumIAS requires some of its students who have topped the examination to provide online and offline mentorship to the next year's students. This ensures that you get the best mentorship possible. This is also in synchronisation with our vision of being a platform that spreads knowledge.

ForumIAS does not recruit students as mentors, even though it requires that mentors be continuous learners.

Subject Specific Mentorship @ForumIAS

Starting MGP 2021, the Academy will provide subject specific mentorship apart from the general mentorship on answer writing. This is being done, keeping in mind that the requirements of the Commission in terms of awarding marks are beyond presentation skills.

The Subject Specific Mentorship – called Level 2 mentorship – will be available once you have made basic changes to answer writing. This should be useful for candidates who have already acquired good answer writing skills, but need very specific inputs, after reaching a plateau.

Online Mentorship @ForumIAS

With MGP, whether you are in New Delhi or elsewhere, you will have the same guidance available online, that is available to those at our Offline Centres.

Mentorship is available to students by raising a ticket or email. You get support via tickets / email / telephone call or an online meeting.

Through these years, we have been evolving and revising our strategies every year to ensure two objectives

- That the guidance makes it easy for our students to learn how to write answers.
- That the guidance we provide helps score better marks in the upcoming Mains Examination

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is a very dynamic exam, where things change every year. The strategy that has worked in 2018 does not work in 2020.

For instance, between 2013-2016, questions asked in Civil Services Mains were fairly straightforward and largely current based.

Finishing the paper would ensure that an Interview call was assured. After 2016 till 2018, there was a focus on good presentation, which was well rewarded.

When we first started MGP in 2016, out of 86 students enrolled in Mains Guidance Program, 74 were able to receive interview calls – none of who had ever cleared the Mains before.

Since 2018, the difficulty level of the exam has seen some increase, both at Prelims & Mains. There has also been equal focus on static. Also, what has worked is differentiated content. Thus while good presentation skills have served people well, content orientation is at the core of MGP 2021.

With MGP 2021, we will be able to provide subject specific expert mentorship to our students.

Because in your success, lies our Success.

Program Design

The Program is designed in a manner such that it ensures two things

First, timely completion of syllabus.

Second, early completion of syllabus.

The Civil Services Examination requires about 10-12 months of preparation. It is no one's guess that Prelims requires about 4-5 months of preparation. 4 Months, if you do not fall sick, face any interruptions or lose motivation.

And 5 months, if you factor them in – given that 30 odd days may be lost to just having bad days – poor health – and any other commitments – or unforeseen situations.

Similarly, 5 months is the time that is need to cover the Mains Syllabus. the MGP is designed such that.

1. The Syllabus of Mains is covered in the next 5 months
2. There is plenty of time for revision subsequently.
3. Prelims preparation is not affected, which requires laser beam focus.

Question: Why are you trying to finish the Test early when we can keep writing the tests till Prelims?

Because, having guided students since 2012, we are aware that preparation for Mains invariably hampers a lot of Prelims preparation –

- While hampering prelims preparation may not be intentional – the MGP 2021 aims, that by design we do not hamper anyone's Prelims preparation.
- We would want that people who have not cleared prelims before give a dedicated 4-5 months for Prelims preparation – through the Select Focus Group Program of ForumIAS likely to be held in December.
- We provide flexibility to anyone who likes to write the tests till before Prelims. So you can still write Tests till the Prelims.

How many Tests can I write with this plan?

The MGP 2021 has three kinds of Tests

#1 Micro Tests: Micro Tests are designed to expose you to various dimensions and issues of a topic. They are for self-assessment and community discussion, and will not be evaluated. These micro Tests will have 7 questions and have to be written in 1 hour. These Tests will help serve two objectives

First, “granular” coverage of the syllabus in small bits that can be covered easily

Second, picking up answer writing practice, so that eventually we can write 3 hour tests. We start with writing 1 hour tests, so that we can get started with answer writing.

#2 Half Length Tests: Half Length Tests will be revision of the Micro Tests and will have 10 questions of duration 1.5 hours.

#3 Full Length Tests: Full Length Tests will be advance in nature, they will be 3 hours Simulator Tests (250 marks) that will round up the Micro and Half Length Tests – and will of the entire Paper.

There will be **three** repetition / **revision** of the full syllabus with our Full Length Tests throughout the cycle of the MGP program.

It is expected that with each iteration, you should get better at concepts, and cover topics that you may have left in initial iteration.

Question: Why granular coverage of the syllabus is required?

This is because, in self-study candidates may often miss a lot of topics, issues and concepts. Candidates miss topics because of two reasons

- One, they neglect those topics because of lack of study material, or difficulty in understanding concepts*
- Two, they are not *aware* of those topics in the first place.

The granular coverage of the syllabus ensures that a robust preparation is achieved by people doing self-study without coaching or those who have already done coaching.

Breakup of the Syllabus.

The syllabus is the starting point of your preparation. We are providing a detailed explanation of the syllabus, breaking it into logical units for preparation, but more importantly – also providing a list of key concepts that you should focus on for preparation of your MGP Tests.

We have divided the Syllabus in **Topics**. The topic break up is below.

(This is important as with this break up, those who are doing self-study, can have a clear roadmap as to how many topics they have covered, and to what extent. The keyword listing will ensure that you know what all to be covered under a topic)

GS Paper 1 : This has been broken into 8 Topics

GS Paper 2 : This has been broken into 20 Topics

GS Paper 3 : This has been broken into 20 Topics

GS Paper 4 : This can again be divided into 8 Topics (including case studies)

Essay: The bifurcation of Essay paper will be dealt in a separate document.

The General Studies + Essay together account for 1250 marks out of the 1750 marks in the Civil Services Mains Examination. This is 71.4% of the total marks for Mains and 62.5% of the total marks of the examination (including Personality Test) – which is used to rank candidates for allocation of service and State Cadres.

MGP Test Calendar

The MGP Test Calendar has been explained in detail in Annex I. To understand the rationality behind the MGP Test Calendar, you must be aware of two things

1. The mistakes that people make when they start preparation for Civil Services Examination. To understand this, you can read this article (<http://go.forumias.com/mistakes>)
2. The Syllabus of the Mains Examination - which must not only be understood, but also by-hearted. The Syllabus Listing has been done in the next page.

General Studies Paper 1

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD AND SOCIETY.

- **Topic 1 / Art & Culture** : Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- **Topic 2/ Modern History** : Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues. The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- **Topic 3/ Post-Independence** : Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- **Topic 4/ World History** : History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- **Topic 5/ Indian Society** : Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India. Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies. Effects of globalization on Indian society. Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- **Topic 6/ Physical Geography** : Salient features of world's physical geography.
- **Topic 7/ Human and Economic Geography** : Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- **Topic 8/ Geophysical Phenomena** : Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Note : A large parts of the UPSC syllabus topics overlap and for studying purpose, it is not possible to have a clear segregation of what key concepts have to be studied under a Topic Head. In GS Paper 1, Topic 6 and Topic 8 cannot be distinctly separated. Check for Annexure 2 at the end of this document.

General Studies Paper 2

GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **Topic 1** : Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- **Topic 2** : Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- **Topic 3** : Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- **Topic 4** : Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- **Topic 5** : Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- **Topic 6**: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary— Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- **Topic 7** : Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.
- **Topic 8** : Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- **Topic 9** : Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- **Topic 10** : Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- **Topic 11** : Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- **Topic 12** : Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- **Topic 13** : Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- **Topic 14** : Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

Contd..

General Studies Paper 2

GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.....Continued

- **Topic 15** : Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- **Topic 16** : Role of civil services in a democracy.
- **Topic 17** : India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- **Topic 18** : Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- **Topic 19** : Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- **Topic 20** : Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

Note : In GS Paper 2, Topics on Governance & Constitution (From Topic 1 – Topic 9) have to be done in block and cannot be rigidly separated. Similarly International Relations Topics (**From Topic 16- Topic 20**).

The Focus Keyword Analysis (that appears later in this document has attempted to do the segregation for making it easy for you to prepare them. However, you may see a repetition of keywords across multiple topics. Check for keyword Analysis at the end of the document.

General Studies Paper 3

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BIO DIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- **Topic 1** : Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- **Topic 2** : Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- **Topic 3** : Government Budgeting.
- **Topic 4** : Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- **Topic 5** : Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- **Topic 6** : Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- **Topic 7** : Land reforms in India.
- **Topic 8** : Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- **Topic 9** : Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- **Topic 10** : Investment models.
- **Topic 11** : Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- **Topic 12** : Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- **Topic 13** : Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

- **Topic 14** : Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- **Topic 15** : Disaster and disaster management.
- **Topic 16** : Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- **Topic 17** : Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- **Topic 18** : Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.
- **Topic 19** : Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- **Topic 20** : Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Note : In GS Paper 3, Topics 1,2,3,8,9,10 (Economic Development) , Topic 8,9,10 and Topics 11,12,13 form a single block. Focus Keywords have been attempted for each topic, but there will be overlap of several concepts.

General Studies Paper 4

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered :

- **Topic 1** : Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics – in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- **Topic 2** : Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- **Topic 3** : Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- **Topic 4** : Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- **Topic 5** : Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
- **Topic 6** : Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- **Topic 7**: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
- **Topic 8** : Case Studies on above issues.

The Test Series Calendar – Explained

A detailed Calendar of the MGP 2021 is available in Annex II. However, we can begin with a broad understanding of how the Test Series is organised here. You may refer to the Topic Listing made above to understand the Test Plan.

If you are unable to make full sense of it, because you have just started, you may completely skip this – as some of the challenges that are mentioned in this document – that we plan to avoid – will only be known to you once you face them.

The goal is to ensure that you don't face them in the first place :-)

We begin with Mains Exclusive Topics in the initial weeks, covering GS Paper I and GS Paper 4.

As we come closer to the Prelims, we focus on subjects common to the Prelims & Mains examination for an integrated approach.

We had the choice of commencing with GS Paper 2 & 3, but that has been avoided because of three problems

Problem #1

Most candidates begin with GS Paper 2 and Paper 3 and keep studying it throughout the year given that it is newspaper based. Thus the preparation does not have a deadline.

This comes at a cost to GS Paper I, Paper 4 and Essay – which remains untouched throughout the preparation. This creates problems in Mains at a later stage.

Problem #2

In case you miss to write the tests and you are writing tests at a later date (the Test Series is completely flexible with dates, the tests can be postponed but not preponed), we do not want you to be studying Ethics and World History in December or January.

One revision of GS I and GS 4 has to be completed *before* Prelims so that after Prelims we have the notes made and we just need to revise it.

Through the Self-Assessment Micro Tests and Half Length Tests, you will be having 50+ high quality questions and answers every month.

Over a period of time, revision of these questions and answers will help build the base for your Mains Preparation.

The time closer to Prelims must be spent on subjects like polity, economy, environment, current affairs – which are there in GS Paper 2 and 3.

It is likely that you will be taking up some Prelims Test Series and will be doing current affairs as well. This will help sync your prelims and Mains preparation.

We are very clear that we should have a good selection from our Academy. We are a community, and we have a blog, but in terms of academy we encourage academic rigour

Also, our approach ensures that we do the more important topics closer to the exam, to have maximum output.

Coverage of GS Paper I

The MGP 2021 commences with GS Paper I. We have begun with World History, then gone to cover Modern History. We have then moved to Geography to break the history monotony.

Human Geography here has been a key focus area of UPSC in the past years with more than 7+ questions out of 20 coming from Topics 6,7, 8 of GS Paper I =which is 33% of the total marks.

From Geography, we move on to Society – another Mains specific but highly scoring area of GS Paper I. You can expect 7 + questions from this segment in GS Paper I.

We finish GS Paper I, with Modern History, followed by Post Independence History (it becomes easy to understand post-independence history in the context of Freedom Movement, and hence we are covering it after Modern History).

Coverage of GS Paper 4

From GS Paper I, we move to another Mains specific area of GS Paper 4. The subject has been decided into 4 Parts

- Ethics – Theoretical Concepts
- Behavioural Ethics (Attitude & Emotional Intelligence)
- Administrative Ethics (Public Service Values & Probity in Governance)
- Applied Ethics – (Issues like Capital Punishment, Case Studies)

In this Paper, Case Studies will be part of every Test so that you get in the habit of attempting case studies from Day 1.

Over three weeks we should have done enough practice of all Papers. We have created some kick ass study material for GS Paper 4, which will be a new addition to MGP 2021.
Coverage of GS Paper 2

At this point, we move to GS Paper 2. We shall be covering GS Paper 2 & GS Paper 3 in the later phase of the Program as its core subjects Polity, IR, Economy, S & T etc. has high weightage in Prelims.

Also, most of this also has interface with Current Affairs, which will be our focus in these months.

GS Paper 2 requires that you read Polity & Constitution from the Basic Books – NCERT Our Constitution, but will also require coverage of some key issues from Current

Perspectives. You will get due support from the Academy in terms of reading material for these upcoming issues.

Also, we will be covering a lot of these issues through our Micro Tests, which will aid in your self-study Plan for CSE 2021. GS Paper 2 has a fair mix of Current & Static and this will be taken care of through our study material, which we are introducing in CGP 2021.

Coverage of GS Paper 3

GS Paper 3 will commence with Economy & Agriculture, taking key issues from both. They have been the focus area of both conventional and non-conventional.

We cover S & T, and move to Disaster Management & Internal Security. Coverage of these Topics will be done through Tests and reference material. In absence of good reference sources, Study Material will be provided by ForumIAS Academy.

Question: How many Tests should we write for Mains? If I write 1000+ questions, can I guarantee good score in Mains?

There is an optimum number of Tests and Answers we should write for Mains. We have observed that candidates who “over” practice answer writing practice – like writing 5-6 questions daily and more than 1000-1500 questions on popular websites, do not perform well either in MGP or in the actual examination. This is because of two reasons.

One, they have written so many answers that they lose interest in writing answer. They plateau much before the exam, as they are unable to bring quality in the exam. After reaching a certain point, further practice has not known to enhance quality of the answers.

Two, writing too many answers even for questions that you do not know, creates the illusion that you know. The focus then shifts from studying, assimilating to just writing. This is detrimental, given that the Commission has not rewarded marks for very generic answers in the past two years.

A ForumIAS Mentor will tell you when to stop writing Tests. You must reach this point in your preparation.

Revision Tests – After Syllabus Completion

By December, we shall have iterated through the syllabus. Once the syllabus is complete, we shall go for a set of 4 Revision Tests with a gap of 1 week for each paper.

In this period, the candidates are expected to consolidate their preparation, write 3 hours' full length Tests and gear up for upcoming Prelims.

Candidates who have not been able to write the Tests on the due date, can also take this time to finish their Tests, and they can do so till before Prelims.

Through these Tests, you will have attempted

140+ Questions through 21 Concept Building Micro Tests

200+ Questions through 21 Half Length MGP Tests

320+ Questions through 8 +8 Full Length MGP Tests

Thus we will be going through **58+ Tests** and be doing **650+ questions** through the course of next 5.5. months – which the optimum time for Mains Oriented Preparation.

We hope to finish this by December, so that students can get about 5 months dedicated for Prelims Preparation. This should help us in ensuring that we are doing an Optimum Preparation, without compromising on Prelims preparation.

Will you provide Study Material for MGP?

Yes, starting MGP 2021, we shall provide printed study material for preparation for select topics – especially for which standard sources do not exist.

The Study Material will be provided in your student portal. Only PDF's will be provided. No hard copy will be provided.

Online or Offline?

MGP is available in **both** online and offline mode.

About 80% of our successful students including IAS Rank I, have been online students, preparing from home.

They may have never visited the Offline Centre in New Delhi.

An efficient communication system via tickets / email / phone and WhatsApp is available to discuss their copies and suggesting areas of improvement.

In fact, ForumIAS does not maintain a record whether an MGP student is online or offline. Students can visit the Centre and write tests, submit copies for evaluation and seek mentor guidance.

They can also do the exact same things online – by downloading the QCA Booklet, printing it, attempting tests on it, using CamScanner to convert it into PDF, uploading it, getting it evaluated, and reach to a mentor online by email, phone call, skype call, or messaging apps.

Mentorship is completely available online, and the same mentors who provide offline mentorship also provide online mentorship. You can meet them at a designated time and date at the Offline Centre in New Delhi*.

*Subject to government regulations in the light of COVID-19.

MGP Course Fee & Enrollment

MGP is available in **two variants**

- MGP 2021 – Fee : Rs. 25,000 + Applicable Taxes
- MGP+ 2021 – Fee : Rs. 33,000 + Applicable Taxes

MGP+ is a variant of the MGP that also includes 10 Essay Tests distributed throughout the year. The MGP+ is the more popular variant of the Mains Guidance Program.

Fee Payment & Enrollment

Students can enroll in the program by paying the fees through the below means

- A. By visiting the website: <https://academy.forumias.com> and making payment through Net Banking / Debit / Credit Card / UPI etc.
- B. By Visiting the Offline Guidance Center* and making payment through Credit Card / Debit Card / Cheque / DD
- C. By doing a NEFT / Cash Deposit in HDFC bank Accounts. For this Option, please email us at admissions@forumias.academy

For any query you can call us at +91 – 9821711605 or write to us at admissions@forumias.academy

*Offline Center in New Delhi is not operational for the duration of government lockdown instructions to fight Covid-19.

Terms and Conditions

- Your test copies will be evaluated within 12 working days of copy submission.
- Copies must be submitted within three weeks of the Test Release for timely evaluation. We recommend that you stick to the time table and write tests on designated days. The commitment of 12 working days evaluation is valid only for copies submitted in this time period.
- This program is non-refundable and non-transferable. There is no difference between the online and offline mode – candidates can come and write the test at Test Centre or remotely and send us scanned copies.
- Each program of ForumIAS is linked to ForumIAS Account with a fixed mobile number. No sharing of any programs is allowed. If candidates are found sharing programs, ForumIAS shall be free to terminate that or all program access to the candidate without any refund to the candidate.
- ForumIAS shall have full rights to close admissions as per its capacity. ForumIAS shall be free to amend its schedule in case of any exigencies that may arise.
- All fees once paid are non-refundable in nature. The course is also non-transferable in nature to another person. By subscribing to the course, you agree to the terms and conditions mentioned above.

Annexure

- 1 Suggested Course – Current Affairs
- 2 Suggested Program – SFG for Prelims
- 3 Essay Module – Available with MGP+
- 4 Annex 1 - Detailed Test Calendar & Syllabus for Tests
- 5 Annex 2 - Detailed Keyword Analysis for Self-Preparation



Current Affairs for CSE 2021

Commences 2nd week of June, 2020

Current Affairs for Civil Services Examination is a Pre-cum-Mains 2021, robust Classroom & Online Course for preparation of Current Affairs by ForumIAS.

If there is just one classroom program you would like to take for your Civil Services preparation – it is this.

The MGP + Current Affairs Combination has been the winning combination for almost all our successful students – be it first timers, or those seeking rank and service improvement.

The Current Affairs Program by ForumIAS is likely to commence from 2nd week of June. Two classes a week are held every week. It is conducted in 3 phases.

Phase 1: Issue wise Coverage of Contemporary Issues of GS Paper 2 & Paper 3. These classes go on till the month of Jan end or February. They cover Mains Centric Issues which have been in news. The Phase 1 ends with a break of 4-6 weeks, after which Phase 2 commences.

Phase 2: In this Phase, the focus changes from Mains to Prelims completely. Classes are held 3-4 days in a week (not on Weekends, but weekdays) about 2-3 months before the Prelims. Phase 2 follows Phase 1 with a 4-6 weeks break.

Phase 3: Phase 3 commences about 3 weeks after the Prelims, and issues covered are completely from that year's Mains Perspective. Classes resume on a weekly basis. There could be a break of 2 weeks, subsequent to which regular classes may be held for completion of Mains Expected Topics.

Note: The Current Affairs Program of ForumIAS is NOT a Newspaper class. It does not follow monthly newspaper updates but focuses on issue-based preparation. The Objective is to have 1-2-page crisp notes on every Mains topic so that it is easy to revise before the exam.

Fee Concession:

The Program is available at a 10% concession for all MGP Students, subject to first 100 seats. We will drop you an email when the course commences.

Old Students of ForumIAS Current Affairs are provided 40% concession – subject to 100 seats. Write to admissions@forumias.academy for availing concessions.

2

Select Focus Group

For Prelims 2021

At ForumIAS, our commitment to you ends not in just enrolling you for a course.

Selection in the Examination is at the core of everything that we do at ForumIAS.

We won't leave you in a lurch after you are done with your Mains preparation.

The SFG and Prelims Preparatory Classes ensure that you are covered for the Prelims too.

We commence the Select Focus Group – a selection of about 100 Top Performing Students from all our students through an Open Competitive Entrance Test – to train them for Prelims Examination.

The SFG 2021 entrance examination will be held in November 2020, and selection will be done on the basis of your rankings to the Select Focus Group.

People who are not able to make it, are kept in a Reserve List, and trained parallelly to give them a second opportunity to make it to the Select Focus Group.

ForumIAS Academy runs Prelims Preparatory Classes for students who are not able to prepare for Prelims by Self Study.

We'll let you know when we commence with the SFG and PPC.

3

Essay

(Part of MGP+)

The Essay Module, part of MGP+ is a comprehensive Essay Writing & mentorship program to prepare for the Essay paper of Civil Services Mains.

A total of 10 Essay Tests are part of the MGP+ Program. It is expected that Students at least begin to write essay as early as possible and are made aware of the techniques and approach to essay writing suitable for the Mains Examination.

Essay & GS IV are two papers that see a larger marks fluctuation – and therefore are pivotal to your rank, service and the cadre you are allocated.

The Essay Tests are planned as below. Dates are mentioned in MGP+ Calendar in Annex I

#	Test Name	Syllabus	Comments
1	Essay Test #1	Philosophical Topics, Quote Based Essay Topics 125 Marks / 1.5 hours	No separate preparation required. Write your first essay with a fresh mind.
2	Essay Test #2	Social Issues, Women Issues, Poverty, Inequality etc. 125 Marks / 1.5 hours	No separate preparation required. Candidates to develop understanding from General Studies I & Essay Study Material
3	Essay Test #3	Economy, Development, Health, Education Based Issues 125 Marks / 1.5 hours	No separate preparation required. Candidates to develop understanding from General Studies 2,3 & Essay Study Material
4	Essay Test #4	Science & Tech, International Relations, Internal Security, Media etc. 125 Marks / 1.5 hours	No separate preparation required. Candidates to develop understanding from General Studies 3 & Essay Study Material + Select Articles
5	Essay Test #5	All Topics 250 Marks / 3hours	-same as earlier-
6	Essay Test #6	All Topics 250 Marks / 3hours	-same as earlier-
7	Essay Test #7	All Topics 250 Marks / 3hours	-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #1
8	Essay Test #8	All Topics 250 Marks / 3hours	-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #2
9	Essay Test #9	All Topics 250 Marks / 3hours	-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #3
10	Essay Test #10	All Topics 250 Marks / 3hours	-same as earlier- Post Prelims Essay Test #4

Annexure 1

Detailed Test Calendar for MGP / MGP+ 2021

(Essay Tests are only for MGP+ Students. Self-Assessments Tests are for content building and picking up answer writing skills and will not be evaluated. All Half Length & Full-Length Tests will be evaluated.) All Tests except Micro Self-Assessment Tests have to be uploaded on the Academy Portal for evaluation and mentorship.

#	Date/ Test Code	Test Name / UPSC Syllabus Topic	Topic Syllabus	Sources
	Sunday, May 24, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Orientation for the Program • Candidates are advised to enroll early so as to get the study material and not miss a series of sessions between May 24 – June 3 		
1	Wednesday, June 3, 2020 / M001	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #1 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	GS Paper I Topic 4: World History: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society. World History: Events from Renaissance till World War I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT Arjun Dev • Norman Lowe • John Green Crash Course World History • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
2	Sunday, June 7, 2020 / 41001	MGP Half Length Test #1 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	GS Paper I Topic 4: World History: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society. World History: Topics in earlier test + events from world war I and onwards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT Arjun Dev • Norman Lowe • John Green Crash Course World History • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
3	Wednesday, June 10, 2020 /	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #2	GS Paper I Topic 2: Modern History: Modern Indian history from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipin Chandra –Old NCERT

	M002	(7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues. The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.</p> <p>Modern History: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until 1905.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “ A Brief History of Modern India” – Spectrum Pub. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
4	Sunday, June 14, 2020 / 41002	MGP Half Length Test #2 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper I Topic 2: Modern History: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues. The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.</p> <p>Modern History: Topics in Earlier Test+ Modern Indian history from about 1905 until independence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipin Chandra –Old NCERT • “A Brief History of Modern India” – Spectrum Pub. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
5	Wednesday, June 17, 2020 / M003	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #3 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper I Topic 6: Physical Geography: Salient features of world’s physical geography. Topic 8: Geophysical Phenomena: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.</p> <p>Geomorphology and Oceanography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Physical Geography • Certificate Physical and Human Geography by Goh Cheng Leong • Atlas: Orient Blackswan • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
6	Sunday, June 21, 2020 / 41003	MGP Half Length Test #3	GS Paper I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Physical Geography

		(10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>Topic 6: Physical Geography: Salient features of world's physical geography.</p> <p>Topic 8: Geophysical Phenomena: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.</p> <p>Geomorphology and Oceanography + Climatology and Biogeography.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate Physical and Human Geography by Goh Cheng Leong • Atlas: Orient Blackswan • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
7	Wednesday, June 24, 2020 / M004	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #4 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper I</p> <p>Topic 7: Human and Economic Geography: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th NCERT: Human geography. • Internet for industries and resource distribution. • Atlas: Orient Blackswan • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.
8	Sunday, June 28, 2020 / 41004	MGP Half Length Test #4 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper I</p> <p>Topic 6: Physical Geography: Salient features of world's physical geography.</p> <p>Topic 7: Human and Economic Geography: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).</p> <p>Topic 8: Geophysical Phenomena: Important Geophysical phenomena such</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Physical Geography • Certificate Physical and Human Geography by Goh Cheng Leong • 12th NCERT: Human geography. • Internet for industries and resource distribution. • Atlas: Orient Blackswan • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet

			as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.	
9	Wednesday, July 1, 2020 / M005	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #5 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	GS Paper I Topic 5: Indian Society: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India. Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies. Effects of globalization on Indian society. Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT -12th-Indian Society • NCERT -12th-Social Change and Development in India • IGNOU –ESO -12 Society in India • IGNOU –ESO -16: Social Problems in India • Newspaper • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
10	Sunday, July 5, 2020 / 41005	MGP Half Length Test #5 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	GS Paper I Topic 5: Indian Society: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India. Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies. Effects of globalization on Indian society. Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT -12th-Indian Society • NCERT -12th-Social Change and Development in India • IGNOU –ESO -12 Society in India • IGNOU –ESO -16: Social Problems in India • Newspaper • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
11	Wednesday, July 8, 2020 / M006	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #6 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	GS Paper I Topic 1: Art & Culture: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times. From Pre-historic times to Gupta Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th History book of Tamil Nadu board • Textbook on Fine Arts Class XI NCERT • CCRT Website or compilation • Indian Culture and Heritage -NIOS: www.nios.ac.in • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
12	Sunday, July 12, 2020 /	MGP Half Length Test #6	GS paper I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th History book of Tamil Nadu board

	41006	(10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>Topic 1: Art & Culture: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.</p> <p>Topic 3: Post-Independence: Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text Book on Fine Arts Class XI NCERT • CCRT Website or compilation • Indian Culture and Heritage -NIOS: www.nios.ac.in • 12th NCERT –Politics in India after Independence • Selective reading of India since independence by Bipin Chandra or India After Gandhi by Ramchandra Guha • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
13	Sunday, July 19, 2020 / 41007 & 42001	<p>MGP Full Length Test #1 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) 9:30AM - 12:30PM</p> <p>*Essay Test #1 2:00PM – 3:30PM (Only for MGP+ Students)</p>	<p>GS Paper I / FLT Indian heritage and Culture, History and geography of the world and Society.</p> <p>Essay – Test I (125 Marks / 1 Essay) No Prior preparation required for Essay. Please write first test and request mentor call to discuss your paper and receive guidelines.</p>	<p>It is expected that Students should write their first essay by now.</p> <p>In Actual Examination, candidates will have to write two papers in a day from 9:30-12:30PM and 2:00PM – 4:00PM. We begin this practice from now itself. It is difficult, but it is doable.</p> <p>Essay Test #1 – Philosophical, Quote Based Essay</p>
14	Wednesday, July 22, 2020 / M007	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #7 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 4 Topic 1: Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions, Dimensions of ethics, Ethics in private and public relationships, Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators, Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values</p> <p>Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Guide to Ethics • Chronicle Lexicon • Selective Study from G. Subbarao • Newspaper and internet. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet
15	Sunday, July 26, 2020 / 41008	MGP Half Length Test #7	<p>GS Paper 4 Topic 1: Ethics and Human Interface: Essence,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Guide to Ethics • Chronicle Lexicon

		(10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions, Dimensions of ethics, Ethics in private and public relationships, Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators, Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values. Topic 5: Contribution of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers: Western & Indian. Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective Study from G. Subbarao • Newspaper and Internet. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.
16	Wednesday, July 29, 2020 / M008	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #8 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	GS Paper 4 Topic 2: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronicle Lexicon • Selective Study from G. Subbarao • Newspaper and internet • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.
17	Sunday, Aug 2, 2020 / 41009	MGP Half Length Test #8 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	GS Paper 4 Topic 2: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. Topic 4: Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance. Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronicle Lexicon • Selective Study from G. Subbarao • Newspaper and internet. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.
18	Wednesday, Aug 5, 2020 / M009	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #9 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	GS Paper 4 Topic 3: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections Topic 6: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2ndARC Reports (Ethics in Governance, Citizen Centric Administration, Refurbishing Personnel Administration, RTI: Master Key to Good Governance) • Chronicle Lexicon

			<p>administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.</p> <p>Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper and internet • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.
19	Sunday, Aug 9, 2020 / 41010	MGP Half Length Test #9 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 4</p> <p>Topic 3: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections</p> <p>Topic 6: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.</p> <p>Topic 7: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2ndARC Reports (Ethics in Governance, Citizen Centric Administration, Refurbishing Personnel Administration, RTI: Master Key to Good Governance) • Chronicle Lexicon • Newspaper and internet • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklet.

			Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption. Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.	
20	Sunday, Aug 16, 2020 / 41011 & 42002	MGP Full Length Test # 2 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) *Essay Test #2 2:00PM – 3:30PM (Only for MGP+ Students)	GS Paper 4 / FLT Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude. Essay Test #2	-Same as above-
21	Wednesday, Aug 19, 2020 / M010	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #10 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	GS Paper 2 / Topic 1, 2 Indian Constitution— historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure. Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.	Sources - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work • 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence • Indian Polity by M Laxmikant • 2nd ARC Reports [6th Report – Local Governance, 13th Report – Organisation structure of Government of India] • Punchhi Commission Report • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/Booklet • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian Express
22	Sunday, Aug 23, 2020 / 41012	MGP Half Length Test #10 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	GS Paper 2 / Topic 1, 2, 3 Indian Constitution— historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure. Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal	Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work • 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence • Indian Polity by M Laxmikant • Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu

			<p>structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.</p> <p>Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd ARC Reports [6th Report – Local Governance, 13th Report – Organisation structure of Government of India] • Punchhi Commission Report • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/Booklet • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian express
23	Wednesday, Aug 26, 2020 / M011	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #11 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 4, 5</p> <p>Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.</p> <p>Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work • 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence • Indian Polity by M Laxmikant • Subhash Kashyap - Our Constitution, Our Parliament • Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu • 2nd ARC Reports • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian Express
24	Sunday, Aug 30, 2020 / 41013	MGP Half Length Test #11 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 4,5,6</p> <p>Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.</p> <p>Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.</p> <p>Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work • 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence • Indian Polity by M Laxmikant • Subhash Kashyap - Our Constitution, Our Parliament • Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu • 2nd ARC Reports

			associations and their role in the Polity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian Express
25	Wednesday, Sept 2, 2020 / M012	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #12 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 8, 9</p> <p>Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies</p> <p>Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work • 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence • Indian Polity by M Laxmikant • Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian Express
26	Sunday, Sept 6, 2020 / 41014	MGP Half Length Test #12 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 7, 8, 9</p> <p>Salient features of the Representation of People's Act</p> <p>Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies</p> <p>Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work • 12th NCERT – Politics in India after Independence • Indian Polity by M Laxmikant • Introduction to Constitution of India – DD Basu • 2nd ARC Reports • ForumIAS Academy handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian Express
27	Wednesday, Sept 9, 2020 /M013	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #13 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 11, 16</p> <p>Development processes and the development industry — the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders</p> <p>Role of civil services in a democracy</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd ARC Report [10th Report - Refurbishing of Personnel Administration] • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian Express

28	Sunday, Sept 13, 2020 / 41015	MGP Half Length Test #13 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 11, 15,16</p> <p>Development processes and the development industry — the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizen's charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.</p> <p>Role of civil services in a democracy.</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd ARC Report [10th Report - Refurbishing of Personnel Administration, 11th Report – promoting e- governance, 12th Report – Citizen Centric Administration,] • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklets • Three Year Action Agenda – 2017-18 to 2019-20 – NITI Aayog • Newspapers – The Hindu/ Indian Express
29	Wednesday, Sept 16, 2020 / M014	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #14 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 10, 14</p> <p>Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation</p> <p>Issues relating to poverty and hunger.</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India Yearbook for Government schemes • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express • ForumIAS Academy – Handouts / Booklets
30	Sunday, Sept 20, 2020 / 41016	MGP Half Length Test #14 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 10,12,13,14</p> <p>Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation</p> <p>Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India Yearbook for Government Schemes • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express • Annual Reports of Ministries such as Women and Child Development / HRD Ministry/ Health Ministry etc. • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklets

			<p>betterment of these vulnerable sections</p> <p>Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources</p> <p>Issues relating to poverty and hunger</p>	
31	Wednesday, Sept 23, 2020 / M015	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #15 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 17, 18</p> <p>India and its neighborhood-relations</p> <p>Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book - Challenge and Strategy: Rethinking India's Foreign Policy by Rajiv Sikri • Class 12 NCERT – Political Science: Contemporary World Politics • Websites such as – Ministry of External Affairs, IDSA, ORF, Gateway House • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express
32	Sunday, Sept 27, 2020 / 41017	MGP Half Length Test #15 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 2 / Topic 17,18,19, 20</p> <p>India and its neighborhood-relations.</p> <p>Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests</p> <p>Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora</p> <p>Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book - Challenge and Strategy: Rethinking India's Foreign Policy by Rajiv Sikri • Class 12 NCERT – Political Science: Contemporary World Politics • Websites such as – Ministry of External Affairs, IDSA, ORF, Gateway House • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express

33	Sunday, Oct 4, 2020 / 41018 & 42003	MGP Full Length Test # 3 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) *Essay Test #3 2:00PM – 3:30PM (Only for MGP+ Students)	GS Paper 2 / FLT	-same as earlier-
34	Wednesday, Oct 7, 2020 / M016	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #16 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	GS Paper 3 / Topic 4,5 Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers. Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.	Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Survey • Budget • NITI Aayog reports on Agriculture • Three Year Action Agenda, • 2017-18 to 2019-20 - NITI Aayog • Yojana and Kurukshetra • Selective reading of Book – Indian Economy Since Independence by Uma Kapila • News Papers – The Hindu / Indian Express • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets
35	Sunday, Oct 11, 2020 / 41019	MGP Half Length Test #16 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	GS Paper 3 / Topic 4, 5, 6 Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers. Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning,	Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Survey • Budget • NITI Aayog reports on Agriculture • Three Year Action Agenda, -2017-18 to 2019-20 - NITI Aayog • Yojana and Kurukshetra • Selective reading of Book – Indian Economy Since Independence by Uma Kapila

			<p>limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.</p> <p>Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News Papers – The Hindu / Indian Express • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklet
36	Wednesday, Oct 14, 2020 / M017	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #17 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 1, 3</p> <p>Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.</p> <p>Government Budgeting</p>	<p>Source</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Economics: Indian Economic Development • Economic Survey of India • Selective reading of Indian Economy Since Independence - Uma Kapila • 2nd ARC Report (Strengthening Financial Management Systems) • Three Year Action Agenda, 2017-18 to 2019-20 – NITI Aayog • Yojana • ForumIAS Academy Handouts • Newspaper – The Hindu / Indian Express
37	Sunday, Oct 18, 2020 / 41020	MGP Half Length Test #17 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 1,2,3</p> <p>Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.</p> <p>Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.</p> <p>Government Budgeting</p>	<p>Source</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Economics: Indian Economic Development • 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics • Economic Survey of India • Selective reading of Indian Economy Since Independence - Uma Kapila

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd ARC Report (Strengthening Financial Management Systems) • Three Year Action Agenda, 2017-18 to 2019-20 – NITI Aayog • Yojana • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets • Newspaper – The Hindu / Indian Express
38	Wednesday, Oct 21, 2020 / M018	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #18 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 8,9</p> <p>Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.</p> <p>Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.</p>	<p>Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Economics: Indian Economic Development • 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics • Economic Survey of India • Selective reading of Indian Economy Since Independence - Uma Kapila • Three Year Action Agenda, 2017-18 to 2019-20 – NITI Aayog • Yojana • ForumIAS Academy Handouts / Booklets • Newspaper – The Hindu / Indian Express
39	Sunday, Oct 25, 2020 / 41021	MGP Half Length Test #18 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 7, 8,9,10</p> <p>Land reforms in India</p> <p>Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth</p> <p>Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.</p> <p>Investment models</p>	<p>Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th NCERT: Economics: Indian Economic Development • 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics • Economic Survey of India • Three Year Action Agenda, -2017-18 to 2019-20 - NITI Aayog • Selective reading of Indian Economy Since

				<p>Independence - Uma Kapila</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yojana • India Since Independence by Bipin Chandra [for Land reforms] • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/Booklets • Newspaper – The Hindu / Indian Express
40	Wednesday, Oct 28, 2020 / M019	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #19 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 11, 12, 13</p> <p>Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.</p> <p>Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.</p> <p>Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nanotechnology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Science Reporter magazine • Newspapers – The Hindu (S&T section) / Indian Express • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets
41	Sunday, Nov 1, 2020 / 41022	MGP Half Length Test #19 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 11, 12, 13</p> <p>Science and Technology-developments and their applications and effects in everyday life</p> <p>Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.</p> <p>Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, Nanotechnology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Science Reporter magazine • Newspapers – The Hindu (S&T section) / Indian Express • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets
42	Wednesday, Nov 4, 2020 / M020	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #20	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 14, 15</p> <p>Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation,</p>	<p>Sources</p>

		(7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>environmental impact assessment</p> <p>Disaster and disaster management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT: Class 12 Biology (Chapter 10: Ecology) • 2nd ARC Report [3rd Report – Crisis management] • IGNOU – MPA – 018 Disaster management • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express • Yojana • CBSE – XI book – Natural Hazards and Disaster Management
43	Sunday, Nov 8, 2020 / 41023	MGP Half Length Test #20 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 14, 15</p> <p>Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment</p> <p>Disaster and disaster management</p>	<p>Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCERT: Class 12 Biology (Chapter 10: Ecology) • 2nd ARC Report [3rd Report – Crisis management] • IGNOU – MPA – 018 Disaster management • ForumIAS Academy Handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express • Yojana • CBSE – XI book – Natural Hazards and Disaster Management
44	Wednesday, Nov 11, 2020/ M021	MGP Self-Assessment Micro Test #21 (7 Questions / 1 Hour)	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 16,17,18,19, 20</p> <p>Linkages between development and spread of extremism</p> <p>Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security</p> <p>Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal</p>	<p>Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd ARC (7th Report Capacity Building for Conflict Resolution) • 2nd ARC (8th Report Combating Terrorism - Protecting by Righteousness) • IDSA reports • The Oxford's Handbook of India's National Security • NCERT Class 12 – Contemporary World

			<p>security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention</p> <p>Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism</p> <p>Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ForumIAS Academy – Handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express
Nov 15 – Diwali Break				
45	Sunday, Nov 22, 2020 / 41024	<p>MGP Half Length Test #21 (10 Questions / 1.5 Hour / 125 Marks) 9:30 – 12:30PM</p>	<p>GS Paper 3 / Topic 16,17,18,19, 20</p> <p>Linkages between development and spread of extremism</p> <p>Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security</p> <p>Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention</p> <p>Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism</p> <p>Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate</p>	<p>Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd ARC (7th Report Capacity Building for Conflict Resolution) • 2nd ARC (8th Report Combating Terrorism - Protecting by Righteousness) • IDSA reports • The Oxford's Handbook of India's National Security • NCERT Class 12 – Contemporary World • ForumIAS Academy – Handouts/ Booklets • Newspapers – The Hindu / Indian Express
46	Sunday, Nov 29, 2020 / 41025 & 42004	<p>MGP Full Length Test # 4 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) 9:30 – 12:30PM</p> <p>*Essay Test #4 2:00PM – 3:30PM (Only for MGP+ Students)</p>	<p>GS Paper 3 / FLT</p> <p>Essay Test #4 / HLT</p>	- Same as earlier Tests-

47	Sunday Dec 6 22, 2020 / 41026	MGP Full Length Test # 5 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) 9:30 – 12:30PM	GS Paper 1 / FLT	- Same as earlier Tests-
48	Sunday Dec 13, 2020 / 41027 & 42005	MGP Full Length Test # 6 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) 9:30 – 12:30PM *Essay Test #5 2:00PM – 5PM (Only for MGP+ Students)	GS Paper 2 / FLT Essay Test #5 / FLT	- Same as earlier Tests-
49	Sunday Dec 20, 2020 / 41028	MGP Full Length Test # 7 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) 9:30 – 12:30PM	GS Paper 3 /FLT	- Same as earlier Tests-
50	Sunday Dec 27, 2020 / 41029 & 42006	MGP Full Length Test # 8 (20 Questions / 3.0 Hour / 250 Marks) 9:30 – 12:30PM *Essay Test #6 2:00PM – 5PM (Only for MGP+ Students) 2:00PM – 5PM	GS Paper 4 / FLT Essay Test #6 / FLT	- Same as earlier Tests-

Prelims Break

There are few things to keep in mind at this stage. Once MGP Tests as per schedule are over, it is expected that you **(a) realign your preparation for Prelims (b) finish off any tests that you have missed (c) cover and revise optional subjects**. You will need to have some self-discipline to finish off remaining Tests. We will be available to rightly orient you at this stage. You can submit all the Tests conducted till date till Prelims. There is complete flexibility.

A detailed Plan for the MGP 2021 Mains Simulator Tests will be released within 1 week of Prelims.

Exact Dates of MGP & Essay Tests will be notified after Prelims

51	3 weeks after Prelims	Essay Test #7 (Only for MGP+ Students)	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
52	4 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #1	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
53	5 weeks after Prelims	Essay Test #8 (Only for MGP+ Students)	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
54	6 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #2	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
55	7 weeks after Prelims	Essay Test #9 (Only for MGP+ Students)	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
56	8 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #3	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
57	9 weeks after Prelims	Essay Test #10 (Only for MGP+ Students)	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
58	10 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #4	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
59	12 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #5	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
60	12 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #6	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
61	12 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #7	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-
62	12 weeks after Prelims	MGP 2021 Simulator Test #8	3 Hours / 250 Marks	-Same as earlier-

Civil Services Mains 2021

Annexure 2

We understand that self-study for Civil Services can be challenging. The problem of “what to study” remains, even if we are able to solve “where to study from” problem.

This Annexure contains a list of select focus key concepts that you must focus on while you prepare a topic.

The key concepts listed are keywords, ideas and parts of syllabus which should be at the center of your study plan when you prepare for an MGP Test.

These keywords are the important areas of the syllabus which have to be given more importance while preparing.

General Studies Paper 1

Indian Heritage and culture, History and Geography of the world and society

Topic 1: Art & Culture - Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

Key concepts: Architecture – Forts – Palaces – Temple Architecture – Nagara – Vesara – Dravida - Caves – Ajanta – Ellora – Elephanta – Cave Paintings – Mosques – Arches – Domes - Public Buildings – Charles Corbusier - Sculptor – Indus Valley Civilization – Pashupati – Nataraja – Tandava - Ashokan – Buddhist - Pillars & Stupa – Indo-Greek – Mathura – Gandhara – Amravati – Gupta Period Sculptor – Delhi Sultanate - Evolution of Coinage – Gupta numismatic art - Gupta Sculptor in South Indian Temples & Caves – Mahabalipuram – Chola Temples – Paintings – Pre-historic paintings – Petroglyphs – Mesolithic Paintings – Chalcolithic Paintings – Pottery Paintings in Indus Valley Civilization – Vedic Age – Indo Greeks Period – Mural Paintings – Ajanta Ellora – Haathi Gumphs – Medieval Period Paintings – Miniature Paintings – Palas – Arabesque – Regional Schools of Painting – Maithili – Manjusha – Kalamkari – Kalighat – Phad – Worli – Batik – Tanjavur – Mysore Paintings - Mughal Paintings – Portrait – Miniature – Narrative Paintings – Rajput School – Pahari School – Indian Renaissance - Company School of Paintings – Bengal Renaissance – Nationalist School of Paintings – Raja Ravi Verma – Qubric Style – M F Hussain – Modern Art – **Performing Arts** – **Dance** – Classical – Folk – Martial Arts - Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Sattriya, Manipuri, Mohiniyattam – **Music** – Hindustani – Carnatic – Gharana Tradition – Lucknow – Gwalior – Darbhanga – Kirana – Instruments – String Based – Wind Instruments – Drum - Dholak – Mridang – Veena – Tabla – Santoor - Theatre – National School of Drama – Yakshgan – Nautanki – Rasleela – Bhand – Pather – Jatra - Puppetry – Gloves – Rod – String – Shadow Puppetry - Literature – Vedic Literature – Sangam Literature – Bhakti Literature - Early & Later – Buddhist Lit. – Jain Lit. Accounts of Travelers – Chinese - Fa-Hein – Megasthenes – Hein Tsang - Continuity of Indian Culture – Sangam Era – Arab Travelers – Al-Beruni – Ibn Battuta – Minhaz Siraj – Court Historians – Navratnas – Tansen – Amir Khusro – Abul Fazl – Abdul Badayuni – European Travelers – Francis Bernier - Vasco De Gama – Marco Polo – Nicolo Conti – Abdul Razzaq – Barbosa – Father Monserrat – Ralphfich – Captain Hawkins – Schools of Philosophy – Astika – Nastika – Charvaka – Jain – Buddha – Samkhya – Ajivikas – Mimamsa – Vedanta – Nayaya – Yoga – Samkhya – Vaisheshika – Advait – Shankaracharya – Bhakti Philosophy – Medieval Times – Kabir – Guru Nanak – “Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam” – Architecture of Modern Cities – Chandigarh – Le Corbusier – Lessons in Planning from Ancient India.

Topic 2: Modern History: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues. The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

Modern History: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until 1905: Advent of Europeans – Portuguese – Contribution – Causes of Failure- French – Carnatic Wars – Why they failed against the British? - Battle of Panipat – British and Native States – Battle of Plassey – Buxar – Anglo – Marathas – Anglo – Punjab – Sindh Conquest - Establishment of British rule in India - British policies and its impact – Land Revenue System – Permanent Settlement – Mahalwari – Ryotwari – Commercialization of Agriculture – Development of Civil Services – Police – Education – Press – Famine Commissions - De-industrialization – Railways – Local Self Government – Constitutional Developments – Regulating Act 1773,1784 – Charter Acts – Government of India Act 1858,1909,1919,1935 – Indian Councils Act 1861,1892 - Religious and social reform movements and their impact – Growth of art, literature and modern press in India – Major Social reforms - Indian Renaissance - Raja Ram Mohan Roy – Ishvar Chandra Vidyasagar - Caste movements in south India & Maharashtra - Reforms of Cornwallis, Wellesley, Hasting, William Bentick, Dalhousie - Revolt of 1857 , causes and consequences – Rise of Indian Nationalism – Drain Theory – Early political movements and Indian National Congress – Moderates – Extremists - Role of Lytton, Ripon and Curzon - Rise of extremism – Swadeshi and Boycott movement in India – Split in Congress and rise of revolutionary terrorism - Morley-Minto reforms and formation of Muslim League - **Modern Indian history from 1905 until independence:** Gandhi in South Africa – Role of Gandhi in eradication of Indentured slavery system - Return of Mahatma Gandhi - Gandhian Philosophy – Satyagraha - His ideas on Communalism, Trusteeship, Socialism, Means and Ends – Relevance of Gandhian ideas in present times – Gandhi vs Nehru, Gandhi vs Tagore, Gandhi vs Ambedkar, Gandhi vs Subhash – Role of Women in Gandhian movements –Why Gandhi was successful - Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda Movement – Gadhar Movement – Home rule movement and its impact – Role of Foreigners in National Movement –Influence of foreign events on Indian National movement - Non-cooperation movement and Khilafat movement – Gandhi vs Jinnah on Khilafat Issue - Montague Chelmsford reforms 1919 – Swarajists – Rise of Left – Congress Socialist Party – Communists – JLN, Subhash Bose influence – Peasant movements in India - Rise of communalism and its dangerous effects - Simon Commission – Lahore Congress, from Swaraj to complete independence – Civil disobedience movement – Round table conferences – Poona Pact – Constitutional development, Government of India Act 1935 - 28-month congress rule – National movement during world war – Individual Satyagraha – August Offer – Cripps Proposal - Quit India Movement – Wavell Plan – Rajaji's Formula – INA Trials – RIN Mutiny - National upsurge after second world war – Tebhaga Movement - Formation of Interim government – Constituent Assembly - Wavell Breakdown Plan – Mountbatten Plan – Menon Plan – Independence of India Act, 1947 – Partition and Communal Violence.

Topic 3: Post-Independence: Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

Post-Independence India: Key words: Challenges before Indian Democracy - Impact and Legacy of Colonial Rule - Integration of Princely States - Linguistic State Formation and Issue of National and Official Language - Integration of Tribal – North Eastern – Challenges - Regionalism and Regional Inequality - Tribal Panchsheel - Land and Agriculture reforms - Zamindari Abolition - Tenancy Reforms (Operation Barga) - Land Ceilings; The Bhoodan Movement & Gramdan Movement – Recent land reforms - Green Revolution & Green Revolution - Foreign Policy, NAM and Relations with countries - International role - Indo China war – Indira Gandhi: Inner party struggle and congress split, Bangladesh Challenge, 1971 and Indo- Pak War - Shimla Agreement, 1972 – Emergency: cause and consequences - Separatist movement: Kashmir, Punjab, North East - Women movements – Environmental movements in Post-Independence – Dalit Politics – Development of Science – New Farmer Movement

Topic 4: World History: History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.

World History: Events from 18th century till world war I: Keywords: Renaissance – Age of Enlightenment - Industrial Revolution – Causes & Consequences – IR in Britain, Japan, Russia, India - Impact on India - Emergence of new ideologies like capitalism, communism, socialism - American revolution and civil war – American Constitution - British Mercantilism - French revolution - Rise and fall of Napoleon - Vienna Congress - Rise of Nation states – Rise of Socialism – Communism – 1st International – 2nd International – Workers Movement - unification of Germany and Italy - Balkan Wars - Imperialism and colonization- World war- cause and consequence, Treaty of Versailles - League of Nations - Russian revolution, cause and consequence - Lenin's New Economic Policy – Stalin's Economic policies – Great Depression and the New Deal **Events from world war I and onwards: Keywords:** Rise of Nazism and Hitler in Germany – Role of Hitler in WWII – Policy of appeasement - Rise of Fascism in Italy - Japanese imperialism - Chinese revolution – Spanish Revolution - World war II- cause and consequences - Decolonization and achievement of freedom by nations (from 18th century onwards) - West Africa – Indonesia – Apartheid – Malay Peninsula - Cold war and bipolar world – Cuban Missile Crisis - Afro-Asian unity and Non- alignment - Arab Nationalism - Palestine and Israel-Arab conflict - fall of USSR – Gorbachev's policies - Fall of Berlin Wall - Gulf wars - Iranian revolution - Afghan Invasion – European Union – Formation and new challenges.

Topic 5: Indian Society: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India. Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies. Effects of globalization on Indian society. Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Key Concepts: Salient Features of Indian Society – Issues related to: Religion, communalism and secularism - Family - Caste system and caste based discrimination - Marriage and divorce - Print, digital and social media - Education - Women and gender based discrimination – Children - Senior citizen – Disabled – Youth- Urban Population and Rural population - Tribal - Impact of globalization on all social groups – Regionalism - Pluralism and Diversity of language, culture, food, institutions etc. - Women empowerment: social reforms, women organizations and SHGs – Population: age structure, literacy, sex ratio – Poverty and poverty line - Inequalities and exclusions - Social cause of poverty – Poverty alleviation initiatives.

Topic 6: Physical Geography: Salient features of world's physical geography.

Topic 8: Geophysical Phenomena: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Geomorphology: Interior of the earth - Continental drift theory - Plate tectonic theory - Landform development in karst regions, arid region, glacial region - Landforms development due to fluvial, Aeolian and glacial action - Endogenic and Exogenic forces - Formation of fold mountains and island arcs - Volcanism and related landforms - Earthquakes and tsunami. Cryosphere.

Oceanography: Temperature and salinity of the oceans - Ocean currents - Waves and tides - Coral reefs and coral bleaching - EL NINO and ENSO - Sea level change - Ocean acidification – Mineral Reserves – Deep Sea Mining - Challenges

Climatology: Composition and structure of atmosphere - Temperature and pressure belts of the world - Atmospheric circulation- Planetary and local winds - Monsoon and jet streams - Air masses and air front - Tropical cyclones - Temperate cyclones - Heat budget - Climate change - Urban climate – Ozone Depletion

Biogeography: Soils: types and locations; Major biomes of the world: tropical rainforest, temperate forests, Savanah grasslands, temperate grasslands, Desert biome, Monsoon and Mediterranean biome - Wetlands- Mangrove vegetation. Contemporary issues.

Topic 7/ Human and Economic Geography: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

Human and Economic Geography: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent): Minerals: Iron, Aluminum, Manganese, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Uranium, Rare earth metals – Energy resources: Coal, Oil and natural Gas – non-conventional energy resources: Coal bed methane, Shale gas etc. - Renewable Energy resources: Solar energy, wind energy, geothermal etc.

Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India): Iron and steel, Automobile, Cotton, Fertilizer, Pharmaceuticals etc.

Indian Agriculture. Population and settlement geography: growth, distribution and demographic attributes - demographic dividend- Urbanization, Migration – problems in urban and rural areas – Slums - Urban sprawl – Urban Infrastructure-Industrial Corridors.

Geopolitics. Space.

General Studies Paper 2

GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

Topic 1: Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Key concepts: Historical Background – Govt of India Act 1919 – Govt of India Act 1935 – Constituent Assembly – Criticisms – Making of Constitution – Preamble – Part of Constitution or Not – Amendability – Objective Resolution – Salient Features – Sovereign - Secular Socialist – Democratic – republic – Meaning & Significance – A K Gopalana Case – Golaknath Case – Citizenship – Amendment Act – Fundamental Rights – Right to Life – Directive Principles of State Policy – DPSP vs FR - Fundamental Duties - Emergency Provisions - Political Parties - Federal Feature – Union vs Federation - Fiscal federalism - Parliamentary Features – Parliamentary vs Presidential System - Unitary Features - Unique features - **Amendments to Constitution** – Constitutional Provisions – Amendability of Fundamental Rights – Criticism of Amendment procedure - Significant Amendment to constitution - 1st, 7th, 24th, 25th, 42nd, 44th, 52nd, 61st, 65th, 69th, 73rd, 74th, 77th, 84th, 86th, 87th, 89th, 90th- 99- 100th - 101-102-103th etc. **Significant Provisions** - Article 370 – repeal , Article 371 and 371A, Special Provision for SC/ST (and now OBCs too) - Administration of UTs - Article 239, 239A, 239AA and 239AB – Basic Structure Doctrine – Keshvananda Bharathi – Doctrine of Constitutional Morality - Uniform Civil Code

Topic 2: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

Key concepts: Union and the States - Functions of Union - Functions of the States - Responsibilities of the Union - Responsibilities of the States – Article 356 – Article – 131 – Article 256 – Article 365 – Schedule 7 Issues – Schedule 5 & 6 Issues – Fiscal Federalism – GST – Finance Commission - American Federalism vs Canadian Federalism - Evolution of Indian Federalism - Features of Indian Federalism, Issues of Centre - State Relations, Doctrine of Harmonious Construction & Federal Supremacy - Issues of Inter State Relations – Inter State River Water Disputes - **Devolution of Power and finances** - Provisions of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, Devolution of Powers to PRI, Devolution of Finances to PRI, Devolution of Powers to ULB, Devolution of Finances to ULB – Challenges – State Finance Commission

Topic 3: Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

Key concepts: Evolution of Doctrine of separation of Power - Different Approaches Separation of Power vs Division of Power - -Constitutional provisions - Union List – Concurrent List - Judicial Pronouncement – Article 131- Judicial Activism - Dispute redressal Mechanism – Administrative Tribunals- fast track Courts – Lok Adalats – 5th Schedule – Tribal Administration Related Provisions

Topic 4: Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.

Key concepts: Provision of Constitution & Its Sources – Is it an original document - Comparison of Indian Constitution with other countries – American - British - Canada – Parliamentary vs Prime Ministerial System – Executive presidency System of Sri Lanka – New Constitution of Nepal - Challenges of presidential “type” elections in Parliamentary System

Topic 5: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning - conduct of business - powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

Key concepts: Parliament – Organization – Role of Speaker – Question of Neutrality – Parliamentary Disruption Index – Devices of parliamentary proceedings – Budget in Parliament – Joint sitting of two houses – Committees of Parliament – Public Accounts Committee – Ethics Committee - Parliamentary Privileges – Anti Defection Law – Issue of Disqualification – Office of Profit – Anti Defection – Politicization of Governor – State vs UT – UT with Legislative Assembly – LG vs CM’s role in UTs – Relevance of Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Council – Article 1-4 .

Topic 6: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary— Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Key concepts: Cabinet Committee System – NJAC – Removal of Judges – Challenges – Judicial Accountability – Judicial Independence – “From noisy journalists and independent judges to noisy judges and independent journalists” – Judicial Pendency – Reforms – Virtual Courts - Gram Nyayalaya - Judicial Review -Judicial Activism - Judicial Appointments - Collegium System - Judicial Accountability - e-courts – Regional Benches – National Court of Appeal - Constitutional Courts – Political Parties – Pressure Groups – Khap Panchayats – Farmer Organizations – Role of FICCI – CII etc.

Topic 7: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

Key concepts: Representation of People's Act 1950 and 1951 – Disqualification – Lily Thomas Case – Jan Chowkidar Case – Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) Case – State Funding of Elections – Simultaneous Elections – Political Funding - Electoral Bonds – Criminalization of Politics – EVM - Electoral Reforms by Election Commission – First Past the Post vs Proportional Representation System.

Topic 8: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Key concepts: Constitutional Bodies – Election Commission – Disqualification of MP / MLAs - UPSC, SPSC, CAG – Article 149 - Criticisms – Political Fallouts of Audit Reports - Finance Commission - Article 280 – Mandate – Issues arising out of it - National Commission for Schedule Castes/ Schedule Tribe / Backward Classes.

Topic 9: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

Key concepts: Statutory Bodies - National Human Rights Commission – Analysis - Criticisms – Criteria of Appointment of Chairman – Retirement Home for Pliable Judges - State Human Rights Commission, Central Information Commission – Amendments to RTI Act – State Information Commission, Central Vigilance Officer – Need for Constitutional Status - Lokpal and Lokayuktas – Issues and Challenges - National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Women, National Commission for protection of Children Rights – Political Bias & Neutrality Issue – Weapon against opposition ruled states – IRDA – SEBI - Competition Commission of India – Challenges in Working –Article 323-A / 323 B – need for separation of regulatory function and participation - National Green Tribunal – Criticisms – Tribunalisation of Justice - Issue of Competition Appellate Tribunal, CAT – Issues in functioning - Airport Authority Appellate Tribunal, - Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal – Consumer Protection Act

Topic 10: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Key concepts: - Development of critical Infrastructure – rural roads, sanitation - availability of safe drinking water - skill development - Social security - Urban Infrastructure – People's participation in Governance – Reasons for failure – Neo Liberal Paradigm of Development – Multilevel Development Planning – Jal Shakti Abhiyan – WASH – Water Sanitation and Hygiene.

Topic 11: Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

Key concepts: Stakeholders in Development process - Role of NGOs, Civil Society, Self Help Groups – Microfinance – Role in Development & Skill Development –Kudumbashree model - NGO Funding – FCRA & NGOs - DAV College Trust Case – NGO under RTI Ambit – Charitable Organizations – Need for cooperation among various service sectors.

Topic 12: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Key concepts: Critical Performance of Govt schemes – Design & Implementation – Commissions for Vulnerable Sections - Protection of interest of vulnerable sections through – constitutional provisions, legislation, executive and Judiciary
Welfare schemes for Vulnerable sections - children, Women, Old Age, Divyang people, Schedule Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Poor migrants, tribals - Transgender – Surrogacy - Refugees - Constitutional provisions for the same

Topic 13: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Key concepts: Issues related with Health – Public Health – Public vs Private Healthcare – Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY – Privatization of healthcare – Insurance based Healthcare - Out of pocket expenditure – Amartya Sen on Health & Education - Doctor Population ratio – Use of digital technology in providing health services – Education – Primary , Secondary , Higher Education – National Education Policy – National Medical Commission - Foreign Investment in Education – Food Budget Squeezing - Issues related in learning outcomes, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Elementary Education, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan – SSA - Skill Development – Challenges - Education and employability – Demographic Dividend vs Demographic Disaster

Topic 14: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

Key concepts: Poverty – Causes – Political – Social – Economic – Geographical – Cultural – International – Role of Neo Liberal Policies – Marxist Perspective - Poverty Alleviation – Employment generation - Access to education and Health Services - Evolution of Poverty Line Measurement, Relation between Poverty, Hunger, Malnutrition - Government Measures for Eradication of Poverty and Hunger, Issues in them, Possible Solutions – Food Nutrition – Nutrition Security – M S Swaminathan's Views.

Topic 15: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizen charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Key concepts: Governance - Concept-Evolution in India, Important aspects –Transparency –Accountability - Current Scenario -Measures by Central and State Government – Good Governance - E-governance - Steps taken by Government for e-governance penetration - limitation of e-governance- Direct Benefit Transfer – Lokpal – Ease of Doing Business – Corruption perception – Citizen Charter – Social Audit – Corporate Governance - Whistleblower Protection Act – Media – Independence – Corporate Ownership of Media – Paid News – Yellow Journalism – Fake News – Challenge to Good Governance - Prevention of Corruption in Civil Service

Topic 16: Role of civil services in a democracy.

Key concepts: Civil Service – Historical Background – Colonial Hangover – Role in Development – Failure at Poverty Alleviation – Committed Bureaucracy – Reforms – Corruption in Civil Service – Article 311

Topic 17: India and its neighborhood- relations.

Key concepts: Prevention of Corruption in Civil Service - Nehru's Foreign policy – Non Aligned Movement – Panchsheel – Idealism - Indira Gandhi [1966 - 1984] – Era of Realism – India's Monroe Doctrine - Policy of Coalition Era[1985-2003] – Gujarat Doctrine – Neighbourhood first policy, Look East to Act East policy, Connect Central Asia policy – Look West Policy – SAGAR - India's Relationship with its neighboring countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Sri-Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Bangladesh – Afghan Peace Process – Increasing Role of Foreign Policy in Domestic Politics – India's Soft and Hard Power – India West Asia Relations – Indian Ocean Region – Challenges and Opportunities

Topic 18: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Key concepts: SAARC vs BIMSTEC, BRICS, Afro-India Relations, SCO, ASEAN, Resurgence of Non-Aligned Movement – Connectivity Initiatives - Ashgabat Agreement – Chabahar – Peace Pipeline –Arctic Council – Non Proliferation Policy - Wassenaar Agreement, Australian Group, MTCR, NSG, NPT – FIPIC Countries – CMLV Countries and India - Arctic Council

Topic 19: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

Key concepts – USA – China Trade War, RCEP - FTA negotiations, Impact of Free Trade - Indian diaspora – old diaspora – new diaspora – oil diaspora – Contribution & Challenges – String of Pearls – South China Sea – Energy Diplomacy – South East Asian Diaspora – Belt and Road Initiative – CPEC – Indo Pacific Region – Quad – USA India Relations – Defense – Trade - Diplomatic Relations – Brexit and India – India – Japan - Hikaku San Gensoku Policy – South -South Cooperation – Global South

Topic 20: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

Key concepts – UN – UNSC Reforms – International Aid & Funding Agencies - Bretton Woods Institutions and India - WTO – Role & Relevance - World bank – Criticisms - IMF, AIIB, Indian Ocean Rim Association – UNESCO – WTO – Challenges, Role – Funding Issues.

General Studies Paper 3

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Topic 1: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Key concepts: Planning - Evolution of planning in India - Objectives of Economic Planning in India - National Planning Commission/ National Planning Committee/Bombay plan/ People's Plan/ Gandhian Plan / Sarvodaya Plan/ Planning Commission and NDC - Achievement / Failures of Planning Commission - NITI Aayog (1 Jan, 2015) - How it is different from Planning Commission -Cooperative Federalism - Competitive Federalism -NITI Aayog Action Agenda and Annual Reports – unemployment – jobless growth – investment & savings rate. **Mobilisation of Resources** - Mobilisation of natural resource/Human resource/Financial resource -Plan Vs Non Plan Expenditure - GST, GAAR, Tax Administrative reform Commission - Federal Issues in Resource Mobilisation – Southern States Concerns with 15th FC – Resource mobilisation of urban local bodies - **Growth and Development** - Economic Growth Meaning – Slowdown - Inflation – Phillip's Curve – Laffer Curve - Indicators of economic growth - Significance of economic growth - jobless growth - challenges to economic growth - Difference between economic growth and development - GDP – GNH – HDI – Externalities of Development – Growth Recession –**Employment** - Employment Scenario - Key Facts - PLFS - 2017 -18, NSSO - Employment Unemployment Survey - Labour Bureau Quarterly Employment Survey - Employment and Formalisation - Employment and Productivity – Employability - Labour laws - Female Labour Force Participation - Gender Wage Gap, Artificial Intelligence and 4th Industrial Revolution - Labour Market Disruption – **Covid 19** – and impact on growth – mobilisation of resources – employment – changing nature of economy - Cashless economy – digital economy – formalisation of informal sector - Blue Economy – Gig Economy – Platform Economy.

Topic 2: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Key concepts: Inclusive Growth – Livelihood - Access to basic amenities - Social Security - Skill Development - Poverty elimination - Balanced regional Development - Reducing Inequalities - Empowerment -Employment - Financial Inclusion - Good Governance - Collaboration of Govt, civil Society and Industry - Universal basic Income - Minimum Wages -Transformation of Aspirational Districts – World Inequality Report & Index – Financial Inclusion – JAM Trinity – Covid19 & Inclusive Growth. – Failure of trickle down approach – Misery Index – Expanding Middle Approach to inclusive growth – Middle Income Trap

Topic 3: Government Budgeting.

Key concepts: Budget - Meaning and Importance – Different types of Budget – Line Item Budget – Performance Budgeting – Zero based Budgeting – Outcome Budgeting – Gender Budgeting - Various Component of Budget – Revenue and Capital Account – Deficits – Budget Deficit – Revenue Deficit – Fiscal Deficit – Stages of enactment of Budget – Recent Changes – Scrapping of railway Budget and merging it with General Budget – Scrapping of Plan and Non Plan expenditure – Advancement in the Presentation of Budget – March Rush – Budget 2020-21 – Issues in Budgets in India and 2nd ARC recommendations – Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act – Covid-19 Impact – Direct Tax Code – GST – Taxation Reforms – MAT – Dividend Distribution Tax – Long Term Capital Gains – Tax Avoidance – Tax Evasion – Tax Heaven – Tax Buoyancy – Base Erosion & Profit Shifting – GAFA Tax – Reduction in Corporate Tax – Tax to GDP Ration – Debt to GDP Ratio – Sovereign Bond – Ease of Living – Aspirational India – Economic Development – Caring Society

Topic 4: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Key concepts: Major crops of India – Food crops and Non-food Crops – Rice/Wheat/Millets/Pulses/tea/coffee/Sugarcane/Cotton/Jute/ -

Cropping Pattern - Rabi - Kharif – Zaid – Issues related with water guzzling crops – “Virtual Water Export” - Agriculture distress- Rainfed Agriculture Atlas – Zero Budget Natural farming – Sustainable Agriculture – Integrated Farming – Shifting Cultivation – Monoculture - Diversification of crops – Climate Smart Agriculture – integrated Farming System – PM Fasal Bima Yojana

Irrigation System - Key facts regarding Irrigation in India- Need for Irrigation- Different types of Irrigation in India – Major/Medium/Minor Irrigation Projects – Positive and Negative Effects of Irrigation – Effect of Irrigation on Environment – Habitat Destruction- Displacement of population – Salinity – Water logging – Drip Irrigation –Schemes related to Irrigation - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana - Micro Irrigation Fund – Long term Irrigation fund - Irrigation in dryland areas - Watershed development in India – From Land Productivity to Water Productivity. – Contribution of Visvesvaraya – PM KUSUM.

Agricultural Marketing - What is Agricultural Marketing -Objectives of Agricultural Marketing- Present State of Agricultural Marketing in India - effects of Agricultural Marketing in India - Steps taken by Government for improvement of Agricultural Marketing in India - Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing- e- NAM - Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 - Draft Model Contract Farming Act 2018 - Agricultural Export Policy, 2018 – Issues in Food Grain Management in India - Restructuring FCI [Shanta Kumar Committee recommendations]- Farmer Producer

Companies [FPO] - Operation Greens [Curbing Price Volatility in horticultural produce] – Post Covid – Agriculture Market Supply Chain – Contract Farming – e-Negotiable Warehouse Receipt

E-Technology in Aid of Farmer – ICT and Agriculture – Agritech – Hydroponics – Vertical Farming – GM Crops & Issues therein – technology fatigue in Indian Agriculture - Contribution of M S Swaminathan

Topic 5: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Key concepts: Farm Subsidies - Need/rationale for Subsidies - Types of Subsidies - Merits/Demerits of Subsidies -Various Issues in farm Subsidies - Distortive/Regressive etc. - India and WTO: on Farm Subsidies - Green Box/Amber Box/ Blue Box, Negotiations and their outcomes, Public Stockholding in India and WTO - 10% subsidy cap - Peace Clause, Possible Permanent Solution, - Export Subsidy & WTO - **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** - Need/Rationale for MSP, MSP Calculation, crops covered, Swaminathan Committee Report, Issues in the MSP - Alternatives Suggested to MSP - NITI Aayog three models of procurement - Market Assurance Scheme, Price Deficiency Payment, employing private players to procure on behalf of the government for a concession – PM-AASHA, **Public Distribution System (PDS)** - Evolution, objective, Functioning, Limitations of PDS -Recent Reforms undertaken - Shanta Kumar Committee, Digitisation of Ration Card, Linking Ration Card with Aadhaar Card, PDS Vs DBT, Food Coupons, Colour Coding -Alternatives to PDS - Cash Transfer/ Food Coupons/Universal Basic Income - One Nation - One Ration Card, etc. **Buffer Stocks** - Need for Buffer Stock, What is Buffer Stock, Limitation of Buffer stock, Laws supplementing buffer stock- ECA, Trading restrictions- issues, implications, FCI reforms - **Food Security** - Need, Component of food security, Govt Initiatives, National Food Security Act, - Nutrition Security – Hidden Hunger . **Technology Missions** - National Mission on Oil seeds and oil palm, Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses & Maize, Technology Mission on Coconut, National Saffron Mission, National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology, etc. - **Economics of Animal Rearing** - Role of Livestock in farmers economy, Mixed Farming and livestock, Climate change and Livestock, Issues- quality, breed system- indigenous/foreign, research, diseases - Government Schemes - National Livestock Mission, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre, e-pashuhaat, etc.

Topic 6: Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

Key concepts: Food Processing - Scope/Significance/Potential/Issues and Concerns in the Food Processing Sector - Government Schemes - Nivesh Bandhu's Portal - Mega Food Parks - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana - 100% FDI permitted in Food Processing - Dairy Processing and development Fund- Fisheries and aquaculture development fund - Animal

Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund - Setting up/Modernisation of Abattoirs – Village Storage Scheme – Dhanalakshmi – National Cold Supply Chain.

Topic 7: Land reforms in India.

Key concepts: Brief History - Need and Objectives of Land reform, Components of land reforms, Phases of Land reform, Overall appraisal of land reforms, Regional Variation in land Reforms – Post liberalisation Land Reforms - Modernisation of Land Record (Now - Digital India Land Record Modernisation Program) - Facilitation of Land Leasing (NITI Aayog Model Agriculture Land Leasing Act 2016) - Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, etc.- Model Tenancy Acts – Issues arising out of Land to Population Ratio.

Topic 8: Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

Key concepts: Liberalisation of Economy - Impact of Liberalisation on different sectors of economy - Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Manufacturing/Industries, Service Sectors, MSME, Export improvement, Healthcare/Education etc. – Global Value Chain – Economy of Network Products – Marxist Perspective – COVID-19 & Globalisation – Trade War – Protectionism - **Industrial Policy** - Need for Industrial Policy, Evolution of Industrial Policy, New Industrial Policy - 1991- Its Achievement and Failures, Why India needs New Industrial policy, -Missing Middle – problem of Dwarfism – Pre-mature Deindustrialisation of India – FIRE Economy

Topic 9: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Key concepts: – Energy – Key Facts – Conventional and Non-Conventional sources of Energy – Power Sector – Thermal/Hydro/Nuclear/Renewables - Issues and Challenges in Power Sector and their remedies – Various Initiatives by Government – Renewable Energy – Solar Power/Wind Energy – Issues and challenges in renewable energy power – National Infrastructure Pipeline.

Ports/Shipping Industry – Major and Minor ports, Inland Water Navigation, SAGARMALA – Ro-Ro Service & Its Impact – Major Ports Act -

Roads – Road network in India – Importance of Roads – Issues/Challenges in road Sector – Various schemes - Bharatmala- Roads Accident – Steps taken to prevent road Accident – Road Construction – PPP – EPC- BOT- HAM – TOT - Swiss Challenge.

Railways – Rail network in India – Importance of railways – Various Issues– recommendation of Various Committees – Bibek Debroy Committee- Sam Pitroda Committee – Anil Kakodkar Committee – Merger of railway Budget with General Budget – Privatisation of Railways – Restructuring of Railways – Rail Development Authority – Rail Safety – High Operating Ratios – Cross Subsidisation Policy

Airports/Civil Aviation – Importance of Aviation Sector, Issues in aviation sector – Airport Development – Models - Initiatives by Govt. - UDAN – Disinvestment of Air India – Covid 19 & Aviation Sector.

Topic 10: Investment models.

Key concepts: Different Investment Models - PPP - Evolution of PPP in India/ Why We need PPP, Challenges/Issues in the PPP model, Kelkar Committee Recommendations - Different PPP models - BOT, BOO, BOOT, BOLT, LDO, DBFO - EPC model - TOT, Hybrid Annuity Model, Swiss Challenge etc – FDI vs FII – Greenfield – Brownfield - Debate

Topic 11 : Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Key concepts: Science technology and innovation policy - Defence technology - Space technology - Information technology – Bio Technology – Nano technology - General science concepts of chemistry, physics and Biology, - Commercialisation of Space – Mission Shakti – Technical Textile Mission & PPEs – Vaccine Development – Covid -19 – Integrated Disease Surveillance Program – 4th Industrial Revolution – Quantum Computing – Virtual Currency – Big Data – Internet of Things -e-Vehicles – Li-ON – eNDS.

Topic 12: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Key concepts: Famous Indian scientists from ancient to the modern age - Notable scientists of India - CV Raman, M Visvesaraya, J C Bose, Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, APJ Abdul kalam - The extent of indigenization in sectors of Indian economy: Agriculture, Automobile, Information and Communication Technology, Healthcare and biotechnology, Space- Defence Indigenisation

Topic 13: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, Nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Key concepts: Bio-Technology - GM Crops (Bt Cotton, Bt Brinjal, Bt Mustard Golden Rice), Gene Therapy, Gene editing, Gene Silencing, Three Parent baby, Human Genome Project, Genome Project India, MAANAV- Human Atlas, DNA Technology Regulation Bill, Stem Cells, Embryo Transfer Technology – Neglected Tropical Diseases – Zoonotic Diseases

Space Technology - Earth Observation Satellite, Communication Satellite, Global Positioning system, Gaganyaan, Chandryaan, NaVIC, Aditya LI, AstroSat, Vyommitra, - Contribution of ISRO – PSLV – GSLV – Cryogenics – Mars Mission -

IT and Computer - 4G and 5G, 4D printing, Li-Fi, Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain technology, Quantum Computing, Data Localisation, Dark Web, etc.

Intellectual Property Rights - Different Categories of IPR, Traditional knowledge Digital Library, Patent Prosecution Highway Programme, - National IPR Policy – Branded vs Generic Drugs – Issue of APIs – Patent Act & TRIPS – WIPO – Developed vs Developing World Debate on IP Rights – Evergreening – Compulsory Licensing.

Topic 14: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Key concepts: Environmental Pollution, Deforestation, Eutrophication, Coral Bleaching - Climate change – Impact of Climate Change, Mitigation Strategies, Initiatives by India – ISA – Global Climate Fund - UNFCCC, etc – Air Pollution – Issue of SPM 10 – Stubble Burning & Issues Arising out of it – Vehicular Pollution – River Pollution – Land Degradation – Desertification – Illegal Wildlife Trade – Mangroves – Water Crisis – Pesticide Management - Western Ghats Conservation : Kasturirangan vs Madhav Gadgil – Carrying Capacity of Environment.

Environmental Impact Assessment – Need of it, Various Issues in EIA – Draft EIA 2020

Topic 15: Disaster and disaster management.

Key concepts: Concepts in Disaster management – Disaster Preparedness - Importance of Disaster management – Various mitigation methods – Natural and man-made disasters – Disaster management act 2005, National Disaster Management Authority - Vizag Gas Leak – Sendai Framework - Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure – Flood – Landslide – Wildfires – Pandemic as a Disaster – Epidemics Act – Dam Protection Bill.

Topic 16: Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

Key concepts: Deficit of development and its regional variations - loss of trust in government efforts -Land acquisition - issues around compensation and commercial acquisitions -Tribal discontent - development induced displacement - Indoctrination- role of non-state actors in promoting extremist ideas (Left Wing Extremism etc) – Naxalbari Movement – Saranda Action Plan – Urban Naxals

Topic 17: Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

Key concepts: Threats from external state actors - Pakistan & China - Cross-border terrorism – state sponsored terrorism - Threats from non-state actors to internal security - Terrorist Organisations, Drug cartels – Golden Triangle – Golden Crescent - Fake currency rackets, cross border ethnic group - illegal immigrants – Rohingya Crisis – Overground Workers of Terror Organisations – Operation Sunrise – Maritime Piracy -

Topic 18: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

Key concepts: Propaganda and indoctrination - recruitments via social media sites - Personal messaging platforms as a vehicle of protest and false ideas - Challenges to monitor social media content - Organized crime and its networks using dark web – Fake news – Impact on democracy – Mob Lynching – Cyber Security – Paid Media – Corporatisation of Media – Data protection – Data Localisation – Data Sovereignty

Cyber Security - Different kinds of cyber security vulnerabilities - malwares, Trojan horses etc, Cyber security of critical infrastructure – Nuclear power plant – financial institutions etc – Steps by Government to thwart cyber - attack – CERT – IN, etc – Crypto jacking – National CyberSecurity Policy -

Money Laundering - Methods and stages of Money laundering – Black Money - Tax Havens – Round Tripping - Impact of Money laundering on India, Government steps to combat money laundering - Legislative Provisions, Institutional mechanism, Global mechanism, FATF – Prevention of Money Laundering Act – Benami Transactions Act – BEPS.

Topic 19: Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

Key concepts: Border Management -India - China - LAC, Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh, Stapled visas, Tibet Issue, CPEC, Doklam Issue - India - Pakistan - Sir creek Issue, Siachen, Border river Dispute , Indus Water Treaty 1960, Dispute on various hydro-electric project built by India, State sponsored terrorism, fake currency etc - India - Nepal - Kalapani, Susta, Mechi, Tanakpur - India - Bangladesh - 100th Constitutional amendment act, Illegal migrants, drug trafficking fake currency, Teesta River Water Dispute - India - Srilanka - Katchatheevu Island, Fishermen Issue - India - Myanmar - Drug Trafficking, Illegal migrants, Insurgency, etc – Operation Sunrise – CPEC – Human Trafficking –

Linkages of Organised crime with Terrorism NIA, UAPA (Amendment) Act – Communal Violence – Insurgency in North Eastern States and in Jammu and Kashmir – Illegal Wildlife Trade.

Topic 20: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate

Key concepts: Various security forces - Coastal Security - Indian Coast Guard - Central Armed Police Force - BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, NSG, AR –their mandate - NIA Amendment Act – AFPSA – Need for a Cyber command – Chief of Defence Staff

General Studies paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Topic 1: Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics – in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

Key concepts: What are values, ethics, morals – Moral relativism/ subjectivism: Variability of ethics and values across time and space – Moral objectivism - Constitutional morality - Determinants of ethicality: end result, intention, circumstances and other factors - Consequences of ethics for individual and society – Supernaturalism, Divine command theory and God based ethics – Subjectivism – Emotivism -Virtue ethics -Deontology – Consequentialism – Intuitionism – Theoretical Dimensions: Normative/ Prescriptive Ethics, Descriptive Ethics, Meta Ethics, Applied ethics - Ethics for different types of relationship – Human Values: kindness, mercy, justice, love, empathy etc - Lessons from great leaders - Lessons from reformers - Lessons from administrators - Importance of value inculcation - Process of value inculcation - Source of values - Role of family - How family imparts values? : Strength and Problems - Role of educational institute - How education imparts values?: strengths and problems - Role of Society - How society imparts values?: strengths and weakness - Doctrine of double effect – Slippery slope doctrine - Environmental ethics – Bio-ethics – Media ethics.

Topic 2: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

Key concepts: Belief, opinion and attitude, Attitude Content: CAB Model – Structure of attitude: one-dimensional perspective and two-dimensional perspective – Functions of attitude: ego defensive, value expression, knowledge, need satisfaction - Attitude guiding and influencing behaviour - Behaviour guiding and influencing behaviour - Moral attitude - Political attitudes: Factors determining political attitude, types of political attitude - Cognitive dissonance - Social influence – Persuasion – Manipulation- Propaganda – Bureaucratic attitude – Democratic attitude - Attitude towards women, caste, religions - Stereotypes and prejudices.

Topic 3: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.

Key concepts: Aptitude - Aptitude vs. attitude - Foundational values – Integrity – Impartiality and Non-Partisanship - Neutrality - Objectivity – Dedication and commitment- Tolerance -

Sympathy, Empathy and compassion - Trustworthiness - Perseverance – Honesty - Significance of foundational values for civil servant – Nolan Principles of Public life: Selflessness, Accountability, Integrity, Honesty, Objectivity, Openness, leadership.

Topic 4: Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

Key concepts: Concepts: emotions, mood, feeling – Emotional intelligence: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, relationship management - Mayer and Salovey - Daniel Goleman - Models of Emotional Intelligence - Utilities and application in administration and governance - Improving Emotional Intelligence.

Topic 5: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world

Key concepts: Western Thinkers and Philosophers: Socrates – Plato – Aristotle – Deontology: Immanuel Kant and his categorical imperatives - Utilitarianism: Jeremy Bentham and JS Mill - Social Contract - John Rawls: Justice as Fairness; Indian Thinkers and Philosophers: Mahatma Gandhi - Jawahar Lal Nehru - Raja Ram Mohan Roy - Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar - Swami Vivekanand - Amartya Sen - Saint Teresa

Topic 6: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

Key concepts: Administrative Ethics: status and problem - Draft Public Service Bill - Professional and ethical competence - Importance of Administrative ethics - Administrative ethics in India - Suggestions for creating strong ethical framework for administration - Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions – Resolving ethical concerns and dilemmas - Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance - Difference between laws, rules and regulations – Law and ethics: relation - Limitation of law as source of ethical guidance – Voice of conscience and crisis of conscience - Accountability and Responsibility - Ethical issues in international relations and funding – Just war theory - Corporate governance – Compassionate capitalism - Corporate Governance in India - Companies Act 2013 - Mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility - Clause 49 – Ethical management and management of ethics.

Topic 7: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

Key concepts: Concept of public service and public interest – Spirit of service - Governance and public administration - governance, good governance and ethical governance - Philosophical basis of governance and probity - Courage of conviction - Politicization of bureaucracy - Code of conduct and code of ethics - Information sharing and transparency in government - Right to Information: importance, issues and suggestions – Citizen’s charter: Citizen’s charter movement, importance, issues and suggestion - Sevottam mode – Work culture: in private and public institutions – Quality of service delivery Utilization of public fund – Corruption - e-governance.

Topic 8: Case study on above issues.

Our Philosophy

We started our journey of guiding aspirants in 2012, when we founded ForumIAS.com. We are completely boot-strapped, self-funded, and are NOT owned by a *Chinese company*.

We try to do good work, help people and create a sustainable business where our students find value in things we do.

We take great efforts in building a community for Civil Services preparation on our free platform forumias.com. We continue to believe in peer learning.

And we put even greater efforts in making the Academy a serious, academically oriented, rigorous organization that gives value to its students, not just free stuff.

We are sometimes strict with our students, make them wake up at 7AM, so that they develop the discipline to clear this exam.

We don't (and won't) do everything for free. Here is why

Q.47) If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then

- (a) the opportunity cost is zero.
- (b) the opportunity cost is ignored.
- (c) the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.
- (d) the opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the Government.

Source : Civil Services Preliminary Examination, 2018 | Correct Answer as per the Official UPSC key : **[C]**

We spend everything that we earn on delivering services to our students, keeping a small margin. We have been there since 8 years now, and we have delivered results.

We will always focus on doing things that help people succeed. And we'll bank on your word of mouth support for our growth.

We are an academic institute first, a technology company second, a knowledge and social media company third, and we'll never be an advertising intensive company.