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UPSC-CSE PRELIMS 2026

Complete Test Planner & Execution Blueprint

WHY THIS PLANNER WORKS ?

3-Phase Test Architecture
- Foundation + Sectionals
- Advanced + Mixed Tests
- Full Length Tests (FLT) + Psychology Phase

UPSC-Aligned Test Frequency
- Sectionals every 2 days
- Mixed tests every 4–5 days
- FLTs with exact exam simulation

Static + Current Affairs Integration
- No isolated CA
- PYQ-based topic sequencing

Elimination-Focused Strategy
- Option logic > rote learning
- Accuracy over blind attempts

Built-in Analysis Discipline
- Same-day analysis mandatory
- Micro-topic revision system
- Wrong-question notebook method

THIS BOOKLET CONTAINS -

✓ Complete date-wise test planner

✓ Subject-wise & FLT-wise topic breakup

✓ Daily study timetable (phase-wise)

✓ Elimination checklist for Prelims Day

✓ Psychology & pressure-handling phase

✓ Final 30-day non-negotiable rules

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UPSC PRELIMS 2026
25 December 2025 → 15 May 2026

PHASE 1: FOUNDATION + SECTIONAL TESTS
25 DECEMBER 2025 – 31 JANUARY 2026

Rule:
- 1 test every 2 days
- Same-day analysis compulsory
- Next day = revision + next topic

POLITY (4 test)	
Date	**Test**
25 Dec	Constitution, Preamble, Amendments
27 Dec	FR, DPSP, Fundamental Duties
29 Dec	President, PM, Parliament
31 Dec	Judiciary, Federalism, Bodies
HISTORY (6 test)	
2 Jan	Ancient-I (Harappa, Vedic)
4 Jan	Ancient-II (Buddhism–Gupta)
6 Jan	Medieval-I (Delhi Sultanate)
8 Jan	Medieval-II (Mughals, Bhakti-Sufi)
10 Jan	Modern-I (1757–1857)
12 Jan	Modern-II (1885–1947)
GEOGRAPHY (6 test)	
14 Jan	Geomorphology, Climatology
16 Jan	Oceanography, Biogeography
18 Jan	India: Relief, Drainage, Climate
20 Jan	Soils, Agriculture, Vegetation
22 Jan	Resources, Industries
24 Jan	Population, Mapping
ECONOMY (4)	
26 Jan	Basics, National Income
28 Jan	Banking, Inflation, RBI
30 Jan	Budget, Fiscal Policy
31 Jan	Agriculture, Industry, External

PHASE 2: ADVANCED + MIXED TESTS
1 FEBRUARY – 15 MARCH 2026

Rule:
- 1 test every 4–5 days
- Static + Current Affairs integrated

Date	Test
2 Feb	Polity + Governance + CA
6 Feb	Economy + Budget + Schemes
10 Feb	Geography + Environment + CA
14 Feb	History + Culture + CA
18 Feb	Science & Tech + Security
22 Feb	Mapping India (Full)
28 Feb	Current Affairs (Last 12 months)

5 Mar	Environment (Complete)
10 Mar	Science & Tech (Complete)
15 Mar	**Grand Mixed Sectional Test**

◆ PHASE 3: FULL LENGTH TESTS (FLT)
16 March – 15 May 2026

🎯 **Goal:** Convert knowledge → marks through elimination

Date /FLT	Topic
FLT-1 (16 Mar) **POLITY + HISTORY**	**POLITY** **Constitution** • Preamble keywords (Justice–Liberty–Equality–Fraternity) • Types of amendments (Simple / Special / Special+States) • Basic Structure → elements added over time **Fundamental Rights** • Art 14 → reasonable classification, arbitrariness • Art 19 → freedoms + grounds of restriction • Art 21 → life, dignity, privacy, livelihood **Parliament** • Money Bill vs Financial Bill (Art 110 vs 117) • Role of Speaker (judicial review?) • Parliamentary committees (PAC, Estimates, DRSC) **Federalism** • Schedule 7 • Inter-State Council (Art 263) • Centre–State relations (legislative + financial) **HISTORY** **Modern India (VERY HIGH REPEAT RATE)** • INC sessions → place + resolution • Gandhian movements → cause, withdrawal, outcome • Constitutional developments (1909–1947) **Culture-linked history** • Temple architecture (Nagara/Dravida/Vesara) • Bhakti–Sufi philosophy (nirguna/saguna)

FLT-2 (21 Mar) **GEOGRAPHY +** **ENVIRONMENT**	**GEOGRAPHY (STATIC + DISASTER LINKAGE)** **Physical**
	• Plate tectonics (convergent/divergent)
	• Earthquakes → seismic zones of India
	Indian Geography
	• Physiographic divisions
	• River systems (Himalayan vs Peninsular)
	• Monsoon mechanism (Jet stream, ENSO, IOD)
	Disasters
	• Floods → anthropogenic causes
	• Cyclones → Bay of Bengal vs Arabian Sea
	• Droughts → meteorological/agricultural
	
	ENVIRONMENT
	• Ecosystem terms (food chain, keystone species)
	• Protected areas:
	   o National Park vs WLS vs Biosphere Reserve
	• Climate change:
	   o Mitigation vs adaptation

	o Carbon sink, net-zero • Major conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar)

FLT-3 (26 Mar)
ECONOMY +
SCIENCE & TECH
	ECONOMY
	Core Concepts (UPSC favourites)
	• GDP vs GVA vs NDP
	• Market price vs factor cost
	• Inflation $\rightarrow$ CPI vs WPI
	• Repo, reverse repo, SLR, CRR
	• Monetary Policy Committee
	Agriculture
	• MSP logic
	• Cropping pattern shift
	• Allied activities
	
	SCIENCE & TECH
	• Biotechnology:
	   o DNA, RNA, CRISPR
	• Space:
	   o Gaganyaan, Lagrange points
	• Defence:
	   o Missiles, drones
	• Digital:
	   o AI, quantum computing, blockchain

FLT-4 (31 Mar)
MIXED + CURRENT
AFFAIRS
	CURRENT AFFAIRS (LAST 12 MONTHS ONLY)
	• Government schemes:
	   o Objective
	   o Ministry
	   o Beneficiary
	• Reports:
	   o IPCC
	   o World Bank
	   o SDGs
	• International groupings:
	   o G20, BRICS, SCO
	• Static-CA linkage:
	   o Polity articles in news
	   o Environmental treaties in news

FLT-5 (5 Apr) – **MAPPING +** **CULTURE**	**MAPPING (VERY HIGH UPSC TREND)** • Rivers + tributaries • Mountain passes • National parks (state match) • Coastal features • International borders **CULTURE** • Classical vs folk dances • Painting schools • Temple & Indo-Islamic architecture • Buddhism & Jainism philosophy • GI tags

FLT-6 (9 Apr) – POLITY DOMINANT	**ADVANCED POLITY**
	• Judiciary:
	    ○ Review vs curative
	    ○ PIL misuse
	• Emergency:
	    ○ National, State, Financial
	• Local government:
	    ○ 73rd/74th Amendments
	• Bodies:
	    ○ CIC, NHRC, CBI (status)

FLT-7 (13 Apr) – ECONOMY + ENVIRONMENT	**ECONOMY**
	• External sector:
	    ○ BoP
	    ○ Forex reserves
	• Fiscal policy:
	    ○ Revenue/fiscal/primary deficit
	    ○ FRBM Act
	ENVIRONMENT
	• Species (IUCN status)
	• Climate finance
	• National Action Plan on Climate Change

FLT-8 (17 Apr) – HISTORY + CULTURE	• Buddhism councils • Gupta administration • Delhi Sultanate reforms • Mughal mansabdari • Freedom struggle chronology (trap-based)
FLT-9 (21 Apr) – GEOGRAPHY + MAPPING	• Resources & industries • Location factors • Disaster geography • Heavy map-based MCQs
FLT-10 (25 Apr) – BALANCED PAPER	• Equal weight all subjects • Moderate difficulty • Accuracy calibration test
FLT 11–20 (SELECTION & PSYCHOLOGY PHASE)	
FLT-11 – CA HEAVY	• Schemes • Reports • Environment + tech in news
FLT-12 – CONCEPTUAL	• WHY-based questions • Minimal factual comfort
FLT-13 – STATEMENT-BASED	• Multi-statement MCQs • Assertion–reason • "Which is incorrect?"
FLT-14 – PYQ PATTERN	• 2016–2025 style framing • Familiar concepts, twisted options
FLT-15 – TOUGH ELIMINATION	• Close options • Psychological pressure • Guessing discipline tested

FLT-16 – UPSC SIMULATION	• Exact exam temperament • Balanced paper
FLT-17 – CA STRESS	• News overload • Static + CA blending
FLT-18 – EXTREME DIFFICULTY	• Mental conditioning • Accuracy drop acceptable
FLT-19 – CONFIDENCE BOOSTER	• Moderate • Revision-friendly
FLT-20 – FINAL GRAND MOCK	• Selection mindset test, not knowledge test

FINAL GOLDEN RULE

UPSC Prelims is won by elimination, not memorisation.

NEXT (VERY IMPORTANT):
1. **Exact attempt strategy (how many Qs per FLT)**
2. **Subject-wise safe accuracy benchmarks**
3. **Last 30-day "ONLY THIS" revision list**

A. ONE-PAGE DAILY STUDY TIMETABLE (PHASE-WISE)

PHASE 1 (25 Dec – 31 Jan): Foundation + Sectionals	**Daily Time Split (8–10 hrs ideal)**
	Morning (3–4 hrs)
	• Static study for **next test topic**
	• Revise **micro-topics** (30 min compulsory)
	Afternoon (2–3 hrs)
	• MCQs from same topic (PYQ + test series style)
	• Note **statement traps**
	Evening (2 hrs)
	• **Test / Sectional (if test day)**
	  OR
	• Revision of **previous test mistakes**
	Night (1 hr)
	• Wrong-Question Notebook:
	  ○ Why wrong?
	  ○ Which concept?
	  ○ Which micro-topic?
	 Golden Rule:
	No day without revision + MCQs

PHASE 2 (1 Feb – 15 Mar): Advanced + Mixed	**Daily Focus** • 60% Static + 40% Current Affairs (integrated) **Morning** • Static core (linked to test) **Afternoon** • CA integration (schemes, env, mapping) **Evening** • Mixed MCQs / Test **Night** • Elimination practice (why options wrong) **Golden Rule:**

	Never read CA in isolation — always link to static

PHASE 3 (16 Mar – 15 May): FLT Mode	**3-Day FLT Cycle (STRICT)**
	Day 1:
	• FLT (GS or CSAT)
	Day 2:
	• Analyse **ONLY wrong + guessed**
	• Identify:
	    o Knowledge gap
	    o Statement trap
	    o Silly mistake
	Day 3:
	• Revise static + CA **linked to mistakes**
	• Update micro-topic list
	Golden Rule:
	Marks improve in analysis, not in tests

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TEST NAME / DATE:-------------------------------

SCORE: --
Attempted: ---
Correct: --
Wrong: ---
Guessed: --

SECTION-WISE ANALYSIS

POLITY:
• Wrong Q Nos:
• Reason:
☐ Concept weak
☐ Statement confusion
☐ Elimination error

History:
• Wrong Q Nos: -------------------------------
• Reason: -----------------------------

Geography:
• Wrong Q Nos: -------------------------------
• Reason: -----------------------------

Economy:
• Wrong Q Nos: -------------------------------
• Reason: -----------------------------

Env / S&T:
• Wrong Q Nos: -------------------------------
• Reason: -----------------------------

TOP 5 MISTAKES OF THIS TEST
1. ---
2. ---
3. ---
4. ---
5. ---

MICRO-TOPICS TO REVISE AGAIN:

• ---
• ---
• ---

ACTION FOR NEXT TEST:
☐ Revise specific article/topic
☐ Practice elimination
☐ Mapping drill

PRELIMS-DAY ELIMINATION CHECKLIST (MEMORISE)

Before marking **ANY option**, ask:

1**.** Is this **ABSOLUTE** or **EXTREME** wording?

→ *Usually wrong*

2. Is UPSC asking **FACT** or **APPLICATION**?

→ If application → eliminate fact-only options

3. Can I **eliminate 2 options confidently**?

→ If yes → attempt

→ If no → skip

4. Is this a **statement question**?

- Check:
    - Universal words (all/only/always)
    - Time mismatch
    - Authority mismatch

5. Mapping Question?

- Check:
    - Direction logic
    - Relative position
    - Region familiarity

6. Am I guessing emotionally?

→ **STOP**

Attempt philosophy

Accuracy > Attempts

85–90 correct beats 100 attempts

FINAL EXECUTION RULES (NON-NEGOTIABLE)

- ❖ No new book after **1 April**
- ❖ No random PDFs
- ❖ No Telegram FOMO
- ✔ Only:
    - This planner
    - Your tests
    - Your mistakes notebook
    - Micro-topic list

WALL OF FAME

UTKARSHA NISHAD
UPSC RANK - 18

SURABHI DWIVEDI
UPSC RANK - 55

SATEESH PATEL
UPSC RANK - 163

SATWIK SRIVASTAVA
SDM RANK-3

DEEPAK SINGH
SDM RANK-20

ALOK MISHRA
DEPUTY JAILOR RANK-11

SHIPRA SAXENA
GIC PRINCIPAL (PCS-2021)

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YOU CAN BE THE NEXT....

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