



Your Success at Civil Services is our only Mission @ GiantStep

CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMS -EXPERT INSIGHTS

CURRENT AFFAIRS: At the outset, you must know that Current Affairs for the Civil Services Prelims include both **National & International Events**. Theoretically speaking, current affairs are all encompassing but in reality there are certain areas, which need to be kept in mind as the following.

@NATIONAL LEVEL:

1. **Important Government Policies**, especially relating to the lives of the weaker sections of society.
2. **Economy**- Important measures taken by the Government to boost the economy, trade, industry & agriculture. Any change in government policies for attracting Foreign Investment.
3. **Polity**- Any new bill put up in the parliament, issues having direct or indirect bearing on the federal system of the constitution or the clash of interest between judiciary and legislature etc.
4. **Social Issues**- As a civil services aspirant, you need to grow sensitive to any issues impacting the lives of any communities, be they refugees from Bangladesh or Hindu Refugees staying in the border areas like Rajasthan. Issues like poverty, unemployment, women empowerment, youth restlessness & NEP-2020. Such social issues will remain relevant throughout..
5. **Environment Issues** - Today the world is much concerned about the conservation of the environment as well as sustainable development. Therefore, India' stand on those issues need to be kept in mind.

Environment Protection Act-1986, National Tiger Conservation Act-2005, Project Elephant-1992, Project Tiger-1973& Biodiversity Act-2002 etc.

Do's & Don'ts: Watch out for important statements by the Government Heads- PM, President, VP of India

However, no need to remember the comments by politicians of any party on the internal matter or politics.

Daily Newspaper: Make it a habit to subscribe to one National Newspaper like the Hindu or Indian Express.

Reading Editorial & Op-Ed Page – A must

Avoid 2nd & 3rd Pages of the Newspaper

Sports Page can also be avoided except some National level Sports Meets from time to time.

Reference Books/Magazines/Surveys

India Year Book by Publication Division, Ministry of Info & Broadcasting

Vision IAS- a Monthly Magazine

Population Census- 2011

Socio- Economic Caste Census-2011

NOTE: Regular reading of English newspaper is a must. It gives you firsthand information of different events unfolding around the world. It would help you keep pace with time, besides improving your linguistic & communicative skills. You would get ready to solve Reading & Comprehensions better. Overall, this would be covering the syllabus of the Prelims comprehensively.

@INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Please be on lookout for those events only that will have any bearing on or relation with India's foreign policy or on the global image of India. Take special note of the following:

Climate Change

All Environment Issues- Bio-diversity- Human Rights, especially pertaining to Women & Children

IMPORTANT ORGANISATIONS-

The UN, World Bank, IMF, UNICEF etc.

IMPORTANT HEADLINES-

Human Development Index

International Ratings like QS for Education

Happiness Index

Global Hunger

Trades & Terrorism

GLOBAL SUMMITS & FORA -

You need to remember the themes of various Global Summits & Economic Fora held in different countries of the world from time to time, like G-20.

BORDER ISSUES-

Look out for the changing relationships of India with her immediate neighbors. Change would generally happen with the change in the government either in India or in the neighboring country. For example, in the recent past, the relationship between India & Nepal has been mired into lots of controversy. The socio, cultural & economic ties with the following countries are of vital importance:

Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh & Myanmar

HISTORY OF INDIA

History portion includes:

- 1. History of India- Ancient, Medieval & Modern India*
- 2. Indian National Movement*

A cursory glance at the previous year's questions reveals that we get more questions from the National Movement of India. Hence, the need to study this portion accordingly.

However, while studying Indian history, you need to have clarity and focus on the following issues:

- a) Understanding the chronology of events
- b) Division of History
- c) Features of the Time/Age of the Ruler
- d) Economy, Trade, Coinage system, Family & status of Women

REFERENCE BOOKS: 1. National Movement by Rajiv Ahir

Freedom Struggle by Bipan Chandra, Amles Tripathi & Barun De Published by NBT

INDIAN POLITY & GOVERNANCE

POLITY:

This portion is of vital importance. India is not only the largest democracy of the world but among the most vibrant of democracies ever. We need to approach this portion in a systematic manner:

- a) Understanding the Indian Constitution

b) Significance of the Preamble

c) Historical Background to the Constitution

d) Important Acts & Laws

e) Citizen's Charters

f) Landmark Judgements - *Keshvanand Bhararati Case (1973)* and *Golaknath Vs State of Punjab (Anti defection Provision in the Constitution)*.

g) Major Amendments to the Constitution- 26th, 42nd, 44th, to name just a few.

GOVERNANCE:

Good governance is the key indicator of the success of any democracy and a welfare state like India. Look out for important policies of the Government & activities of the Regulatory bodies-

FICCI, AICTE, ICMR, NCERT,

Important also to keep an eye on various statutory bodies & Commissions of the country- CAG, EC, National Commission for the Backward classes etc.

REFERENCE

1. M. Laxmikant's book on Indian Polity (5th edition).

2. NCERT books on CIVICS 9th & 12th standard.

3. Bare Acts & Important Judgements

ART & CULTURE

Architecture, Temples, Dance, Music, Paintings Puppetry, Awards, Indian Theatre & Cinema.

Visual Art & Performing Art- Ancient, Medieval and Modern. Golden Age in Art and Culture in ancient India- the Gupta period.

Paintings & Sculpture- Classification. Ajanta and Ellora, Dilwara Temple, Provincial style and Imperial style.

Schools of Paintings- Rajasthani, Block Paintinting, Boondi, Pahari etc.

Mughal Time- Historical Monuments- the Taj, KutubMinar, Ajmer Sarif etc

Modern Art- Indo-Gothic style, Neo-Roman etc.

Performing Art: Indian Music, Types of ragas, Reference to Vedas like Gandharva Veda & Sam Veda, Natya Shastra etc.

MISCELLANEOUS-

Languages

Indian Literature

Schools of Indian Philosophy

Cultural Institutions

Handicrafts

Awards & Accolades

REFERENCE:

Art & Culture by Nitin Singhania

Visiting CCRT site

MAJOR RELIGIONS & INDIAN PHILOSOPHY:

Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism. Indian Philosophy would include Jainism, Buddhism, Vedanta System, and Patanjali's Yoga System etc.

As per the last population Census, the number, sex ratio, mortality rate etc.

Note: You need to have only basic facts about each of the religions & Indian schools of Philosophy. There is no need to waste time in making an in-depth study of religion and philosophy.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Basic awareness of Biology, Physics & Chemistry.

Laws of Nature, Deficiency diseases, Health supplements

Technology- Integrated Missiles, types and features.

Satellites & Missions like Chandrayan

Aircrafts & War weapons in news like Rafale & Dhanush

Disaster Management & Natural Calamities.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

ENVIRONMENT- Pollutants, Conservation & Preservation, Sustainable Development

ECOLOGY- Biodiversity- Man- animal Conflicts, National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves

INDIAN & WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Physical Geography- physiographic divisions like Himalayas, Plains, Plateau, Coastal plains & Island.

Rainfall, Wind, Humidity, Climate etc.

Human Geography -Demographic patterns of India.

Rivers, Lakes, waterfalls

Climates, Weather, Rainfall & Demography

Forests & Soils

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

For keeping a track of social development, one has to be in constant touch with the Current Affairs.

For understanding Indian economic development, reading of NCERT books are highly recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Union Budget & Economic Survey

2. NCERT books of 9th to 11th standard

2. Indian Economy by Ramesh Singh

STATIC VS CURRENT:

Going by the trends of the questions at Prelims, we need to plan our preparation prudently. The focus is shifting fast from static questions to current ones. There is a genuine need to keep ourselves abreast of current affairs of both, National & International importance. Reading of daily newspapers & going for regular news analysis are of vital importance.

www.giantstep.in