

CDI Prelims Test series Schedule

CDI MARGADARSHAN

UPSC 2026

26 Sectional Tests (19 core + 7 revision) and 9 Full-Length Tests (FLT).

This Prelims Test Series designed to mirror the **depth, difficulty, and unpredictability** of UPSC Prelims.

Phase 1: Core Sectional Tests (19 tests)

Duration: January 14 – March 11

Test No.	Date	Subject Coverage
1	Jan 14	Polity – Constitutional Framework and Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical background of the Constitution • Making of the Constitution • Salient features of the Constitution • Preamble • Union and its territory • Citizenship • Fundamental Rights • Fundamental Duties • Directive Principles of State Policy • Amendments of the Constitution • Schedules of the Constitution • Official language • Constitutional provisions related to emergency philosophy (overview)
2	Jan 18	Polity – Parliament, Executive, Judiciary Executive

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice-President • Prime Minister and Council of Ministers • Cabinet system • Attorney General of India • Governor • Chief Minister and Council of Ministers (State) <p>Legislature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha ◦ Composition, qualifications, disqualifications ◦ Powers, privileges, and immunities ◦ Parliamentary procedures ◦ Parliamentary committees • State Legislature <p>Judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Composition, jurisdiction, powers ◦ Judicial review • High Courts • Subordinate courts • Judicial independence and activism
3	Jan 22	<p>Polity – Federalism, Local Government, Bodies</p> <p>Federalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal features of the Constitution • Centre–State relations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Legislative ◦ Administrative ◦ Financial • Inter-State relations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Emergency State Emergency Financial Emergency <p>Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panchayati Raj institutions Urban local bodies 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments <p>Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitutional Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election Commission Union Public Service Commission State Public Service Commission Finance Commission Comptroller and Auditor General Statutory bodies Non-constitutional bodies Tribunals Governance-related bodies (anti-corruption, regulatory institutions)
4	Jan 26	<p>Geography – Physical Geography (Geomorphology, Climatology)</p> <p>Geomorphology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origin and evolution of the Earth Interior of the Earth Rocks and minerals Plate tectonics Earthquakes and volcanoes Weathering, erosion, deposition Landforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountains

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plateaus ○ Plains ○ Coastal landforms ○ Desert landforms ○ Karst topography <p>Climatology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmosphere: composition and structure • Insolation and heat budget • Temperature distribution • Atmospheric pressure and winds • Planetary wind systems • Cyclones and anticyclones • Air masses and fronts • Precipitation • World climatic regions (Köppen) • Climate change basics (physical geography angle)
5	Jan 30	<p>Geography – Indian Geography (Resources, Agriculture)</p> <p>Physical Setting of India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiographic divisions of India • Drainage systems and river basins • Himalayan and Peninsular river systems • Coastal plains and islands <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral resources (metallic and non-metallic) • Energy resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conventional ○ Non-conventional • Water resources • Soil types of India <p>Agriculture</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cropping seasons (Kharif, Rabi, Zaid) • Major crops and their geographical requirements • Irrigation systems • Green Revolution • Agricultural regions • Issues related to agriculture (productivity, sustainability)
6	Feb 3	<p>Geography – Human & Economic Geography</p> <p>Human Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population distribution and density • Population growth and migration • Demographic transition • Human settlements (rural and urban) <p>Economic Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary, secondary, tertiary activities • Industrial location factors • Major industries (world and India) • Transport and communication • Trade and trade routes • Globalisation and economic activities <p>Applied Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World resources and their distribution • Regional development • Environmental geography linkages
7	Feb 6	<p>Economy – Basics, Growth, National Income</p> <p>Basic Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature and scope of economics • Microeconomics vs macroeconomics • Basic economic terms used in news <p>National Income</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP, GNP, NDP, NNP • Nominal vs real GDP • Factor cost vs market price • Methods of national income calculation • Limitations of national income <p>Growth and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth vs economic development • Factors affecting growth • Structural change in the economy • Poverty and inequality (basic concepts) • Employment and unemployment • Demographic dividend
8	Feb 10	<p>Economy – Banking, Inflation, Monetary Policy</p> <p>Banking System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of Indian banking system • RBI: functions and tools • Commercial banks, cooperative banks, RRBs • NBFCs • Financial inclusion <p>Inflation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of inflation • CPI, WPI, GDP deflator • Causes and effects of inflation • Disinflation vs deflation <p>Monetary Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) • Policy rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repo ○ Reverse repo ○ MSF

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bank rate • Liquidity management tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CRR ○ SLR ○ Open Market Operations ○ LAF • Transmission mechanism
9	Feb 14	<p>Economy – Fiscal Policy, Budget, External Sector</p> <p>Fiscal Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue and capital receipts • Revenue and capital expenditure • Fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, primary deficit • FRBM Act • Subsidies <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Budget documents ○ Budgetary process ○ Vote on Account ○ Finance Bill • Economic Survey (overview) <p>External Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of Payments • Balance of Trade • Current account and capital account • Exchange rate systems • Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) • Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) • Trade agreements and institutions

10	Feb 18	Ancient History
11	Feb 22	Medieval History
12	Feb 25	Modern History – 1757 to 1857
13	Feb 28	Modern History – 1857 to 1947
14	Mar 1	Art and Culture
15	Mar 1	<p>Environment – Ecology, Biodiversity</p> <p>Ecology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic ecological concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecosystem ○ Biotic and abiotic components ○ Food chain, food web ○ Ecological pyramids • Energy flow in ecosystems • Biogeochemical cycles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carbon cycle ○ Nitrogen cycle ○ Phosphorus cycle • Ecological succession • Population ecology • Species interactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mutualism ○ Commensalism ○ Parasitism ○ Predation <p>Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genetic ○ Species

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ecosystem • Biodiversity hotspots • Endemic species • Keystone species • Flagship species • Invasive alien species • Extinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Causes ○ Types • Conservation methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In-situ conservation ○ Ex-situ conservation <p>Protected Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks • Wildlife Sanctuaries • Biosphere Reserves • Conservation Reserves • Community Reserves
16	Mar 4	<p>Environment – Climate Change, Conventions</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse effect • Greenhouse gases • Global warming • Climate variability vs climate change • Carbon cycle (applied perspective) • Impacts of climate change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agriculture ○ Water resources ○ Biodiversity ○ Coastal systems

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Renewable energy ◦ Carbon sequestration ◦ Carbon markets • Adaptation strategies <p>International Conventions and Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC • Kyoto Protocol • Paris Agreement • Montreal Protocol • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) • CITES • Ramsar Convention • Basel Convention • Stockholm Convention • Minamata Convention <p>National Framework (Prelims-relevant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) • Climate-related institutions and initiatives
17	Mar 6	<p>Science and Technology – Basics</p> <p>Biotechnology (Foundational)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA and RNA • Genes and chromosomes • Cell division (mitosis and meiosis) • Basics of heredity • Basics of genetic engineering <p>Health and Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable and non-communicable diseases • Vaccines and immunisation • Antibiotics and resistance

18	Mar 9	<p>Science and Technology – Applied & Emerging Tech</p> <p>Biotechnology and Health (Applied)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic engineering techniques • GM crops • Stem cell technology • Gene therapy • Vaccines and new medical technologies <p>Information and Communication Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basics of computers • Artificial Intelligence • Machine learning • Quantum computing • Blockchain <p>Space Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian space programmes • Satellites and launch vehicles • Navigation systems (NavIC) <p>Defence Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missiles and defence systems • Indigenous defence technologies <p>Energy and Environment Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy technologies • Nuclear energy basics • Hydrogen energy <p>Emerging Technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanotechnology • Robotics • Internet of Things (IoT) • 3D printing
19	Mar 11	Current Affairs – Polity, Economy, Environment, Sci-Tech

Phase 1: Core Sectional Tests (19 tests)

This phase focuses on **building strong subject-wise foundations** while simultaneously integrating relevant current affairs. Each sectional test is designed to cover the syllabus **exhaustively and conceptually**, ensuring that aspirants do not study topics in isolation.

By the end of this phase, aspirants should achieve **syllabus familiarity, conceptual clarity, and subject-wise confidence**, which is essential before moving to integrated revision and full-length simulations.

Phase 2: Integrated Revision Sectional Tests (7 tests)

March 13 – April 1

Test No.	Date	Integrated Focus
20	Mar 13	Polity + Economy
21	Mar 16	Modern History + Art and Culture
22	Mar 19	Environment + Ecology + Geography
23	Mar 22	Science & Technology + Current Affairs
24	Mar 24	Governance and Constitution
25	Mar 28	Budget, Economic Survey, Economy
26	Apr 1	High-weightage Static–Current Overlap Areas

Phase 2: Integrated Sectional Revision Tests (7 tests)

This phase is designed to mirror how **UPSC actually frames Prelims questions**, where subjects overlap and demand application rather than recall. Instead of testing individual subjects, these tests combine related areas to strengthen **interlinkages and analytical thinking**.

This phase ensures that revision becomes **dynamic and exam-oriented**, helping aspirants convert static knowledge into **usable scoring ability**.

Phase 3: Full-Length Tests (9 FLT's)

April 4 – April 24

FLT No.	Date	Nature of Test
FLT 1	Apr 4	Baseline full-syllabus test
FLT 2	Apr 7	Moderate difficulty, PYQ-oriented
FLT 3	Apr 10	Current-affairs intensive
FLT 4	Apr 12	Static-heavy with conceptual traps
FLT 5	Apr 14	Elimination-dominant paper
FLT 6	Apr 16	Mixed unpredictable simulation
FLT 7	Apr 18	High-difficulty UPSC-style
FLT 8	Apr 21	Final fine-tuning test
FLT 9	Apr 24	Grand rehearsal

Phase 3: Full-Length Tests (9 FLT's)

The final phase replicates the **real Prelims environment** as closely as possible. Each full-length test contains 100 GS Paper I questions with **balanced subject distribution, evolving difficulty, and PYQ-aligned trends.**

The focus is on:

- Developing **time management and question selection strategies**
- Improving **accuracy under pressure**
- Building mental stamina for a two-hour, high-stakes exam

The last few FLT's act as **final rehearsals**, allowing aspirants to fine-tune strategy, manage risk, and enter the actual examination with **confidence and clarity.**

By the end of this series, aspirants will have developed strong conceptual clarity across all Prelims subjects, revised the complete syllabus multiple times through testing, and mastered **UPSC-style questions**.

