

# Competitive Examinations Centre Savitribai Phule Pune University



## Fortnightly Progress Report

**Activities Conducted from 13th April to 04th May, 2019**

## **Part I**

### **UPSC Crash Course**

#### **Total Sessions Conducted: 11 (Eleven)**

**Mr. Ravi M. Reddy (Guest Faculty):** Environment and Ecology orientation for UPSC Preliminary Exam. He discussed basic concepts and terminologies with the help of 120 Multiple Choice Questions. He also shared Environment and Ecology Current Affairs materials with the students.

**Anandita S. Walia:** concluded the Polity & Constitution module. She discussed Indian Federal System in detail along with MCQs on other relevant topics.

**Dr. S. Fazal D. Firdausi (Faculty, CEC):** gave brief orientation about Geography for UPSC Prelims. He discussed Theories of Universe formation, concepts of geomorphology such as geological time scale, earth's interior, earthquakes, endogenic and exogenic forces and types of landforms. He also discussed and shared 100 multiple choice questions with the students.

**Sailesh Kolekar:** discussed Indus Valley Civilisation its origin, timeline, key features and reasons for decline. He also touched topics such as Aryan, Vedic and later Vedic period and reasons behind their origin.

**Samyak M. Abhay:** He discussed the strategy to deal with the CSAT paper. He covered CSAT Paper of 2018 UPSC Preliminary exam. He also provided guidance regarding solving topic-wise questions of CSAT.

**Gopal Wamane (Guest Faculty):** Discussed major current affairs topics from May, 2018 to October, 2018. He also shared 25 questions with the students along with brief written explanation.

## YOGA/Meditation Session

It was conducted by **Shri Kishor Ghadial**. He taught some simple *asana* for relaxation. He also demonstrated other *asana* such as *Vajraasana* and *Pranakarshan Kriya* and *Kapalbhati*. The two hour session culminated with *Shavaasana* for relaxation.



## **Mock Test Conducted**

**Test IV** (16<sup>th</sup> April, 2019) – Medieval & Ancient History (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

**Test V** (20<sup>th</sup> April, 2019) – CSAT + General Studies Comprehensive (Objective Type – 4 Hours)

**Test VI** (25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019) – Indian Polity + Current Affairs (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

**Test VII** (29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019) – Economics + Current Affairs (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

After completion of the test, hardcopy of the **detailed explanation/ answer key** was **shared** with the students.

## **Fortnightly Feedback of the UPSC Crash Course**

*I liked Yoga session. I believe that through this pure impetus we will get productive and positive output. I also liked geography lecture. It was a quality lecture we ever had on Geography.*

**- Lilaram Bhadane (MA II, English)**

**I liked the CSAT Lecture. It was very helpful and good lecture for fresher.**

**- Sagar Bhosale (MA IV, Geography)**

## **Commencement of MPSC Rajyasewa Mains Examinations Mock Test Series - 2019**

Anticipating large number of current students to pass MPSC Prelims-2019, it was decided to conduct Mains Mock Test Series. The questions and detailed answer key are being provided by Unique Academy, Pune. The test series received very good response from the students of the Centre as well as the University. Around 70 students appeared for the first test on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019.

## Time- Table of the Mock Test

Sr. No.	DAY	DATE	TIME	SUBJECT
1	Thursday	03/05/2019	10am to 1pm	Language 1
			3pm to 4pm	Language 2
2	Tuesday	07/05/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 1
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 2
3	Tuesday	14/05/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 3
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 4
4	Tuesday	21/05/2019	10am to 1pm	Language 1
			3pm to 4pm	Language 2
5	Tuesday	28/05/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 1
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 2
6	Tuesday	04/06/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 3
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 4
7	Tuesday	11/06/2019	10am to 1pm	Language 1
			3pm to 4pm	Language 2
8	Tuesday	18/06/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 1
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 2
9	Tuesday	25/06/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 3
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 4

### Feedback of the Test

*MPSC Mains साठी मराठी- इंग्रिजी विषयाची टेस्ट घेण्यात आली. त्यामध्ये विचारण्यात आलेले प्रश्न आयोजाला अनुसरून व विश्लेषणात्मक होते. प्रश्नपत्रिकेची quality पण चांगली होती. संदर्भ पुस्तकांचा पण योग्य वापर करण्यात आलेला. Exam ची difficulty level पण चांगली होती*

*- अनुजा संजय कोरडे (UGC-MPSC Batch)*

### New Batch Information

Tribal Research Training Institute (TRTI) – UPSC Entrance Test result was declared by the TRTI on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The verification of the documents of selected/shortlisted candidates was done at the CEC by Certificate Verification Committee Officers, TRTI on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The batch will commence soon.

**---End of Report---**

## PART - II

### **(Selected Essay Series by CEC Students)**

#### **Essay - S. No. 1**

### **Topic: The current spiritual and religious discourse in India and emergence of self-declared "Godmen"**

The current spiritual and religious discourse in India and emergence of self-declared "Godmen" reminds me of a *doha* of saint Kabir which says:

"साधूऐसा चाहिए , जैसा सूपसुभाय।

सार -सारको गहि रहै , थोया देईउडाय।।"

Kabir says the one who imbibes all that is "good" in the world and resists all that is bad is the "real saint". The self-proclaimed Godmen seem no closer to the ideal.

India takes pride in its rich and all inclusive culture which proved a breeding ground for philosophies as diverse as *Manusmriti* and Buddhist philosophy. Philosophies of non-violence, compassion, peace, tolerance flourished here. However in today's post truth world where faith overweighs facts and facts become the biggest casualties, the rationality that Indian culture propounded is undermined. The self-declared "Godmen" eventually manipulate peoples' faiths to ignore the facts. This is indeed the biggest assault on the culture that was fostered by the Buddha, the Bhakti and the Sufi saints, who chose rationality over ignorance and blind faith. Whereas today, irrationality has become the faith and even crime is justified/ ignored over faith.

Religion is seen as a means to the salvation. However, today's self-declared "Godmen" seem to have well incorporated the concept of religion as

"Opium of the masses"

as Karl Marx says, religion through the Godmen gives pleasant illusions to the people. Thus the "Godmen" culture raises a question on the oriental religious culture of which India is a melting point.

"Godmen" culture seems to have its origin in the economic and political ethos of India. Political groups find this kind of manipulation of public opinion a very efficient and viable political strategy. This Nexus between political groups and self-

declared spiritual leaders is evident in cases where shifting allegiances of the spiritual leaders is manifested in shift in the ruling parties in the government. e.g. spiritual leader *Ram Rahim* allegedly reshuffled the power equations in Punjab and Haryana. The economic aspect comes in, when educated and economically well off people visit these "Godmen" backdoors. Some of the religious trusts have eventually become a means to convert "black", illegal money to "white".

Thus with such economic intensions, questionable public behaviour these "Godmen" nowhere fit in the Kabir's definition of a saint. Moreover, the evident nexus between religious, political and economic elite puts a big question mark on the fate of Indian society as a whole. It is pertinent here to think about is rationality being undermined by faith and where it will take the country.

More than this, the "Godmen" culture implies more problems for Indian society, as Godmen such as Baba Ram Rahim and Baba Rampal were seen preaching communal hatred towards the people believing in other faith, other religion. This is to have huge repercussions in already a diverse and cleaved society like India. Moreover, as today nothing remains "local" for long, this may have some international implications. As religious hatred grows, it may degrade the international image and the previous held excellent record of respecting human rights in the country.

Further, the ways in which these "Godmen" create their influence are doubtful. For instance they provide medical assistance for free or at very low cost, provide education for free, food for free and like. As these are the functions expected out of a state, this raises two questions: either the belief that people should have in the institution of state or is withering away or it is deliberately being done to channelise peoples' frustration over the state. In either case, this doesn't sound good for the Indian society. Moreover, as evident from the violence that happened in Haryana after the arrest and conviction of *Ram Rahim* and *Asaram* in Gujarat, shows that mobs are being used to put pressure on the state and even to subvert the courts. More serious concern is again the content of the education that they impart through their schools. One certainly cannot expect it will develop rationality and spirit of reason among the students.

However, with the rational critiques as Prof. Romila Thapar says "descendants of the Buddha's tradition" the hopes are still alive. Moreover, the young voters' turnout, rising young population ensure faith in the state machinery which can act as deterrence against such self-declared Godmen. There is thus, a serious need to check these manipulating forces with stringent legislations and building public opinion. The syllabi and the curricula of the Godmen owned educational institutions should be strictly regulated by the government. Media has the responsibility to cultivate the democratic culture in the minds of the people. It is important to make people aware that the benevolence of the Godmen is actually their claim against the state, so that they won't fall prey to such mind manipulators.

**- Ms. Rohini Gaikwad**  
(UGC- UPSC, 2017-18)

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