

# Competitive Examinations Centre Savitribai Phule Pune University



## Fortnightly Progress Report

**Activities Conducted from 21st May to 12th June, 2019**

## UPSC Crash Course

### **Total Sessions Conducted: 07 (Seven)**

**Nirav Suratwala:** concluded the Indian Economy module. He discussed RBI, monetary policy in detail along with previous year questions of UPSC CSE prelims.

**Samyak M. Abhay:** He discussed reasoning topics such as puzzle solving, seating arrangements, relations etc. He also conducted question paper analysis and shared tricks to solve questions.

**Prof Mrs. Radhika Seshan (Head, Department of History, SPPU):** conducted a session on Art & Culture. She with the help of visual presentation discussed various types and schools of architecture in India. Special focus of the lecture was on rock-cut architecture of India.

<p>Art and Architecture in Medieval India</p> <p><i>Dr. Radhika Seshan Professor and Head, Department of History, SPPU</i></p>	 <p>Konark</p>
--	--

**Rahul Nikale (Teaching Associate, CEC):** conducted the last session of UPSC Prelims crash course batch. In that lecture he shared strategy for examination hall. He emphasised on maintaining temperament and stress management for handling pressure in the examination hall. He also advised them to have proper diet, good sleep and do light exercise and meditation before the exam.

## Final Feedback of the UPSC Prelims Crash Course Batch

स्पर्धापरीक्षा केंद्राने घेतलेला क्रॅशकोर्स मला UPSC पूर्व परीक्षेसाठी एकूणच फायद्याचा ठरला, त्यातही Map Practice साठी घेतलेली कार्यशाळा महत्वाची होती. Economy आणि C - SAT ची Lectures फायद्याची होती. यापुढे होणाऱ्या अशा Course साठी सहभागी व्हायला आवडेल.

- आशिष तावरे (M.A. Marathi)

*“I have attended recently UPSC Crash course at CEC. The programme was really good initiative which proved very helpful for brainstorming and to improve score in the exam. However, the batch was of very short duration. I request the centre to increase the total duration of the course.”*

*Sayyad Asif Badshaha, M.A. English, SPPU*

(Remarks: Crash Course students were suggested to appear for the upcoming UGC-UPSC/MPSC Entrance Test to avail regular guidance at the centre)

## Mock Test Conducted (UPSC Prelims)

**Test XII** (21<sup>st</sup> May, 2019) – CSAT Test (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

**Test XIII** (22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019) – General Studies Comprehensive (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

**Test XIV** (24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019) – General Studies Comprehensive (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

**Test XV** (24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019) – CSAT Comprehensive (Objective Type – 2 Hours)

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

## Students of CEC Appeared for UPSC CSE Preliminary Examination – 2019

This year UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination was held on **2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019**. Students from UGC-UPSC & TRTI – UPSC batch appeared for the test. The Director, CEC, Faculty members and staff of the centre conveyed their best wishes to

the students. This year the paper was moderately tough. The cut-off may go upto 105 ± 3 (Open) as per the keys available on the internet.

### Successful Students from the Centre

Range Forest Officer Result 2018-19		
Sr. No.	Name	General Merit
1		9
<i>Mr. Satpute Vaibhav Shamsundar (Batch : UGC - MPSC)</i>		
2		33
<i>Mr. Shevale Pradeep Abasaheb (Batch : UGC - MPSC)</i>		
3		40
<i>Mr. Randive Sandip Suresh (Batch : UGC - UPSC)</i>		
4		41
<i>Ms. Lad Snehal Sanjay (Batch : UGC - MPSC)</i>		
5		51
<i>Ms. Atram Samrudhi Manohar (Batch : UGC - UPSC)</i>		

### RESULT DECLARED ON: 25.05.2019

(Mock Interview Session was conducted by the centre for the CEC students who had qualified the MAINS of the Range Forest/Agriculture Officer Exam on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 - Refer Fortnightly Report 1)

## **UPSC MAINS Probable Candidates – Director – Faculty Meeting**

The Competitive Examinations Centre invited all the students of the centre and crash course batch for a meeting, whose expected score in the UPSC prelims held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019 is more than the projected cut-off. Suggestions were invited from the students regarding their academic needs and requirements for the MAINS preparation. Prof Jayant Umranikar, Director, CEC shared his own experience, strategy to cover more topics in short duration and importance of answer writing practice.



### **Following were the outcome of the meeting:**

- ✓ Start intensive answer writing practice session for MAINS GS1, 2, 3, 4 & Optional.
- ✓ More emphasis on essay writing & its assessment
- ✓ More emphasis on Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude paper solving and discussion
- ✓ Guidance for improving English while writing answers
- ✓ Brief discussion on key topics suggested by the students
- ✓ To have regular interactions with the students to monitor their progress

## **UPSC MAINS (Answer Writing Practice Sessions)**

As per the feedback received from the students having high probability of clearing UPSC Prelims 2019, the centre decided to conduct intensive answer writing practice

sessions. For that purpose, professional help was sought from several institutes and resource persons based in Pune & Delhi. On the basis of expert opinion, deliberations at the centre and feedback from the students, it was decided to take assistance from Spectrum IAS (Pune & New Delhi) to provide model answers and questions for the answer writing practice sessions. Following is the tentative timetable of the answer writing sessions for the MAINS probable batch:

**Module wise G. S. Tests:**

Sr. No.	Subject	No. Of Questions	Time	No. of Papers
1.	History	10	2 hrs	2
2.	Geography	10	2 hrs	2
3.	Indian Society	10	2 hrs	2
4.	Indian Polity	10	2 hrs	2
5.	International Relations	10	2 hrs	2
6.	Indian Economy	10	2 hrs	2
7.	Environment & Ecology	10	2 hrs	2
8.	Disaster Management & Internal Security	10	2 hrs	2
9.	Ethics & Integrity	10	2 hrs	4
10	Essay	2+2=4 (Topics)	1.5 hrs	4
	<b>Total</b>			<b>24</b>

**Module wise Optional Subject Test Tests:**

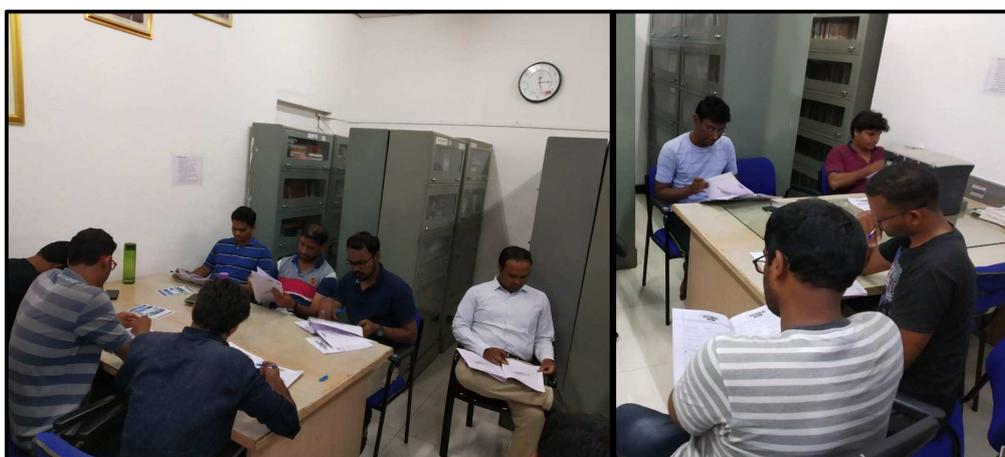
Sr. No.	Subject		No. Of Questions	Time	No. of Papers
1.	History Optional	Paper 1	10	2 hrs	1+1=2
		Paper 2	10	2 hrs	
2.	Geography Optional	Paper 1	10	2 hrs	1+1=2
		Paper 2	10	2 hrs	
3.	Sociology Optional	Paper 1	10	2 hrs	1+1=2
		Paper 2	10	2 hrs	
4.	Political Science Optional	Paper 1	10	2 hrs	1+1=2
		Paper 2	10	2 hrs	
	<b>Total</b>				<b>08</b>

### Comprehensive G.S. Tests:

Sr. No.	Subject	No. Of Questions	Time	No. of Papers
1.	G.S. 1	20	3 hrs	3
2.	G.S. 2	20	3 hrs	3
3.	G.S. 3	20	3 hrs	3
4.	G.S. 4	20	3 hrs	3
5.	Essay	5+5 = 10 (Topics)	3 hrs	02
	<b>Total</b>			<b>14</b>

### Comprehensive Optional Subject Tests:

Sr. No.	Subject	Paper	No. Of Questions	Time	No. of Paper
1.	History Optional	Paper 1	20	3 hrs	2+2=4
		Paper 2	20	3 hrs	
2.	Geography Optional	Paper 1	20	3 hrs	2+2=4
		Paper 2	20	3 hrs	
3.	Sociology Optional	Paper 1	20	3 hrs	2+2=4
		Paper 2	20	3 hrs	
4.	Political Science Optional	Paper 1	20	3 hrs	2+2=4
		Paper 2	20	3 hrs	
	<b>Total</b>				<b>16</b>



**Post Answer Writing - Discussion/Assessment  
GS Geography Paper (Test 2)**

## MPSC MAINS Mock Test Conducted

Sr. No.	DAY	DATE	TIME	SUBJECT	Type
1	Tuesday	21/05/2019	10am to 1pm	Language 1	Written Test
			3pm to 4pm	Language 2	MCQ
2	Tuesday	28/05/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 1	MCQ
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 2	MCQ
3	Tuesday	04/06/2019	11am to 1pm	GS - 3	MCQ
			2pm to 4pm	GS - 4	MCQ
4	Tuesday	11/06/2019	10am to 1pm	Language 1	Written Test
			3pm to 4pm	Language 2	MCQ

### (MPSC Mains Mock Test 3 May to 11 June 2019)

### Economics Workshop by Dr. Kiran Desale for MPSC & UPSC MAINS-2019

Renowned author and expert Dr. Kiran Desale conducted one day workshop on **10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019** for the students of the centre and the university. He focused on Indian tax system, foreign trade and all the important topics of Indian economy and that of Maharashtra from exam perspective.



## Feedback of Dr. Kiran Desale Workshop

“राज्यसेवा मुख्य परीक्षेच्या दृष्टीने सरांनी शिकवलेले Topic व्यवस्थित समजले. भारतीय कररचना, व्यापारतोल यांचा मुख्यपरीक्षेसाठी फायदा होईल. या lecture मधून संकल्पनांवर जास्त भर देण्यात आला. तसेच सरांनी प्रत्येक संकल्पना Topic Wise समजून सांगितल्यामुळे विषय समजून घेण्यास सोपं झाला.”

कोरडे अनुजा संजय  
(TRTI UPSC Batch)

“डॉ. किरण देसले सरांचे Economics चे Lecture खूप चांगले झाले. अवघड संकल्पना सरांनी खूप चांगल्या प्रकारे समजून सांगितल्या. आम्हाला मुख्य परीक्षेसाठी त्याचा खूप फायदा होईल.”

शेंडे दिपक रमेश  
(TRTI UPSC Batch)

“भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था या विषयावरील सरांचे व्याख्यान अतिशय चांगल्या प्रकारे घेण्यात आले. सरांनी दोन विषयांचे सखोल असे स्पष्टीकरण देऊन विविध संकल्पना मुद्देसूद पद्धतीने मांडल्या. त्यामुळे याचा उपयोग निश्चितच येणाऱ्या राज्यसेवा मुख्य परीक्षेसाठी होईल. भविष्यात देखील सरांची व्याख्याने ठेवली तर इतर संकल्पना चांगल्या रीतीने समजण्यास नक्कीच फलदायी ठरेल.”

त्रिवेणी किशोर बोळाज  
(UGC UPSC Batch)

**End of Part I**

## Part II

### Selected Essay Series by CEC Students

#### Essay - S. No. 3

#### Topic: Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely

“The major problem in the world is the result of the differences between the way nature works and the way people think.” – Gregory Bateson.

Nature (or God who has created nature) works on the fundamental law of equilibrium, harmony. There is delicate balance observed in nature along with subtle integration of the living and non-living thing. Man is also a part of nature. We are blessed with high intelligence, but this intelligence has been subjected and tempered with host of other things like emotions, illusions etc. created by mind.

Mind is very powerful and complex creation we are most of time in its control. Emotions control or are capable of controlling and diverting mind and energies in direction desired by the particular individual. Greed is one such emotion. Greed or desire (greatest of emotions) of wanting more (it may be anything) which is mostly through controlling others from not getting it (depriving) requires power, power or means of controlling other either through coercion or through obligation.

Power thus emanates through desire of controlling others (or any resource for that matter) hanging on to power or being in power satisfies and multiplies human ego. This lead to lust or craving for more power for further self aggrandisement. The vicious cycle begins. Power then starts corrupting.

Man has been able to develop because of means of exploiting nature. This explanation creates an illusion of him/her being in control of everything around him. He/she starts feeling the sense of control, why because s/he thinks that one has power of controlling everything. When man (or woman) started hunting they thought if we had power of killing animals then we must have power to even control them, thus began domestication. Slowly with changing society we started believing that can also control each other (by controlling access to resources). This materialized into wide structure of kingdom. Kingdoms as they become more and more bigger (and better in exploiting resources) paved way to empires and divine right to rule people in hand of empires (concentration of power had began). Emperors proclaimed to have divine right to rule over his subject (so no one could question his authority) and he was next only to Gods.

From ancient times we have enumerable examples where such absolute corruption (of mind, society, administration as whole). The absolute subjectively which is guaranteed by absolute power ensures that the individual works according to one's will and whims which eventually lids the edifice of administration collapse

under its own weight. *Bimbisara* and his son *Ajatshatru* are examples of such absolute concentration of power subsequently leading to their debacle. Empire Ashoka (Chakravarthi Samrat) was an absolute monarch. However after the battle of Kalinga he changed. *Chanakya* in *Arthashastra* categorically states that even an absolute monarch should always listen to the advice of the Mantri-Mandal and act accordingly.

Aurangzeb is perhaps the best example of absolute power leading to absolute corruption (of mind). The development of principle of mercantilism which acted as guiding force (Mercantilism – concentration of power in order to control / accrue maximum resources in short monopoly) colonialism is testifying absolute power leading to absolute corruption of mind. Such is/was the power of “crown” that even after “Spreading democracy in the uncivilized third world colonies” the “Crown” still exists in England (U.K). Napoleon undone / reversed the fundamental values of justice, freedom, equality which the French Revolution gave to the whole world (humanity) by proclaiming himself the monarch/emperor of France. Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin were “well known dictators”, the havoc they created by absolutely concentrating power to themselves needs no testimony (“everything is there in their names”)

Absolute concentration of power led to arrogance, stubbornness, insensitivity, populism etc. This not necessary can only happen in dictatorship, this can also take place in a democracy. The imposition of emergency by famous Prime minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi is perfect example. The attack of U.S.A. on Afghanistan after 9/11 was possible only because of its hegemony at global level which was emanating from its economy / economic clout. Emergence of terrorism and in recent context ISIS (Islamic State of Syria) is result on undue concentration of power in the hands of clerics / priests who now exercising it according to their whims & will.

Man is a social animal, but man is also a dominant animal. He likes to dominate and exercise control so as to satisfy his ego. Women are subjected to such dominance. Patriarchy is direct product of power concentration leading to absolute control. Indian society as well as many other societies in world is plagued by patriarchy.

Power is like opium, it is addictive and one continues with it even when s/he is aware of its potent disastrous effects. The society is at mercy of one who are in power. There is limited freedom, choices as they tend to empower ordinary and erode the interest of those in power. China is the best example - Mao brought about “Cultural revolution” (Which he used to accrue power for himself) to bring about a communist society, which required powerful government, which today is not letting off power.

There are some examples where there were benevolent kings / emperors / dictators for e.g. Lord. Ram (Ram-Rajya), Ashoka (in later part of his life), Lord Buddha, Akbar (again later half of his reign) etc but they only prove the general law, the power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. In modern Era Indian

Constitution (also America and many other) seems to represent a decent division, of power albeit there is fair amount of concentration of power in center and Prime Minister. However we aim at / for a mere egalitarian society and our constitution makers have ensured that constitution survives and evolves with changing time.

Rather than concentration of power nature prefers autonomy but judicious and responsible use of power which comes with it. The autonomy is used quite efficiently by some of constitutions in India like Election Commission, Reserve Bank of India, Controller & Auditor General (CAG), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) etc which show that welfare good work can be done by correctly using the given powers with right motives. So power with judicious and responsible use can bring about wonderful change and development, which would be sustainable and desirable. Companies like Tata have proved this. “Nature has everything for once’s need, but not for once’s greed” the nexus of greed and power will continue till the human race exists, but we are blessed with the “Power of thinking”. We should think about how we can “pass through this ocean of desires”, Gautama Buddha had rightly said that desires are cause of human sufferings. We Indians are fortunate that we have democracy in our country. However even political representatives are humans and humans crave for power. We as a society should ensure that those in power work responsibly and for the betterment of county through voting, debating, discussing problem because democracy is all about this and not merely voting once in five years.

It is said that charity begins from home. We should first try being devolving power in our houses so that women / girl get equal opportunities in their life. Apart from this we should respect values like honesty, compassion etc rather than gauging everything on material well being which has direct correlation with power. We should develop and mature a value-based society rather than a materialist one. Bhagavat Geeta says that *‘Nishkama – karma’ doing work/deeds for getting the pleasure of doing things rather than craving for outcomes, enjoying the journey, not the joy of getting to the destination ensure one’s hold over one’s desires.* Desires are root cause of suffering, because we tend to harp for power to satisfy our greed which ultimately becomes the beginning of our end.

**- Mr. Vishal Nagarkar**

(UPSC General Batch, 2016-17)

**Disclaimer:**

*This is an unedited essay. We encourage students to write, but also expect them to express themselves keeping in mind the context and meaning behind the quotation/statement.*

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