IAS FACTOR

NAVIGATOR SET 1

NAVIGATOR - YOUR ROADMAP TO UPSC PREPARATION

Know Where to Start. Know What to Study. Know What Comes Next.



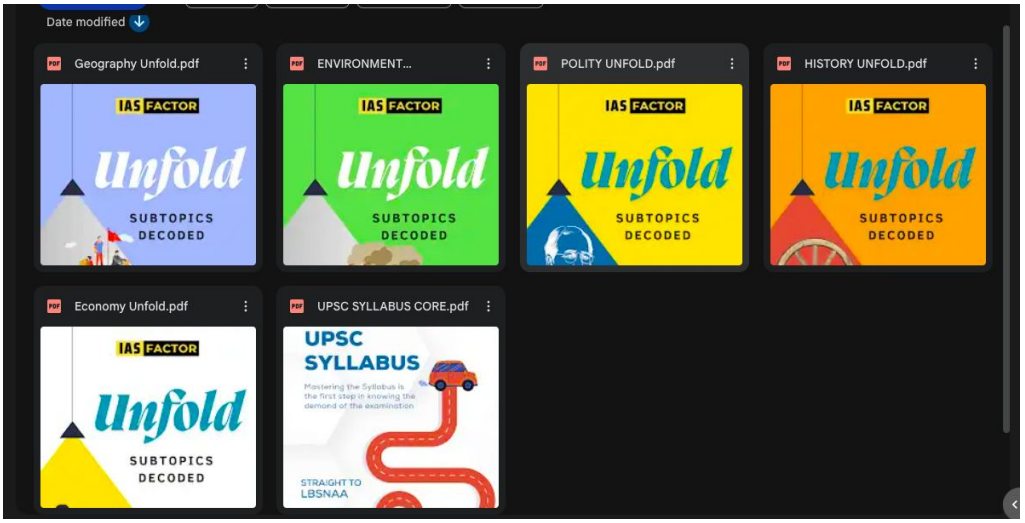
UPSC preparation can feel overwhelming when you have **hundreds of classes, subjects, notes, tests and resources** in front of you. **Navigator gives you a clear direction on how to use the IAS Factor App and move through your preparation systematically.**

For every area, Navigator tells you **which classes to attend, what to focus on while learning, the key takeaways you must have after completing the class, what additional areas you should cover, and what you should do next.** It helps you connect **classes, notes, revision, current affairs, tests and answer writing** instead of approaching them separately.

The idea is simple - **never study without knowing why you are studying it and what you should be able to do after completing it.**

Start → Learn → Know the Takeaways → Revise → Practise → Move Ahead

NAVIGATOR - Never Lose Direction in Your UPSC Preparation.



Crafted by IAS Factor Team

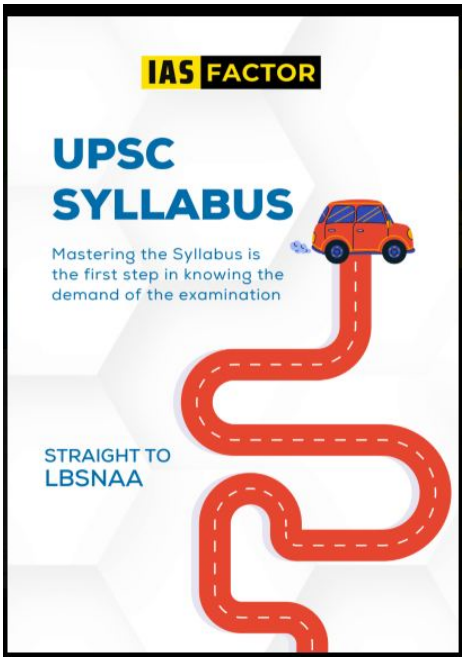
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START WITH UNFOLD - UNDERSTAND THE UPSC SYLLABUS FIRST

Before you begin studying individual subjects, **start with UNFOLD available in Google Drive.** The objective is to understand what UPSC actually expects you to study before getting deep into classes and books.

- **Begin with the Syllabus section in UNFOLD.** Read the complete UPSC syllabus carefully instead of merely going through it once.



Decode the syllabus topic by topic. Understand what every word and phrase in the syllabus actually covers and what UPSC can potentially ask from it.

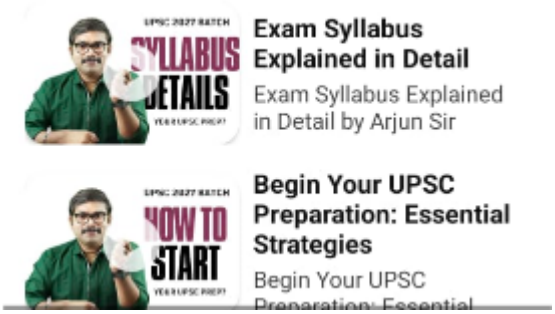
- **Go subject by subject** - History, Geography, Polity, Economy, Environment, Science & Technology, Society, International Relations, Ethics and other areas.
- **Understand the broad areas under every subject.** You don't have to learn everything at this stage; the goal is to develop a clear picture of the territory you are going to cover.
- After the syllabus, **glimpse through the other subject-wise PDFs in UNFOLD.** You don't need to read them completely now.
- Look at the **headings, subheadings, major themes and important topics** covered in each PDF. This will help you understand the scope of every subject.
- Try connecting what you see in the PDFs with the **actual words mentioned in the UPSC syllabus.**
- By the end of this exercise, you should be able to answer three questions: **What does UPSC expect me to study? What are the major areas within each subject? Where does each topic fit into the syllabus?**
- **Do this before getting deeply into the classes.** Once you know the syllabus and the broad structure, every class you attend will have a clear purpose.

First understand the map. Then begin the journey.

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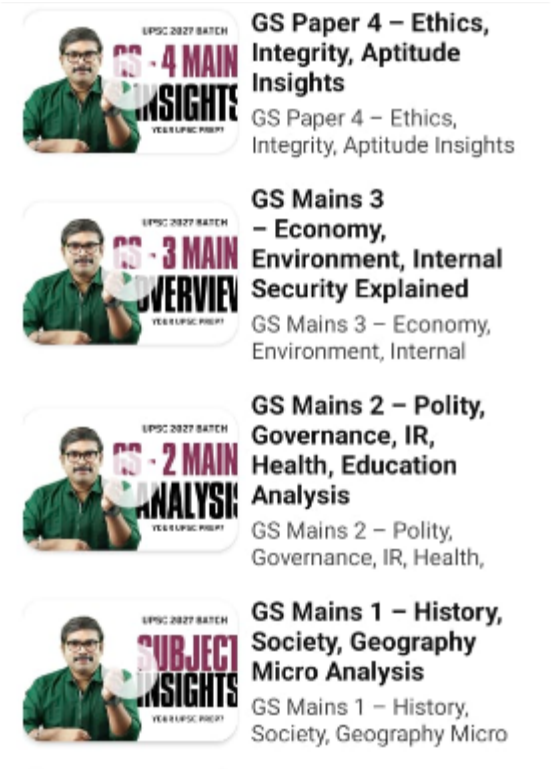
FIRST, KNOW THE EXAM



Before you start studying, **understand the UPSC examination itself.** Even if you are a complete fresher, begin with the first two videos by **Arjun R Sankar Sir**:

1. **How to Start UPSC Preparation** - Understand how to begin, the stages of preparation and the right approach.
2. **UPSC Syllabus Explained in Detail** - Know the syllabus thoroughly and understand exactly what UPSC expects you to study.

Know the Exam → Know the Syllabus → Then Start Preparing.



NEXT STEP - BUILD THE MAINS SYLLABUS INTO YOUR MIND

Once you understand **how the UPSC examination works and what the syllabus contains**, your next task is to understand the **Mains syllabus at a much deeper level**.

Compulsorily watch the four GS Mains Analysis videos by Arjun R Sankar Sir - GS Paper 1, GS Paper 2, GS Paper 3 and GS Paper 4. Don't watch them simply as introductory videos. Watch them with the intention of creating a **permanent mental framework for UPSC Mains preparation.**

Think of your mind as having **four separate compartments:**

- **GS Paper 1:** History, Art & Culture, Society, Geography and related areas.
- **GS Paper 2:** Constitution, Polity, Governance, Social Justice, Health, Education and International Relations.
- **GS Paper 3:** Economy, Agriculture, Science & Technology, Environment, Disaster Management and Internal Security.
- **GS Paper 4:** Ethics, Integrity, Aptitude, Values, Attitude and related areas.

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WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

The UPSC Mains syllabus should not remain something that you **open occasionally and read from a PDF**. Gradually, the major areas and keywords of the syllabus should become part of your thinking.

When somebody mentions **urbanisation**, your mind should know where it fits. When you read about **India–China relations**, **inflation**, **climate change**, **AI**, **women's issues**, **federalism**, **agricultural reforms** or an **ethical dilemma in public administration**, you should immediately be able to connect that issue with the appropriate GS paper and syllabus area.

That is the purpose of these four videos.

HOW SHOULD YOU WATCH THEM?

Don't rush through all four just to complete them. While watching:

- Keep the **official Mains syllabus** with you.
- Pay attention to **every major keyword and theme** being explained.
- Understand what each syllabus phrase actually means and **what kinds of issues can come under it**.
- Notice the connections between **static subjects and Current Affairs**.
- If necessary, pause the video and look at the corresponding syllabus line again.
- By the end, try to visualise the entire Mains syllabus as **GS 1 → GS 2 → GS 3 → GS 4**.

WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN AFTER THIS?

This exercise should change the way you consume information.

When you **read a newspaper**, you shouldn't see only news - you should see the **syllabus behind the news**.

When you watch a Current Affairs video, you should automatically think, **"Which GS paper? Which syllabus area?"**

When you attend a class, you should understand **where that topic fits into the larger UPSC preparation.**

When you make notes, you should know **under which GS paper and syllabus heading those notes belong.**

And eventually, when you practise Mains answers, you will already have a mental framework into which **facts, examples, concepts, arguments and Current Affairs** can be placed.

THE OBJECTIVE

Don't try to memorise the syllabus mechanically. **Understand its structure so well that it becomes the framework through which you look at UPSC preparation.**

Create the compartments first → Understand what belongs in each → Keep adding knowledge → Connect Current Affairs → Prepare for Mains systematically.

Your syllabus should not be just a document. It should become the map inside your head.



NEXT - LEARN HOW TO PREPARE

Once you understand the **exam and the syllabus**, the next step is to understand **how UPSC preparation actually works**. Before jumping into individual subjects, watch these sessions carefully. They will help you avoid common mistakes and develop the right approach from the beginning.

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How to Read Newspapers from UPSC Perspective?

How to Read Newspapers from UPSC Perspective?



How to Approach CSAT

How to Approach CSAT for UPSC by Harikrishnan



Going through PYQs | KickStart Live Class 2 for UPSC 2027

Going through PYQs | KickStart Live Class 2 for



Do's & Don'ts of UPSC 2027 Preparation

Do's & Don'ts of UPSC 2027 Preparation by Arjun

1. DO'S & DON'TS OF UPSC PREPARATION

Knowing **what not to do is often as important as knowing what to do.** UPSC preparation can easily become overloaded with too many books, classes, materials, strategies and opinions.

Watch the **Do's & Don'ts of UPSC Preparation** session carefully. Understand how to choose resources, organise your preparation, revise consistently, practise questions and avoid unnecessary distractions.

The objective is simple: **prepare with direction rather than merely studying for long hours.**

2. PYQs - LET THE EXAMINATION GUIDE YOUR PREPARATION

Before asking *"What should I study?"*, first understand **"What has UPSC been asking?"**

Go through the **Previous Year Questions (PYQs) Analysis** session. PYQs are not merely questions to solve after completing the syllabus. They are one of the best tools for understanding the examination itself.

While analysing PYQs, observe:

- What areas does UPSC repeatedly focus on?
- How deeply are concepts tested?
- How are static subjects connected with Current Affairs?
- What kind of options and elimination techniques appear in Prelims?
- Which parts of the syllabus deserve greater attention?

Syllabus tells you WHAT to study. PYQs show you HOW UPSC asks it.

Let PYQs become a **guiding light throughout your preparation**, not something you look at only before the examination.

3. UNDERSTAND CSAT - DON'T KEEP IT FOR THE END

CSAT is qualifying, but qualifying it is compulsory. Never assume that it can be handled at the last moment.

Watch the **How to Approach CSAT** session by **Senior Mentor Hari Sir** and understand exactly what CSAT demands.

Identify your present level in **comprehension, reasoning, basic numeracy and problem solving**. Understand the nature of the paper, decide which areas require improvement and build CSAT practice into your preparation from the beginning.

The purpose of this session is to ensure that you know where you stand and what you need to do long before Prelims.

4. NEWSPAPER READING - BUILD THE HABIT

The newspaper should not be treated merely as a daily source of Current Affairs. For a serious UPSC aspirant, **newspaper reading gradually becomes a way of understanding issues and developing perspectives.**

Watch the **How to Read Newspapers from a UPSC Perspective** session and learn how to distinguish between **what matters for UPSC and what can be ignored**.

While reading, gradually train yourself to:

- Connect news with the **UPSC syllabus**.
- Identify its relevance to **GS 1, GS 2, GS 3 or GS 4**.
- Understand the **background and context** of an issue.
- Look at different dimensions rather than memorising isolated facts.
- Identify arguments, challenges, implications and possible solutions.
- Develop balanced perspectives that can later strengthen your **Mains answers and Essay**.

Don't read a newspaper simply to **collect Current Affairs**. Read it to **understand India and the world, connect issues with the syllabus, and develop the ability to form informed opinions.**

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THE SEQUENCE

Know the Exam → Know the Syllabus → Understand the GS Papers → Learn the Do's & Don'ts → Analyse PYQs → Understand CSAT → Learn How to Read the Newspaper → Begin Serious Preparation

Once these foundations are clear, you are no longer entering UPSC preparation blindly. You know the destination, you understand the map, and you know how to travel.



UPSC 2026 Prelims First Reaction

UPSC 2026 Prelims First Reaction by Arjun Sir



Failed in UPSC Prelims 2026 | What to do Next?

Failed in UPSC Prelims 2026 | What to do Next?

COMPULSORILY WATCH - UPSC PRELIMS 2026 ANALYSIS

Before moving deeper into your Prelims preparation, **make sure you watch the detailed analysis of the UPSC Prelims 2026 examination.**

Why? Because the latest paper tells you a lot about **how UPSC is thinking** - the changing trends, the nature of questions, the areas receiving greater attention, the level of difficulty, and the approach required to handle the paper.

Don't look at the examination simply as a collection of 100 questions. Try to understand **what UPSC was actually testing and what lessons you should take from it for your own preparation.**

Watch the video carefully. Understand the paper. Learn from the latest exam. Then prepare accordingly.