

UPSC CSE 2027

6 Month (26 Week) Study Plan & Strategy Guide

A topic-level, week-by-week roadmap compressed from a standard 1-year UPSC preparation plan

Event	Date
CSE 2027 Notification	13 January 2027
Last date to apply	2 February 2027
UPSC Prelims 2027 (GS Paper 1 + CSAT)	23 May 2027 (Sunday)
UPSC Mains 2027 (begins, 5 days)	20 August 2027 (Friday)

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Source for exam dates: official UPSC exam calendar (upsc.gov.in/examinations/exam-calendar)
Plan structure compressed and adapted from a standard 1-year, 78-week UPSC preparation roadmap.

How This 26-Week Plan Was Built

A typical 1-year UPSC roadmap spends about 44 weeks building the full static syllabus and another 19 weeks on pure revision before Prelims. This 6 month version compresses that into 16 weeks of core subject coverage and 6 weeks of structured revision with mock tests, followed by a 2-week final sprint. Every subject below keeps the same major topics as the 1-year version, just covered at a faster pace.

The Four Phases

Phase	Weeks	Focus
Phase 1: Foundation	Week 1-2	Understand the exam, collect resources, choose an optional subject, build reading and answer-writing habits
Phase 2: Core Subjects	Week 3-18	Cover all 7 static GS subjects plus a condensed GS Mains and Ethics orientation, with the optional subject running in parallel
Phase 3: Revision & Mocks	Week 19-24	Three structured revision rounds across all subjects, synced with the last 6 months of current affairs, plus mock tests
Phase 4: Final Sprint	Week 25-26	Final revision rounds, full-length mocks, and exam-readiness in the two weeks before Prelims

Optional Subject and CSAT: How They Fit In

The optional subject runs from week 3 through week 18, covering Paper 1 first and Paper 2 second, then pauses completely from week 19 onward so every remaining hour goes to Prelims. CSAT gets regular practice from week 3, becomes a daily habit from week 18, and shifts to a structured Reading Comprehension, Logical Reasoning and Quantitative Aptitude rotation once the revision phase begins in week 19.

26-Week Master Plan

Prelims 2027 is on 23rd May 2027. Week 1 begins 16th November 2026.

Wk	Dates	Phase	Subject Focus	Major Topics	Optional	CSAT	Current Affairs	Milestone
1	16 Nov - 22 Nov 2026	P1: Foundation	Orientation & Resource Collection	Understand CSE 2027 pattern & syllabus; collect Prelims + Mains booklist and PYQ compilations; shortlist optional subject (overlap with GS, scoring record, interest)	Finalise choice (no lectures yet)	Baseline CSAT test (diagnostic)	Start daily newspaper habit	CSAT baseline score recorded
2	23 Nov - 29 Nov 2026	P1: Foundation	Study Skills & Answer Writing Baseline	How to read NCERTs (highlighting, margin notes); how to read a newspaper for static links; structure of a Mains answer	Begin Paper 1 foundation reading	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Answer writing baseline test
3	30 Nov - 06 Dec 2026	P2: Core Subjects	Modern History I	Advent of Europeans, decline of Mughals & rise of regional powers; consolidation of British power in India	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	-
4	07 Dec - 13 Dec 2026	P2: Core Subjects	Modern History II	British policies of annexation & evolution of civil services (1773-1861); Revolt of 1857 & civil-tribal uprisings; socio-religious reform movements; rise of press, education & the INC; National Movement 1905-1942; Simon Commission to Partition	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Section Test: Modern History + PYQ analysis (last 15 years)
5	14 Dec - 20 Dec 2026	P2: Core Subjects	Environment & Ecology I	Ecology basics, principles & functions; biodiversity; pollution (air, water, soil)	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	-
6	21 Dec - 27 Dec 2026	P2: Core Subjects	Environment & Ecology II	Climate change (science, global warming, institutions); key Acts (Environment Protection Act, Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Rights Act); international conventions (CBD, CITES, Ramsar, UNFCCC); Environmental Impact Assessment	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Section Test: Environment + PYQ analysis
7	28 Dec - 03 Jan 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Indian Polity I	Historical underpinnings & making of the Constitution; Preamble, Union & Territory, Citizenship; Fundamental Rights (Articles 12-35)	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	-
8	04 Jan - 10 Jan 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Indian Polity II	Fundamental Duties & DPSP; amendments & Basic Structure doctrine; President & Governor; PM, Council of Ministers & Parliament; Judiciary; Emergency provisions; local governance (73rd/74th Amendments); elections & ECI	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Section Test: Indian Polity + PYQ analysis
9	11 Jan - 17 Jan 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Geography I	Basics of mapping; physical geography (landforms, climatology); physical geography of India (drainage, monsoon, soils)	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	-
10	18 Jan - 24 Jan 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Geography II	Human geography (population, settlements, migration); human geography of India (agriculture, industry, transport)	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Section Test: Geography + PYQ analysis
11	25 Jan - 31 Jan 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Science & Technology I	Space technology & ISRO missions; biotechnology & genetic engineering; nanotechnology	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	-
12	01 Feb - 07 Feb 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Science & Technology II	Health & disease; defence technology & missile systems; IT, computers, robotics & AI; nuclear energy & policy	Optional Paper 1 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Section Test: Science & Technology + PYQ analysis

Wk	Dates	Phase	Subject Focus	Major Topics	Optional	CSAT	Current Affairs	Milestone
13	08 Feb - 14 Feb 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Economy I	Basic concepts & national income accounting; growth, inclusive development, inequality & poverty; money & inflation; monetary policy (RBI)	Optional Paper 2 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	-

26-Week Master Plan (continued)

Wk	Dates	Phase	Subject Focus	Major Topics	Optional	CSAT	Current Affairs	Milestone
14	15 Feb - 21 Feb 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Economy II	Public finance, budget & taxation; banking & financial markets; external sector (BoP, forex, trade); international economic organisations (IMF, World Bank, WTO); planning & unemployment	Optional Paper 2 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Section Test: Economy + PYQ analysis
15	22 Feb - 28 Feb 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Ancient & Medieval History I	Pre-historic period & Indus Valley Civilisation; Vedic Age, Mahajanapadas, rise of Jainism & Buddhism; Mauryan Age; post-Mauryan Age to Sangam Age	Optional Paper 2 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	-
16	01 Mar - 07 Mar 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Ancient & Medieval History II + Art & Culture	Gupta, post-Gupta & Harshavardhan; regional kingdoms & Arab invasions (Rashtrakutas, Palas, Pratiharas, Rajputs); Cholas & Delhi Sultanate; Mughal Empire; Vijayanagar Empire, Bhakti Movement & rise of the Marathas; art, architecture & culture	Optional Paper 2 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	Section Test: Ancient & Medieval History + PYQ analysis
17	08 Mar - 14 Mar 2027	P2: Core Subjects	GS Mains Orientation (condensed survey)	Indian society (diversity, women, population); poverty & urbanisation; governance & e-governance; social justice & welfare schemes; India's neighbourhood & IR groupings; agriculture, MSP & food security; internal security & disaster management	Optional Paper 2 (lectures + notes)	CSAT practice if baseline below 66/200	Daily newspaper + short notes	GS Mains Orientation Test
18	15 Mar - 21 Mar 2027	P2: Core Subjects	Ethics (GS Paper 4) + Optional Wrap-Up	Basics, determinants & dimensions of ethics; attitude, aptitude & emotional intelligence; probity in governance; case study practice	Optional Paper 2 completed by end of week	CSAT structured practice ramps up (RC, reasoning, quant)	Daily newspaper + short notes	Optional syllabus completion check
19	22 Mar - 28 Mar 2027	P3: Revision & Mocks	Revision Round 1: Polity + Modern History	Full re-read of Polity and Modern History notes and NCERTs; build a one-page summary sheet per chapter	Paused (Prelims-only focus from this week)	Daily CSAT: Reading Comprehension focus	Current affairs magazine, month 1 of the last 6	Sectional Mock Test 1 (GS)
20	29 Mar - 04 Apr 2027	P3: Revision & Mocks	Revision Round 1: Ancient & Medieval History + Art & Culture	Full re-read of Ancient and Medieval History notes; revise Art & Culture list with visual aids (monuments, performing art traditions, schools of painting)	Paused (Prelims-only focus)	Daily CSAT: Logical Reasoning focus	Current affairs magazine, month 2 of the last 6	Sectional Mock Test 2 (GS)
21	05 Apr - 11 Apr 2027	P3: Revision & Mocks	Revision Round 1: Geography + Science & Technology	Full re-read of Geography and Science & Technology notes; redo previous year questions subject-wise	Paused (Prelims-only focus)	Daily CSAT: Quantitative Aptitude focus	Current affairs magazine, month 3 of the last 6	Full-Length Mock Test 1 (GS + CSAT)
22	12 Apr - 18 Apr 2027	P3: Revision & Mocks	Revision Round 1: Environment + Economy	Full re-read of Environment and Economy notes; update with the latest Budget and Economic Survey highlights	Paused (Prelims-only focus)	Daily CSAT: mixed practice set	Current affairs magazine, month 4 of the last 6	Full-Length Mock Test 2 (GS + CSAT)
23	19 Apr - 25 Apr 2027	P3: Revision & Mocks	Revision Round 2: Full Syllabus Rapid Pass	Rapid revision of all static subjects using summary sheets and mind maps; no fresh reading, only recall practice	Paused (Prelims-only focus)	CSAT sectional test + review	Current affairs magazine, month 5 of the last 6	Full-Length Mock Test 3 (GS + CSAT)
24	26 Apr - 02 May 2027	P3: Revision & Mocks	Revision Round 2 + Mock Intensification	Continue rapid revision; focus extra time on the two lowest-scoring subjects from mock analysis	Paused (Prelims-only focus)	CSAT sectional test + review	Current affairs magazine, month 6 of the last 6	Full-Length Mock Test 4 (GS + CSAT)
25	03 May - 09 May 2027	P4: Final Sprint	Revision Round 3 + Weak-Area Targeting	Third full pass of static notes; targeted drilling on chapters with the most PYQ frequency; daily error log review from all mocks so far	Paused (Prelims-only focus)	Daily CSAT mixed practice	Current affairs: full yearly compilation skim	Full-Length Mock Tests 5 and 6 (GS + CSAT)

Wk	Dates	Phase	Subject Focus	Major Topics	Optional	CSAT	Current Affairs	Milestone
26	10 May - 16 May 2027	P4: Final Sprint	Final Revision + Exam Readiness	Light final revision using summary sheets only; no new topics; OMR filling practice and exam-day time allocation strategy; rest and sleep prioritised	Paused (Prelims-only focus)	Light CSAT practice, no new topics	Skim previous week's news only	Full-Length Mock Test 7 (final) + rest days before exam

Subject-Topic Checklist

Every major topic in the plan, grouped by subject. Use this as a tick-list alongside the weekly plan.

Modern History

Topic	Week
Advent of Europeans, decline of Mughals & rise of regional powers	Week 3
Consolidation of British power in India	Week 3
British policies of annexation & evolution of civil services (1773-1861)	Week 4
Revolt of 1857 & civil-tribal uprisings	Week 4
Socio-religious reform movements	Week 4
Rise of press, education & the Indian National Congress	Week 4
National Movement 1905-1918 (Swadeshi to Home Rule)	Week 4
Emergence of Gandhi & mass movements (1920-1942)	Week 4
Simon Commission, Round Table Conferences & Poona Pact	Week 4
Quit India, Towards Freedom & Partition	Week 4

Environment & Ecology

Topic	Week
Ecology basic concepts, principles & functions	Week 5
Biodiversity	Week 5
Pollution (air, water, soil)	Week 5
Climate change, global warming & institutions	Week 6
Key Acts and policies (EPA, Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Rights Act)	Week 6
International conventions (CBD, CITES, Ramsar, UNFCCC)	Week 6
Environmental Impact Assessment	Week 6

Indian Polity

Topic	Week
Historical underpinnings & making of the Constitution	Week 7
Preamble, Union & Territory, Citizenship	Week 7
Fundamental Rights (Articles 12-35)	Week 7
Fundamental Duties & DPSP	Week 8

Amendments & Basic Structure doctrine	Week 8
President & Governor	Week 8
Prime Minister, Council of Ministers & Parliament	Week 8
Judiciary & judicial review	Week 8
Emergency provisions	Week 8
Local governance (73rd/74th Amendments)	Week 8
Elections, ECI & miscellaneous bodies	Week 8

Geography

Topic	Week
Basics of mapping	Week 9
Physical geography: landforms	Week 9
Physical geography: climatology	Week 9
Physical geography of India	Week 9
Human geography	Week 10
Human geography of India	Week 10

Science & Technology

Topic	Week
Space technology & ISRO missions	Week 11
Biotechnology & genetic engineering	Week 11
Nanotechnology	Week 11
Health & disease	Week 12
Defence technology & missile systems	Week 12
IT, computers, robotics & artificial intelligence	Week 12
Nuclear energy & policy	Week 12

Economy

Topic	Week
Basic concepts & national income accounting	Week 13
Growth, inclusive development, inequality & poverty	Week 13
Money & inflation	Week 13

Monetary policy & RBI	Week 13
Public finance, budget & taxation	Week 14
Banking & financial markets	Week 14
External sector (BoP, forex, trade)	Week 14
International economic organisations (IMF, World Bank, WTO)	Week 14
Planning in India, unemployment & HRD	Week 14

Ancient & Medieval History

Topic	Week
Pre-historic period & Indus Valley Civilisation	Week 15
Vedic Age, Mahajanapadas, Jainism & Buddhism	Week 15
Mauryan Age	Week 15
Post-Mauryan Age to Sangam Age	Week 15
Gupta, post-Gupta & Harshavardhan	Week 16
Regional kingdoms & Arab invasions	Week 16
Cholas & Delhi Sultanate	Week 16
Mughal Empire	Week 16
Vijayanagar Empire, Bhakti Movement & rise of the Marathas	Week 16

Art & Culture

Topic	Week
Architecture, sculpture, painting & performing art traditions	Week 16

GS Mains Orientation

Topic	Week
Indian society: diversity, women, population issues	Week 17
Poverty, urbanisation & effects of globalisation	Week 17
Governance, transparency & e-governance	Week 17
Social justice & welfare schemes for vulnerable sections	Week 17
India's neighbourhood & international groupings	Week 17
Agriculture, MSP & food security	Week 17
Internal security & border management	Week 17

Disaster management	Week 17
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Ethics (GS Paper 4)

Topic	Week
Basics, determinants & dimensions of ethics	Week 18
Attitude, aptitude & emotional intelligence	Week 18
Probity in governance & case study practice	Week 18

Book & Resource List

One primary and one secondary source per subject, matching the sources referenced in the weekly plan.

Subject	Primary Source	Secondary Source
Ancient History	Old NCERT Ancient India by R.S. Sharma	NCERT Themes in Indian History, Part 1
Medieval History	Old NCERT Medieval India by Satish Chandra	NCERT Themes in Indian History, Part 2
Modern History	Old NCERT Modern India by Bipan Chandra	Spectrum: A Brief History of Modern India by Rajiv Ahir
Art & Culture	NCERT Class 11, An Introduction to Indian Art, Part 1	Indian Art and Culture by Nitin Singhanian
Indian Polity	NCERT Class 11, Indian Constitution at Work	Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth
Geography	NCERT Class 11-12 (Physical Geography, India Physical Environment, Human Geography)	Contemporary Physical and Human Geography by G.C. Leong, plus a school atlas
Economy	NCERT Class 11, Indian Economic Development	A current Economic Survey and Union Budget summary
Environment & Ecology	NCERT Class 12 Biology, last 4 chapters	Environment by Shankar IAS
Science & Technology	NCERT Science, Class 9	Daily current affairs coverage of new developments
Current Affairs	One daily national newspaper	A monthly current affairs compilation magazine
Previous Year Papers	Any compiled UPSC Prelims PYQ book covering the last 15 years	PadhAI's UPSC previous year question bank

Daily Timetable (10 to 12 Hour Routine)

Time Slot	Activity	Focus
5:30 - 6:00 AM	Wake up + light exercise	Get blood flow going
6:00 - 10:00 AM	Session 1: Core static subject	Whatever subject the week's plan assigns
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Breakfast + break	Full rest, no reading
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Session 2: Optional / Answer writing	Optional through week 18, writing from week 3
2:00 - 3:00 PM	Lunch + short nap	Memory consolidation
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Session 3: Current affairs	Newspaper or monthly magazine
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Break / walk	Away from the desk
6:00 - 8:00 PM	Session 4: Revision / CSAT	Revise AM reading or CSAT practice
8:00 - 9:00 PM	Dinner	Light meal
9:00 - 10:00 PM	MCQ practice	20-30 MCQs or a PYQ set

Common Mistakes That Sink a 6 Month Plan

- **Trying to read every page.** Use PYQs to find which chapters matter and skim the rest.
- **Treating CSAT as an afterthought.** Reading Comprehension alone has carried 30-32 questions in recent papers.
- **Collecting material instead of studying it.** One good book, read three times, beats five books read once.
- **Skipping daily revision.** Twenty minutes same-day beats an hour a week later.
- **Continuing the optional past week 18.** This plan pauses optional deliberately so the last 8 weeks go fully to Prelims.

Protecting Your Health During the Sprint

Sleep 6 to 7 hours a night rather than cutting sleep first when behind schedule. Keep one non-negotiable break daily, such as the evening walk in the timetable. Take one half-day off every two weeks to reset before burnout forces a longer break later in the plan.

Mock Test Log (Target: 25 to 30 Full-Length Mocks)

[illegible]

No.	Date	Paper	Score	Out Of	Key Mistake to Fix

Revision Tracker (Aim: 3+ Full Passes Before Prelims)

Subject	Pass 1	Pass 2	Pass 3	Pass 4
Modern History				
Ancient & Medieval History				
Art & Culture				
Indian Polity				
Geography				
Economy				
Environment & Ecology				
Science & Technology				
GS Mains Orientation Topics				
Ethics (GS Paper 4)				
Current Affairs				
CSAT				

This planner accompanies the full guide, 'How to Prepare for UPSC in 6 Months: A Complete UPSC 2027 Strategy', on padhai.ai. For the interactive, auto-calculating version of every tracker in this document, use the companion Excel workbook.