

Online & Offline

 ForumIAS

A Mentor assisted Mains specific Guidance Program for IAS 2024

GS Advanced Program 2024

Start Date

23 October
2023

Batch - 1

Orientation

20 October
2023

BATCH TIME

4 PM | Limited
Seats



Forum Learning Centres

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Top Rankers from ForumIAS Academy

Top Rankers from ForumIAS Academy in CSE 2022

1. Ishita Kishore (IAS Rank 1)
2. Garima Lohia (IAS Rank 2)
3. Uma Harathi N (IAS Rank 3)
4. Smriti Mishra (IAS Rank 4)
5. Mayur Hazarika (IAS Rank 5)
6. Waseem Ahmad Bhat (IAS Rank 7)
7. Kanika Goyal (IAS Rank 9)
8. Rahul Srivastava (IAS Rank 10)
9. Abhinav Siwach (IAS Rank 12)
10. Vidushi Singh (IAS Rank 13)

Top Rankers from ForumIAS Academy in CSE 2020 and 2021

1. Shruti Sharma (IAS Rank 1)
2. Utkarsh Dwivedi (IAS Rank 5)
3. Mamta Yadav (IAS Rank 5)
4. Yaksh Chaudhary (IAS Rank 6)
5. Ishita Rathi (IAS Rank 8)
6. Apala Mishra (IAS Rank 9)
7. Preetam Kumar (IAS Rank 9)
8. Yasharth Shekhar (IAS Rank 12)
9. Gaurav Budania (IAS Rank 13)
10. Abhinav Jain (IAS Rank 14)

Successful Women Candidates from ForumIAS Academy

1. Karishma Nair IAS Rank-14 (Kerala)
2. Mehak Jain, IAS Rank-17 (Haryana)
3. Radhika Gupta, IAS Rank-18 (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Anoushka Sharma, IAS Rank-20 (Madhya Pradesh)
5. Vaishali, IAS Rank-23 (Delhi)
6. Pusapati Sahitya, IAS Rank-24 (Andhra Pradesh)
7. Shruti Rajlakshmi, IAS Rank-25 (Jharkhand)
8. Preksha Agrawal, IAS Rank-30 (Uttar Pradesh)
9. Priyansha Garg, IAS Rank-31 (Uttar Pradesh)
10. Aparna Ramesh, IAS Rank-35 (Haryana)
11. Garima Narula, IAS Rank-39 (Uttarakhand)
12. Pranita Dash, IAS Rank-42 (Odisha)

ForumIAS Academy Students are from every region

1. Mithun Premraj, IAS Rank-12 (Kerala)
2. Yaswanth K. Reddy, IAS Rank-15 (Andhra Pradesh)
3. Arth Jain, IAS Rank-16 (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Avinash Kumar, IAS Rank-17 (Bihar)
5. Ashish, IAS Rank-23 (Bihar)
6. Bhavishya Desai, IAS Rank-29 (Rajasthan)
7. Naman Goyal, IAS Rank-30 (Maharashtra)
8. Nittin Singh, IAS Rank-32 (Jammu & Kashmir)
9. Jaspinder Singh, IAS Rank-33 (Punjab)
10. Anubhav Singh, IAS Rank-34 (Uttar Pradesh)
11. Ajmera Sanketh, IAS Rank-35 (Telangana)
12. Anup Das, IAS Rank-38 (Odisha)

3 times Rank I in Civil Services Examination

IAS Rank I - Ishita Kishore (2022), Shruti Sharma (2021), Anudeep Duraisetty (2017)

5 Times Rank I in Indian Forest Service

IFoS Rank I - Kolluru Venkata Srikanth (2022), Shruti (2021), Rishi Kumar (2019), M Naveen Reddy (2018), Vaibhav Srivastava (2017)

The Idea behind GSAP

The GSAP is a **mentor guided mains specific guidance program**. It seeks to consolidate and solidify your mains preparation by helping you **a) generate relevant content** required for mains examination and **b) learn and streamline your answer writing skills**. The 4 months program will ensure that your mains preparation is done with time in hand without affecting timeline of your prelims preparation.

What we plan to do for 2024 to solve this problem?

There are two components of Civil Services Mains preparation

- **A relevant Knowledge Base for preparation**
- **Answer Writing Skill**

While our Mains Guidance Program provides the near-perfect solution for developing answer writing skills we plan to expand the scope of our Guidance Program to simultaneously develop the Knowledge Base and fine-tune the answer writing skills.

Why choose GSAP?

In our experience of 7 - 8 years of guiding students for mains examination, we have noticed that many students are able to crack the Prelims again and again but the mains exam becomes a roadblock for them. They are stuck at either Mains stage or they reach interview with very less marks in mains which finally affect their standing in merit list. This is primarily because:

- #1 Fragmented preparation:** a) preparing without plan and focussing mostly on topics being covered in online websites *or* being asked in test series/ answer writing initiatives. b) underestimate or overestimate the syllabus of UPSC CSE and have a false notion - *"I have been preparing for UPSC for past 3 years, and I know everything. I have made my own notes, read every book, and have taken so many classes."*
- #2 Lack of consolidation:** a) students who have attended foundation few years back has failed to update their notes and reading in line with recent trend of UPSC. b) most of the foundation courses offer very basic understanding of the subject and often limit themselves to factual information in their course structure. c) too much of fact gathering.
- #3 Gaping holes in preparation:** a) failure to prepare for value added topics for eg. A student is aware of citizen charter but hasn't studied "sevottam model". b) lack of notes and reading material on topics which don't have concrete sources in a book like IR, Internal Security or even Ethics.

#4 Difficulty in breaking the vicious cycle: The biggest problem that we at ForumIAS Offline, faced was that we had students who had faced some failure in their previous attempts. The problem with failure is that it reinforces wrong notions more deeply in your mind. For example,

- I only solved 2000 questions this year. I must solve 10,000 MCQs this year.
- There is no use studying, you must only practice.
- No one can teach you anything.
- Luck, and not hard work is how you crack CSE.

#5 Candidates with high number of attempts (2+), usually face the below problems:

- They no longer have the same level of energy, motivation, or peer group to study.
- They have studied something of everything, but full of nothing, so reading the same books/ taking same classes irritates them.
- They do not make new notes at all, and are stuck with notes which are 2-3 years old when they first stated preparation.
- They have reached a knowledge plateau - with each passing day, they learn nothing new.

#6 Misguidance: a) a lot of student tend to copy toppers or their peer strategies without giving a thought of what actually works for them. b) a lot of guidance from peers and others are clouded in their own experiences and not on the specific issues being faced by you.

The Components of GSAP and how they will aid the aspirants is detailed below:

Content Building Classes (CBC) - The classes will be held 5 days in a week in 2 hr + 2 hr setting. These will ensure complete coverage of relevant static content for GS papers. The curriculum of the class has been curated such that you understand the locus as well as outer boundary of content required to be prepared.

Current Affair Pre-cum-Mains Classes by Dipin Damodaran - The philosophy of the class focusses on completeness, content differentiation, and consolidation to ensure value addition to your content and hence boost your score.

Students enrolling in GSAP can choose any Pre-cum-Mains batch of Current Affairs, including the batch started in July 2023.

The Current Affairs classes ensure **(1) We add value to the knowledge base of candidates who choose us (2) We provide content differentiation in the class, since the key to secure high marks in the Mains examination is content differentiation** - so that our students answers are both more qualitative and substantially superior to what is written by the average candidate.

Ethics+ Classes by Ayush Sinha- These classes will focus on the following aspects:

- Complete & Comprehensive Coverage of Ethics Terms & Terminologies.
- Case Studies covered with scenarios of real life where a Civil Servant faces Ethical dilemma.
- Coverage of key issues and expected questions through Questions & Answers.
- Quality Note Making & Answer Writing.

Daily Benchmark Assignments (BAs) – The daily benchmark assignments will ensure assessment and feedback to aid improvement on everyday learning of the classes. The tests are based on important topics from Mains point of view. BAs will be graded daily.

Tailor Made MGP - Mains Guidance Program will help supplement your preparation. They will provide an evaluation of your learning and help you master the different dimension of answer writing. Feedback of the evaluation will help in understanding mistakes and reorient your approach towards answer writing. **Half-length MGP Test** based on coverage in class will be conducted **every week**, for the whole duration of classes. For post completion of classes, **4 Full Length Tests** will be provided.

Mentorship - Throughout the program you will have a mentor assigned to you who will help you to incrementally increase your answer writing skills.

What is the Duration of the Program?

#. Subject	Hours
1. World History	16 Hours
2. Post Independence Consolidation	12 Hours
3. Social Issues	16 Hours
4. Social Justice	08 Hours
5. Governance	08 Hours
6. Development Industry	08 Hours
7. International Relations	20 Hours
8. Internal Security	12 Hours
9. Disaster Management	04 Hours
10. Ethics	20 Hours
11. Ethics Case Studies	08 Hours
12. Investment Models	04 Hours
13. Infrastructure	08 Hours
14. Budgeting + Inclusive Growth	04 Hours
15. Human & Economic Geography	12 Hours
16. Agriculture	12 Hours
17. Economy	20 Hours
18. Polity	24 Hours
19. Physical Geography	12 Hours
20. Art & Culture	08 Hours
21. Modern History	12 Hours
22. Environment	12 Hours
23. Science & Technology	08 Hours

What will GSAP not provide?

***Factual information** - Basic concepts and definitions for e.g. what is inflation? Or what is GDP? Or What is Art 14? etc.

* The program is not recommended for freshers or aspirants who have not completed basic reading of all subjects.

Course Schedule:

- Regular classes will be held **5 days (Monday to Friday)** in a week starting from **23 October**, at **4 PM**.
- Each class will be of **2 hours (4 PM to 6:00 PM | 6:15 PM to 8:15 PM)** duration.

Fee Concession:

- The Program is available at a 50% fee concession for all GS Foundation students.
- Old Students of MGP can avail a 20% fee concession.
- Old Students of Current Affairs can avail a 20% fee concession.
- Students enrolled in Other courses of ForumIAS can avail a 10% fee concession.

Note: Fee concession can be availed by writing to admissions@forumias.academy. No other concession will be granted on any other ground.

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HOW TO ENROL?

Students can enroll in the program by paying the fees through the below mentioned means:

Visit website:

<https://academy.forumias.com>



- Net Banking • Debit Card • Credit Card • UPI
- By Visiting the Offline Center (Credit Card / Debit Card / Cheque / DD)
- By doing a NEFT / Cash Deposit in ICICI account.

Please note that you must retain the payment proof in case of Cash deposit / NEFT and send it to admissions@forumias.academy within 48 hours of making the payment for your course to be activated. While sharing screenshot do share your ForumIAS roll no. along with course paid for.

For any query you can call us at

+91 - 9311740400, 9311740900 or write to us at admissions@forumias.academy



FEE STRUCTURE

Course	Total Fees (Inclusive of GST)
GS Advanced Program 2024 (GS 1+ GS 2 + GS 3)	₹ 46,999/-
GS Advanced Program 2024 + Ethics Module	₹ 55,999/-
GS Advanced Program 2024 + Ethics Module + Current Affairs	₹ 74,999/-
GS Advanced Program 2024 + Current Affairs	₹ 64,999/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Students enrolled in any course of ForumIAS must get a physical ID card for availing services in the offline mode. A nominal fee of Rs. 20 will be payable for the same.
- The program is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Each program of ForumIAS is linked to ForumIAS Account with a fixed mobile number. No sharing of any programs is allowed. If candidates are found sharing programs, ForumIAS shall be free to terminate that or all program access to the candidate without any refund to the candidate.
- ForumIAS shall have full rights to close admissions as per its capacity. ForumIAS shall be free to amend its schedule in case of any exigencies that may arise.
- You can make the payment online at <https://academy.forumias.com> (recommended) or by writing to us at admissions@forumias.academy.
- Please create an account on <https://academy.forumias.com> before enrolling either offline or online.
- This program will be valid till Mains 2024.
- All fees once paid are non-refundable in nature. The course is also non-transferable in nature to another person. By subscribing to the course, you agree to the terms and conditions mentioned above.
- If you have joined MGP and Current Affairs batch, and eager to join GSAP. The fee paid for MGP and Current Affairs will be fully adjusted in the fees of GSAP

* In case of MGP the cost of the test evaluated will be deducted.

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GM Crops

GM Cotton

- **Developed:** Mahyco + Monsanto
- **Genes:** Cry1Ab, Cry2Bc (Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt))
- **Seeds:** Bollgard1, Bollgard2
- **Issues:** yield stagnation, Pest attack, Weed attack;
- **Working:** Cry proteins -> Paralyze bollworms -> Death
- **Acreage:** MoA - 93% by 2011;

What are the advantages of GM cotton?

- Insect control: 3 types- American, spotted, pink bollworm;
- Yield: 3 times between 2002 and 2014; India - largest producers from importer;
- Economic: Reduced insecticide cost; increased income (reduced cost, increased yield)
- Environment: Reduced pollution, bio-magnification;
- Nutrition: GM Rice-Vit A;

What are the issues related to GM cotton/crops?

- **Pest:** American bollworm (controlled) , Pink bollworm (developed resistance - super bugs) : BG1-2009, BG 2 - 2014;
- **Non-target pests:** artificial selection pressure -> alternate pests
- **Ecological:** Extinction vs Super bugs/weeds
- **Biodiversity:** 2004 Govt Biotechnology task force - no GM in BD rich area;
- **Seeds:** Terminator seeds: Greenpeace: Farmers loose sovereign rights over seeds;
- **Yield:** MoA: 2003, Bt Acreage 3.4%, yield enhancement- 60%; 2005 Acreage 15%, yield enhancement-90%; Guj: acreage - 5%, yield: 138%;
- **Seed:** Public sector rollback; private dominance
- **Economical:** Increased insecticide,
- **Farmer/Agri distress:** Greenpeace -> Increased cost, stagnating yields;
- **Regulation:** PSC pointed regulatory lapses in field trial and data monitoring
- **Socio-economic:** 2004 TF: rural women 4.25 crore employment man days (de-weeding)
- **Nutrition:** SC TEC, 2013: complete ban on GM food - increased herbicide application
- **Intelligence agencies:** NGO's like Greenpeace, Gene campaign; foreign funded anti-national activities;
- **Black market:** Seeds sale; Shatkari Sanghatan, 2019 - defied laws

GM Brinjal

- **Developed:** Mahyco;
- **Genes:** Cry1Ac;
- **Status:** 2007-2009: Tests carried out
 - 2009, Oct: GEAC granted approval
 - 2010: SC TEC stayed; Govt adopted 10 year moratorium; More trials
 - 2020: Moratorium ended
 - 2020-23: trials in 8 states including PB, HR

GM Mustard:

- **Developed:** Deepak Pental;
- **Genes:** Bar-Barnase-Barstar
- **Advantages:** Heterosis breeding; controlling inbreeding and promoting hybridization;
- **Status:**
 - 2014-15: confined biosafety trials
 - 2015: GEAC approval granted; later retracted;
 - 2017: SC stayed commercial release
 - 2018: field trials approved in PB and HR;

Gene therapy

What is gene therapy?

- Technique - modifies a person's genes to treat or cure disease.

What are the various mechanisms of gene therapy?

1. Replacing
2. Inactivating
3. Introducing a new or modified gene

What are the types of gene therapy?

1. Somatic Gene Therapy: Effects not transferred to next generation
2. Germline Gene Therapy: Effects transferred to next generation

What are the benefits of Gene Therapy?

- Treatment of Rare diseases;
- Effectiveness: therapeutic benefits effective for long periods of time;
- Accuracy: design therapeutic agents that can influence any specific protein.

What are the challenges associated with Gene Therapy?

- Complexity of Gene Delivery and Activation:
- Immune Response:
- Commercial Viability:
- Informed Consent:
- Justice and Equity:
- Designer babies:
- Use of Embryos:

What should be the approach going ahead?

- Use as Last Resort:
- Monitoring:
- Regulation and Scrutiny:
- Equitable Access:

Gene Editing

What is gene editing?

Type of genetic engineering - DNA is inserted, deleted, modified or replaced in the genome of a living organism.

What are the categories of gene editing?

- **SDN 1**- changes in the host genome's DNA through small insertions/;
- **SDN 2**- the edit involves using a small DNA template to generate specific changes.
- **SDN 3** - larger DNA elements or full length genes of foreign origin - similar GMO.

What are the applications of gene editing?

- Disease modelling, Cancer models: e.g. Car-T, gene diagnostics
- Trait stacking:
- Greener fuels: 3rd gen biofuels
- Crops and Livestock: GM Crops; food security;
- Environment: de-extinction;
- Industrial Biotechnology: food, chemical, medicines;
- Pharmaceuticals: Gene therapy
- Biomedicine: biomolecules;

What are the issues/challenges in gene editing?

- Off-target mutations:
- Human germline: unpredictable changes transmitted to following generations.
- Gene interaction: complex, unpredictable;
- Ecological impacts: 'gene drive' - disappearance of the whole targeted population
- Regulation: GEAC - human resource development, keeping pace with science;
- Uncontrolled clinical trials: no standard norms for standardisation of norms for clinical trials
- 'Designer Babies': Engineering human embryos altered for social rather than medical reasons e.g. to increase height or intelligence
- Economic viability: justice and equity;

Topper's Testimonials

I was a part of MGP at Forum IAS. Apart from this I also took Current Affairs classes for mains by Dipin Dasodhan Sir. The top notch quality of the content and the versatile perspectives I got from Sir's classes really boosted my score in GS. One on one interaction with Ayush Sir during my interview preparation helped me.

I am really grateful to Forum IAS especially Dipin Sir and Ayush Sir for their valuable inputs.



IAS Rank
02
CSE 2022

Garima Lohia

GARIMA LOHIA
AIR 2

To Forum IAS,

MGP Program helped me in simulating mains & the feedback was helpful too.

Thank you for so much efficiency & in paper checking and the elaborate feedback.



IAS Rank
01
CSE 2022

Ishita Kishore

Ishita Kishore
AIR - 1

My name is Umaharathi. I've secured AIR 3 in upsc cse 2022. I was enrolled in the MGP program for General studies and Anthropology. The analytical nature of questions helped me prepare well for the actual exam. The ranking system helped me track my progress constantly. I'm grateful for the



IAS Rank
03
CSE 2022

Uma Harathi

Umaharathi
AIR-03
UPSC CSE 2022
1019872

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TRIVANDRUM : Near india hospital Mele OR, Santhi Nagar, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695014 | 8592018881, 8330018881



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