

You Didn't Clear Prelims 2026. Here's How to Make Sure Mains 2027 Doesn't Catch You Off Guard.

By ForumIAS Academy · July 2026

Let's be honest about something first.

Not clearing Prelims **hurts**. It is supposed to. You spent months — maybe longer — building something. You gave it everything you had. And then the result came and it wasn't what you needed.

That is a hard thing to sit with. And we're not going to minimise it with a motivational quote.

But here is something we have observed, after years of working with lakhs of UPSC aspirants across every stage of preparation: the moment right after a setback is also the moment that quietly decides what your next attempt looks like.

Most aspirants either go into a spiral of overthinking or take a long break. Both are very human responses. Neither is particularly useful.

The aspirants who eventually make it do something different. They study the gap. They understand what went wrong. And — this is the part that matters most — **they start building Mains skills long before Mains becomes urgent.**

That is the thinking behind the **ForumIAS Mains 2026 Replay Series**.

So, What Exactly Is the Replay Series?

Every year, lakhs of aspirants watch UPSC Mains from a distance. They didn't qualify Prelims this year. But they're going to sit Mains next year. And somewhere in the back of their minds is a question that no mock test or study plan fully answers:

“What does it actually feel like to sit through Mains?”

Not what it looks like on paper. What it feels like in the body, in the hand, in the head.

The stamina required to write two 3-hour papers in a day. The pressure of the clock ticking while you're trying to frame a coherent argument. The way your hand feels after six hours of continuous writing. The mental fog that sets in between papers if you haven't trained for it.

These are things you can only discover by **actually doing it**. And that is exactly what the Replay Series gives you.

We conduct the exact UPSC Mains 2026 question papers — one day after UPSC — at the ForumIAS Test Centre in Karol Bagh, New Delhi and Tapasya Learning Centre(Forum Residential Coaching, Alwar), in a fully simulated offline examination environment.

Same papers. Same timings. Same format. Same pressure. Just one day later, and at our centre instead of a UPSC venue.

Who Is This For?

Honestly? This is for anyone who is serious about Mains 2027 and wants to stop treating it as an abstract future event.

More specifically, it's for:

- Aspirants who did not qualify UPSC Prelims 2026 and are targeting Mains 2027
- Students who have been preparing for Mains but have never sat through a full simulated exam environment
- Anyone who wants to understand — in their body, not just their head — what Mains demands
- Those who want to identify gaps in stamina, timing, and content presentation while there is still time to fix them

If you are going to write Mains 2027, there is no better preparation than writing Mains 2026 a day after it happens. That is simply true.

What Will You Actually Get From This?

1. An honest mirror
2. A stamina reality check
3. Time management that actually works
4. Paper familiarity before it counts
5. A benchmark to grow from

One Important Note on Evaluation

The Mains 2026 Replay Series tests are not evaluated.

This is a simulation experience, not a feedback program. The purpose is to give you the environment, the pressure, and the authentic experience of writing the actual Mains papers. What you take away from that is entirely yours to reflect on and act upon.

The Official Datesheet

The ForumIAS Mains 2026 Replay Series follows the official UPSC Mains 2026 timetable with a one-day delay. Here is the complete schedule:

ForumIAS Mains 2026 Replay Series

Official Datesheet · One Day After UPSC

Day	ForumIAS Date	UPSC Date	Session	Paper
Day 1	Sat, 22 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	9:00 AM – 12 Noon	Paper I — Essay
Day 2	Sun, 23 Aug 2026	22 Aug 2026	9:00 AM – 12 Noon	Paper II — General Studies I
Day 2	Sun, 23 Aug 2026	22 Aug 2026	2:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Paper III — General Studies II
Day 3	Mon, 24 Aug 2026	23 Aug 2026	9:00 AM – 12 Noon	Paper IV — General Studies III
Day 3	Mon, 24 Aug 2026	23 Aug 2026	2:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Paper V — General Studies IV
Day 4	Sun, 30 Aug 2026	29 Aug 2026	9:00 AM – 12 Noon	Paper A — Only Hindi (Qualifying)
Day 4	Sun, 30 Aug 2026	29 Aug 2026	2:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Paper B — English (Qualifying)

-  Reporting time: 8:30 AM (forenoon sessions) · 2:00 PM (afternoon sessions)
-  Venue: ForumIAS Test Centre, New Delhi
-  Tests will NOT be evaluated
-  Seats are limited — registration is mandatory
-  Students who shall write at least 5 papers (4 GS + 1 Essay) shall receive ForumIAS wallet credit equivalent to registration amount.

How to Register

Registration is simple. Visit <https://academy.forumias.com/events/> to secure your seat. Seats at the test centre are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.