



FOR MAINS 2027

Essay Guidance Program (EGP 2027)

An integrated classroom, workshop and test-series program for the UPSC Civil Services Mains Essay paper.

Turn your uncertainty into your advantage.

8

THEMATIC
CLASSES

7

SKILL
WORKSHOPS

8

HALF-LENGTH
TESTS

4

FULL-LENGTH
TESTS

ORIENTATION

Thursday, 10 September 2026

5:00 – 7:00 PM · Offline & Online

PROGRAM COMMENCES

Sunday, 13 September 2026 (Offline)

5:00 – 7:00 PM · Workshop 1

Forum Learning Centre · Plot No. 36, 3rd Floor (Above Kalyan Jewellers), Pusa Road, New Delhi – 110005
New Delhi · Gurugram · Patna · Hyderabad · Trivandrum · Bhopal · Kolkata · Jaipur · Pune · Bengaluru
<https://academy.forumias.com> · admissions@forumias.academy · +91 93117 40400 / +91 93117 40404

01 THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

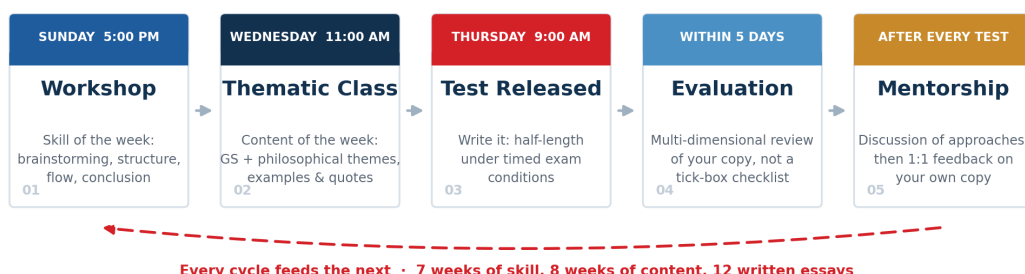
One integrated system. Every component feeds the next.

EGP 2027 AT A GLANCE



EGP 2027 is not a set of lectures with tests attached. It runs as a single weekly cycle, in which the skill you are taught on Sunday is applied to the content you receive on Wednesday and tested on Thursday morning – while both are still fresh.

THE EGP WEEKLY LOOP



The fixed weekly rhythm

DAY	TIME	WHAT HAPPENS
Sunday	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Skill workshop – one writing skill, taught and practised live
Wednesday	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Thematic content class Offline – GS and philosophical themes, with handouts
Wednesday	8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Thematic content class Online – GS and philosophical themes, with handouts
Thursday	9:00 AM	Test released – half-length (90 minutes) or full-length (3 hours)
Within 5 days	–	Evaluated copy returned, followed by a discussion session and your 1:1 slot

Workshop 1 on Sunday 13 September runs 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM as the inaugural session.

02 TRACK RECORD

Toppers who have written through this program.

EGP students have consistently moved from the low seventies into the 120–130 band inside a single attempt, with improvements of 30–60 marks over their previous Mains score.

Year-wise toppers

AIR 08 Pakshal Secetry CSE 2025	AIR 18 Saumya Mishra CSE 2024	AIR 15 Kunal Rastogi CSE 2023	AIR 10 Rahul Srivastava CSE 2022
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CSE 2025 cohort

RANK	NAME
AIR 22	Jeenu Sri Jaswanth Chandra
AIR 132	Rishabh Yadav
AIR 153	Madhvendra P. Singh
AIR 183	Daisy
AIR 278	Vanaj Vidyan
AIR 506	Rohit
AIR 518	Akhil Kumar

In their words

“An essay score of 131 – the classroom sessions were vital, and the brainstorming on “why”, “why not” and beyond changed how I approach a topic. The 1:1 mentor sessions with Anika Ma'am were decisive in securing high marks.”

Rishabh Yadav · AIR 132, CSE 2025

“107 in the Essay – a huge jump from 77 in my last Mains. It is one thing to provide content for an essay, and a whole other thing to completely change the perspective towards a subject. Ma'am did both.”

Vanaj Vidyan · AIR 278, CSE 2025

“Ma'am guided us through the finer nuances of essay writing and helped us understand the methodology in depth. I am especially thankful for the mentorship sessions and the personalised feedback.”

Daisy · AIR 183, CSE 2025

“The course taught me to broaden my perspective and sharpen my brainstorming – but also to trust myself. The constant feedback and the competitive environment nudged me to give my best, and the tests ensured I kept giving it.”

Madhvendra P. Singh · AIR 153, CSE 2025

03 FEES, CONCESSIONS & ENROLMENT

Three variants. Pick the one that matches how you work.

VARIANT	WHAT IS INCLUDED	OFFLINE	ONLINE
EGP 2027 Complete Package	8 classes + 7 workshops + 12 tests + evaluation + answer skeletons + 1:1 mentorship	₹ 15,340	₹ 12,980
EGP 2027 Classes Only	Orientation + 8 thematic classes + 7 workshops + theme handouts	₹ 10,620	₹ 8,260
EGP 2027 Tests Only	12 tests + evaluation + answer skeletons + test discussions	₹ 9,440	₹ 9,440

All fees inclusive of GST. Offline and online batches are conducted separately.

Concessions for existing ForumIAS students

₹ 3,500 off	₹ 2,500 off	₹ 1,000 off
MGP Infinity (Eklavya), GS Foundation & Advanced	Optional Foundation, MGP, Current Affairs	Any other ForumIAS course participant

Write to admissions@forumias.academy to claim a concession. No concession is granted on any ground other than those listed above.

How to enrol

ROUTE	DETAILS
Online	https://academy.forumias.com · Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card or UPI
At the centre	Credit Card, Debit Card, Cheque or Demand Draft at the Forum Learning Centre
NEFT / Cash	Write to admissions@forumias.academy for Bank account details. Retain your payment proof and mail it, along with your ForumIAS roll number and the course paid for, within 48 hours of payment, for your course to be activated.
Questions	+91 93117 40400 / +91 93117 40404 · admissions@forumias.academy

04 FULL SCHEDULE

Every session, from orientation to the final full-length test.

WK	DATE	TIME	SESSION	CODE
–	Thu, 10 Sep 2026	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Orientation · Offline & Online	–
W1	Sun, 13 Sep 2026	5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Workshop 1 · How to write an Essay (inaugural session)	–
	Wed, 16 Sep 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 1 · Gender Issues and Issues of Vulnerable Sections	–
	Thu, 17 Sep 2026	9:00 AM	HLT 1 · 90 minutes	121101
W2	Sun, 20 Sep 2026	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Workshop 2 · Approaching the topic, methods of brainstorming, dimensions and arguments	–
	Wed, 23 Sep 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 2 · Intelligence, Knowledge and Wisdom Thinking and Human Behaviour	–
	Thu, 24 Sep 2026	9:00 AM	HLT 2 · 90 minutes	121102
W3	Sun, 27 Sep 2026	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Workshop 3 · Basics of writing	–
	Wed, 30 Sep 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 3 · Government and Governance Leadership and Power	–
	Thu, 1 Oct 2026	9:00 AM	HLT 3 · 90 minutes	121103
W4	Sun, 4 Oct 2026	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Workshop 4 · Body (dimensions and arguments), Introduction	–
	Wed, 7 Oct 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 4 · Social Justice: inclusive growth, poverty, health and education International Relations and the changing global order	–
	Thu, 8 Oct 2026	9AM	HLT 4 · 90 minutes:00	121104
W5	Sun, 11 Oct 2026	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Workshop 5 · Coherence, Flow, Conclusion	–
	Wed, 14 Oct 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 5 · Climate Change, Environment and Civilization Technological advancement with focus on AI and Social Media	–

	Thu, 15 Oct 2026	9:00 AM	HLT 5 · 90 minutes	121105
W6	Sun, 18 Oct 2026	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Workshop 6 · Understanding of philosophical topics	–
	Wed, 21 Oct 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 6 · Freedom and Responsibility Rationality and Reality	–
	Thu, 22 Oct 2026	9:00 AM	HLT 6 · 90 minutes	121106
W7	Sun, 25 Oct 2026	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Workshop 7 · Analysing PYQ papers	–
	Wed, 28 Oct 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 7 · Human Life, Humanity and Compassion Perception and Awareness	–
	Thu, 29 Oct 2026	9:00 AM	HLT 7 · 90 minutes	121107
W8	Wed, 4 Nov 2026	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Class 8 · Values and Morality Life and Happiness Time and Opportunity Creativity, Art and Imagination	–
	Thu, 5 Nov 2026	9:00 AM	HLT 8 · 90 minutes	121108
FLT	Thu, 12 Nov 2026	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	FLT 1 · Full length · Self-assessment paper	121301
	Thu, 19 Nov 2026	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	FLT 2 · Full length · Evaluated	121302
	Thu, 26 Nov 2026	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	FLT 3 · Full length · Self-assessment paper	121303
	Thu, 3 Dec 2026	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	FLT 4 · Full length · Evaluated	121304

■ Workshop (Sunday)

■ Content class (Wednesday)

■ Half-length test (Thursday)

■ Full-length test (Thursday)

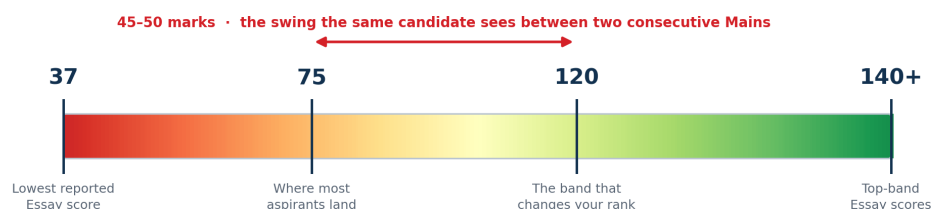
Offline and online batches are conducted separately at the same scheduled times. ForumIAS reserves the right to amend the schedule in case of exigencies; any change is notified in advance through your ForumIAS account.

05 WHY THE ESSAY PAPER DECIDES YOUR RANK

250 marks. The first paper you write on Day 1. And the widest score spread in the whole of Mains.

The Essay paper carries exactly as many marks as a General Studies paper or an Optional paper – and it is written first, on the morning of Day 1. It sets the tone for the six papers that follow. Yet it is the one paper with no syllabus, no prescribed reading and no fixed method, which is precisely why aspirants keep postponing it.

That postponement is expensive. The Essay paper has quietly become the single largest source of unpredictability in the Mains scorecard. The same candidate, writing a year apart, routinely sees a swing of 45–50 marks. Across a cohort, reported Essay scores run from the high thirties to 140 and above – a hundred-mark corridor that no other paper produces.



250 marks. One paper. No syllabus. The widest score spread in the entire Mains.

Two candidates with identical General Studies preparation can finish three hundred ranks apart on the strength of this one paper alone. The reassuring part is that the variance cuts both ways: Essay is the easiest paper on which to gain forty marks, and the hardest to gain them on by accident.

Where the marks actually leak

In our experience of reading several thousand Essay copies, low scores almost never come from ignorance. They come from five recurring – and entirely fixable – habits.

01 Writing the topic you prepared for, not the one UPSC set.

The single most common cause of a sub-90 score. A topic on the cost of certainty becomes an essay on education policy within two paragraphs.

02 Submitting a General Studies answer in essay clothing.

Headings, bullet-thinking, scheme names, committee reports. Technically accurate, and entirely unreadable as an essay.

03 Repeating one dimension at length instead of covering many well.

Depth without breadth reads as a narrow mind, and the examiner is explicitly looking for range.

04 Hoarding content with no retrieval system.

Aspirants collect quotations and examples for months, then recall almost none of them in the three hours that actually matter.

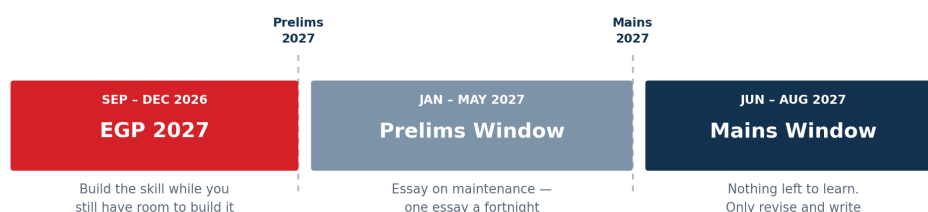
05 Practising without evaluation.

Writing ten unread essays reinforces ten bad habits. Writing four evaluated essays fixes them.

What separates a 75 from a 130 is not what you know. It is how you organise it, how honestly you argue the other side, and whether the examiner can see a thinking human being behind the page. None of that is content. All of it is trainable.

06 WHY WE START ELEVEN MONTHS OUT

The structural advantage of a September batch — and the reason EGP 2027 is not a post-Prelims module.

ELEVEN MONTHS OF RUNWAY — NOT ELEVEN WEEKS

Every other Essay module in the market opens after Prelims, inside the busiest ten weeks of your preparation. EGP 2027 opens in September.

EGP 2027 begins on 13 September 2026 and finishes in early December. The reasoning is straightforward.

- **Skill needs repetition, not proximity.** Structure, brainstorming and flow are motor habits. They are built by writing twelve essays across twelve weeks with feedback in between — not by writing five in a fortnight.
- **You will still be able to attempt it.** In September you have the bandwidth to write a timed essay every Thursday. In July 2027 you will not, and you already know it.
- **It compounds into everything else.** Dimensional thinking, argument balance and clean expression lift GS and Ethics scores as a side effect. Learned in September, they pay you back for eleven months.
- **Essay content is Prelims content.** The eight theme blocks are built from the same governance, social justice, environment and IR material you are revising for Prelims anyway. Nothing here is a detour.
- **By Mains you revise, you do not learn.** Students who finish EGP walk into the Mains window with a personal content bank, a rehearsed structure and a known score band. They spend June 2027 sharpening an existing skill instead of acquiring a new one.

THE MAINTENANCE PLAN

Finishing in December does not mean going cold. Every EGP 2027 student retains access to the full test archive, answer skeletons and content bank through to Mains 2027, and is given a maintenance schedule for January to May — one essay a fortnight, self-assessed against the rubric you were taught in the program. Skill retained, hours protected.

07 WHAT'S INSIDE

Ten components, engineered to work together.

01 Orientation Session

A single session on 6 September that maps the whole paper: what UPSC has asked over the last fifteen years, how copies are actually marked, what a 130-band essay looks like beside a 90-band one, and exactly how to use the twelve weeks ahead.

02 7 Skill Workshops

One skill per week, taught and then practised live in the room – from opening a topic you have never seen before, to brainstorming dimensions under time pressure, to closing an essay so the last line is the one the examiner remembers.

03 8 Thematic Content Classes

Wednesday mornings. Four GS-anchored blocks and four philosophical blocks, covering the full arc UPSC draws from. The objective is adequate content organised for retrieval – not an encyclopaedia you will never re-read.

04 Answer Skeletons with Every Test

Each test ships with a handout-style skeleton: the dimensions worth opening, arguments on both sides, and ready to use examples, data points, anecdotes and quotations. These accumulate into a content bank you carry into the exam hall.

05 8 Half-Length Tests

Thursday, 9:00 AM, 90 minutes, one essay. Short enough to sustain every week, long enough to build genuine writing stamina and to isolate one specific weakness at a time.

06 4 Full-Length Tests

Three hours, two essays, 9:00 AM start – the exact slot and duration of the real Essay paper on Mains Day 1. Two are evaluated by the team; two are self-assessment papers.

07 Multi-dimensional Copy Evaluation

Essay is not marked against a checklist, so we do not evaluate against one. Each copy is read across six lenses by an experienced evaluator, with written comments in the margin, a band judgement and two specific instructions for the next attempt. Returned within five days.

08 1:1 Mentorship

A regular mentorship on both online and offline mode for the duration of the program. Because no two aspirants fail an essay in the same way, mentorship here is diagnostic: it identifies your particular pattern and gives you something concrete to do about it. Mentorships can be availed by booking on website or walking in to the centre.

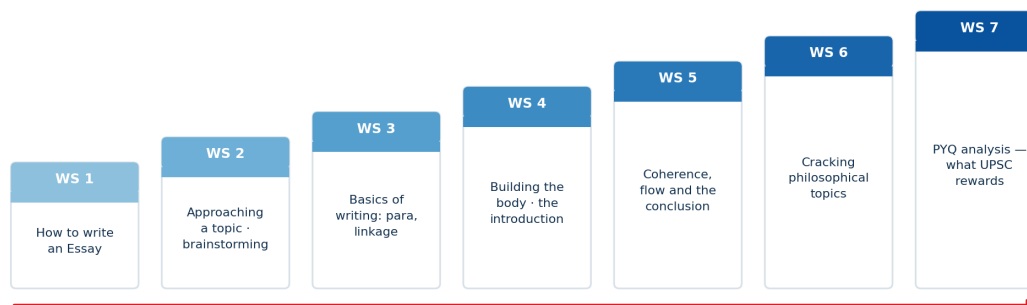
09 Test Discussions

After every test, recorded discussion to check the differential between how you wrote the essay and what could you have done better. This helps also check whether your thought process and writing skills are on the right track.

08 THE WORKSHOP LADDER

Seven Sundays. Seven skills. Each one assumes the last.

THE WORKSHOP LADDER — SEVEN SUNDAYS, SEVEN SKILLS



Workshops are not lectures about essay writing. Roughly half of each three-hour session is spent writing — opening paragraphs against a clock, brainstorming a topic in eight minutes, rewriting somebody else's conclusion. You leave with something on paper every single week.

09 THE EIGHT THEME BLOCKS

Wednesday content classes — four GS-anchored, four philosophical.

THE EIGHT THEME BLOCKS



Four GS-anchored blocks · four philosophical blocks — the two halves UPSC has asked from every single year

Our content philosophy: enough, organised, retrievable

The temptation in an essay class is to hand over three hundred pages and call it comprehensive. We do the opposite. Every theme block is built around a small, defensible set of material — and every class ends by showing you how that same material serves four or five different topics.

- **Reusability over volume.** A single well-understood example can anchor essays on education, gender, governance and development alike. We teach the redeployment, not just the fact.
- **Both halves of the paper.** UPSC has offered a philosophical and a GS-adjacent section in every recent year. Four blocks are built for each, so you are never forced into the half you did not prepare.
- **Examples, data, anecdote, quotation.** Each block delivers all four registers, because an essay that argues in only one of them reads flat however correct it is.
- **Curated, not crowd-sourced.** Quotations are chosen for whether they can carry an argument, not for whether they sound impressive. Half a dozen usable ones beat a list of sixty.

A NOTE ON PHILOSOPHICAL TOPICS

Four of the eight blocks — knowledge and wisdom, freedom and responsibility, humanity and compassion, values and morality — are deliberately abstract, and Workshop 6 is devoted entirely to them. These are the topics most aspirants avoid in the exam hall, which is exactly why they carry the least competition and the highest marginal return.

10 TESTS, EVALUATION & FEEDBACK

Twelve essays written. Ten evaluated by the team. Two you learn to evaluate yourself.

	HALF-LENGTH TESTS	FULL-LENGTH TESTS	SELF-ASSESSMENT FLTS
Number	8	2	2
Duration	90 minutes	3 hours	3 hours
Essays per test	1	2	2
Evaluated by	Evaluation team	Evaluation team	You, against the taught rubric
Turnaround	Within 5 days	Within 5 days	Same week
Followed by	Discussion + 1:1	Discussion + 1:1	Mentor review of your marking

THE SIX LENSES EVERY EGP COPY IS READ THROUGH

1	Demand decoding	Did you answer the topic UPSC set — or the one you wished it had set?
2	Structure & architecture	Introduction that earns attention, a body that builds, a conclusion that lands.
3	Dimensional spread	Social, economic, political, ethical, global, historical — how wide did you go?
4	Argument & evidence	Claims backed by examples, data, anecdote and quotation — not assertion.
5	Balance & perspective	Did you argue the other side honestly before you disagreed with it?
6	Expression & flow	Language, transitions, readability — does the examiner move easily to the end?

Essay is not evaluated on a checklist. It is read the way an examiner reads — for perspective, not for keywords.

What comes back with your copy

- **Margin comments** at the exact points where an argument slipped, a dimension was missed, or a paragraph lost the thread.
- **A band judgement across all six lenses** rather than a single number — so you can see that your structure is fine and your dimensional spread is the actual problem.
- **Two specific instructions for the next attempt.** Not “improve your examples”, but something you can execute the following Thursday.
- **Five-day turnaround**, so feedback arrives while the essay is still fresh enough for you to remember what you were trying to do.

WHY TWO TESTS ARE SELF-ASSESSED

On the day of the real exam, no evaluator is standing behind you. The ability to look at your own half-written essay and see that the third paragraph has drifted is the skill that saves papers — and it is trainable. FLT 1 and FLT 3 are written under exam conditions and then marked by you, against the same six-lens rubric your evaluators use, with your marking reviewed by your mentor. Most students find their first self-assessment is two bands too generous. By the second, it is accurate. That is precisely the point.

11 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1 I have not cleared Prelims yet. Is September too early to start Essay?

This is the most common hesitation, and it has the timing backwards. Essay is a skill paper, and skills need spaced repetition – they cannot be compressed. September to December is the only window in the CSE calendar where you have the hours to write a weekly essay properly. From January you switch to a fortnightly maintenance rhythm, and by the Mains window the skill is already yours.

Q2 Can I take the program online?

Yes. Every variant is available in both modes, and the offline and online batches run separately at the same scheduled times.

Q3 Are all twelve tests evaluated by the team?

Ten are. The eight half-length tests and two of the four full-length tests are evaluated by the team and returned within five days. FLT 1 and FLT 3 are self-assessment papers: written under exam conditions and marked by you against the six-lens rubric, with your marking reviewed by your mentor.

Q4 How does the 1:1 mentorship work?

Mentorship Sessions are scheduled around your evaluated copies and work from your Essay Progress File, so the conversation starts from evidence rather than from generalities.

Q5 Do I need to have finished my GS syllabus first?

No. The theme blocks are self-contained and are built to be read alongside first-time GS preparation. Several of our highest-scoring students took EGP during their first serious attempt.

Q6 What happens if I miss a live session?

Please confirm the arrangement with the admissions team at the time of enrolment, since it varies by variant and by mode. You will be told exactly what is available on your enrolment before you pay.

Q7 Is the program useful for State PSC essay papers?

The skills transfer directly – demand decoding, structure, dimensional spread and balance are the same everywhere. The content blocks and past-paper analysis, however, are built specifically around UPSC CSE.

Q8 How long do I retain access?

The program is valid through to Mains 2027 / August 2027, including the test archive, answer skeletons and content bank.

12 TERMS & CONDITIONS

- All fees once paid are non-refundable. The course is non-transferable to another person.
- The program is valid until Mains 2027 / August 2027.
- Each ForumIAS program is linked to a ForumIAS account with a fixed mobile number. Sharing of programs is not permitted. If candidates are found sharing programs, ForumIAS may terminate that or all program access without refund, and may initiate legal proceedings against candidates found sharing or selling such content.
- ForumIAS has full rights to close admissions as per its capacity, and may amend its schedule in case of any exigencies that may arise.
- Force Majeure: Flaviant Network Pvt Ltd ("FNPL") will deliver this program on a best-effort and good-faith basis. By subscribing to the program, you understand that in the case of a force majeure event – such as a natural disaster, calamity, outbreak of a pandemic, accident, bodily harm or sickness to any person directly involved in delivery of the program – FNPL reserves the right to modify, change or discontinue the program and shall not be liable for any financial obligation arising out of it.
- All disputes are subject to the jurisdiction of the Delhi High Court.

TALK TO ADMISSIONS

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