

Vajiram & Ravi's NEWSPAPER DISCUSSION & CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE

Course Highlights:

1. Comprehensive coverage & thorough discussion of the THE HINDU newspaper
 2. Content enrichment from other newspapers like Indian Express, Times of India & Magazines like Frontline, Yojana etc.
 3. Model Questions would be discussed as part of the class lecture for the Prelim Test & Main Exam.
 4. Imbibing the knack of selection of relevant articles from The Hindu
 5. Focus on in-depth analysis and providing inter-linkages & appendages to current issues
- Classes to be held twice a week on Tuesday & Friday, between 5:00 P.M & 7:30 P.M.
 - **Course Fee: Rs. 21,000/- Inclusive of GST**
 - Fee to be paid by:
Credit Card / Debit Card (Bank charges applicable)
or
Demand Draft favouring **“VAJIRAM & RAVI”** payable at Delhi.

1. Why a newspaper discussion class ?

In the light of changing pattern of the Civil Services examination, Newspapers and Current Affairs have acquired great prominence. The changing trend can be observed in Prelims as well as in Mains. The nature of questions has undergone a drastic change where the student needs to have in-depth knowledge and wholistic viewpoint on these issues. This is possible only by having a thorough discussion of newspaper articles and having an eye for bits and pieces of information scattered across the newspaper.

Another factor highlighting the importance of newspaper discussion is the fact that the same issue is being asked in different forms across GS MAINS papers. This requires one to fully understand the various dimensions of an issue so that it can be presented in the examination as per the demand of the question.

Ex-Last year, Urban flooding was in news because of Chennai and Uttarakhand floods. Therefore, it was asked in Civil Services Mains (2016) in GS I as well as in GS III.

"Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions.Discuss."(GS I)

"The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events."(GS III)

Also, the Main exam has evolved where questions from traditional areas have given way to questions from contemporary issues. Even the case studies asked in the GS IV (Ethics) require understanding of current issues.

Ex-case study asked in CS GS IV (2016):

Saraswati was a successful IT professional in USA. Moved by the patriotic sense of doing something for the country she returned to India. Together with some other like-minded friends, she formed an NGO to build a school for a poor rural community.

The objective of the school was to provide the best quality modern education at a nominal cost. She soon discovered that she has to seek permission from a number of government agencies. The rules and procedures were quite confusing and cumbersome. What frustrated her most was the delays, callous attitude of officials and constant demand of bribes. Her experience and the experience of many others like her has deterred people from taking up social service projects.

A measure of Government control over voluntary social work is necessary. But it should not be exercised in a coercive or corrupt manner. What measures can you suggest to ensure that due control is exercised but well meaning, honest NGO efforts are not thwarted?

This case study needed an understanding of what are NGO's, problems faced by them, measures taken by the government to improve the NGO-Government interaction. The issue of NGO's has been in news for the past 2-3 years and if one had followed the newspapers well, he/she would have encountered no issues in dealing with the case study.

Apart from GS, the class will also be helpful for the students of geography, sociology, public administration, political science and economics optional subjects where citing contemporary examples is necessary for a good score, especially in Paper-II.

It is in the backdrop of the above changes in the examination that this newspaper discussion batch has been launched.

2. Objectives of the Course.

This course seeks to improve the understanding of the student on current issues via Newspaper Discussion. Primarily, the focus would be upon extracting important pieces of information from the newspaper articles relevant for the examination and learning to put across the points in GS Mains and Essay paper.

Also, the student would understand the importance of the main issues, learn to interlink them with other topics and write a cohesive and comprehensive answer.

The course also aims at making the student memorise the data relevant for Prelims and Mains by noting the various facts presented in the newspaper.

3. Duration of class.

The classes will be held twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays for 2 1/2 hours each. The timing of the batches are as follows-

Batch-I: 5 P.M to 7:30 P.M

The classes will commence from 10th October 2017 and continue till 10th April 2018.

4. Teaching Methodology

The student is required to bring THE HINDU newspaper to the classroom. The newspapers to be discussed in the class have to be read by the student before coming to the class.

The faculty will discuss various articles from The Hindu important from the perspective of the examination. Apart from The Hindu, the faculty shall also discuss various dimensions related to news articles in The Hindu from newspapers like Indian Express, Times of India, Tribune and Wire. The faculty shall also incorporate the content from

magazines like Frontline, India Today and Yojana. ***But the student need not read the above mentioned newspapers and magazines.***

For example - In case of the Indo-Japan relations (in light of the visit of Japanese PM to India), the faculty would discuss all the relevant articles regarding the issue from the above mentioned newspapers and magazines. Thus, the student would be able to have a comprehensive view of the Indo-Japan relations.

Based on the past trend of the questions asked in the examination, the faculty would discuss model questions which might be asked in Prelims as well as in Mains.

The students are also required to bring Oxford publication's SCHOOL ATLAS to the class so that the map entries could be discussed.

Apart from the class notes prepared by the student, he/she would be provided certain handouts and current affairs booklets by the Institute.

