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India ranks 76th on WEF's global Energy Transition index; Sweden on top

WEF said India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system

India has moved up two places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index, which has ranked

115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.

Sweden remains on the top on this annual list compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three, as per its latest report released on Monday.

The WEF said energy systems have globally become less affordable and less environmentally sustainable than they were five years ago, though access to energy has improved with less than 1 billion now living without access to electricity.

It said India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.

“Despite this, India has made significant strides to improve energy access in recent years, and currently scores well in the area of regulation and political commitment towards energy transition,” the WEF said.

It suggested there was a ground for optimism regarding India despite the current outdated energy system not being ready for transition, because an enabling environment is being built to support future transition.

While India has scored low in terms of system performance (ranking 97 and 86, respectively), it ranks considerably higher when it comes to

readiness (45 and 61, respectively). Overall, India has moved up two places from 78th last year.

China is ranked even lower than India at 82nd position, though it ranks very high at seventh place in the world for regulation and political commitment.

Despite its low ranking, India is the second best in the BRICS block of emerging economies, with Brazil being the best at 46th place globally. However, India is the only amongst the five economies to improve its rank since last year.

Among major economies, the United Kingdom (UK) is ranked seventh. Singapore has been ranked thirteenth, while Germany, Japan and the US have bagged the seventeenth, eighteenth and the twenty-seventh place respectively.

Within Asia, Malaysia is ranked highest at 31st, Sri Lanka is 60th, Bangladesh 90th and Nepal 93rd.

The WEF said its index considers both the current state of the countries' energy system and their structural readiness to adapt to future energy needs.

Small economies have achieved higher scores on readiness, with the UK being the only G7 economy in the top 10.

The biggest challenge facing attempts to future proof global energy is the lack of readiness among the world's largest emitters. The 10 countries that score the highest in terms of readiness account for

a mere 2.6 per cent of global annual emissions, the study found.

“The world’s transition to secure, affordable and sustainable energy has stagnated, with little or no progress achieved in the past five years,” it said.

Across 115 economies, more people than ever before now have access to energy. However, this is offset by reduced affordability and almost no progress in making energy systems environmentally sustainable, the WEF said, while calling for urgent action on the part of policy makers and business to safeguard energy development for future generations.

It said continued use of coal for power generation in Asia, increasing commodity prices and slower-than-needed improvements in energy intensity have contributed to this year’s stagnation in performance.

The ‘transition readiness’ component of the index has taken into account six individual indicators: capital and investment, regulation and political commitment, institutions and governance, institutions and innovative business environment, human capital and consumer participation, and energy system structure.

The WEF said fossil fuels’ share of total primary energy supply at 81 per cent has been constant over the past three decades.

Also, the global CO₂ emissions are expected to have increased by more than 2 per cent in 2018, the

highest since 2014.

Consumption of coal increased in 2018, after declining for three consecutive years.

While the US has made progress in reducing the use of coal in power generation, it slipped in the rankings by four places reflecting concerns about the affordability of energy to households, and regulatory uncertainty on environmental sustainability.

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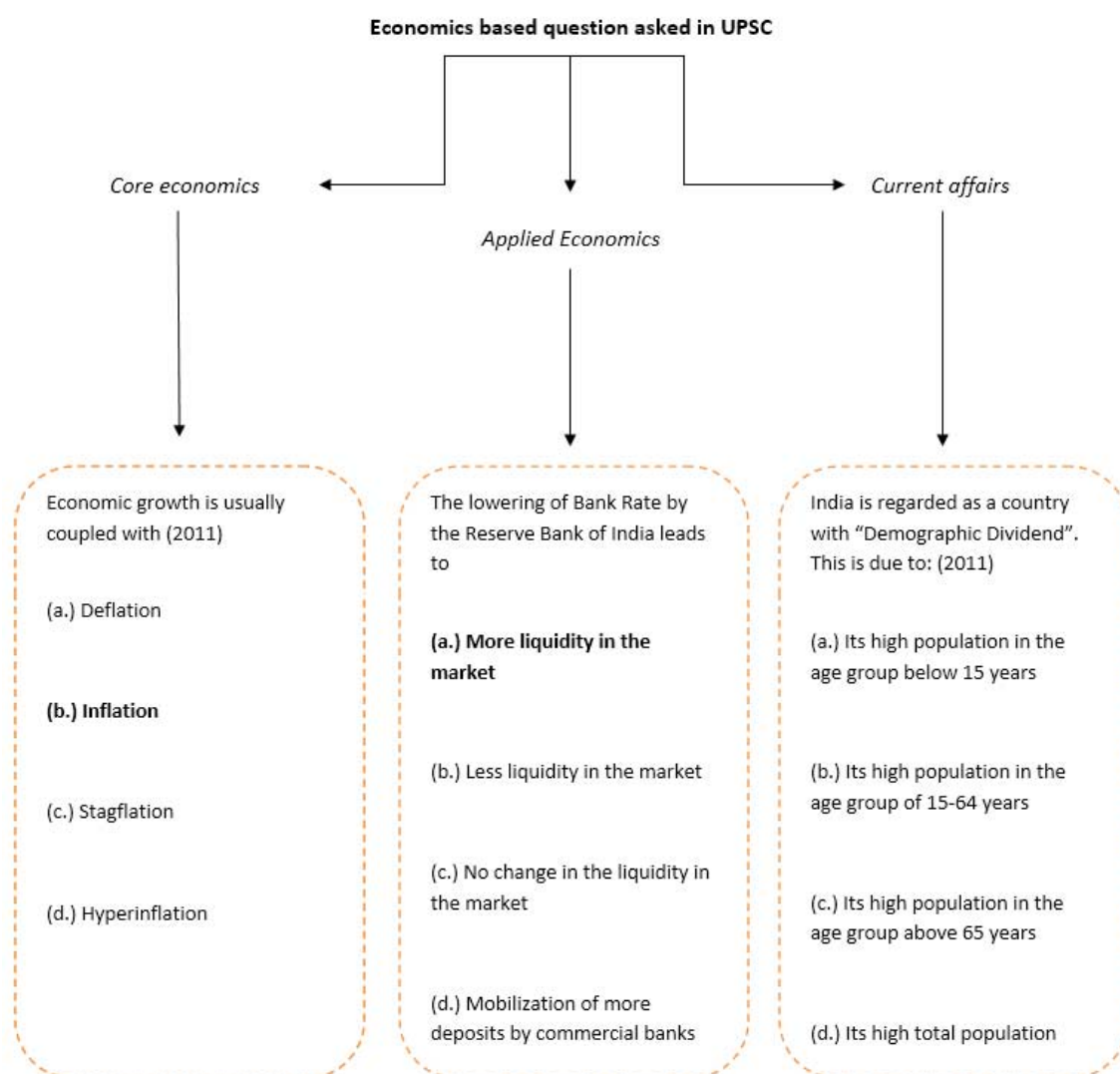
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How to prepare Economics for Prelims 2019

Hello Aspirants! This blog is dedicated to those who find Economics a confusing nut to crack in UPSC Prelims. We hope by this time you know what to read and refer for this subject. Since this is your last leg of your prelims preparation, we shall guide you what to focus on during your revision.



Core Economics

Be thorough with the basics- UPSC more than often have asked very basic terminologies from core economics. So it is well advised to go through all the basic definition in Micro and

Macroeconomics terminologies example *fiscal stimulus, Haircut, Round Tripping* etc.

o **Tip-** Try to correlate these terminologies with your newspaper readings as they are more likely to pop up in your exams. Example terms like *hedging, Bank haircuts, fiscal cliff* are frequently reported and used in newspapers.

- Go through current fiscal budget and economic surveys to get well acquainted to core concepts, definition and terminologies.
- Get good understanding of key concepts like GDP vs GNP vs NNP. Use of GDP deflator, types of inflation, types of demand (elastic vs inelastic). Questions from this part could be either or application oriented.
- Keep yourself updated with contribution to economic from each sector(primary, secondary, tertiary), trade outlook, Current account deficit, Balance of trade vs Balance of payments, about bodies controlling trade like Department of Industry and Internal Trade, WTO etc.

Applied Economics

Maximum questions appear from this category in economics and tend to be the most confusing one. Thus the best way to crack such questions is to relate it to current affairs and newspaper reading and check each option by applying core economic concepts.

If the interest rate is decreased in an economy, it will

- a) Decrease the consumption expenditure in the economy
- b) Increase the tax collection of the Government
- c) Increase the investment expenditure in the economy
- d) Increase the total savings in the economy

**This classic applied economics question looks easy but options are very closely placed and confusing. Thus one have to apply core concepts of Repo rate and its impact on economy.*

The simple strategy to get these questions right is to get holds of core concepts and apply them in real time. Newspapers more than often link and apply these concepts. Example- Venezuela crisis and Sanctions on Iran led to rise in Oil price having direct impact on Inflation rate. Forecasting increased inflation RBI MPC did not change Repo rate to curb inflation.

Thus in final leg of revision one can connect current events with core economics principles to master applied economics.

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Current Affairs

This part is seemingly easy as nature of question is direct and factual. But the issue is there is no one point source to get all current information.

The last three year pattern have shown a trend in areas from where the questions are more than likely to pop-up

○ Reports



*We assume the trend on this topic to continue. Thankfully there is a single point source from Shankar IAS Academy to go through all the reports in news and one download it **from IAS parliament website link** : <http://www.iasparliament.com/>*



*Like reports this is also an highly reliable area and availability of exhaustive notes from Shankar IAS academy makes its even more easier to complete.

International Bodies- UPSC makes sure to ask at least 1-2 questions in economics from this topic especially with respect to WTO, IMF and World Bank. Make sure to read about them in

detail

2018

- India enacted The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in order to comply with the obligations to
- ILO
- IMF
- UNCTAD
- WTO

2017

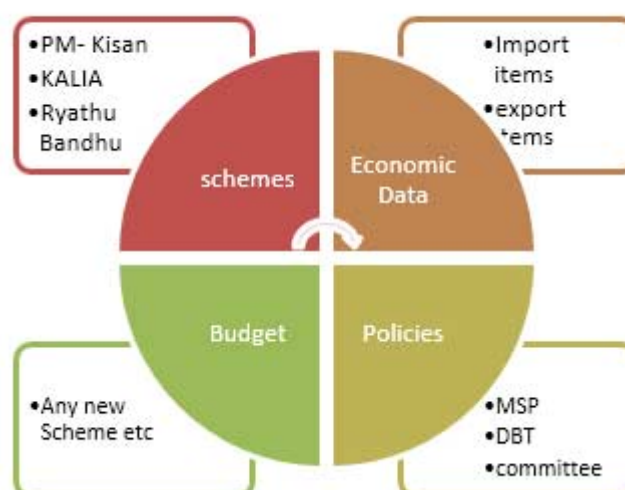
- Consider the following statements:
 1. India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
 2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
 3. TFA came into force in January 2016.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

2017

- Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and
- **(a) European Union**
(b) Gulf Cooperation Council
(c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
(d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Agriculture- A lot questions from agriculture, particularly from economic survey have asked in prelims exam.

Some important areas to focus on while revising agriculture topics for economics



Try to revise as many times as possible and take regular test to expose yourself with wide variety of questions from economics. Taking more test will help you to identify you're not so strong areas so that you can sharpen your mind for D-Day!

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What are some dos and don'ts for the UPSC prelims 2019? (Vajiram Ravi, Director at Vajiram)



Vajiram Ravi, Director at
Vajiram

Dear Aspirant,

Dos:

- **Revise, Revise and Revise:** Whatever subject and topic you are studying, make sure to revise and remember so you do not make lose marks in those topics. Without proper revision, you will probably carry more confusion into the exam hall and end up with a higher negative score that will undo all the good work that you have otherwise done.

- **Make assessment on Facts vs Concepts:** The UPSC prelims over the last few years in core subjects has become quite conceptual. So look at the last 4-5 year's question papers and make an assessment of the type of questions that are asked on each subject. For example, in Polity, you do not need to rote learn names of past Presidents, Election Commissioners etc. (Qs used to be asked on them earlier but not anymore). The Economy paper is now highly conceptual and highly scoring. So concentrate on understanding the basics. Make assessment of all subjects. If your preparation is a mismatch to the exam pattern, then you will only be wasting time.
- **Space out your current affairs preparation:** Many students make the mistake of picking up current affairs booklets in the last few weeks hoping to finish. Reality is that it will be overload of information and your memory may not be able to cope up with the sudden load. So spend a few hours everyday from now itself on current affairs and make sure again to revise regularly. Even if you are unable to finish all current affairs, do not worry. Study and revise what you can. Same applies to map work – allot a small time slot for it daily and keep revising.
- **Practice a lot of Test papers:** Make sure to pick up some test series booklets and attempt them regardless of the level of your preparation. This will help you assess the level of your preparation, your ability to finish on time, and the kind of basic errors you commit like improper reading of the questions or options etc.
- **Make a routine to be most active during exam hours:** During the last weeks leading up to the exam, make sure you are studying or practising with

intense concentration in the two slots of 9am-12pm and 2am-5pm. Your brain will get accustomed to being most active during those hours.

- **Check out the venue before the exam day:** You (or someone who's going to accompany you) must physically go and visit the exam venue once before the exam day, so that there are no surprises that day. You will also understand the best mode of transportation. Also, if you plan on going in a cab, remember that there will be huge demand for the cabs and so you should keep a buffer of 10-15 minutes.
- **Reach the venue well on time:** Make sure you reach the venue 45 min to 1 hour before the scheduled time. Last minute rush and anxiety to reach the venue could negatively impact your concentration.

Do nots:

- **Do not be afraid:** The paper is same for everyone. Trust your preparation and give your best. Any anxiety before or during the exam will hurt your performance. Close your eyes, shut out everything and take deep breathes for a minute to find calmness. Even if at first look, the paper looks tough and you feel you know nothing, do not get scared. Keep calm and go through the paper question by question and you will find ample number of questions that you can answer.
- **Do not think you are unprepared or under-prepared:** Your preparation is an objective reality and cannot change on the day of the exam. Once you decide to give the paper, do not let thoughts of your preparation enter your mind. Focus only on what you know and make a smart attempt of the paper.
- **Do not lose momentum going into the exam:** You need

to be concentrating and studying as much time as you can in the days leading up to the exam. The mental state leading up to the exam is very important.

- **Do not leave OMR sheet filling to the end:** Students often ignore the fact that filling OMR sheet not only takes time but is the most important part of the prelims. If you do not want to go to the OMR sheet after every question, make sure you fill it up after every 45-50 minutes at least. This will not only make sure you do not lose out for not filling OMR sheet but also help you plan your paper better towards the end. Also, while filling OMR sheet, make sure to read out the number of question in your mind; serial filling without looking at question numbers could lead to a big tragedy.
- **Do not make mistakes in attendance sheet:** You will need to fill an attendance sheet during the exam where you also will have to fill out circles. Be very careful and it only takes 1-2 minutes. Although, the exam centers help you if you make a mistake, it will not only lose you time but also create additional anxiety. It is quite a common scene to see students making mistakes in exam sheets. So, be very careful.
- **Do not leave any question before looking at the options:** Make sure to read at least once all questions and options. There will always be 2-3 questions which you can answer just by reading the questions and options carefully. Even with minimal information, you will be able to eliminate 2-3 options.
- **Do not over-attempt:** Do not ever think you will have to attempt a predetermined number of questions. You will be able to make a mental assessment on how

difficult the paper is after having attempted the paper. If the paper looks very tough and your preparation has been good, then attempting around 70 questions (in paper-I) well might also be enough. So, again, there is no fixed number but do not feel compelled to attempt like 90-100 questions just because some toppers did so.

All the best!

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