

WHAT "ON TRACK" ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE

Monthly Milestones Checklist

Your plan means nothing if you can't measure progress against it. Tick each milestone as you hit it. If you're slipping by more than 2–3 weeks, the plan needs recalibration — not panic.

Month 3

FOUNDATION TAKING HOLD

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two GS papers at 60%+ static completion | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional at 30% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing 2–3 answers daily, structure improving | <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable with one newspaper daily |

Where I actually am: _____

Month 6

PRELIMS READINESS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All four GS papers at 70%+ static | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional at 60% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 250-word structured answer in 8 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> First Prelims mock attempted, scoring 70+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PYQ analysis done for 5+ years | <input type="checkbox"/> CSAT comfort confirmed |

Where I actually am: _____

Month 9

POST-PRELIMS, MAINS MODE

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GS revision at 80%+ completion | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional at 90% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing 5–8 answers daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Essay practice started (1–2/week) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics case-study bank at 30+ cases | <input type="checkbox"/> Confident on constitutional-morality themes |

Where I actually am: _____

Month 12

MAINS DONE, INTERVIEW BEGINS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All papers attempted with time management | <input type="checkbox"/> DAF deep-dive complete |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mock interviews scheduled (8–10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion-building on current issues |

Where I actually am: _____

Recalibration trigger: behind by more than 2–3 weeks? Don't cram to "catch up." Drop low-weightage sub-topics, protect high-yield areas, and shift every milestone forward by the same 2–3 weeks. The plan adapts to you, not the other way around. (See the Crisis & Recovery sheet.)