

वर्ग: 21 अंक: 1, अप्रैल-जून 2018

सम्यक् दृष्टि

Samyak Drishti

परीक्षा
परिणाम
विशेषांक
2018



2 Rank
Anu Kumari



4 Rank
Atul Prakash



3 Rank
Sachin Gupta



6 Rank
Koya Sree Harsha



5 Rank
Pratham Kaushik



संकल्प

An organization dedicated
to inculcate social
commitment amongst
Civil Services aspirants



Musings on interview guidance for **civil services**

With nearly fifteen years of my association with "Samkalp", it should have been, for a 70 plus man like me, a routine exercise to view the interview guidance as an assembly-line processing. But fortunately, come the month of March and a phone-call from "Samkalp" to the distant Mysore in Karnataka, pumps up my energy levels and a fresh breeze starts flowing in my mind in anticipation of the joy I derive while sharing my experiences with young and bright men and women. During the guidance programme, generally, I am required to sit with young candidates on a one to one basis to improve their skills in presentation of their thoughts, structuring their answers, value additions in their communication skills, building logic to convince the U.P.S.C. board



-C.V. Gopinath

members etc. I share the emotions of the aspirants, their anxiety, fear of failure, despair to win, revelation of their family travails and their zeal to succeed. I have treasured all such experiences small or big and the light I have seen on the faces of young ones whenever I have given solutions to their dilemmas. How can I forget that significant day when an aspirant from Punjab held my hand and said "Aapke saath baithne se sakun milta hai" (Sitting with you I get tranquility). I share here some of the experiences which have rejuvenated me and make me eagerly await, come March, the telephone call from Ms. Nalini Sachdeva, our Programme Co-Ordinator. Let me narrate few indelible episodes or call them memorable experiences:

"Tell me one reason that can stop you from selection into IAS?"

- The Gujarati girl from Mumbai

In the previous year Mr. Santosh Taneja had asked me to spend some time with the girl and evaluate her. She got selected but held a lower rank and got into some allied service. The next year also she had written the examination. She had come again to Samkalp for the interview guidance programme. She sought exclusive time from me and I granted her the request. She said that she wants to get into IAS. I smiled and said whether I could be tough with her. She said she was prepared for any amount of grilling.

Virtually I grilled her on assorted and diverse topics for half an hour. She was brilliant and answered all my questions with ease and poise. Then I said let me have a final and last question, "Tell me one reason that can stop you from selection into IAS?". She came back sharply even before batting the eye, "Lack of blessings from venerable person like you can only be the reason". I got up and blessed her profusely reciting a Vedic hymn for her success. She made the grade with in top 30 ranks and she is in IAS.

The sobbing Girl from Andhra Pradesh

One evening, I saw a south Indian girl sitting on the bench with her head down in the corridors of Udaseen Ashram where Samkalp holds interview guidance programmes. As I passed by her I felt that something was wrong with that

girl. I went ahead to my room but returned and stopped near the girl and asked her whether she was feeling OK or needed any help? She gave a blank stare at me and did not respond but I could make out that she was in distress. I



put my hand on her head and asked her whether anything was wrong with her. She sobbed, could not look at me and tears rolled down her face. I said let's go to my room; she asked for what? I said she could weep more profusely. Sobbing, she followed me to my room. When she took a chair, I asked her to cry out her heart so that she could release and give vent to her emotions. When she was comfortable, I asked her what south Indian language she prefers to be spoken in. She said that she was from Andhra Pradesh and I started speaking to her in Telugu. The fear of failure was haunting her as her performance in the mock interview was not up to the mark. I asked her whether she was employed, and

she said that she was a lecturer in a college at Hyderabad. I laughed, told her that I had thought she was virtually on the foot path and if she could not clear the civil services she will go down the drain. I spoke to her soothingly and told her Puranic stories about the destiny and reminded her that she had a respectable job on hand. Spending 30-40 minutes with her I saw that she could muster courage and said that she will face the interview next day and she was ready to face the failure as per her destiny. She could not clear the exams but had no repentance. She continues to work as a lecturer and ever since we met first, she greets me every "Ugadi" (Telugu New Year) day.

Student at Coimbatore Ramkrishna Ashram

-A Nachiketa in the making

As desired by Swami Abhiramanandaji Maharaj head of Ramkrishna Ashram Coimbatore and as a part of Samkalp programme, for a group of civil services aspirants, I taught the subject of "Ethics and Morality" for five days. Away from the city, a huge campus with lot of green and pathways to walk, love and care of Swamiji, spiritual atmosphere made me feel elated. There were bright young boys and girls who had just graduated out from the universities who enthused me to extend my classes almost every day. They addressed me as "Grandpa", brought me eatables from the city, many opted to accompany me in my morning walking sessions which I utilized to tell them the scientific perspective of Upanishads, and they too presented their personal problems before me. The time I spent gave me the ambience of a spiritual retreat. Spending time with them that too in the campus of Ramakrishna University, was something like you are in close vicinity of

God. On the valedictory day, while there were expressions of joy from everyone including Swamiji, I cannot forget that boy who came to platform to speak few words. He said, "I am not bothered whether I become IAS officer or not, but Grandpa has taught us how to become good human beings in our lives. Grandpa, I assure you that I will become a good human before I become anything." I cherish those moments in my life and I have preserved the group photo with those boys and girls with the caption "Grandpa you have inspired us with your "mantras". I have realized that I am in the right track in guiding the young generation.

Well, the Samkalp aims at these objectives. It is not just an interview guidance organization, but it is an institution like a Gurukul to imbibe our values and culture and in one word it tries to put "Samskar" in the budding bureaucrats.

(The Writer is a former Sr. DDG & Ex-Officio Additional Secretary to Govt. of India, and a Distinguished Faculty Member of Samkalp)