

RUN THE RACE WITH IRRESISTABLE JOY

Prologue:-

I declare, after all that there is no enjoyment like reading.

_ Jane Austen.

Yes dear friends!

I agree with the above quote, I came to know that 'Vetri IAS Study Circle', is hosting a website and five of us are going to write about preparing civil services. I need to talk about learning and studying as well. In the process, It is very important to enjoy what we do for properly 'presenting' ourself in exams. There is a lot to be told about, what candidates should do before exam and during exam. What, they become, after the exam depends much on how do they tackle the important resource available to them, that is ' Time.' If you successfully ' manage' the time available before the exam and learn the art of ' handling' ' processing' the questions during the exam then you can be sure that success is yours.

It is essential that you get to hold on an experienced hand while you tend to tread on examination highway as a toddler. There will be speeding vehicles or competitors who may appear so. Therefore it is quite natural one may decide to act wise and catch the best sail available to swim the exam ocean. Still the major part of work of, knowing your exam, rests in your shoulder. The websites gives you syllabus and model question papers. They are like a Gymnasium where in you can train your memory muscles so that they become inexhaustible.

Principles of Preparation and Coaching:-

I strongly recommend for all competitive exam aspirants in all walks of their preparation to consult " How to Study" book by Harry Muddox. I read it after I failed in my second prelims. It has enhanced my capacity to grasp what really matters out, from the materials to be sieved through mind. This book can give an insight into how to study for different purposes, what is the study and retention techniques, how to plan, how to imagine, how to maintain a good healthy reading habit, how to focus on what is important and what is not, how to select, what can be asked in exams, how to decipher the art of predicting what will appear in question paper and how to arrest the attention of the examiner by presenting the answers in such a stunning manner. All these things are important.

One may be, so much involved in preparation, that we may completely miss the scope and weightage to be given to the presentation aspect. A good coach is one who understands the requirements of an aspirant after thoroughly analysing his or her strengths and weaknesses. That is like saying that a sports coach needs to read the runner when the athlete is reading the track. Uniform raining shower of advise, does not suit the variety of crop of aspirants. It is like different cultivation practices to be adopted for different crops.

Ticket to the Drama Theatre!

I mean to say preliminary Exam is the most ticklish of the steps in civil services exam. Because, it stops a well prepared candidate from expressing himself in mains. One cannot miss to note that, in preliminary exam we need to know what is asked, and in mains exam we may try to fit in what we know, in to, what is asked. I understand that one of my colleague writes as detailed article on this step.

Drama itself:-

A mains answer, should be able to not only speak to the examiner but also argue in favour of you to bargain maximum marks possible. It should be attractive with facts and figures processed and presented in an organised manner. Nobody can dispute that civil service aspirants prepare for more than 10 hours a day but it should be nothing less than a well orchestrated and rehearsed drama when we read the answer sheet. It should start with well known expected question. Travel through time designed moderate answers and ending with a honourable guess work. Nobody can deny that, to write a mains of UPSC / TNPSC exam is like writing our own fate. Therefore never write it for the first time. Even those who are appearing in mains exam for the first time, should have written mock exam atleast 3 times. I did so. Then only pen can run on the paper and bring accolades when the results declared. The mains answer sheet should contain well chiselled answers which were well thought over, for several times and corrected by experienced hands. If I, dwell more in to it, I will transgress in to my friend's area.

Optional Selection:-

There are multifarious questions like which optional to choose, which coaching centre to join, whether to work and study or resign and study? What about wedding, or another attempt to go before settle in life... all those questions need analyses and a completes understanding of the task in hand and strength one have. These decisions need to be taken by the candidate and not, 'for' the candidate.

Conclusion:-

To make it very crisp and complete, I dare say that, It is like a cricket match one needs to master certain techniques. Basic necessity is to love the game. I hope all of you are going to run the race with irresistible joy! It will not be out of place to tell that, I wrote a book in Tamil , ' Padi Padiyay Padi ' for the benefit of those who are interested in knowing what I have to say for my friends who aspire to ' read ' something. Wish, you good luck.