

Supreet Singh: A Civil Service Topper

UPSC Civil Service Topper speaks about his success Mantra and how he cracked the most prestigious (as well as the most dreaded) examination in the country!

Delhi-based Supreet Singh Gulati secured the second rank in IAS after four attempts. He was a software engineer in Noida and quit his cushy job for a career in the civil services. His father is Principal, Dental College, Faridabad.

“I decided to attempt the U.P.S.C. exams because a career in Civil Services offers the best opportunities to be a part of India’s development story. I was involved with voluntary organisations in college and at work. My experience here helped me take a decision in favour of the Civil Services. This was my fourth attempt. My earlier attempts did not result in any selections. I was involved in the process for nearly four years and had a small group of friends who were equally serious about this examination. My social life hardly extended beyond family, teachers and friends. They kept me really motivated throughout.

“This year, I made strategies for all the three stages of the examination. Strategies are a must since the syllabus is very vast. The crux was to be thorough. This includes lots of practice. In the examination, I devoted more time to the questions I was well-versed in rather than attempting flukes. I devoted 30-35 minutes to 15-17 questions on mental ability.

“Practicing at home proved very useful. I solved many mock tests and previous year questions making sure that I answered in an organised manner and to the point. I also tried to be thorough with my knowledge of current affairs and involved myself in discussions on the same. Leisure meant taking long walks occasionally and reading novels of my interest. In the period from November to April, the schedule isn’t that cramped and there is enough time to balance studies and leisure activities.

“My advice to future aspirants? It is natural to feel disheartened at failures and be tense at the time of examination. I have had a string of failures before I got this huge success. I have felt utterly broken many times. At such times, it is best to remember that even though Civil Services is an excellent stepping stone, it’s not an end in itself. Be in touch with near and dear ones as they can motivate you when you need it the most. Be determined, have faith in God and give it your best shot.”



[Courtesy: *India Today*]