

# KANARA COLLEGE SOCIETY KUMTA, (U.K.)

*in association with*

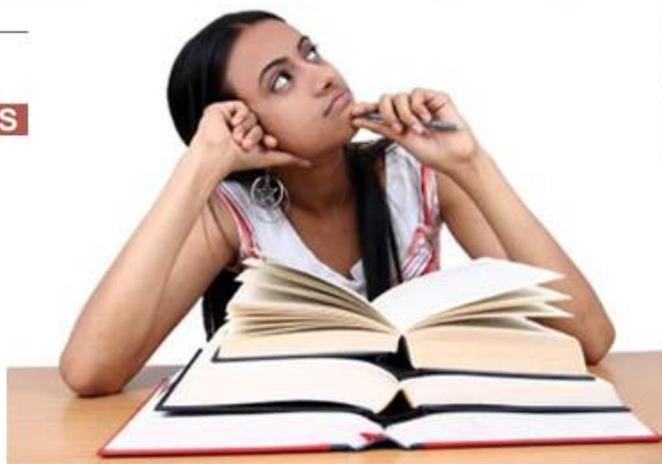


## One-Day Workshop & Special Lecture Series on

### Indian Civil Services & Competitive Exams

(Event sponsored by Shri Devadatt Kamat, Advocate, Supreme Court, New Delhi)

**A unique opportunity for aspirants to the Indian Civil Services  
& other Competitive Examinations**



held on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2013, 10.00 a.m.

At Dr. A.V.Baliga College, Kumta, Uttar Kannada

## A REPORT

## **One-Day Workshop & Special Lecture Series** on **Indian Civil Services & Competitive Exams**

The **Civil Service Examination** (CSE) is a nationwide competitive examination in India conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment to the various Civil Services of the Government of India. On an average, 5 to 6 lakh candidates apply every year and the number of candidates appearing for the examination is roughly 3 lakh. Aspirants must complete a three-stage process, with a final success rate of about 0.3% of the total applicants. It is the dream of many intelligent, hardworking students to appear and get through in the Civil Service and other Competitive Examinations. But many students are not aware of various aspects of the selection procedure.

With a view to inculcate a disciplined approach to the Civil Service Examinations, one-day workshop & special lecture series was organized for the students of Uttar Kannada District.

The event was jointly organized by two of the pioneer and premier Institutions of the District, namely, **KANARA COLLEGE SOCIETY, KUMTA** and **KANARA WELFARE TRUST, ANKOLA**.

**This event, which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2013 at Dr. A.V.Baliga College, Kumta, was sponsored by Shri Devadatt Kamat, Advocate, Supreme Court, New Delhi.**

**Shri Devadatt Kamat**, the sponsor of this event, has inherited the legacy of his grandfather and father and is actively involved in creating a new social awareness in the Uttar Kannada District through several social projects benefitting the people of Uttar Kannada – mainly those who are backward, economically and socially. In his legal career, he was involved in defending the Govt. reservation policy before the Supreme Court. He also actively worked and participated in defending the Govt. initiative in introducing the Right to Education Act, in the Supreme Court. His interest in the development of Uttar Kannada District so also the interest in upholding the rights of the lesser privileged people is abiding and deeply rooted. His deeper interest in philanthropic initiatives have prompted him to participate in various programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, rural health, youth empowerment, education for the children from backward classes & areas and the like.



The event conceived was focused at encouraging the youth from the rural areas to participate in the competitive examinations like Civil Service, etc. Wide publicity was given across all the 160+ colleges in the district regarding the event and its contours.

Aspirants to the Indian Civil Service were asked to register for the event well in advance. The total number of aspirants who participated in the event was as under.

Taluka	Participants
Ankola	34
Bhatkal	23
Haliyal & Joida	16
Honnavar	22
Karwar	41
Kumta	200
Sirsi	59
Yellapur	16
Other Places	06
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>



All the registered participants were given a special kit comprising of a folder bag, a book on the structure and syllabus of the Civil Service Examinations, notepad, pen, etc. Travel expenses (to & fro) were paid to them at the end of the event. A certificate of attendance was also issued to each participant.

## INAUGURAL FUNCTION

After the invocation by the College students, **Shri Y.V.Shanbhag**, *Secretary of Kanara College Society*, welcomed the gathering. **Prin. G.S.Bhat** of *Dr. A.V.Baliga Commerce College* introduced the guests.

**Shri S.P.Kamat**, *Advocate and Chairman, Kanara Welfare Trust, Ankola*, inaugurated the event and spoke a few words,

*"I am extremely delighted to see my young friends in this morning. Your energy and dreams are assets of the nation. Keep your smiles and rays of hope on your face always. 50 years ago I had participated in the debate competition at this very college. I was declared first in that competition. But I realized the fact that our participation in the competition is more important than success or winning the prize. I am inspired by people like Shri V.V.Bhat, Retd. IAS Officer, who is right now with us on the dais, Shri Siddharth Sharma, IFA, and Smt. Smita Vats Sharma, IIS, who are also sharing this rare moment with me. Once upon a time, about 40 years ago, I was also one of the candidates for IAS competitive examination. I got through but was offered IPS which I declined. I joined judiciary without regret.*

*Our students are talented and promising in their career. But they don't have the awareness about the opportunities available around them. They have imbibed spirit from the living species and spirit of nature which is the gift of North Kanara district. Don't think that you are underprivileged. You develop love for nature and district, which will shape your career in the years to come. IAS and IFA are the fields where you can prove your talent. Everyone is equally potential and competent to get through it. Our students have proved themselves in IT-BT areas. I request you to explore and exploit the opportunities in IAS.*

*An awareness is to be created in this regard. My son, Devadatt Kamat, is committed to create a favourable and positive environment needed to face the competitive examinations.*

*At the end of this workshop, I hope you will come out with some concrete and useful ideas. Thank you.”*



**Shri A.P.Shanbhag**, Vice-president, Kanara College Society, Kumta, delivered the presidential address.

*“Sixty five years ago when this institution was established, Kumta town was economically and educationally very backward. Education beyond Primary School and High School was unaffordable to most of the people of this area. Today this institution has grown big enough to cater to the needs of the aspirants of higher education as well as technical education.*

*Thousands of alumni of this institution have reached high positions in their life both in and out of our country. Many past students of this institution have become big businessmen, well known politicians, famous lawyers, doctors, engineers and scientists.*

*However, very few graduates from the portals of this institution have made it to IAS & IPS, though there is no dearth of talents among our students. The main reasons are lack of awareness and information among students and also lack of support & encouragement to them.*

*I hope a workshop or awareness programme of this kind will certainly help our students who aspire for IAS and IPS. I wish this workshop every success. Thank you.”*

**Shri K.V.Shetti**, *Administrative Officer of Kanara Welfare Trust* proposed the vote of thanks. The academic sessions commenced soon after this.

Following eminent personalities were the resource persons who addressed the gathering

1. **Shri V.V.Bhat** IAS *Former Secretary, Government of India, Member (Fin.), Space, Atomic Energy & Earth Commissions*
2. **Shri Sidharth Sharma** IFA *Internal Financial Advisor, President's Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi*
3. **Smt. Smita Vats Sharma** IIS *Central Public Information Officer, Indian Information Service, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi*

The deliberations were on the following main themes

- To sensitize the students about Civil Service & other Competitive Examinations
- To introduce the various aspects of Civil Service and Examinations
- To guide the students on how to prepare and get through in Indian Civil Service and other Competitive Examinations



**Shri Sidharth Sharma**, *IFA, President's Secretariat, New Delhi*, gave a lecture stating the basic structure about Civil Services, its examinations and its difficulty level. He said that learning does not come within a day or it cannot be compressed within five days. One has to start reading and learning at an early stage. He advised that one who cannot get through this exam can opt for alternative careers because it's only the beginning and not the end. He shared his experience and said that he began his career on the fertile building land of SBI which helped him to reach higher levels. He is of the opinion that ability to do good is more in Civil Services than any other services.



**Smt. Smita Vats Sharma**, *IIS, Indian Information Service, CPIO, Supreme Court of India*, sensitized and guided the students on how to answer the paper. She advised to judge the questions as a human and said that general studies will give a good sense of orientation while optional subjects will only push up. She said that it is not necessary to read heavy stuff; one can get through the examinations by reading journals, newspapers, periodicals, history, etc and by studying the trend of the question paper which will give a platform to develop oneself. She stressed on media strategy and Right to Information Act. She is of the opinion that mass media gives access to the people and makes the government to be accountable.



**Shri V.V.Bhat**, *Former Secretary, Govt. of India, Member (Finance) Space, Atomic Energy and Earth Commissions*, deliberated his view on bitter experiences of tyranny of bureaucracy. He advised the students to prepare for a marathon and not for short distance race. The examination is about the elimination of the topper class so one should not waste time and focus towards the set goal. He explained hierarchy by giving the example of Kautilya's Arthashastra.

**Shri Kurma Rao M**, *IAS, Assistant Commissioner, Bhatkal*, addressed the assembly by introducing and guiding the students on how to prepare for Civil Services and other competitive examinations. He gave examples of his batch mates and said that hard work and determination will help oneself to accept the oncoming challenges. He shared his experience and gave information about structures of examinations.



All the speakers were of the opinion that one should not go to coaching classes and to have a strategic plan to get through the exam. They answered the queries of the students, motivated, guided and left their imprint on the minds of the assembly.

If the observations of the key-note speakers were to be summed up, they would consist of the following points.

- *IAS is a difficult exam in the whole world. When we know what a difficult task we are facing, only then can we be more focused.*
- *Ideal stage to go in for the preparation is post-graduation as this juncture helps in capacity building.*
- *In the options area, choose what you are most familiar with. Your option should be your area of forte and preparation in the subject should be thorough. General Studies is the deciding factor.*
- *Civil Services are not about selection but of elimination. It is not a test of merit.*

- Preparation is very simple – just read a lot. You should be aware of everything that is happening around you. Newspapers, magazines, periodicals, journals, online content, etc. will help. Past question papers will give a fair idea of what to expect. Break everything down into sub-topics.
- In the interview, be true to yourself. Focus on your own preparation. Strategy and time management are very important.
- The values and attitude which we inculcate during the preparation of the ICS will hold you in good stead even if you are not in the Civil Service.
- Respect of your peers is most important for a civil servant.
- Continuous learning on the job is required to move up in hierarchy.
- An officer's reputation precedes him. The first five years will determine your career; how you behave with seniors, juniors and the political brass.
- The future of this country lies in the hands of the youth. The rural youth who travel to attain education have the fire and motivation to excel.
- The best officers are those who delegate and build/empower their subordinates.
- If we are able to realize our inner strength then we won't be afraid of those who are below us.
- Be prepared for the unpredictability of the exams. Take every variable into account and things will fall in place.
- मन का हो तो अच्छा, ना हो तो और भी अच्छा – If you don't make it, life probably has something better in store for you.

## VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

After the prayer by the College students, **Shri Muralidhar Prabhu**, *Kumta*, welcomed the gathering. **Prin. V.K.Hampeholi**, *Dr. A.V.Baliga Arts & Science College*, introduced the guests to the audience. Some of the students who participated in the workshop shared their thoughts and opinions about the event.



The Guest of Honour, **Shri Devadatt Kamat**, *Advocate, Supreme Court, New Delhi*, and sponsor of this event shared his thoughts -

*“On my part it has been a pleasure and a privilege to spend the whole day with you. India is at a critical juncture at the social, economic and political levels. We have many problems both at the micro and macro level. But there is one ray of hope, a silver lining which can be the solution to all these problems.*

*A singular solution. The power of YOUTH, the power of YOU. Today, the youth form 66% of India's population. If you want, you can change this country in your lifetime. With this kind of a strength, if channeled properly, India can beat all the countries hollow. Let me refer to Swami Vivekananda's great saying 'Give me a handful of youths who are sincere to their backbone and I will change this country'. You can change not only the country but also the entire world with your skilled and intellectual man power. Civil Service is the backbone of any developed country. This small workshop of ours had two objectives – one is of course to encourage you, to give some inspiration to you to come forward and join the Civil Services. The second objective and the most important one is to give Mother India those handful of men and women who are sincere to their backbone who can serve her and bring her out of her present state. Our distinguished speakers have given you many insights and guidelines on how to go forward in the Civil Services. Three things are common for every successful life: (1) Perseverance (2) Hard work (3) Heroic behaviour. These three things are essential for excellence in life. With these three mantras, we can attain and achieve great heights of success and be worthy sons of our country. We have many debts; debts to our parents, our teachers, society and the greatest debt – to our motherland. Try to deliver your service remembering the debt on your shoulder. Thank you. Jai Hind."*

**Shri A.P.Shanbhag**, Vice-president, Kanara College Society, Kumta, wished the students well in life and hoped that this workshop had been useful to them in strengthening their aspirations.

The chief guest on the occasion, **Shri V.V.Bhat**, Former Secretary, Govt. of India, Member (Finance) Space, Atomic Energy and Earth Commissions, delivered his address.



*"First of all, I would like to compliment and congratulate the organizers for holding an imaginative program of this kind. I have been suggesting to Colleges and Universities to conduct a residential workshop, maybe for 4-5 days or a one-day program like this, wherein the interested students can get together and can have an occasion for interaction with experts, civil servants and the younger civil servants who have recently succeeded in the examinations. It is heartening to note that Kanara College Society and Kanara Welfare Trust have conducted such kind of a program on their own without waiting for anybody's suggestion. I hope you will be repeating such an event every year. For all of you who have come, this is a very nice occasion where lots of things have been packaged together. You have been made familiar to the syllabus of the competitive*

*examinations and therefore have been given the easy access for the first step on the road. Let us have a sense of involvement and of contribution. I am deeply appreciative of the contribution of Mr. Devadatt Kamat on his oath towards educational and social development of this place. I wish you all the best.”*



**Shri S.P.Kamat**, Advocate and Chairman, Kanara Welfare Trust, Ankola, delivered the presidential address.

*“My message to my young friends would be that don’t try to make the Civil Service or the examinations the only saga of your life. Civil Service is only one avenue that is available. There are hundreds and thousands of avenues that are open to you in life. Never restrict your choice. Never narrow down your goals. Keep them wide open and keep them focused. You are fortunate enough to explore these possibilities in the days to come. Thank you very much. God bless you.”*

**Dr. G.G.Hegde**, Kumta, proposed the vote of thanks.

The event formally concluded with the recitation of the National Anthem.