

Topper's Talk by Soumya Ranjan Dash (Rank 136) and Shivam Yadav Rank (121)

16th June, 2023 at 1:00 PM

STRATEGY SHARED BY SOUMYA RANJAN DASH:

- **Brief Journey about Preparation:**
- Initially focussed on the foundations and important topics.
- Cleared prelims and mains in the first attempt itself.
- Took revision class between prelims and mains.
- Many mock tests to be practiced and test series too.
- Personal marks as scored in various stages of prelims and mains are highlighted.
- **Prelims Approach (02:02 PM)**
- Prepare the content+ and the conceptual clarity should be focussed upon.
- Few things should be crammed, like-Ramsar sites.
- Utility of PYQ and Syllabus gives an idea about the exam pattern.
- Practising regularly is key to doing well.
- Practise approach- Vision test series and another test series too.
- Test should help us to build our confidence level.
- Revising the test is important too.
- MCQ option selection approach highlighted on the whiteboard.
- Avoid repeating mistakes as done in a test while attempting the next test.
- Analysis of the test attempted is important, especially the questions that went wrong.
- Conceptual clarity and depth of knowledge of topics needed.
- Note making- read and underline the content, revision is important.
- Sources- core sources should be focussed first from where the number of questions is often asked.
- Base knowledge is the same for prelims and mains.
- **Mains Approach (02:29 PM)**
- Followed VisionIAS Monthly Magazine.
- 10 Mark questions- 6 to 7 minutes.
- 15 Mark questions- 10 to 11 minutes.
- Standard answer framework (introduction- body- conclusion).
- Wrong interpolation and interpretation of questions should be avoided.
- Approaches:
- Approach 1- good answer+ taking more time.
- Approach 2- loose answer+ limited time.
- Started from taking 4 hours and gradually moved to 2 hours 50 minutes.
- Try to improve the self-score in answers subsequently.

- **Current Affairs (03:08 PM)**
- Source- The Hindu, VisionIAS Monthly Magazine, and news analysis.
- The Hindu important pages- Text and context, Editorial, opinion and archive, first page, news, world, and local news.
- Add a few important points from a newspaper in notes and revise them.
- **Essay (03:18 PM)**
- Essay is three step process- Interpretation- brainstorming and writing.
- Interpretation of philosophical essays will make it a general study topic.
- Interpretation of literal meaning and underlying meaning.
- Introduction (1-1.5 pages), body (8.5 pages), conclusion(1 page).
- The handwriting should be legible.
- Transition from one paragraph to another should be in flow.
- **Optional subject (03:37 PM)**
- Electrical engineering.
- Choose as per your educational background if studied well in college.
- Interest matters while choosing an optional subject.
- **Interview (03:41 PM)**
- Revise the already studied content.
- Mock interview for how to face board and few questions get repeated.
- Prepare DAF properly.
- Verbal and Nonverbal communication should be well presented.
- Interview preparation started from day one since one starts preparing for the exam.

STRATEGY SHARED BY SHIVAM YADAV:

- **Sources:**
- Polity- Laxmikant, class 11th polity book.
- History- Ancient and Medieval, Tamil Nadu board.
- Art and culture- Nitin Sangwan.
- Modern history- spectrum.
- Geography- class 11th and 12th NCERT, Mrunal.
- Environment- Shankar IAS selectively.
- Economy- had a background from it so didn't refer to any book.
- Current affairs- linked to the syllabus.
- Prelims- followed The Hindu + daily VisionIAS current.
- Monthly Magazine.
- Yearly- PT 365 (IAS PSC factory).
- Focus mainly on static.
- Few topics discussed- AI, India-US defense, and Railways.

- **Test series (04:15 PM)**
- VisionIAS test series- sectional test for revision.
- Test series mainly for time management.
- Revision is very important.
- Try to revise the limited content multiple times.
- Calmness is very important while attempting the paper.
- CSAT- give equal weightage for all the sections like reading comprehension, reasoning, and maths.
- Revision is very important and revision continuously is important.
- Keep the content less and revise them.
- Previous Year's Question is very important.
- **Mains (04:50 PM)**
- Essay - followed the argument and reasoning-based approach for the essay.
- Written and practiced PYQ essays.
- Used anecdotes to start the essay.
- In mains referring to the syllabus is very important.
- Referring to PYQ helps to frame the structure of the main answer.
- Society- VisionIAS value-added material.
- The pages one should try to fill with the relevant content.
- Luck is a very important factor in UPSC.
- Example substantiate the statement and should be mentioned.
- Use simple language.
- Importance of current affairs as value addition is more in GS paper 2.
- Use different symbols, signs, highlighters, and underline while revising the notes/standard box.
- Try to interlink the content of one paper to other papers too.
- Science and technology portion can be covered in newspaper
- Application and examples for the topics like nanotechnology and biotechnology.
- Basic approach to the GS paper with a discussion of PYQ was explained.
- Solve PYQ for ethics paper.
- Mention the bigger picture at the start of the case studies.
- **Optional (06:16 PM)**
- Source- Shubra maam notes.
- Focused more on different schools of thought and examples.
- Focused more on less content and multiple revisions.

The toppers talk was completed.