

“Competition Success Review Provides Unique Content, Toppers’ Strategy And Current Affairs Material”

—Satyam Gandhi (10th Rank in CSE 2020-21)

In an exclusive interview to *Competition Success Review (CSR)*, Mr. Satyam Gandhi speaks his mind about his journey, concerted preparation and his motivation to become an IAS officer.

CSR : What is the secret of your success in the Civil Services Examination?

Satyam Gandhi : The combination of dedication, persistence and hard work is the secret of my success.

Q. How much time do you think one requires for serious preparation for this examination?

A. At least 1.5 years are required for serious preparation.

Q. Which journals/newspapers have you been reading for the General Studies and other papers?

A. Apart from the *Competition Success Review*, *General Knowledge Today* and *CSR Year Book*, I have been reading *The Hindu* and *Indian Express* newspapers and *Foreign Policy Magazine*, *ORF*, *The Diplomat* and *Mint*, etc.

Q. Do you remember any remarkable incident in your life that motivated or prompted you to go for a career in the Civil Services?

A. I did a Rural Development Internship in my 1st year of college with DRDA, Ranchi. That motivated me to join Civil Services.

Q. *Competition Success Review*, the largest selling youth magazine in English for 35 years, has been extremely helpful because

A. It provides unique content, toppers’ strategy and current affairs material.



“Dedication, plan-wise study and consistency have been my strong points”

—Satyam Gandhi, IAS Topper 2020-21

Q. How did your parents, family and friends contribute to your success?

A. My parents took loan for me to fund my studies. I also got financial help from my friend Harsh. They always motivated me to work hard.

Q. Had you not been selected in the Civil Services Examination, what would have been your reaction? Which other service/career would have you gone in/opted for?

A. I would have tried again. Otherwise I would have appeared for RBI Grade B Exam.

Q. How do you visualise your success?

A. It is the result of my dedicated hard work. I want to work in rural development sector in future.

Q. What were your strong points which enabled you to achieve spectacular success in the Civil Services Examination?

A. Dedication, proper plan-wise study and consistency have been my strong points.

Q. What was your Optional at the Civil Services Examination?

A. Political Science & International Relations.

Q. How many attempts had you made earlier before you got selected?

A. This was my 1st attempt.

Q. What was your criterion for the selection of the Optional subject?

A. My interest in the subject and resources available in the market.

Q. How did you prepare for your compulsory papers?

A. I referred to grammar books and went through past years' papers for English, Hindi. For GS papers, I made comprehensive hand written notes for every topic in the syllabus.

Q. What is your impression about the Interview Board?

A. Interview Board was very cordial. They asked all questions from DAF. Some current affairs questions were also asked.

Q. How do you visualise the role of *Competition Success Review* in moulding the careers of the youth?

A. *Competition Success Review* has played a huge role in building the base of my General Knowledge. I have been reading it since school times.

Q. How did *Competition Success Review* help you in your preparation for the interview?

A. *Competition Success Review* provides interview transcripts and current affair articles which helped me in interview preparation.

Q. What is your opinion about *Competition Success Review*?

A. It is a wonderful magazine that provides all content at one place. It is very helpful in understanding different concepts of different subjects.

BIODATA

- ❑ **Name :** Satyam Gandhi
- ❑ **Educational Qualification :** BA(H) - Political Science graduate
- ❑ **School :** Kendriya Vidyalaya, RAU Pusa, Bihar
- ❑ **College:** Dyal Singh College (M), Delhi University
- ❑ **Awards :** College Gold medallist and Best Photographer Award

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**Satyam Gandhi,
IAS Topper 2020-21**

Q. Since when have you been reading *Competition Success Review*?

A. I used to read it in school days. I also read CSR during college days.

Q. Did your father and/or mother also read *Competition Success Review* when they were of your age? If so, who read and when?

A. I am not aware about that.

Q. What is your opinion about *General Knowledge Today*?

A. It provides very good content regarding General Knowledge. It is helpful to build foundation of further higher level knowledge.

Q. To prepare for this Civil Services Examination, did you join any Coaching Institute(s)? If so, name them.

A. Yes, Vajiram and Ravi for GS and Shubra Ranjan IAS PSIR Crash Course.

Q. What do you think is a better way of preparation between selective intensive study and wide extensive study?

A. Wide extensive study for Prelims selective intensive study for Mains.

Q. Is this pattern of the exam appropriate for selection? Would you recommend any other improvement?

A. I think the pattern of examination is appropriate for selection.

Q. Do you feel that there should be no restriction on the number of attempts?

A. Restriction on number of attempts is necessary.

Q. We have been awarding CSR Gold Medal to top 50 Rank Holders of CSE who have been our readers. Do you think that our gesture has been a source of inspiration for the Civil Services aspirants?

A. Yes. Civil Services aspirants get motivated after reading about success story of toppers in CSR.

Q. We have been publishing essays every month under Current Issues and CSR Essay Contests and CSR Super Brain Youth Contest by adding eight more pages to encourage our readers not only to write better, but also to know what the top competitors could be writing. Besides, we offer CSR Gold Medal & Trophy to the winners of the CSR Super Brain Youth Contest. Is this focus-oriented approach helpful for the IAS aspirants?

A. Yes, I regularly used to solve Mock Tests published in CSR.

Q. How do you think *Competition Success Review* could be more useful to the candidates appearing in the Civil Services and various other competitive examinations?

A. By publishing monthly Quiz Contest, and dedicated material for GS paper.

Q. Do you think that the UPSC needs to be more transparent in its examination and evaluation?

A. UPSC is very transparent in its examination and evaluation.

Q. What is your advice to the future aspirants?

A. Work hard, have a plan, study 8-10 hours daily and be consistent. **CSR**