

Department of Political Science **Srikrishna College**

Report on Seminar: “Inclusive Training: Making Civil Services Accessible to All”

Inaugural Session: The seminar opened with traditional rituals and dignitary addresses:

Lamp Lighting & Felicitation: A ceremonial lamp lighting with Vedic chanting symbolized the launch, and guests were honored.

Welcoming Remarks: Shri Anup Kumar Bhadra (Governing Body President) and Dr. Sukdeb Ghosh (Principal) highlighted the college's commitment to student welfare.

Key Addresses: Chief Guest Sri Surajit K. Purkayastha, IPS (Retd.), **Chairman, Satyendranath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre, Government of West Bengal & Former Director General of Police, Government of West Bengal**, spoke on the importance of *inclusive governance*. Special guests, academics, and Civil Service Mentor, Amit Kumar Bose, Dr. Arindam Roy, and Dr. Pratip Chattopadhyay, discussed how diverse representation strengthens the civil services. They emphasized that preparatory support must reach underrepresented groups.

Interactive Q&A: Aspirants shared their experiences. Panelists acknowledged challenges like a lack of local coaching and pledged to explore solutions.

Vote of Thanks: Sri Binoy Biswas (Assistant Professor of Political Science) thanked speakers and participants, reiterating that today's discussions should lead to action.

Technical Sessions: The afternoon comprised expert talks on key themes. Main topics were:

Mental Health & Motivation: Bimal Krishna Roy (retired Deputy Secretary, Govt. of India) stressed that UPSC preparation demands *mental resilience*. Studies note the exam's high difficulty causes stress, anxiety and self-doubt. Aspirants must cope with long, isolating study schedules; without support, morale can falter. The speaker recommended stress-management strategies (e.g., regular exercise, balanced rest) and peer counseling. Emphasizing that “mental health plays a vital role. He urged family and mentors to encourage candidates so setbacks become learning experiences.

Civil Services Exam Overview: Mihir Biswas (WBLRO, alumnus) and **Mr. Pronob Sarkar, Visiting Faculty, George Telegraph Training Institute, Kolkata (Comitative Examinations)** outlined the **three-stage UPSC CSE process**. First, the *Preliminary Exam* filters 10,000+ applicants. Qualified candidates enter the *Main Exam*, a nine-paper written test. Finally, the *Personality Test (Interview)* assesses leadership and decision-making. Each stage is highly

competitive and cumulative. He noted that exam rules reserve seats (e.g., 15% SC, 7.5% ST, 27% OBC, 10% EWS) but stressed that *preparation* – not just quotas – is key. The discussion underscored the need for strategic planning (time management, answer-writing practice) and persistence over multiple attempts.

Government and Institutional Support: Speakers also highlighted existing schemes and local efforts to make training inclusive. For example:

Minority Empowerment: The *Naya Savera* scheme provides free UPSC coaching to minority community students. Similarly, *Nai Udaan* funds minority candidates who clear prelims to cover coaching and exam fees. These programs aim to “increase the representation of minorities in the Civil Services.”

SC/ST/OBC Coaching: A central free-coaching program explicitly seeks to “provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged SC and OBC candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations.

Alumni Mentorship: The college’s alumni (many now serving in admin) volunteered as mentors. Their talks and one-on-one counseling gave aspirants practical tips.

Valedictory and Conclusion

In conclusion, Dr. Arijit Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, gently summarized the key takeaways of the day, stressing that awareness must gradually transform into meaningful action. He humbly highlighted that ensuring *equitable opportunities for all aspirants* is a collective journey that requires ongoing cooperation and shared commitment.

The one-day programme proved to be a thoughtful platform for shedding light on the challenges faced by marginalized aspirants of the civil services. Participants left with a deeper understanding of the importance of addressing mental health concerns, bridging the digital divide, and utilizing existing government schemes to build a more inclusive framework for civil services training.

He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Hon’ble Principal and the respected President of the Governing Body for their continuous encouragement and support. He also warmly thanked the Alumni Association of Srikrishna College for their meaningful cooperation, as well as the esteemed faculty members of the Department of Computer Science for their valuable technical assistance.



YouTube link of this Programme: <https://www.youtube.com/live/00PJ1rWx6UM>

