

Lecture on “The Preparation for Competitive Exams”

Mr. R. Siva Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science,
Presidency College, Chennai- 600 005.

The Department of History, Loyola College, organized a special lecture on “The Preparation for Competitive Exams” in the Lawrence Sundaram Hall on 26th September, 2017 between 10.15 am and 1.15 pm. Mr. Siva Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Presidency College, Chennai was the Chief Guest for the day.



Ms. R. Durga, M.Phil Research Scholar



Dr. A. Arputha Selvi, President, History Association

The program began by invoking the blessings of god followed by the Deliverance of Welcome Address by Ms. R. Durga, an M. Phil research scholar from the department. The Guest Speaker was felicitated by Dr. A. Arputha Selvi, President, History Association with a memento as a token of respect. The chief speaker was introduced to the gathering by Mr. Prasanna, III B.A (Shift I). The Speaker is the co-founder of the Catalyst IAS academy apart from being a soft skill trainer.



Mr.Prasanna, III B.A (Shift I)



Delivering Lecture

The speaker was then invited to deliver the lecture, which was spread across two sessions with a break in between. The speaker chose to emphasize on two main components of Competitive exams in the country namely the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) respectively. The speaker served as a ray of optimism for the students by ushering in the success stories of two IAS officers, T.N. Seshan and Veerappa respectively. The former, a 1963 batch officer later became the Chief Election Commissioner of India in 1986. Before elaborating on the main subject of the lecture, he explained the placebo effect which served as an appetizer before the main course. He also drew inspiration from the words of Graham Ford and Wright Brothers to motivate the students.



Audience

Followed by the bouts of motivation, the speaker threw light on the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and stressed on the intricacies of it, such as the Qualifications, Number of Attempts, Reservations, Cut-off marks and the total number of services which comes under it. He also elaborately discussed on the Exam Cycle which takes an entire year to complete. He made the inquisitive students learn how to apply for the exam. He passed on a list of sources to refer for preparation to the staff members from whom the students could collect. The students listened vividly when he explained the marking system for the exam. He instructed the students to follow the three R's- Read, Revise, Recollect, required to succeed in the exams. He wanted the students to stick to the basics and be consistent in whatever endeavor they undertook. He preached the importance of having Conceptual Clarity to the listeners. He maintained that the Blue Print Approach was necessary to gauge the mindset of the question paper setters. He explained in detail the Preliminary, Mains and Interview part of the examinations. Overall, the Lecture was highly Informative and Educative to the aspiring and ever-enthusiastic students of the department. The speaker made it clear that the main objectives of the exams were to unearth rough diamonds of the country to carry out the tedious Bureaucratic Business of the land. The exams, in his words, were meant not only to the elite sections of the society but to everyone in the country. He finally concluded by stating that the exams were tough but not impossible to crack.



Interaction



John Paul I M.A (Shift II)



Kishore I B.A (Shift II)



Chandru III B.A (Shift I)



Mahesh III B.A (Shift I)



Kanishkar I B.A Economics (Shift I)



Prasanna III B.A (Shift I)



Keerthivasan II B.A (Shift I)



Vidyadharan III B.A (Shift I)

This lecture was followed by an interactive session with the speaker. The Highly motivated students raised a variety of questions to the speaker to which he answered with unwavering enthusiasm. Overall, the speaker was extremely happy with the response made by the students.



John Paul I M.A (Shift II)

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Mr.M.Gokul, III B.A (Shift II).Mr.John Paul, I M.A (Shift II) was at his witty-best as the Master of Ceremony for the program.