

### **Umesh Kumar (IAS Officer)**

Umesh Kumar's journey into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) began from a background in engineering. Without a family history in civil services, he transitioned from a career in the tech sector to government, motivated by the challenges and opportunities the civil services provided. Despite limited preparation time, Umesh Kumar's disciplined approach led to success in the competitive exam. He emphasized the rigorous demands of the role, reflecting on how he managed large responsibilities at a young age, such as overseeing a transportation company with 7,000 buses when he was only 32. Kumar highlighted that the civil service environment is dynamic, with officers constantly adapting to different situations. He noted that while increased social media presence has brought more public scrutiny, this visibility can sometimes lead to focusing more on images than real, impactful work. Looking forward, he believes that the essence of civil services—responsibility, authority, and decision-making—will remain unchanged, though the sector will continue to adapt to modern challenges. His advice to aspiring civil servants is to stay focused on their goals and approach their work with dedication, emphasizing the unique opportunities the IAS offers to create positive change in society.

### **Raj Tilak (IFS Officer)**

Raj Tilak, currently an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, started his career in the private sector as an engineer. He realized that the corporate world primarily focused on financial gain, which led him to pursue a role where he could make a more meaningful social impact. Joining the IFS allowed Raj Tilak to contribute at a grassroots level, with his career taking him through varied postings, from rural areas to urban hubs like Mumbai. He spoke candidly about the challenges of working in diverse environments, including dealing with community conflicts, political pressures, and constant scrutiny from media and social groups. Tilak emphasized that the role of a civil servant has evolved with the rise of social media, which has made public officials more accountable and transparent and increased the job's complexities. Reflecting on the future of civil services, Raj Tilak is confident that the need for impartial, fair, and service-oriented governance will continue. However, he acknowledged that with growing public expectations and technological advancements, civil servants must adapt to provide quicker and more efficient services. His advice to those aspiring to join the civil services is to be clear about their motivations, ensuring their goal is service-driven, and to be prepared for a challenging yet rewarding journey.

### **Avaneesh Tiwari (IRS Officer)**

Avaneesh Tiwari's decision to join the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) was influenced by his father's background in civil service. Initially planning to study abroad, he had a change of heart during the application process, realizing he wanted to serve his country. He spoke about the personal and emotional challenges faced during the preparation phase, mentioning how life's unpredictable events, such as family health issues, can make the journey difficult. Tiwari shared the importance of patience and resilience, recounting how support from loved ones was crucial. He believes the future of civil services lies in playing a more facilitative role rather than just a regulatory one. According to him, civil servants should aim to simplify processes for businesses and the general public, focusing on efficiency and ease of access. Avaneesh Tiwari's advice for future aspirants is to be sure about their reasons for choosing this path. He stressed that civil services should not be pursued for status or financial gain, but as a commitment to serve and improve the nation. With the right mindset and a sense of purpose, he believes one can navigate the demanding nature of the job and make a real difference.