

Civil Services Forum

Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi

Annual Academic Report

Tenure 2025–26

A compiled record of speaker sessions, webinars, competitions, and academic initiatives conducted by the Civil Services Forum



Table of Contents

Speaker Sessions, Webinars, and Academic Initiatives

1. UPSC Mains Answer Writing Webinar
2. Interactive Session with IPS Anna Sinha
3. Biodiversity and Disaster Management Quiz
4. CSF × Vijetha IAS Webinar: Mastering Optional Selection & General Strategies for UPSC Success
5. Chat with Bureaucrat: IAS Rishita Gupta
6. Pathshala Series
7. Chat with Bureaucrat: IAS Sruthii R (AIR 18, UPSC 2025)
8. UPSC Mentorship Session

Adhyayan '26 — CSF Annual Cultural Fest

9. Speaker Session — “Beyond the Badge”
10. Kalpana — The Civic Canvas
11. Vimarsh — Writing the State
12. Samvaad — Ethics in Expression
13. Vichar — Policy Presentation Competition
14. Closing Ceremony

Conclusion



Speaker Sessions, Webinars, and Academic Initiatives

1. UPSC Mains Answer Writing Webinar

Organized by	PreppIAS in collaboration with the Civil Services Forum (CSF), Kamala Nehru College (KNC)
Date	17 July 2025
Mode	Online (Webinar)
Duration	50 minutes

Introduction

In a continued effort to bridge the gap between knowledge acquisition and its application in UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation, PreppIAS, in collaboration with the Civil Services Forum (CSF) of Kamala Nehru College, hosted an insightful webinar focused on “Answer Writing for UPSC Mains: From Reading to Evaluation.” The session attracted aspiring civil service candidates from across the country, particularly those seeking to enhance their Mains strategy for the 1750-mark written segment, which is critical in determining one's final service allocation.

Objective of the Webinar

The primary goal of the webinar was to provide a structured roadmap for aspirants to transition from passive learning to active answer writing. The emphasis was laid on the application of knowledge, the development of structured notes, and building a disciplined approach to writing and self-evaluation.

Key Themes Discussed

- **Reading for Application, Not Just Knowledge:** the session underscored how PYQs (Previous Year Questions) reflect UPSC's dynamic question trend and help identify priority areas, and encouraged a shift from passive reading to active engagement with concepts.
- **Note-Making Strategies:** the need for structured, concise notes aligned strictly with the UPSC syllabus, avoiding information overload and focusing on exam-relevant, reusable points through templating.
- **Answer Writing Practice:** identified as the most crucial aspect of Mains preparation, with focus on the Introduction-Body-Conclusion (IBC) structure, syllabus keywords, real-life examples and case studies, and clarity and coherence.
- **Evaluation and Feedback:** regular self-evaluation and peer or mentor feedback, with iterative improvement through answer rewriting and refinement.

Common Struggles Faced by Aspirants

- **Lack of Understanding:** difficulty expressing concepts in one's own words due to shallow conceptual clarity; advised to practice explaining concepts as if teaching someone new, using real-life examples and analogies.
- **Poor Syllabus Linkage:** many aspirants fail to directly relate answers to syllabus points; advised to echo the language of the syllabus and tag each major point with the related keyword.
- **Unstructured Notes:** without a clear format, revision and retention suffer; advised to use mindmaps, flowcharts, and point-wise summaries.
- **Limited Practice:** sporadic or directionless answer writing leads to underperformance; regular practice with focus on quality, structure, and keywords was advised.

Key Takeaways

- Templatization and use of syllabus-based keywords significantly enhance answer quality.
- Daily answer writing with a focus on quality over quantity is better than occasional, lengthy practice.
- Real-life applications, examples, and linking current affairs to static topics increase the relevance and depth of answers.
- Structured content intake, aligned with the demands of answer writing, should be prioritized over random topic coverage.

Conclusion

The webinar successfully demystified the UPSC Mains preparation process by emphasizing discipline, strategy, and consistency. Participants left with a clearer understanding of how to transform their preparation from content-heavy learning to exam-ready writing. The collaborative initiative by PreppIAS and the CSF Society of KNC proved to be a highly valuable resource for serious aspirants aiming to secure a top rank in the Civil Services Examination.

2. Interactive Session with IPS Anna Sinha

Organized by	Civil Services Forum (CSF), Kamala Nehru College
Speaker	IPS Anna Sinha (2022 batch, posted in Jammu & Kashmir)
Date	29 September 2025
Mode	Online (Post-event summary)

Introduction

The Civil Services Forum organized an interactive online session with IPS Anna Sinha, who shared her journey, practical strategies, and valuable advice for aspirants on how to balance college life, extracurriculars, and UPSC preparation.

Key Points Discussed

- **Preparing in college while staying active in extracurriculars:** Anna Sinha encouraged students to first enjoy and explore college life through hobbies and internships, and once preparation begins, to focus on standard books, consistent revision, answer writing practice, and reliable guidance.
- **Is coaching necessary:** not essential; with discipline, self-study and test series are sufficient, though coaching can help with structure and feedback.
- **Common mistakes to avoid:** procrastination, excessive social media use, not sticking to limited sources, and ignoring fundamentals.
- **Maintaining consistency:** break preparation into micro-tasks, set timelines, and develop the right mindset to sustain progress.
- **The interview stage:** be thorough with the DAF, stay updated on current affairs, remain honest about hobbies, and present oneself with confidence.
- **Handling self-doubt:** aspirants from all backgrounds have succeeded; dedication and grit matter more than academic stream or college.
- **Choosing an optional subject:** select a subject that balances interest, scoring potential, and availability of guidance.
- **Starting early versus a gap year:** college years should be used to explore interests, with serious preparation beginning by the third year; gap years may break momentum if not used wisely.
- **Managing pressure and fear of failure:** most aspirants succeed in three to four attempts; believe in yourself, seek emotional support, and avoid isolation.

- **NCERTs from Class 6:** not necessary for everyone; Class 11–12 NCERTs generally suffice, though those with no prior exposure may need to start earlier.
- **Seeking guidance:** from topper talks, professors, coaching institutes, or peers preparing alongside you.
- **Revision and answer writing:** revise mistakes, solve previous year questions, and stick to limited sources; structure answers with an Intro linked to current affairs, a structured Body, and a concise Conclusion.

Conclusion

The session highlighted that college years are for exploration, but once UPSC preparation begins, it must proceed with focus, discipline, and clarity. The guiding mantra: limited sources, consistent revision, structured answer writing, and emotional balance.

3. Biodiversity and Disaster Management Quiz

Organized by	Civil Services Forum (CSF), Kamala Nehru College
Date	29 October 2025
Venue	Lecture Room L-107
Duration	1 hour

The Civil Services Forum organised an Intra-College Biodiversity and Disaster Management Quiz, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from approximately 40–50 students engaging in a stimulating assessment of their knowledge on themes related to biodiversity conservation, environmental awareness, and disaster management.

As one of the Forum's distinctive offline academic initiatives, the quiz provided an engaging platform for participants to test their understanding while encouraging greater awareness of contemporary environmental challenges. The event received an enthusiastic response from students and was successfully conducted, reflecting the Forum's commitment to promoting interactive and meaningful academic engagement beyond the classroom.

4. CSF × Vijetha IAS Webinar: Mastering Optional Selection & General Strategies for UPSC Success

Organized by	Civil Services Forum (CSF) in collaboration with Vijetha IAS
Speaker	Mr. Kaustabh, UPSC Mentor
Date	23 November 2025

Why Students Fail

- Going too fast
- Running after unlimited knowledge
- Not using PYQs
- Prioritising memorisation over understanding
- No selective reading
- Retention issues

How to Start Preparation

- Treat the syllabus as the “Bible” — read every word for Prelims and Mains
- Use PYQs to understand UPSC's pattern

- Read NCERTs (Class 11–12), then move to guides
- Follow limited and smart current affairs sources
- Study toppers' answers for structure
- Read newspapers — editorials and opinions (The Hindu, Indian Express)
- Focus on: PYQs → MCQs → Mains questions; analytical perspective over rote memory; retention; and selective reading, since 100% of material cannot be covered

The UPSC Mindset

UPSC looks for analytical thinking, decision-making, resourcefulness, balanced emotion and discipline, and clarity over the mere collection of information.

Choosing an Optional Subject

Checklist: success trend (PYQs, average marks), a defined and static subject, overlap with General Studies, and personal aptitude and interest.

- **Avoid:** choosing an optional based on others' choices, following trends blindly, or picking without self-analysis.

Example cited: Anthropology — high scoring, well-defined, and with less uncertainty.

Final Preparation Strategy

- Read, re-read, and revise
- Make short notes later, not first
- Practise regular answer writing
- Join a test series after the basics are covered
- Integrate current affairs with the syllabus
- Maintain consistency, discipline, and emotional steadiness

Conclusion

The CSF × Vijetha IAS webinar offered a comprehensive and grounded look at what it truly takes to prepare effectively for UPSC. From understanding the exam's core expectations to refining study methods and making informed decisions about optional subjects, the session emphasised clarity, consistency, and smart strategy over information overload.

5. Chat with Bureaucrat: IAS Rishita Gupta

Organized by	Civil Services Forum (CSF), Kamala Nehru College
Speaker	IAS Rishita Gupta, Deputy Commissioner, Revenue Department, Shahdara
Date	29 November 2025 (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)
Mode	Online (Google Meet)
Duration	1 hour

Introduction

The Civil Services Forum conducted an enriching session featuring IAS Rishita Gupta, a dedicated civil servant known for her clarity, precision, and dedication, who shared her insights on preparation strategies, mindset, and navigating the UPSC journey with confidence.

Understanding the Examination Structure

- **Prelims:** General Studies and CSAT, both qualifying in nature.
- **Mains:** nine papers including Essay, four GS papers, language papers, and two optional subject papers carrying 1750 marks.
- **Personality Test:** an interview carrying 250 marks that evaluates confidence, communication skills, and balanced thinking.

Major Discussion Points

- **Effective preparation approach:** study one book multiple times rather than multiple books once; UPSC requires balanced awareness across subjects rather than mastery of one; preparation must remain dynamic, not static.
- **Starting preparation:** understand eligibility (minimum age 21) and the exam pattern; write down the syllabus; study concept-wise, not subject-wise; NCERTs from Class 6 to 12 are essential; stay updated about your surroundings.
- **Selecting an optional subject:** carries 500 marks, making it extremely important; choose mindfully, avoid repeated changes, limit external opinions, and spend time understanding the optional before committing fully.
- **Productivity, motivation and consistency:** avoid comparing yourself with others; do not waste peak productive hours; maintain a cheerful life since UPSC is just a job; use techniques such as the Pomodoro method; give yourself genuine breaks and trust yourself.

Main Takeaways

- Treat UPSC as a competitive exam, not as a measure of your worth or personal value.
- Mental health is the most important pillar of preparation, and should be protected and prioritised.
- Stay connected to the world; awareness makes you a stronger, wiser aspirant.
- Optional selection must balance interest, scoring potential, and personal aptitude.
- Trust your decisions and avoid getting distracted by too many opinions.
- Discipline is built in minutes, not miracles.
- Treat your first attempt like your best attempt.

Session Summary

The speaker explained that aspirants should build a strong foundation with NCERT books, clear their concepts, and then gradually move to higher reference material, sticking to fewer books read well. Regular newspaper reading, particularly linking current events with subjects, was strongly recommended, alongside credible sources such as government websites, ARC reports, the Economic Survey, and the Budget. Students were advised to maintain a proper timetable, disconnect from social media, and engage in debates and discussions with peers to build analytical and social skills. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by CSF President Pihu Jhunjhunwala.

6. Pathshala Series

Organized by	Civil Services Forum (CSF), Kamala Nehru College
Duration of Series	21 January – 18 March 2026 (six sessions)
Frequency	Weekly, during the Wednesday ECA break
Venue	Lecture Room L-107

The Pathshala Series was introduced by the Civil Services Forum as a new academic initiative during the 2025–26 tenure. It comprised six intra-college sessions, each lasting approximately one to one and a half hours, focused on fostering collaborative learning in an accessible and engaging environment.

A distinctive feature of the initiative was its peer-led approach: members of the Civil Services Forum voluntarily selected topics of their interest and independently designed the sessions by preparing presentations, quizzes, flashcards, and other interactive learning resources. This format encouraged active participation, facilitated meaningful discussions, and created an inclusive space for academic exchange among students.

The Pathshala Series was well received by participants and emerged as one of the Forum's most successful academic initiatives of the year, strengthening the Forum's objective of cultivating a vibrant academic culture and laying the foundation for its continuation in the years ahead.

7. Chat with Bureaucrat: IAS Sruthii R (AIR 18, UPSC 2025)

Organized by	Civil Services Forum (CSF), Kamala Nehru College
Speaker	IAS Sruthii R (AIR 18, UPSC 2025)
Date	4 April 2026
Mode	Online (Webinar)
Duration	1 hour

Overview

This session outlined a structured preparation strategy focusing on discipline, consistency, answer writing practice, and optional subject mastery — key determinants of success at the Mains stage — emphasising a balanced integration of conceptual understanding, current affairs awareness, and structured answer presentation.

Objectives

- Develop a systematic and disciplined study framework
- Strengthen conceptual clarity in General Studies (GS) subjects
- Enhance answer writing skills for the Mains examination
- Optimise preparation of the optional subject, a high-weightage component
- Integrate current affairs with the static syllabus effectively
- Improve time management and revision efficiency
- Build a strong exam-oriented mindset focused on consistency

Scope of Preparation

General Studies (Prelims and Mains foundation), the Optional Subject, Essay Writing, Ethics (GS Paper IV), Current Affairs Integration, and Answer Writing Practice.

Preparation Methodology

- **Foundation building:** focus on NCERTs and basic standard textbooks, strengthening core subjects — Polity, Economy, and Geography.
- **Current affairs integration:** daily newspaper reading, monthly magazines and government sources, with emphasis on analytical understanding rather than memorisation.
- **Optional subject strategy:** treated as a high-weightage component, selected based on interest and scoring potential, with roughly half of study hours recommended for it, and emphasis on syllabus completion and PYQ practice.
- **Answer writing practice:** daily structured practice focused on the Introduction–Body–Conclusion format, clarity, relevance and examples, with gradual increases in speed and depth.

- **Revision strategy:** limited study resources with multiple revisions of core material and continuous reinforcement of previously studied topics.

Three-Phase Preparation Plan

- **Phase 1:** syllabus understanding, basic conceptual clarity, and initial answer writing practice.
- **Phase 2:** advanced conceptual study, regular answer writing (three to five answers daily), deep optional subject preparation, and introduction of essay writing practice.
- **Phase 3:** full-length mock tests, intensive revision cycles, time-bound answer writing, and performance evaluation and improvement.

Key Success Factors

- Consistency in daily study habits
- Strong emphasis on answer writing practice
- Strategic selection and preparation of the optional subject
- Multiple revision cycles
- Balanced integration of current affairs with the static syllabus
- Psychological resilience and a disciplined mindset

Conclusion

The UPSC Civil Services Examination requires a multidimensional preparation strategy combining knowledge acquisition, analytical writing skills, and disciplined execution. Success depends not merely on the quantity of study but on the quality of preparation, consistency of effort, and structured revision techniques.

8. UPSC Mentorship Session

Organized by	StudyIQ IAS in collaboration with the Civil Services Forum (CSF), Kamala Nehru College
Speaker	Prithu Jaiman, StudyIQ IAS
Date	6 April 2026
Mode	Offline
Duration	1 to 1.5 hours

Introduction

The Civil Services Forum organised an interactive session with senior UPSC mentor Prithu Jaiman to guide students on preparation strategies, mindset, and the broader role of civil services, aiming to bridge the gap between theoretical preparation and practical understanding of the UPSC journey.

Understanding Civil Services

Civil services open pathways to prestigious roles such as IAS and IPS, where individuals function as bureaucrats serving the public. A civil servant is expected to work for the welfare of society, especially vulnerable and underdeveloped sections, with the focus remaining on public service rather than status or power.

Ethics and Social Responsibility

Ethics was highlighted as a fundamental pillar of civil services, determining the quality and fairness of governance. The feeling of service towards society was described as more important than the position itself.

Mindset and Approach

Starting preparation requires courage, and taking the first step is the most important part of the journey. The destination is less important than the process of consistent effort and learning, with consistency and discipline identified as the most essential qualities for long-term preparation.



Preparation Strategy

- A clear understanding of the UPSC syllabus is the foundation of preparation
- Begin with NCERT books for simple and clear conceptual understanding
- Progress gradually from basic learning to a strong foundation phase and eventually to advanced preparation
- Combine regular study with continuous revision for effective retention

Balancing Subjects and CSAT

Students were guided to identify their strengths and weaknesses and plan preparation accordingly, allocating additional time to CSAT if it is a weaker area while maintaining balance with General Studies. UPSC preparation was described as a game of balance and consistency.

Guidance, Mentorship, and Managing College Life

Proper guidance helps students understand what and how to study, simplifying the preparation process. Managing college life alongside preparation requires careful prioritisation and an understanding of opportunity cost, with effectiveness lying in the quality rather than the quantity of study.

Coaching, Current Affairs, and Handling Uncertainty

Coaching can provide clarity and direction if chosen wisely, and optional subjects should be selected only after building a strong foundation in basic subjects. Current affairs should be approached to build awareness and conceptual understanding, focusing in depth on economy, governance, and geopolitics. Given the uncertainty inherent in UPSC preparation, students were advised to prepare mentally for setbacks, maintain a backup plan, and treat continuous learning from mistakes as key to building confidence.

Answer Writing and Perspective

Maintaining a neutral and balanced perspective in answers is essential, with arguments expected to be logical, unbiased, and based on facts rather than personal opinions.

Main Takeaways

- Consistency and discipline are the most important factors in UPSC preparation.
- Ethics and empathy are essential qualities for a civil servant.
- Understanding concepts is more important than memorisation.
- Strategic balance between strengths and weaknesses improves performance.
- Preparation requires patience, awareness, and long-term commitment.



Adhyayan '26 — CSF Annual Cultural Fest

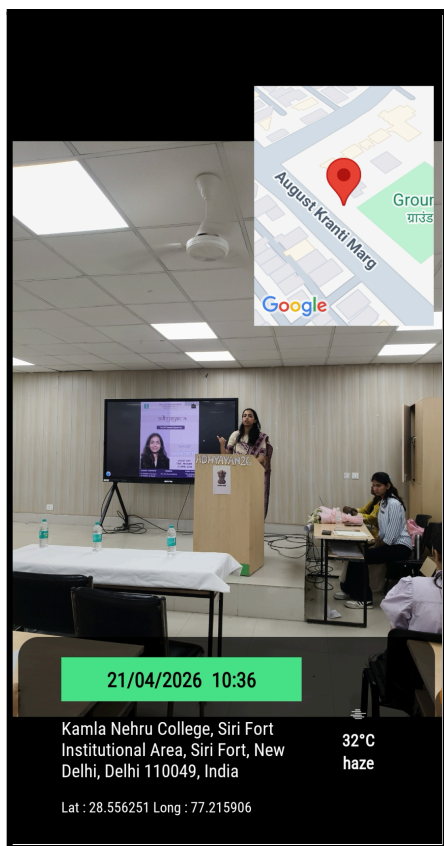
Adhyayan '26 was organised by the Civil Services Forum around the theme “Beyond the Badge: Ethics, Power, and the Making of a Civil Servant,” exploring governance beyond examinations and designations, and highlighting the role of ethics, integrity, accountability, and constitutional values in shaping public institutions.

9. Speaker Session — “Beyond the Badge”

Speaker	Ms. Anuja Trivedi, IAS (AIR 80, Civil Services Examination 2022, 2023 Batch Officer)
Current Position	Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Matiala, Delhi
Education	IIT Delhi — B.Tech. Biotechnology
Previous Role	Assistant Commissioner, Ministry of Finance
Venue	NSR, Kamala Nehru College
Date & Time	21 April 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction

The Civil Services Forum had the honour of hosting Ms. Anuja Trivedi, IAS, as Chief Guest for Adhyayan '26. A product of IIT Delhi's Biotechnology programme and a former Assistant Commissioner under the Ministry of Finance, Ms. Trivedi currently serves as SDM of Matiala, Delhi, and hails from Lucknow. Her address was far from a conventional motivational talk; with refreshing honesty, she spoke as a senior who had herself been new to the service, sharing nuances and realities that textbooks seldom capture.



Key Themes and Significant Points

- **Sense of purpose versus vision of life after success:** Ms. Trivedi drew a distinction between a genuine desire to serve and solve, and a vision of life after success shaped by social prestige or lifestyle expectations, encouraging the audience to reflect honestly on which force truly drives them.
- **Realities of problem-solving on the ground:** as SDM Matiala, she described challenges in fast-urbanising areas of Delhi — encroachments, civic infrastructure gaps, land disputes, shifting community identities, and matters involving the National Green Tribunal — requiring officers to constantly triage, prioritise, and often defer.
- **The limits of authority:** at different levels of the bureaucracy, authority is always contextual; the position confers responsibility, not absolute power, and officers operate within a web of rules, oversight bodies, and democratic accountability.
- **Ethics as a daily negotiation:** ethics in public service is not a static rulebook but a daily negotiation of competing interests and obligations, concerned with both fairness and legality, and collective gain often comes at a cost that must be honestly acknowledged.
- **The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls:** with the base roll derived from 2002, keeping the document accurate, inclusive, and current across Delhi's diverse and mobile population is a significant logistical and administrative challenge.
- **Institutions shape the individual:** just as officers shape institutions through their decisions, institutions shape officers through their structures, culture, and accountability mechanisms.
- **Personal journey — learning to let go:** she initially attempted to personally address every problem that came her way, but over time recognised the limits of individual capacity and the importance of systemic accountability — a realisation of maturity rather than defeat.

On the Theme: “Beyond the Badge”

Ms. Trivedi emphasised that the real measure of an officer is not the designation held but the person they become in service — how empathetic they are to those they serve, their character under pressure, and how they respond to problems with no clean solutions. Empathy, character, and responsiveness, she concluded, are what define a truly effective public servant, and the badge is a starting point, not the destination.

Conclusion

The session with Ms. Anuja Trivedi offered a rare, unfiltered window into the life of a young IAS officer navigating the realities of governance in one of India's most complex urban environments, giving students a framework for thinking about public service with clarity and integrity.

10. Kalpana — The Civic Canvas

Event	Adhyayan '26 — Digital Poster-Making Competition
Mode	Offline Competition
Date	21 April 2026
Venue	NSR
Duration	1:50 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Concept

As part of Adhyayan '26, the Civil Services Forum organised Kalpana — The Civic Canvas, a digital poster-making competition encouraging students to express ideas surrounding governance, democracy, ethics, and public accountability through visual storytelling, exploring themes such as democracy, media influence, misuse of authority, and public scrutiny.

Proceedings

The event was hosted by Arnisha Sarkar and Nimisha, with judges Tanya Trehan and Tanisha Dagar, both alumnae of Kamala Nehru College. Tanisha Dagar, a Political Science graduate and Process Executive at Cognizant, previously served as President of the Civil Services Forum; Tanya Trehan is pursuing a Master's in International Relations from South Asian University after graduating in Political Science from the University of Delhi.

Presentations

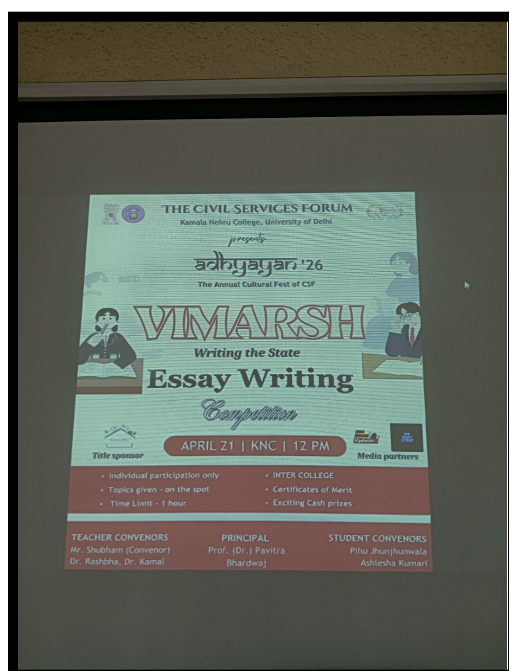
- **Shalvi Jaiswal — “Watching the Watchers”:** focused on authority, constitutional responsibility, and civic participation, using symbolic imagery of hands to portray questioning power, signing petitions, and rebuilding institutions.
- **Rajvee Singh — “The Four Pillars of Democracy”:** emphasised citizens as the central force of democracy while highlighting the dominant, and at times conflicting, role of media in shaping public discourse.
- **Shivani — “When Power Goes Unseen”:** explored the thin line between authority and misuse of power, stressing the importance of ethics over unchecked control.
- **Sonali Yadav:** presented via recorded video submission.
- **Khushi Bhardwaj — “Beyond the Badge”:** focused on duty, identity, and accountability, depicting how misuse of power and the hunger for authority can lead to corruption.
- **Pooja Singh — “The Mirror Effect: Reflecting Public Scrutiny”:** highlighted the role of public scrutiny and accountability within governance and institutional systems.

Conclusion

The competition concluded with a vote of thanks by Arnisha Sarkar, having successfully encouraged participants to reflect upon governance, ethics, democracy, and accountability through creative expression, with an encouraging response from both audience and judges.

11. Vimarsh — Writing the State

Event	Adhyayan '26 — Essay Writing Competition
Mode	Offline Competition
Date	21 April 2026
Venue	L-107
Duration	12:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.



Concept

Vimarsh: Writing the State was conceptualised to provide students with a platform to articulate their perspectives on governance, public ethics, and the evolving role of civil servants in society, fostering critical thinking, originality, and analytical engagement.

Proceedings

Hosted by Sneha Shetty and Gowri, the competition began at 12:00 p.m. Participants chose between two topics — “The Civil Servant as a Public Thinker Beyond Implementation” and “Ethics in Action: Navigating the Grey Zones of Governance” — and were free to formulate their own titles.

- Word limit: 750–1000 words
- Duration: one hour, with writing commencing at 12:17 p.m.
- Use of mobile phones and AI tools was strictly prohibited

The judging panel, comprising Dr. Ragini and Dr. Anjana Srivastava, evaluated essays on content quality, logical structure, originality, creativity, relevance, clarity of language, and critical insight.

Conclusion

The competition concluded smoothly at 1:17 p.m., providing an intellectually stimulating platform for participants to develop their ideas on governance and ethics, and closed with a vote of thanks to the judges and participants.

12. Samvaad — Ethics in Expression

Event	Adhyayan '26 — Extempore Speaking Competition
Mode	Offline Competition
Date	21 April 2026
Venue	NSR
Duration	2:30 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Concept

Samvaad: Ethics in Expression was conceptualised around the theme “Integrity, Ethics and Dilemmas in Contemporary Public Service,” examining how ethical values function in practice within increasingly complex systems of governance and public administration, and encouraging participants to present balanced, ethically grounded perspectives.



Proceedings

Hosted by Ishita Attri and Varya Khosla, the competition was judged by Ms. Smita Tiwary and Ms. Mamta Bhushan on the basis of clarity and organisation of thought, relevance and depth of content, confidence and articulation, and the ability to present balanced, ethically informed arguments.

- Topics were allotted on the spot through a chit-picking process
- Each participant received 2 minutes to prepare and 3 minutes to speak
- Participants could choose English or Hindi, maintaining the same language throughout
- The use of notes, prompts, mobile phones, or external material was strictly prohibited

Illustrative Topics

Topics covered a wide range of contemporary ethical and administrative concerns, including efficiency versus empathy in a civil servant's decisions, whether civil servants should speak truth to power, whether technology strengthens or weakens accountability in governance, the ethics of surveillance, and whether integrity can be institutionalised or remains purely individual.

Conclusion

The competition continued smoothly until 3:35 p.m. and concluded with a formal vote of thanks to the judges and participants, having served as an engaging platform for critical dialogue, ethical reflection, and articulate public expression.



13. Vichar — Policy Presentation Competition

Vichar, the policy presentation competition organised as part of Adhyayan, provided participants with a platform to critically examine contemporary governance challenges and present evidence-based policy recommendations. The competition centred on the theme of strengthening India's whistleblower protection framework, encouraging participants to evaluate existing legislative mechanisms, identify implementation gaps, and propose practical reforms.



The presentations explored diverse dimensions of whistleblower protection, including concerns surrounding anonymity, retaliation, delayed investigations, institutional inefficiencies, and the limitations of the existing legal framework. Participants proposed measures such as an independent whistleblower authority, stronger anti-retaliation safeguards, secure digital complaint systems, time-bound investigation mechanisms, enhanced witness protection, and improved grievance redressal processes. While some teams advocated incentive-based approaches to encourage reporting, others emphasised ethical responsibility and public duty as the primary motivations for whistleblowing. Discussions were further enriched through references to landmark cases, including those of Satyendra Dubey and Manjunath Shanmugam, grounding the policy proposals in real-world administrative challenges.

The presentations were followed by an engaging question-and-answer session with the judging panel, which critically examined the feasibility, practicality, and long-term implications of the proposed reforms, including institutional accountability, balancing anonymity with transparency, preventing misuse of legal provisions, and ensuring effective implementation. The competition successfully fostered critical thinking, policy analysis, and informed debate, making Vichar a meaningful academic exercise that reflected the Civil Services Forum's commitment to encouraging research-driven discussions on contemporary issues of governance and public policy.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of Adhyayan '26 commenced at 4:00 p.m., during which all judges and convenors were invited on stage for the announcement of winners and final acknowledgements. The ceremony concluded with expressions of gratitude towards the organising team, volunteers, judges, and participants for contributing to the successful execution of Adhyayan '26 and its competitions.



Conclusion

Over the course of the 2025–26 tenure, the Civil Services Forum of Kamala Nehru College sustained a wide-ranging academic calendar spanning expert webinars, mentorship sessions, peer-led learning initiatives, and competitive events under Adhyayan '26. Across sessions with serving officers such as IAS Rishita Gupta, IAS Sruthii R, IPS Anna Sinha, and Ms. Anuja Trivedi, and mentorship collaborations with PreppIAS, Vijetha IAS, and StudyIQ IAS, a set of consistent themes emerged: disciplined and syllabus-anchored preparation, the primacy of answer writing practice, the integration of current affairs with static subjects, and the ethical foundations that must underpin a civil servant's conduct.

Beyond examination-oriented guidance, the Forum's initiatives — the Pathshala Series, the Biodiversity and Disaster Management Quiz, and the four competitions held under Adhyayan '26 (Kalpana, Vimarsh, Samvaad, and Vichar) — created space for students to engage critically with governance, ethics, and public accountability through formats beyond conventional exam preparation. Together, these efforts reflect the Forum's continued commitment to fostering an informed, articulate, and ethically grounded student community oriented towards public service.