

Acads

IFoS Interview Transcripts

— IFoS Exam 2024 —

Compiled from candidate submissions

Transcripts 1 – 10

N^o 1**Board: Suman Sharma Ma'am** 23 April 2025 | IFS 2024

Education: Not specified

Optional: Not specified

Very cordial board; Ma'am always supportive. One member asked factual questions; rest were thoughtful.

[Chairperson]

1. What is India's offshore wind policy?
2. Which states have the highest wind energy potential?
3. Why has there been a reduction in sales of vehicles priced below ₹5 lakh?
4. Why is Tesla not entering the Indian market?
5. What is India's EV policy with respect to Tesla?
6. Is there any opposition from domestic players who have already invested in the EV sector?

[Member 1]

1. What is new in the National Forest Policy 1988 compared to the 1952 policy?
2. What is coppicing?
3. Name different tree species that coppice.

[Member 3 – Part A (Agriculture & Society)]

1. How do different societies interact with each other?
2. What is the contribution of grapes, oranges, and pomegranate to Maharashtra's GDP?
3. What is the Raigarh Policy?
4. What is 'Phorta' in agriculture?
5. What is 'Alphonso'? (Candidate assumed mango variety; member said no)
6. Name various agroforestry species integrated into agriculture in Maharashtra.
7. What is altitude stratification?

[Member 3 – Part B (Road Safety)]

1. Why were truck drivers protesting recently?
2. What is the prescribed jail term under the relevant law?
3. Is it justified to increase the jail term from 2–3 years to 10 years?
4. What measures have been taken to reduce road accidents – given India is called the accident capital?
5. What do you know about the 'Golden Hour' in trauma care?
6. What should be done to improve trauma response infrastructure?

Nº 2

Board: Smita Nagraj Ma'am

 Date: Not specified

Education: Mechanical Engineering

From: Navi Mumbai

Optional: Forestry & Agriculture Engineering

Note: Nothing asked related to hobbies or mechanical engineering

[Chairperson]

1. Tell me one positive and one negative aspect of the Indian Forest Service.
2. Leopards are venturing out of Sanjay Gandhi National Park – what do you know about this?
3. Cyclones over the Arabian Sea are increasing – is this due to climate change?
4. Which district in Maharashtra has the highest tribal population?
5. Which tribe has the highest population in Maharashtra?
6. Have you visited Gadchiroli?

[Member 1]

1. What is the role of the Gram Sabha regarding Minor Forest Produce (MFP)?
2. What are the consequences of indiscriminate cutting of bamboo?
3. How do natural forests regenerate?
4. What is a pollinator?
5. Where is the largest mangrove patch in India?
6. What do tigers eat in the Sundarbans?
7. Are there tigers in Maharashtra's mangroves?

[Member 2]

1. What is the special adaptation of mangroves to prevent seeds from washing away? (Answer: viviparity)
2. How has the weather pattern of Mumbai changed?

3. You were born and brought up in Mumbai – what changes have you personally observed in monsoon patterns since childhood?
4. What changes have occurred in the marine ecosystem near Mumbai?
5. Name any marine species? (Candidate said flamingo – Chairperson interrupted: Is flamingo a marine species?)

[**Member 3**]

1. What are the Fundamental Rights under the Indian Constitution?
2. Is Article 21 a Fundamental Right?
3. Which rights are available to foreign nationals (aliens) in India?
4. Define greenhouse gases.
5. Are climate change and global warming synonymous, or is one the cause of the other? What is the relationship?

Nº 3

Board: Suman Sharma Ma'am

 21 April 2025

Education: Transportation Engineering (Civil Engineering background)

DAF Keyword: Transportation engineering

🦋 Cordial board. Ma'am very pleasant and always smiling.

[Chairperson]

1. Why did you return from the US?
2. Between hybrid, EV, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles – in what order should India transition?
3. What are the downsides of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles?
4. Are hydrogen fuel cell vehicles better suited for heavy or light vehicles, and why?

[Member 1]

1. Name the tiger reserves and other protected areas in Andhra Pradesh.
2. Civil engineering and forestry are often seen as opposing fields – why did you choose forestry?
3. What are the causes of wildfires, and what can be done to address them? (Follow-ups)
4. What are the pros and cons of Joint Forest Management (JFM)? (Follow-ups)
5. Andhra Pradesh is reportedly doing well in JFM – can you give specific examples?
6. What are the reasons for human-wildlife conflict, and what measures can address it?

[Member 2]

1. Do you think India is moving towards decentralised forest governance?
2. Are powers entirely vested with the Gram Sabha?
3. What is environmental activism, and is it necessary for conservation of nature?
4. Give an example of indigenous traditional knowledge.

[Member 3]

1. Women were inducted into the Forest Service much later – what are the reasons? Do you think you can handle this role?
2. You may be posted in Manipur or Nagaland – can you manage being far from home?
3. Why did you return from the US? (Asked again)
4. Who has inspired you in life? Give specific examples.



Nº 4

Board: Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla Sir

 21 April 2025

DAF Keywords: Toastmasters club, agriculture engineering, devotional music, cooking

 *Chairman was unconvinced by standard examples on language AI (e.g. Bhashini). Board engaged in substantive debate.*

[Chairperson]

1. What is the Toastmasters Club?
2. Why did you start it?
3. Is learning English really that significant today?
4. C.V. Raman was a strong advocate of vernacular languages – shouldn't we prioritise regional languages?
5. Are regional languages losing ground in the AI era due to a lack of digital data?
6. How can we digitise local language data?
7. Should India pay public figures like Sadhguru or Kumar Vishwas billions to acquire their IP and build AI models in regional languages?

[Member 1]

1. What do you call the Western Ghats in Marathi, and why is it called Sahyadri?
2. What have you been doing since graduation?
3. What did you learn from studying forestry?
4. What is the difference between a Conservation Reserve and a Community Reserve?
5. Clear felling is the dominant forestry practice in Maharashtra – doesn't this violate the T.N. Godavarman judgment?
6. How would you resolve human-animal conflict in areas like Tadoba?
7. Should we kill tigers? What about sterilisation as an option?
8. How can agriculture engineering be applied to forest management?
9. IFS is more of a desk job compared to civil services – why do you still want to join?

[Member 3]

1. You listen to devotional music – what is the difference between ethics and morality?
2. Give a specific example from your own life.
3. Where did you derive that ethical practice from?
4. What is the principle or idea that has driven you to reach this stage?
5. What do you mean by 'Karyakarta Adhikari'?
6. Who is your ideal role model?
7. Tell me about a recent case of judicial overreach.
8. What is the latest landmark environmental judgment?

[Member 4 (Possibly a psychologist – young member)]

1. How does each of your hobbies help in life?
2. How does cooking help in preparation and administration?
3. How will an interest in agriculture help an IFS officer?
4. Name tribes that are solely dependent on pastoralism.
5. How would you resolve the conflict between grazing rights and forest conservation?
6. Name tribes that practice only hunting and gathering. They kill animals – is that justified, or should action be taken?

N^o 5

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

 21 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: Hari Palve

Education: Computer Engineering

Optional: Forestry & Agriculture Engineering

 Mostly opinion-based questions. Chairman compared current job unfavourably to IT sector.

[Chairperson]

1. Why choose civil services after a computer engineering degree?
2. Don't you feel underemployed compared to IT professionals?
3. If posted in an urban area, what would you do to address pollution and heatwave problems?
4. What conditions would you impose on construction projects in urban areas?
5. Where in India is Jhum (shifting) cultivation practised?
6. Do you support Jhum cultivation? Does it have any advantages?
7. What changes would you suggest to modernise Jhum cultivation?
8. If appointed DCF in a district with 90% forest cover, how would you provide livelihoods without destroying the forest?

[Member 2]

1. What does 'garbage in, garbage out' mean in the context of computing?
2. How does the output of a normal computer differ from that of an AI system?
3. How does JFM work in Maharashtra? What are micro-plans in JFM? Are they written on paper?
4. Is there any successful JFM model in Maharashtra?

[Member 3]

1. If you want to create a green park in a city but the same land is requested by an MLA for a private project – what would you do? (Follow-ups)
2. Does the political executive always take decisions for the welfare of the people?

3. In a democracy, if citizens dislike a government decision, what options do they have?

[**Member 4**]

1. How would you create awareness about forest fires and their prevention?
2. What is vertical farming? What are its advantages?
3. What is your opinion on hydroponics?

♦ ♦ ♦

Nº 6

Board: Sheel Vardhan Sir

 Date: Not specified

DAF Keywords: Miranda House (college), Mathematics, Forestry, Folk songs

 Mix of mathematical, philosophical, and forestry questions.

[Chairperson]

1. What are folk songs?
2. Why is your college named Miranda House?
3. What does 'limit x tends to infinity' mean?
4. What is the Fibonacci series, and what are its applications?
5. Why do you want to join the Indian Forest Service?

[Member 1]

1. What is Euler's identity, and why is it considered a beautiful equation?
2. What is the Poincaré Conjecture?
3. Is there a mathematical surface with zero area and infinite volume?
4. Who invented Sudoku?

[Member 2]

1. What does an IFoS officer do?
2. What are your priorities upon joining the service?
3. What are the key features of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the Forest Rights Act 2006?
4. What is the state of agroforestry in Rajasthan?

[Member 3]

1. Further discussion on agroforestry.
2. What are your views on the Supreme Court's decision on the Hyderabad forest case?
3. What is India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement?



acads

Nº 7

Board: Sheel Vardhan Sir

 21 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Education: BSc Chemistry

DAF Keywords: NDA selection, HIIT, Rifle Shooting, Anti-Ragging Committee

 Conversational and cordial board. Chairman personally engaged on physical fitness.

[Chairperson]

1. You were selected for the NDA – why didn't you join?
2. I'm 62 years old – suggest some physical fitness activities. (Discussion followed)
3. How can social media be regulated?
4. Do you follow any personal principles to limit social media usage? Are you aware of digital fasting?

[Member 1]

1. Does freedom of speech and expression truly exist in India?
2. What are the reasonable restrictions on free speech?
3. Do you like Chemistry? What is Avogadro's number?
4. Were you ragged during college?

[Member 2]

1. Discussion on ragging, drawing an analogy with freedom of speech and expression. (Cross-questions)
2. What are the constitutional provisions related to Scheduled Tribes?
3. What are the reasons for ineffective implementation of the Forest Rights Act? What measures must be taken?

[Member 3]

1. What is your opinion on judicial activism in environmental matters?
2. How should we balance environment and development?

3. Bamboo is no longer classified as a tree under the Indian Forest Act 1927 – what are the advantages and disadvantages of this change?

♦ ♦ ♦

Acads

Nº 8

Board: Suman Sharma Ma'am

 Date: Not specified

Education: Mechanical Engineering

From: Solapur, Maharashtra

Optional: Forestry & Agriculture Engineering

DAF Keywords: Mahindra & Mahindra, Cricket

 Ma'am asked opinion-based questions; other members went factual. Interview ended in ~17–18 min as Ma'am was in a hurry.

[Chairperson]

1. What have you been doing after leaving your job?
2. Why do Maharashtra's million-plus cities rank poorly compared to smaller cities in the Swachh Survekshan report?
3. India has high import tariffs — shouldn't we reduce them?

[Member 1 (Factual)]

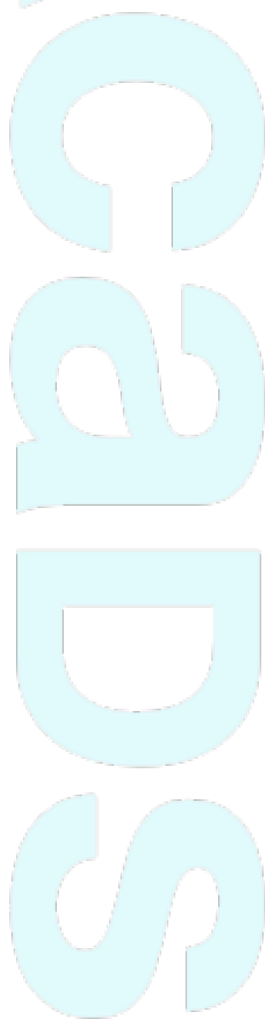
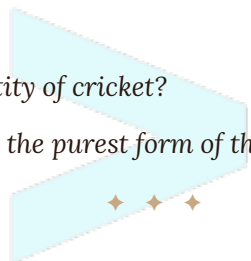
1. What are CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) norms?
2. What are PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups)?
3. What is meant by 'very dense' and 'moderately dense' forests?
4. What is the classification when canopy density is less than 10%?
5. What is the issue of tiger-human conflict in Maharashtra?
6. Should population control measures be used for tigers in the Chandrapur region?

[Member 2 (Factual)]

1. Name some PVTGs.
2. What is shifting cultivation? Isn't it harmful to forest ecosystems?
3. What are sacred groves?
4. In what ways does the Forest Department protect sacred groves?

[Member 3]

1. Honestly, at what level have you played cricket?
2. Were you a batter, bowler, wicket-keeper, or umpire?
3. How many ways can a batsman be dismissed in cricket?
4. What is 'timed out' in cricket?
5. Isn't the IPL harming the sanctity of cricket?
6. Why is Test cricket considered the purest form of the game?



Nº 9

Board: B.B. Swain Sir 21 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Education: B.Tech ECE

From: Mysuru

DAF Keywords: EPFO, Cricket, Painting

 Positive experience overall. DAF discussion with Mahesh Bhagwat Sir was helpful.**[Chairperson]**

1. Tell me about Mysuru.
2. Suggest some places to visit in and around Mysuru.
3. Tell me about Srirangapatna.
4. Tell me about Nagarhole National Park. (Follow-up questions)

[Member 1]

1. What is the speciality of Bandipur National Park?
2. What is the controversy currently surrounding Bandipur? (Candidate: government is considering allowing night traffic – protests ensued)
3. Should night traffic be allowed through Bandipur? What is your opinion? (Follow-ups)

[Member 2]

1. What are semiconductors and where are they used?
2. What is India doing in the semiconductor space?
3. What is delimitation?
4. Why are southern states concerned about delimitation?
5. What is your opinion on the matter?
6. What do you understand by the phrase 'data is the new oil'?
7. How does social media generate revenue?

[Member 3]

1. Why did you move from engineering to forestry?
2. How do you see the triangle of forest, government, and tribal communities?
3. Why are some tribal communities supporting Naxals?

[**Member 1 (Again)**]

1. How do you see the relationship between forests and agriculture?
2. Farmers complain that wildlife is damaging their crops – how do you address this?



Nº 10

Board: B.B. Swain Sir

 22 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: MJ

Education: Mechanical Engineering

Optional: Forestry & Geology

Hobbies: Wrestling, Mallakhamb

 Good overall experience. Chairman forwarded interview to lady member early. Last candidate of the day.

[Chairperson]

1. What is Mallakhamb?
2. What is the history of Mallakhamb? (One or two follow-up questions)

[Member 1]

1. Name a famous wrestling form of the Naga tribes.
2. Name a tribe of African descent found in Junagadh.
3. Why did you move from mechanical engineering to the Forest Service? What are the applications of mechanical engineering in forestry?
4. How could this knowledge be applied in wildlife conservation or tribal upliftment? Give an example mentioning a specific tribe from your area.

[Member 2]

1. Again – application of mechanical engineering knowledge in forestry?
2. Which animals are causing stress in Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary – is it due to humans or wildlife themselves?
3. Have you visited any protected area?
4. What is your opinion on ecotourism – it creates awareness and provides livelihoods for tribals. Is this the right approach?

[Member 3]

1. What is the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?
2. Is it really working effectively?
3. Do you think the powers of the Speaker should be limited?



acad

Acads

IFoS Interview Transcripts II

— IFoS Exam 2024 —

Compiled from candidate submissions

Transcripts 11 – 20

Nº 11

Board: B.B. Swain Sir

17 22 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Name: Kancha

Education: Engineering

Optional: Geology & Forestry

DAF Keywords: Jal Maitri Yatra, Rowing, Maharashtra

🦋 Mixed feelings – not much grinding. Board picked up threads from earlier answers and built on them.

[Chairperson]

1. Maharashtra has diverse forests – tell me about its flora and fauna.
2. Why is Nagpur called the tiger capital of India?
3. Name the tiger reserves around Nagpur.
4. Name a tiger reserve that spans two states. (Answer: Pench)

[Member 1]

1. You participated in the Mula-Mutha Jal Maitri Yatra – what were your key outcomes and learnings?
2. You participated in national-level rowing championships – what physical attributes are required to be a good rower? (Candidate mentioned somatotyping)
3. What are the reasons behind farmer suicides in Maharashtra, and what are the solutions?
4. What is Engineers' Day, and what was M. Visvesvaraya's contribution?

[Member 2]

1. What is the major river issue in eastern Maharashtra, and why does it persist?
2. What is the role of afforestation in addressing this issue?
3. How are flora and fauna interdependent on each other?

[Member 3 (Lady Member)]

1. You mentioned somatotyping – what is it? Explain Sheldon's somatotyping.
2. Explain ectomorph, endomorph, and mesomorph body types.

3. How can IFoS use somatotyping in the context of tribal communities?
4. Can such assessment begin from childhood?



Acads

Nº 12

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir Date: April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Name: ASP

Background: Naib Tehsildar (Revenue Department)

From: Pune / Sangli, Maharashtra

Optional: Forestry & Agriculture

Duration: ~25–27 min

 Structured conversation; Chairman returned at the end for a deep dive on Gadchiroli and Naxalism.**[Chairperson]**

1. What is the work profile of a Naib Tehsildar?
2. Why are southern states like Maharashtra more progressive than northern states?
3. Can we link this to land reforms and the First Constitutional Amendment?
4. Why were land reforms more successful in southern states?
5. What is a 'green booth'? (Candidate mentioned election duties)
6. Is there any Maharashtra government scheme for creating green spaces in cities like Pune?
7. What is Nagar Van and Nagar Vatika?
8. Has this been successful?
9. As a Tehsildar, how would you implement this?

[Member 1]

1. Which aspect of forestry would you like to talk about? Let's discuss tigers.
2. What is the current number of tigers in India?
3. Which are the leading states in tiger population?
4. What are the census procedures and methods for tiger counting?
5. What is the relevance of camera traps in census?
6. What are pugmarks and stripe patterns, and how are they used in identification?

[Member 2]

1. As an agriculture graduate, name species that can be grown in a Nagar Vatika.
2. Can you name some shrubs/bushes suitable for urban green spaces?
3. Name plants that can be grown alongside crops. (Agroforestry context)
4. In the Sangli region, what species would you recommend? (Candidate: turmeric-bamboo in west; agro-silvi-pastoral in east)
5. Bamboo is a water-loving plant – how would you grow it in the Sangli region?

[**Member 3**]

1. Do you think the government is not listening to people adequately? What should be done?
2. Share your personal experiences of this gap.
3. As a policy maker, what changes would you implement?
4. Can technological intervention bridge this gap? (Follow-ups)

[**Chairperson (Return)**]

1. What are the problems of Gadchiroli? (Candidate mentioned malnutrition, education; Chairman steered to Naxalism)
2. Why is Naxalism prevalent in Gadchiroli?
3. What is the history of Naxalism?
4. Is the revenue department's effort falling short in this regard?
5. What are your recommendations to address Naxalism?

◆ ◆ ◆

N^o 13**Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir** 23 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Name: ABC

Education: Mechanical Engineering

Optional: Agriculture Engineering & Forestry

 Mostly opinion-based and conversational – not the typical Q&A format of mocks. Chairman engaged on Naxalism and urban activists.

[Chairperson]

1. Why mechanical and agricultural engineering together?
2. Does China have greater mechanisation in agriculture? Name some specific methods.
3. Case study: A tribal person is cutting a tree because they have no house. How do you approach this?
4. If the cutting is illegal, can you still show compassion towards the tribal?
5. Which areas in Andhra Pradesh are affected by Naxalism?
6. Why do most Naxal leaders come from Andhra Pradesh?
7. What are the root causes of Naxalism?
8. What is 'Urban Naxalism'? Name some people associated with it.
9. If people protest for the environment, are they all 'Urban Naxals'?
10. As a Forest Service officer, would you act against urban environmental activists?

[Member 1 (Lady Member – mostly DAF)]

1. What is agricultural mechanisation?
2. How does it affect productivity?
3. What is the difference between horticulture and agriculture?

[Member 2]

1. Tell me about today's forest-related news article.
2. Do you think the Kancha Gachibowli area qualifies as forest land?

3. What was the Godavarman case? What issues surround the Kancha Gachibowli case?
4. Why do many states fail to record forest areas accurately?
5. Do you think the government deliberately cleared forest land in this case?

[**Member 3 (DAF: Watching social dramas)**]

1. Name some societal issues affecting India.
2. Discuss child rights as a social issue.
3. Case study: Norwegian authorities took children away from Indian parents and placed them in shelter homes. What is your opinion?
4. What is the government doing to ensure child rights?

[**Chairperson (Close)**]

1. Tell us a topic of your choice. Frame a question yourself – and answer it.

N^o 14**Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir** Date: April 2025

Name: Vekvi

DAF Keywords: Flute, Music

[Chairperson]

1. Which flautist do you follow?
2. Name some famous movies and songs based on the flute.
3. Which duo is famous as music composers? Name some of their songs.
4. Is musical ability inherited?
5. What are the environmental, economic, ecological, and sociological challenges of river-linking projects?
6. Who gave the theories of isolation, assimilation, and integration of tribes into mainstream society?
7. What change did the Godavarman judgment bring?

[Member 1]

1. Which subjects did you prepare for this interview?
2. Are you interested in the Constitution and federalism?
3. What is the Supreme Court's recent judgment on the Governor's powers?
4. Is there any limit to the Supreme Court's jurisdiction – can it overreach?

[Member 2]

1. You prepared forestry – tell me about the types and levels of biodiversity.
2. What are keystone species?
3. What are exotic species? Are they always invasive?

[Member 3 (Wanted short, direct answers)]

1. What is the dictionary definition of 'forest'?
2. Is India being softer in its response to the USA compared to how it handles China?



acads

N^o 15**Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir** 23 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Education: Electronics Engineering

From: Marathwada, Maharashtra

Optional: Mathematics & Forestry

Duration: ~15 min

 Short interview – about 15 minutes. Candidate corrected Chairman's assumption about home district.**[Chairperson]**

1. So you are from Vidarbha? (Candidate: No sir, Marathwada)
2. Tell me about the socio-cultural and environmental impact of the Sahyadri on Maharashtra.
3. What are the key issues related to canal irrigation?

[Member 1]

1. You are from a drought-prone district – name some crops grown there.
2. Name some tree species found in that region.

[Member 3]

1. What are the applications of electronics engineering in forestry?
2. People are installing electric fences to keep elephants away – is this legally permissible?

[Member 4]

1. Why are terror attacks continuing in Jammu & Kashmir?
2. What is your opinion on the Maratha reservation demand?

Nº 16

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir 23 April 2025

DAF Keywords: Cricket, Travelling, ATC (AAI)

From: Etawah

[Chairperson]

1. What is the current status of India's aviation sector?
2. A pilot told me that 83% of people on flights are first-time flyers – why is this so? (Long discussion)
3. Why was the Forest Conservation Act 1980 needed?
4. How can chemical engineering knowledge be applied in forestry?
5. What is the role of an IFoS officer?

[Member 2]

1. You mentioned budget travelling – how do you do it?
2. What is Jatropha, and what is India's biofuel policy?
3. What are bioplastics?
4. There was a recent mid-air aircraft collision – are you aware of it?
5. What are the communication challenges between ATC and pilots?
6. What is DGCA's role in promoting sustainable aviation?

[Member 3]

1. How do you see the US trade war? What are its implications for India?
2. Does India have an advantageous position in this scenario?
3. What should India do strategically in this situation?

[Member 4]

1. Air traffic is increasing, but aviation is a major polluter – how do you reconcile this?
2. Tell me about the Etawah Lion Safari.

3. What is green technology in the context of the environment?
4. What is nano-urea?
5. How would you convince someone to adopt sustainable practices?



Nº 17

Board: Suman Sharma Ma'am

 23 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: Mr. C

Education: Mechanical Engineering

Optional: Forestry & Geology

DAF Keywords: Drone & DGPS Survey, IFS 2023 attempt, State job

 Last candidate to go. Appreciated Mahesh Bhagwat Sir's guidance on DAF preparation.

[Chairperson]

1. What is the meaning of your name?
2. Tell me about your current job, cadre, and reason for appearing again.
3. What is the difference between a Drone and a UAV?
4. What is the utility of high-altitude flying drones?
5. What is the impact of Trump's tariffs on India?
6. What are the negatives and opportunities for India arising from these tariffs?
7. How do Trump's tariffs on other countries indirectly impact India?
8. Should India have its own DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency)?

[Member 1]

1. What is an ethical dilemma?
2. What are the rules governing All India Services, and what does Article 312 say?
3. Are you facing an ethical dilemma right now?
4. Is the IFS a job or a service?
5. What is your reason for appearing in the IFS?

[Member 2]

1. What are the key features of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act?
2. What is the role of forests in women's empowerment?

[Member 3]

1. What are the reasons for the Joshimath landslide?
2. Tell me about the Dasara festival and the use of elephants in the procession.
3. Have you visited any National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary?
4. What are the criteria for declaring a Ramsar wetland?
5. Tell me about Chilika Lake.
6. What is famous about Loktak Lake?
7. Where is India's cleanest river located, and what is its name?

Nº 18

Board: Sheel Vardhan Sir

 23 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Education: Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering

DAF Keywords: Academic Mentor, Cricket, Badminton

Position: 2nd to go | Duration: ~20 min

 Interview lasted about 20 minutes. Sustained discussion on moonlighting and work-life debates.

[Chairperson]

1. What are the major challenges you face in mentoring students?
2. Why does someone need a mentor when ChatGPT exists?
3. What is your view on moonlighting? Should it be allowed in the private sector? In government?
4. Is moonlighting currently allowed in India?

[Member 1 (Cheerful)]

1. Should India's youth work 90 hours per week, as Narayana Murthy suggested? What is your view?
2. Have you heard of the concept of Ikigai?
3. How has mobile technology evolved from 1G to 5G? What has fundamentally changed?
4. India is strong in software; China is strong in hardware. What should India prioritise, and why?

[Member 2 (Lady)]

1. The semiconductor industry is highly polluting – should India still develop it? What are the trade-offs?
2. How do you balance development goals with environmental protection?

[Member 3 (Lady)]

1. Continuing from the semiconductor discussion – what are the challenges of e-waste?
2. How is e-waste collected and processed in India?

3. Does India have the technology to process e-waste domestically?

★ ★ ★

Acads

Nº 19

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

17 22 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Education: Electrical Engineering

DAF Keywords: Energy Audit, Social Issues, Marathi Poetry

Position: Last to go

🔑 Cordial and cooperative board. Member 4 gave a fascinating open-ended prompt – speak on any topic for 2–4 minutes.

[Chairperson]

1. Where were you born and brought up?
2. How do you balance livelihood of tribal communities with forest conservation?
3. What policy changes can you suggest to generate forest-based livelihoods?
4. Can you give an example of women-led ecotourism?
5. Tell me about Joint Forest Management and how it helps resolve tensions between local communities and the forest department.

[Member 2 (Lady)]

1. You studied energy audit – tell me about carbon auditing.
2. What is a carbon footprint?
3. How should biomedical waste be disposed of?
4. Do you know of any eco-friendly biomedical instruments?
5. What is the relationship between carbon footprint and forests?

[Member 3]

1. You have spent many years preparing for UPSC – why are young minds 'wasting time' on civil service preparation?
2. What policy-level changes can reduce this phenomenon?
3. Which social issue troubles you the most?
4. Tell us more about it.

[Member 4]

1. *Speak on any topic for 2–4 minutes. (Candidate spoke about Ramchandra Guha's book 'Speaking with Nature')*
2. *What are the two theories given in that book – livelihood environmentalism and full-stomach environmentalism? Which holds true for India?*
3. *What is your view on the de-extinction of the dire wolf – is it truly a dire wolf or just a variant of the grey wolf?*
4. *What is your opinion on forcing employees to speak the local language? (Maharashtra context)*

[Chairperson (Close)]

1. *Do you think you wasted time in preparation, or invested it?*

Nº 20

Board: Suman Sharma Ma'am

 23 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

From: Madhya Pradesh

Optional: Forestry & Mathematics

Note: Nothing from DAF was asked

 Ma'am focused on broad national development themes rather than forestry or DAF specifics.

[Chairperson]

1. What does 'Viksit' mean in Viksit Bharat? What are we trying to achieve?
2. What is India's current per capita income?
3. Name three areas where you would like to work to help India achieve developed-nation status. (Ma'am steered away from forestry-specific answers to general areas)
4. Tell me about the silver economy.
5. What is a Time Bank?
6. Should India have an Agniveer-type scheme for the elderly as well?

[Member 1]

1. What went wrong with SAARC?
2. Countries like Maldives and Sri Lanka often act in self-interest – why should India still help and engage with them?
3. What are India's core national interests?
4. How is India dealing with Bangladesh right now?
5. What is 'strategic ambiguity'?
6. How important is teamwork to you? If one team member always complains and another refuses to work – how do you handle this?

[Member 2]

1. What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
2. Is there an India-specific SDG index? (Answer: yes – NITI Aayog)

3. Tell me about the Narmada Bachao Andolan.
4. Were there any policy-level changes in the Government of India following this movement?

[**Member 3**]

1. There are so many elephant-related problems – why should we conserve them at all?
2. What ecological role do elephants play?
3. What was the Bandhavgarh elephant deaths case? What was the issue?
4. How should we tackle forest fires? (Candidate gave California fires example using Phos-Chek; member interrupted: never use chemicals in forests)

— End of Transcripts 11–20 —



Acads

IFoS Interview Transcripts III

— 2024 —

Compiled from candidate submissions

Transcripts 21 – 30

Nº 21

Board: Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla Sir

17 24 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Position: 1st to go

DAF Keywords: Not specified

Member 2 was in grilling mode on CDM and carbon markets, but candidate maintained composure throughout.

[Chairperson]

1. What is the mandate of the Indian Forest Service? (Candidate started with NFP – interrupted)
2. What is the forest cover target mentioned in the National Forest Policy? (Answer: 33% plains, 66% hills)
3. Discuss the poor state of hill stations – what has gone wrong? (Examples: Ooty, Shimla)
4. Which states have good forest cover?
5. How will you ensure that hill stations are preserved? (Candidate: ecotourism, Valmiki NP example)

[Member 1]

1. Recited a couplet from a Hindi poem containing your name – who is the poet? (Candidate guessed Jaishankar Prasad)
2. Democracy is not always good – people don't always choose right. Sometimes mild autocracy is better. What is your stance?
3. If democracy has issues, why do you then stop people from 'loitering' at hill stations? (Linked to earlier answer)
4. Why did you take the CAT exam? Why didn't you join an IIM?

[Member 2 (Technically oriented – had to say no many times)]

1. What is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)?
2. How does the CDM work exactly? (Candidate tried to explain but member was not satisfied)
3. What is a carbon market?

4. What is the Green Credit Programme?

[**Member 3**]

1. What is the importance of Makhana – acreage, production, and budget features?
2. What are the environmental hazards of Makhana cultivation? (Candidate: methane from wetlands, offset by fishery and paddy)
3. How has Valmiki National Park maintained its forest cover? (Candidate: Tiger reserve protection + Tharu community conservation)
4. Why are women less active in Bihar's panchayat governance?

N^o 22**Board: B.B. Swain Sir** 21 April 2025

Education: IIT Guwahati

Background: RIL Jamnagar Refinery

From: Bihar

DAF Keywords: JNV, IIT Guwahati, Jamnagar Refinery

Duration: ~21–22 min

 *Chairman opened with a pointed observation: Why is IFoS getting full of engineers?***[Chairperson]**

1. Why is the IFoS getting filled with engineers?
2. Tell me something about the Jamnagar refinery.

[Member 1]

1. Have you visited any forest area?
2. What have you observed during a zoo visit?
3. What is the purpose of a zoo?
4. Is one visit to a zoo sufficient to gain meaningful knowledge?
5. Is a zoo an ex-situ or in-situ mode of conservation?
6. What are the in-situ modes of conservation?
7. What will be your priorities when you join the service? How will your skills be used in forestry?
8. So technology will be the chief priority for you?

[Member 2]

1. You studied in a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya – tell me about the JNV model and its success.
2. IIT Guwahati is a newer IIT – what differences have you observed compared to older IITs?
3. Why should there be reservations in jobs?
4. Why is there no creamy layer exclusion in SC reservations, but there is in OBC?

5. Do you think an income criterion should be applied for SCs as well? What is your opinion?

[**Member 3**]

1. What kind of relationship do tribal communities share with wildlife?
2. What kind of relationship do they share with the forest?
3. Suggest something innovative to improve the lifestyle of tribal communities.
4. What conflicts do tribal communities have with the forest department?
5. What was the Niyamgiri issue, and why did tribals want to preserve it?
6. What does the Niyamgiri case reveal about the tribal view of development?
7. What were the major changes in tribal administration during Muslim rule and British rule?

[**Member 1 (Again)**]

1. What is the difference between afforestation and plantation?
2. How many National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are there in Bihar?
3. What is the difference between a Territorial Forest Division and a National Park/WLS?
4. Is the Forest Rights Act benefitting people? What improvements could be made?

[**Chairperson (Close)**]

1. Is there anything you wish to say that we missed?

Nº 23

Board: Sheel Vardhan Sir 22 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Position: 6th to go

[Chairperson]

1. Name five Indian cities that have good lakes.

[Member 1]

1. What are the downsides of the Green/Agriculture Revolution?

[Member 2]

1. What are the pros and cons of GM crops?
2. What are the ethical concerns surrounding GM crops?
3. Should GM technology be used in forestry?
4. Which government body in India regulates GM crops?

[Member 3]

1. What are wetlands?
2. What is the importance of wetlands?
3. Urbanisation is harming wetlands – how should we manage this conflict?

Nº 24

Board: B.B. Swain Sir

17 24 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: Gandhi

Education: Mechanical Engineering, NIT Jamshedpur

Background: Tata Motors

From: Champaran, Bihar

Optional: Geology & Forestry

Position: 1st to go

🦋 Interview felt like a wildlife deep-dive despite no wildlife background. M1 and M2 grilled with a smile. No current affairs or hobby questions. Chairman mostly smiled and observed.

[Chairperson]

1. Are you comfortable? Shall we begin? (Candidate was slightly anxious after waiting longer than expected)
2. You have lived in Jamshedpur – tell me about the flora of Jharkhand. (Candidate mentioned Saranda)
3. Which trees are found in Saranda?
4. What about the fauna of Jharkhand?

[Member 1]

1. What is the role of geology in forestry?
2. How does soil type determine tree species? Explain edaphic factors. (Candidate: Chir pine needs quartz; Blue pine needs mica schist)
3. But what about South India – pine is not found there. Explain from a geology perspective.
4. What is the purpose of Project Elephant?
5. Have you visited an elephant reserve? (Candidate: Dalma, Jamshedpur)
6. What are the similarities between elephants and humans? (Candidate: emotions, family bonds, PTSD, bridge-testing behaviour)
7. Physical similarities? (Brain, cranial capacity)

8. What is the role of elephants in seed dispersal?
9. Why are elephants called a keystone species?
10. As a DFO, how would you reduce human-elephant conflict?
11. What is a tuskless male elephant called? (Answer: Makhna)
12. What is the difference between a gharial and a crocodile?
13. Where do they lay eggs? What determines the sex of eggs?
14. What is the difference in their diet?
15. How are the flora and fauna of a place interrelated and interdependent?
16. What trees are found in Bihar's riverine ecosystem?
17. Are cheetahs found in India? (Candidate: Kuno. Member: That's introduction. Laughed.)
18. When did the cheetah go extinct in India? (Answer: 1952)
19. Tell me about agroforestry. Which trees would you use as DFO in your district?

[**Member 2 (Lady)**]

1. What is cranial capacity?
2. Which animal has the highest cranial capacity?
3. Do we measure only brain size, or relative to body size?
4. Why do humans have the highest relative cranial capacity – why not monkeys?
5. Are humans and gorillas evolutionarily related?
6. Tell me about the tribes of Jharkhand – their culture and ecological practices.
7. Is everything tribal communities do ecologically sound? (Candidate discussed hunting festivals – traditional weapons, sparing females and young)
8. Do you know the concept of totem? Is this hunting practice related to totem?

[**Member 3**]

1. You worked at Tata Motors – don't you think your engineering skills could have been better used there?
2. I want to buy a car – which one would you suggest?
3. Should I go for EV or conventional?
4. What is the purpose of the vehicle scrappage policy?
5. What was Champaran's role in the freedom struggle?

6. What was the outcome of the Champaran Satyagraha? Explain the Teenkathiya system.



Acads

Nº 25

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

 24 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

From: Rajasthan (Bharatpur)

Education: Mechanical Engineering

Optional: Forestry & Geology

DAF Keywords: Watching movies on social issues

 Cordial board. Chairman was a bit serious; other members were welcoming and smiling.

[Chairperson]

1. What have you studied? (Candidate: ecology, forestry, DAF-related topics)
2. What is a Working Plan and what is its significance in forestry?
3. What are the differences between the 1952 and 1988 Forest Policies? If you were made Chairman of a new policy drafting committee, what provisions would you recommend?
4. What are carbon credits and what is their use?

[Member 1]

1. You like to watch movies on social issues – which specific issue do you watch movies on? (Candidate: broad social issues; named some recent films)
2. Choose one issue for a discussion. (Candidate chose gender disparities – discussion on government steps)

[Member 2 (Lady)]

1. You studied mechanical engineering – where can you apply this in forest management?
2. How many National Parks are in Rajasthan? What is the difference between a National Park and a Wildlife Sanctuary?
3. What kinds of forests are found in Rajasthan? Name some tree species in thorn forests.
4. There is a famous vegetable called Sangri in Rajasthan – how is it prepared? (Made from a tree extract)
5. Tell me about Keoladeo National Park – what is the best time to visit?

[Member 3]

1. List more areas where mechanical engineering can be applied in forestry.
2. There is a very famous poaching case in Rajasthan in the last two decades – do you know it?
(Salman Khan blackbuck case – candidate asked to share what they know and recent developments)



Nº 26

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

17 23 April 2025

Name: Lucifer

From: Maharashtra

Optional: Agriculture & Botany

DAF Keywords: Agriculture, Cricket, Trekking, NCC

Duration: ~23–25 min

🦋 Wide-ranging board – covered cooperatives, corruption, RTI, and a detailed hypothetical elephant scenario.

[Chairperson]

1. What is the meaning of 'Agricos'?
2. What are the differences between agriculture in China and India, and what are the reasons for those differences?
3. Name the protected areas in Maharashtra.
4. What is the procedure for declaring National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries?
5. Discuss cooperatives and the benefits of the new Ministry of Cooperation for farmers.

[Member 1 (Lady)]

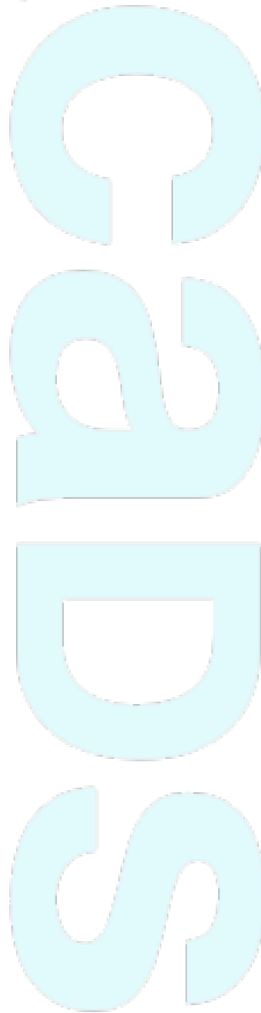
1. What is special about your district? (Candidate: textiles)
2. What is the environmental impact of the textile industry?
3. How can your agricultural knowledge help in maintaining the health of plants and trees?

[Member 2]

1. Who is the youngest player making news in the IPL currently?
2. What is human-wildlife conflict? (Open-ended – candidate covered all aspects)
3. I will create a hypothetical scenario involving elephants and a nearby community – as a DFO, how would you handle it? (Several follow-up questions)

[Member 3]

1. A long explanation of how DFOs, IPS, and IAS officers work down the chain to foresters, constables, and village revenue officers – what about corruption in these areas?
2. You ended on a positive note – are there really no negatives?
3. How can we ensure greater transparency in these services?
4. Is the RTI Act truly helpful for ensuring transparency?
5. What else would you suggest to counter corruption?



Nº 27

Board: B.B. Swain Sir

17 24 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Name: C.A.R

From: Telangana

Education: ECE

Optional: Mathematics & Forestry

DAF Keywords: Drone internship, Sports club president, Expository documentaries, Wildlife exploring

Duration: ~15 min

🔑 Pleasant and happy experience – felt more like a discussion than an interrogation. Mostly DAF and forestry focused.

[Chairperson]

1. You watch documentaries – what type?
2. What are expository documentaries?
3. Do you watch wildlife documentaries? Name a few.

[Member 2 (Lady)]

1. Tell me about the wildlife of Telangana or Andhra Pradesh.
2. Name the key tribes of Telangana.
3. Tell me about the Konda Reddi tribe. (Follow-up)
4. What is the difference between Asian and African elephants?
5. Can we identify individual elephants and name them?
6. What is wildlife forensics?

[Member 3]

1. Asked about a specific Wildlife Sanctuary. (Candidate did not know)
2. You graduated in 2021 and have been unemployed since then – why?
3. There are some Asiatic male elephants without tusks – why? (Member explained the evolutionary reason with a smile)

4. Tell me about the Amur Falcon. What is a raptor? How does it get food during migration?
5. Are there king cobras in Telangana? What type of forest do they prefer?
6. Telangana is located in which physiographical region?
7. Tell me about the Kancha Gachibowli university protest – is it a forest? Whose fault is it?
8. Forest policy targets 33% forest cover, but forest land is already limited – how can we increase it?
9. It is easy to convince tribals to protect forests – how would you convince educated urban bureaucrats like us?

[**Member 4**]

1. You are a sports club president – what does this statement mean to you: 'The Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton'?
2. You worked on drones – name one advantage and one disadvantage in the security domain.
3. How would you overcome the disadvantage you named?
4. AI is causing unemployment in the IT sector – what is your take on this?

Nº 28

Board: B.B. Swain Sir

17 21 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: Beenoo

From: Varanasi

DAF Keywords: Reading about Lord Krishna, Travelling to Dhams, Forestry

Position: 1st to go

📌 Overall pleasant experience except for M1's grilling. Candidate discussed a research angle on River Yamuna conservation at the close – Chairman agreed.

[Chairperson]

1. Should we call you Beenoo?
2. What do you gain from travelling to different places? (Candidate: Dham visits for spiritual experience)
3. Have you visited Mahakumbh? How were the arrangements? (Candidate visited after the Mauni Amavasya stampede)

[Member 1 (Lady – possibly Forest Service background)]

1. The stampede could have been avoided – but tell me: why do you want to join the services?
2. Do you feel that things are not getting implemented properly? (Several follow-up questions)

[Member 2]

1. You are from Varanasi – name one good thing and one bad thing about it since PM Modi became the MP there.
2. Is everyone happy about the development in Varanasi?
3. Tell me about One Nation One Election (ONOE) – what are the concerns about accountability of elected representatives?

[Member 3]

1. You are interested in Lord Krishna – what one thing attracts you to him?

2. The dharma of an animal is to eat – similarly, what is the dharma of humans? Who is right in a human-wildlife conflict? (Candidate: shared resources, but fuelled by human encroachment; referenced Isha Upanishad)
3. What is the solution to human-wildlife conflict?
4. What are invasive alien species?
5. Do you know about some birds that come to Varanasi? (Siberian Gulls – member clarified: not 'girls', GUL. Candidate laughed and explained how tourist feeding harms their strength)
6. What are the issues related to forests and rivers?
7. What is an indicator species of a river? (Answer: Gangetic dolphin)
8. Everyone in Varanasi is a Shiva devotee – why are you drawn to Krishna?

[**Chairperson (Close)**]

1. Do you want to discuss anything? (Candidate paused; Chairman said: no, you wanted to discuss something)
2. Candidate discussed research on River Yamuna conservation – people-river relationships as a driver for cleaning programmes. Chairman agreed.

♦ ♦ ♦

Nº 29

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

 23 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: Invincible

From: Bihar

Education: Electronics Engineering, IIT BHU

Background: Nvidia

DAF Keywords: Reading Books, Bihar

 Real interview was quite different from mocks – more philosophical and economics-heavy. Chairman facilitated lively exchanges with smiles all around.

[Chairperson]

1. Compare the writing styles of Devdutt Pattanaik, Chetan Bhagat, and Amish Tripathi.
2. Aggression and violence are increasing in our society – why?
3. What would you suggest as a policy maker to address this?
4. What is your opinion on judicial activism in the domain of the environment? (Candidate began with historical context; Chairman: first tell me your own opinion)
5. List some landmark cases related to environmental judicial activism.

[Member 1]

1. Why is the Koshi River called the 'Sorrow of Bihar'?
2. What are the key cash crops of this region? (Member was asking about Makhana)
3. How is Makhana cultivated?
4. What is the scope for export and food processing industry around Makhana?
5. How can GPUs be used in the environmental domain?

[Member 2]

1. What kind of books do you read?
2. Any books related to the environment? (Candidate: 'A Book of Nature' by Ruskin Bond – discussion on content)

3. Why IFS after a good career at Nvidia? (Chairman interjected: because he wanted to establish himself first. Everyone laughed.)

4. Why did you choose geology and forestry as optionals?

[**Member 3**]

1. Are you interested in economics?

2. Discussion on different economic models – which one would you prefer for India? (Back-and-forth exchange)

3. What are your views on Universal Basic Income?

4. How would you implement it? (Candidate: better targeting, exclusion criteria – Member: then how is it 'universal'? Candidate: real-world implementation needs such caveats)

♦ ♦ ♦

Nº 30

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

 23 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Name: SSJ

From: Karnataka

Education: BSc Agriculture

DAF Keywords: Reflective Journaling

Position: 2nd to go

 *Chairman opened with a surprisingly fun discussion on celebrity endorsements for Mysore Sandal Soap and Nandini Milk!*

[Chairperson]

1. What was the impact of LPG (liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation) reforms on agriculture?
2. As Secretary of Cooperatives, how would you promote Mysore Sandal Soap and Nandini Milk?
3. In my opinion, we should promote them in the IPL using film stars. What do you think?
4. Which celebrity would you suggest for advertising?
5. Between Aishwarya Rai and Deepika Padukone – which actress for Mysore Sandal Soap, and which for Nandini Milk, and why?

[Member 1 (Lady)]

1. What is the difference between agroforestry and commercial forestry?
2. How would you use your agricultural knowledge in agroforestry?
3. Which has more carbon emissions and which has more carbon sequestration – a grassland or a forest?
4. What is a carbon footprint?
5. What are the ecological benefits of forests?

[Member 2]

1. In a forest area, if there is a conflict between the Forest Act and the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita), what would you do as an IFS officer?
2. What are the pros and cons of forests being in the Concurrent List?
3. Doesn't the Forest Conservation Act give the Central Government a monopoly over forest land diversion – forcing states to seek permission even for small diversions?
4. What is reflective journaling?
5. My daughter does it too – why do you think today's generation is doing this more?
6. When do you do it – daily or weekly?
7. How has reflective journaling helped you personally?
8. Don't you think analysing every action makes life too conscious and controlled? What is your opinion?

[**Member 3**]

1. Tell me one issue you want to discuss to impress this board. (Candidate chose regional disparity)
2. Give a full presentation – meaning, examples, reasons, and your suggestions.
3. But rich states want more funds diverted to them – how do you handle this?
4. How would you convince richer states to accept fund diversion?
5. Isn't investing in regionally backward areas a poor return on investment?
6. How can those funds be used more effectively?
7. Global North and Global South – why is there less financial transfer between them?
8. What can be done to facilitate better fund transfer?

– End of Transcripts 21–30 –

Acads

IFoS Interview Transcripts IV

— 2024 —

Compiled from candidate submissions

Transcripts 31 – 40

Nº 31

Board: Suman Sharma Ma'am Date: April 2025

From: Karnataka

Optional: Agriculture & Botany

DAF Keywords: Sudoku (rest not asked)

 Board was encouraging throughout – felt more like a conversation than Q&A. Ma'am covered diverse social topics including surrogacy.

[Chairperson]

1. Why are farmers protesting?
2. Why do we have MSP – do we really need it?
3. What is your opinion on surrogacy?
4. Why don't we extend surrogacy rights to transgender couples?

[Member 1]

1. Did you watch the movie Sherni? What is it about?
2. What are the forest types found in Karnataka?
3. Tell me about Project Lion.
4. What are Critical Wildlife Habitats, and what is the procedure for declaring them?
5. What are Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR)?
6. Why are we not allowing private players in JLRs?
7. What is the speciality of the Nallur Tamarind Grove?

[Member 2]

1. Tell me about the origin of Sudoku. What level do you solve? What is the difference between a game and a puzzle?
2. Situation-based: A minister asks you not to sign off on a project belonging to the opposition party – what would you do?

[Member 3]

1. What is an ecosystem?
2. What are artificial ecosystems? Give examples.
3. What is the role of women in Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs)?
4. What about zoo ethics and animal rights?



Nº 32

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

 Date: April 2025

Name: Sachin

DAF Keywords: Mimicry, Mining Engineering, Forestry

Position: 2nd last to go | Duration: ~25 min

 Felt like a CSE interview – discussion and opinion oriented. Chairman asked candidate to stand up and perform mimicry at the start! Everyone laughed.

[Chairperson]

1. You do mimicry – please go stand behind your chair and perform. (Candidate did Nana Patekar, Sunny Deol, Sunil Shetty on water conservation theme)
2. Can you do Amitabh Bachchan? (Candidate did – everyone laughed)
3. Tell me about lithium mining in India – where have reserves been found? Why was the auction annulled?
4. What is your take on the stand-up comedy scene in India?
5. On the Indus Waters Treaty – answer three sub-questions: Can India withdraw unilaterally? What are the legal challenges? What would be the geopolitical impact?
6. If you were designing the Radcliffe Line and had to choose between the Punjab region or Kashmir – which would you take as an Indian, and why? (Member explained Lahore's significance; candidate held position for Kashmir on strategic grounds)
7. Tell me about your work at Honeywell as a software engineer.
8. Does an energy mineral fall under the MMDR Act?
9. Does lithium have any use in semiconductors?

[Member 1 (Lady)]

1. What are the negative impacts of mining on plants – both direct and indirect?
2. Which causes more harm – underground mining or opencast mining?
3. What is mining's contribution to GDP?
4. What is TOC in the context of mining?

[Member 2]

1. Name the forest institutes located in Jabalpur.
2. Which national park have you visited?
3. Why are elephants taken into the core zone of Kanha Tiger Reserve? (Discussion for 2–3 minutes)

[Member 3]

1. Why did you leave your job?
2. Could you go back to it?
3. Tell me honestly – what do you feel about euthanasia?
4. Case study: A Canadian soldier shoots a badly wounded Afghan militant to relieve suffering. What would you have done? (Member pushed for an extreme position; candidate maintained that alternatives should be exhausted before such a step)

Nº 33

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

17 25 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

From: Andhra Pradesh

Optional: Agriculture & Botany

DAF Keywords: JNV school, OYO (job), Agriculture & Food Processing, Pickleball

Position: 1st to go

🔑 Warm and encouraging board. Members helped with some answers and offered positive feedback. Heavily DAF-focused.

[Chairperson]

1. What is the meaning of your name, and who gave it to you?
2. You studied in a JNV – what is its role in uplifting rural communities?
3. The JNV system is called a 'migration policy' – shouldn't it be called a cultural exchange programme instead? (Sir: 'migration' was also used negatively during COVID)
4. You worked at OYO – how can OYO create more income opportunities for urban families?
5. Is it possible to rent out one room in a 3BHK to strangers through the OYO model?
6. When did the Green Revolution start? Despite being positive, what are its negative effects?
7. Do you think the Green Revolution contributed to rising obesity in India?

[Member 1]

1. Andhra Pradesh is prone to cyclones – what types of trees are best suited to tackle them? (Candidate named Peepal, Banyan, Casuarina equisetifolia)
2. Rethink – which of these three is most suitable? (Answer: Casuarina equisetifolia)
3. What makes Casuarina equisetifolia different from the other two?
4. How does Casuarina equisetifolia function as a shelterbelt? Explain the mechanism. (Aerodynamic lift, flexibility)
5. Pickleball is gaining popularity – why? Is it easier to learn than tennis?

[Member 2]

1. Tell me about recent disturbing incidents you are concerned about. (Candidate raised terror attacks)
2. What are the root causes of terror attacks?
3. Do some states also support terrorism?
4. Do local populations support it? Why?
5. Is Bhagat Singh a terrorist or a martyr?
6. A terrorist for one nation is a martyr for another – how do you see this?

[**Member 3 (Lady)**]

1. What is fortified rice? Why is fortification important? What steps is the government taking?
2. If food is over-fortified with iron, will it not reduce absorption of other nutrients?
3. Is Golden Rice fortified rice or GM-fortified rice?
4. What are the various food safety standards in India?
5. Have you heard about fortified milk? Why is the government promoting it?
6. Natural milk already contains some nutrients – why then do we need fortified milk?

Nº 34

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

 25 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: JSR JMU

Education: IIT Kanpur

Background: Investment Banking, Global Markets

From: Aurangabad, Bihar

Position: 4th to go

 Very positive and cordial discussion. Chairman engaged on left ideology and welfare state with light moments – everyone including the candidate laughed. Members said best wishes at the close.

[Chairperson]

1. It is good that you have been working since graduation. Why do you want to join IFS after leaving such a high-paying job?
2. Was everyone in your life supportive of this decision?
3. What is opportunity cost? How do you justify your decision in terms of opportunity cost?
4. What would your salary in the financial sector be after 10 years?

[Member 1]

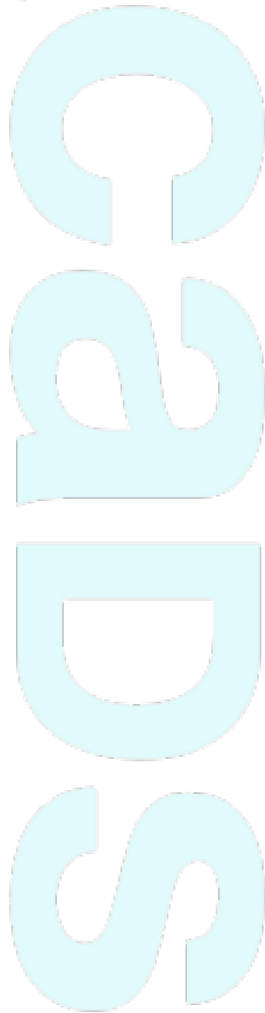
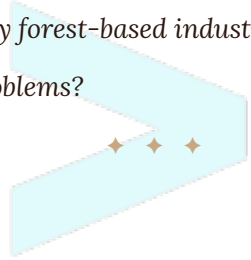
1. Trump's tariff flip-flops – was he trying to gain after first investing money in the market?
2. Which national park have you visited? (Candidate: Mudumalai)
3. Why was Mudumalai in the news recently?
4. Name the tree species you observed near your hostel at IIT Kanpur.

[Member 2]

1. Discussion on Naxalism and left-wing ideology.
2. Is China truly a leftist country?
3. Vehicles are staying beyond the permitted time at tiger-spotting zones in Jim Corbett – what should be done?
4. Discussion on the book Animal Farm – what does it say about power and ideology?

[**Member 3 (Lady)**]

1. Why is Aurangabad called the Chittorgarh of Bihar?
2. How would you use technology in forestry?
3. What are the problems faced by forest-based industries?
4. How would you solve these problems?



Nº 35

Board: B.B. Swain Sir 25 April 2025

From: Chitradurga & Shivamogga, Karnataka

[Chairperson]

1. Tell me about Chitradurga.

[Member 1 (Lady)]

1. Which species are most closely related to humans?
2. What is the Rh blood group factor? (Member explained the link to Rhesus monkeys)
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a woman in the IFS?
4. Name the tribes of Northeast India.
5. Which tribe in the Northeast follows a matrilineal system? What is a matrilineal society? If a mother has three daughters, how does inheritance work?
6. Name some species found in Northeast India.

[Member 2 (Karnataka-focused)]

1. Have you visited Jogimatti? Why is the vegetation there different from the plains?
2. Name species found in the Chitradurga region.
3. Why are sloth bears found in rocky terrain?
4. How do agroforestry tree species differ between Chitradurga and Shivamogga?
5. What are the special characteristics of sandalwood trees?
6. How is sandalwood propagated?
7. What is the role of birds in sandalwood seed dispersal?
8. Why are elephant camps like Sakrebailu important?

[Member 3]

1. Are freebies good or bad?
2. What is an 'ethnic day' event, and why is it important?

[Chairperson (Return)]

1. Tell me about Shivamogga.
2. Why is Agumbe called the cobra capital of India? (A member added: What is the speciality of the king cobra? – Candidate did not know; Sir elaborated)



Nº 36

Board: B.B. Swain Sir 24 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

From: Rajasthan

DAF Keywords: Food vlogging, Forestry, Economics

Position: 4th to go

[Chairperson]

1. What do you do as a food vlogger?
2. What is street food?

[Member 1]

1. Have you been to any forest or protected area? What did you observe about the role of the forest department?
2. Which species and ecosystem types did you observe?
3. Have you visited any zoo?
4. As a DFO, what would you do to make people want to visit again with their families?
5. What is the official name of the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary?
6. What is it famous for, and how many bird species are found there?
7. Rajasthan is facing frequent forest fires – what are the causes, and what steps would you take as a DFO to prevent or tackle them?

[Member 2 (Lady)]

1. Have you been to the Andaman Islands? Why are they famous and ecologically important?
2. Which tribes are found in Andaman?
3. What is coral bleaching, and why does it happen?
4. What is the impact of rising sea surface temperatures on marine species?
5. Name some animal species found in Rajasthan.

[Member 3]

1. What is the difference between communicable and non-communicable diseases?

2. Why do non-communicable diseases account for more deaths?
3. As a responsible vlogger, how do you communicate about these diseases to your audience?
4. Name one positive and one negative aspect of social media.
5. What is the top line and bottom line in a company's balance sheet?
6. What is your opinion on linking Aadhaar with the Voter ID?

[**Chairperson (Close)**]

1. Is there anything on your mind, or something new you have been doing recently?

Nº 37

Board: B.B. Swain Sir 25 April 2025

From: Madhya Pradesh

DAF Keywords: Acrylic Painting, Jogging, Scholarship

[Chairperson]

1. Have you done any professional course in painting?
2. Which type of colours do you use? Why acrylic?
3. Do you know any famous painters?
4. Why did historical painters not use acrylic colours? (Sir: because acrylic was invented only in the 1930s – then said: leave it, I was joking)

[Member 1 (Lady)]

1. When and why did you receive the scholarship mentioned in your DAF?
2. We are building 4-lane and 6-lane highways by compromising the environment – are we doing the right thing? What are your views?
3. Do you think women face unique challenges in the IFS, and do you consider yourself fit for this job?
4. Can women do something special in connecting with local communities?

[Member 2]

1. Which topic shall I ask about – forest or wildlife? Your choice.
2. What is the recent news about cheetahs in India?
3. Why did cheetahs go extinct in India, and what special measures is the government taking for their survival post-reintroduction?
4. What is the Madhya Pradesh government specifically doing regarding cheetahs?
5. What are buffer zones? Are they forest areas or any type of land?
6. How many big cats are there in the world? How many species are found in India? Name them.

7. What is the difference between big cats and small cats?
8. Give examples of small cats found in India.

[**Member 3**]

1. What are the reasons for human-wildlife conflict arising from cheetah reintroduction?
2. What are the health and fitness benefits of jogging?

[**Chairperson (Close)**]

1. What is CBDR (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities)?
2. Do you want to ask any questions – perhaps related to painting?

♦ ♦ ♦

Nº 38

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

17 23 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: Explorer

Education: IIT Bombay

From: Ghazipur (UP) / studied in Surat

DAF Keywords: Data, IIT Bombay, Ghazipur, Surat

Position: 1st to go

🔍 Lively board. Candidate's mention of Surati Locho drew laughter. M2 had a stimulating discussion on judicial overreach vs. activism.

[Chairperson]

1. What are the uses of drones and thermal imaging in forestry? Give examples.
2. What is LiDAR? China has adopted it for tree counting – should India too?
3. Big dam or small dam – which would you choose, and why?
4. What is India's data localisation policy?
5. The Tata Chairman said India should have its own indigenous AI model – what do you think, and why?
6. You studied in Surat – what do you miss most about it? (Candidate: Surati Locho, people relaxing on Sunday evenings – everyone laughed. Member asked about Khaman.)

[Member 1]

1. What are the man-animal conflicts at IIT Bombay?
2. Why have these conflicts emerged? What has changed in the last 40 years?
3. Why have no IITians won a Nobel Prize?
4. IITians go abroad and 99% never return – why?
5. Don't you think if they returned, India could develop faster?
6. Why do Chinese students return home after studying abroad in large numbers?
7. China and India were at similar development levels in the 1980s – what led to China's growth and what did India lack?

[Member 2]

1. You worked in a bank – cybersecurity fraud and digital arrests are rampant. Why does this happen?
2. What is your opinion on the Supreme Court's judgment on the powers of the Governor and the President?
3. Is this judicial overreach or judicial activism?
4. Should the President be above all – judiciary, executive, and legislature?

[Member 3]

1. You are from Ghazipur – is it in the Indo-Gangetic Plain or the Vindhya ranges?
2. What kind of forest is found in both these zones?
3. What is the ecological difference between the two areas? (Candidate requested elaboration; member obliged)

N^o 39**Board: B.B. Swain Sir**

17 25 April 2025 | Forenoon Session

Name: SPD

From: Solapur / Pune, Maharashtra

DAF Keywords: Fort Trekking

Position: 6th to go | Duration: ~21 min

Very cordial board. Member 2 engaged for over 10 minutes on diverse topics – thorough and attentive. Candidate picked Solapur as the closing topic at Chairman's invitation.

[Chairperson]

1. Why do most candidates prefer a blue-coloured suit? Why do you prefer black? (Said lightly and on a lighter note)
2. Tell me about fort trekking – what is it? Which forts did you visit, and where are they located?

[Member 1]

1. What are UAVs? How are they different from drones?
2. When is Constitution Day celebrated, and why?
3. Have you heard of BT cotton? What is it, and what are the issues related to its use?

[Member 2]

1. You mentioned fort trekking – what flora and fauna did you observe while trekking?
2. How do flora and fauna of a forest influence each other? (Member elaborated further on ecosystem roles)
3. According to you, what is a forest? Define it. (Back-and-forth)
4. How can drones be used in forest management? Give three uses.
5. Elephants are getting hit by trains – why? Any peculiar reason related to their size? As a DFO, what two measures would you take?
6. What are forest fires? What are the different types and their consequences? (Candidate gave both positive and negative effects; member added pest control)

7. Name two bird species and one lizard species that feed on pests and help trees.
8. You are from Maharashtra and have visited the Western Ghats – how is the Sahyadri significant for Maharashtra? How do Sahyadri and the eastern forests of Nagpur together support biodiversity?
9. Can we quantify the value of water in forest areas in economic terms? What is NPV?
10. You mentioned the FCA 1980 – what are its provisions? What are the parameters for calculating NPV? (Candidate mentioned the Kanchan Chopra Committee – 8 elements)

[**Member 3 (Lady – anthropology background)**]

1. Tell me about the tribes of Tamil Nadu.
2. Let us move to the tribes of Northwest India – the Leh-Ladakh region. What are the physical adaptations of human communities there? (Candidate: stature, bone density; Member added: chest size, haemoglobin)
3. Name the fauna of the Leh region and the Kashmir Valley.

[**Chairperson (Close)**]

1. We have discussed many topics. You pick a topic now. (Candidate chose Solapur)
2. Tell me everything about Solapur – cultural, ecological, agricultural, industrial aspects.

Nº 40

Board: Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla Sir 25 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Education: Mechanical Engineering, IIT Bombay

From: Nagpur

DAF Keywords: Mechanical Engineering, IITB, Nagpur

 Questions were heavily technology and industry focused, then shifted to forest governance and tribal rights. No DAF questions beyond the stated keywords.

[Chairperson]

1. You studied mechanical engineering from IIT Bombay – which subject did you like most? (IC engines)
2. Tell me about the Tesla car – is it a mechanical device or a digital device?
3. Does India manufacture batteries?
4. Do we manufacture our own jet engines?
5. Do we have anything similar to DeepSeek in India?
6. Similar follow-up questions on why India is lagging behind in deep technology.

[Member 1]

1. What is the difference between electrical and electronics engineering?
2. Does India have its own LLM? Should we build one, or build models on top of foreign LLMs?
3. The Bajaj CEO said IITians don't want to get their hands dirty on the shop floor – what is your take?
4. Why are IITians not living up to their potential in manufacturing?
5. What is CRDI in diesel engines?

[Member 2 (Lady)]

1. Why is Nagpur called the tiger capital of India?
2. What is the current status of human-animal conflict in the Nagpur region?

3. What steps can be taken to reduce the population of stray dogs and cattle around forest peripheries to reduce this conflict?

4. What technological interventions can be used to monitor wildlife movement near human settlements?

[**Member 3 (Lady)**]

1. Why is there no mention of tribal communities in the Forest Conservation Act?

2. Were we late to realise their importance? The Forest Rights Act was passed quite late – why?

3. Was this omission a colonial legacy?

4. Why were tribals not included in forest management from the beginning?

5. Things change when you become an officer. Do you think you will maintain the same attitude of involving tribals once you are in the system?

— End of Transcripts 31-40 —

♦ ♦ ♦

Acads

IFoS Interview Transcripts V

— 2024 —

Compiled from candidate submissions

Transcripts 41 – 50

Nº 41

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

 25 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: ASP

From: Latur, Maharashtra

DAF Keywords: Varkari Sampraday, NSS – Check Dam & CCT Activities, Forestry

Position: 7th to go | Duration: ~20 min

 Very cordial board. Discussion flowed naturally around Varkari Sampraday and conservation messaging. Chairman closed with a question on the Latur earthquake.

[Chairperson]

1. Why is UPSC celebrating Maharashtra Day today? (Because of the large number of Maharashtra candidates in the interview)
2. Tell me about the Varkari Sampraday.
3. The Wari procession passes through several districts – if you were the CF of that region, how would you use Wari to promote conservation activities? (Discussion followed)
4. Name some ambassadors you would use to promote conservation messaging at Kumbh Mela and Wari.
5. Why do people take a dip in the Ganga during Kumbh?
6. If we declared that planting 10 trees earns punya equal to moksha, would people follow it?

[Member 1]

1. The Constitution promotes scientific temper – but faith-based messaging seems to go against it. How do you reconcile this in your approach?
2. Is faith a foundational pillar of society, or is it superficial? What is your view?

[Member 2]

1. What did you do during your CCT and check dam activities under NSS?
2. Dams are destroying forests – how do you see this trade-off? What should be done to resolve such conflicts?

[Member 3]

1. Are you familiar with the RTI Act, 2005? As a forest officer, do you feel it could be misused?
2. Tell me about camera traps – how are they used in forests?
3. What is the procedure for a tiger census? What methods are used?

[Chairperson (Close)]

1. Latur is famous for what? (Answer: the 1993 earthquake)



Nº 42

Board: B.B. Swain Sir

17 25 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Education: IIT Kanpur, Aerospace Engineering

Background: Management Consulting

From: Varanasi, UP

DAF Keywords: Football, Space Technology

Position: 6th and last to go | Duration: ~20–25 min

🔊 Rapid-fire round from M3 made candidate a bit nervous. Overall cordial experience. Chairman left midway, asking a lady member to continue.

[Chairperson]

1. Discussion on your name – what should we call you?
2. What excites you most about space? (Candidate: interplanetary travel)
3. Why interplanetary travel specifically?
4. So would you like to go to Mars?

[Member 1 (Lady – Chairman left after this)]

1. You are interested in space tech and aerospace – why then IFS?
2. What is the impact of heatwaves on wildlife and marine organisms?
3. Why do some tribes in the Nicobar Islands have fairer skin compared to other Andaman tribes? (Candidate could not answer)

[Member 2]

1. You mentioned the loss of forest quality – why does it happen and what are its consequences? (Member elaborated on forest role in groundwater recharge)
2. Groundwater depletion is a major challenge – what are its consequences?
3. What is a synchronised wildlife census?
4. What are some examples of human-animal conflict in Uttar Pradesh?
5. You did not mention tiger-human conflict in Dudhwa – what could be the reasons? (Candidate guessed; member asked: are you guessing? Candidate: yes sir)

6. What is the difference between agroforestry and social forestry?
7. Is there any international body involved in regulating trade in endangered species?
8. What is CITES?
9. What is unique about the Sundarbans that is not found in any other mangrove ecosystem?

[**Member 3 (Rapid Fire)**]

1. What is CBDR?
2. What is intergenerational equity?
3. What is the Smart Cities Mission?
4. What is GIFT City?
5. What is your opinion on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

Nº 43

Board: Suman Sharma Ma'am

17 25 April 2025 | Afternoon Session

Name: XYZ (Mayur)

From: Maharashtra

DAF Keywords: Badminton, Sports

M2 opened with some very informal and humorous remarks about the red tie and the candidate's name. Board was generally relaxed.

[Chairperson]

1. A badminton player recently said sports is a game of the rich – what is your opinion?
2. What is your opinion on capital punishment?
3. What are the issues in promoting hydrogen fuel in India?

[Member 1]

1. Tell me about the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
2. What is silviculture, and what are the key silvicultural practices in Maharashtra?

[Member 2]

1. You should be married by now – someone must have suggested the red tie? (Said humorously)
2. Mayur is a beautiful name – what does it mean? It is associated with which Indian deity? Did you know there is a sect in Iran that worships the peacock?
3. Manipur has produced more sportspersons than your region in Maharashtra – why do you think that is?
4. You are a sportsperson – why did you not opt for the state police instead of IFS?

[Member 4]

1. What is the Forest Rights Act?
2. What are PVTGs? How many are there in India? Which are found in Maharashtra? Are they covered under JFM? What are the issues they face?



acads

N^o 44**Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir**
 30 April 2025

From: Nashik, Maharashtra

Education: Mechanical Engineering

DAF Keywords: Skill Development, River Cleaning Campaign, Kabaddi

 Conversational tone throughout. Chairman opened with a light exchange on the candidate's height and sport background.

[Chairperson]

1. You look tall – what is your height? Did you play basketball?
2. How would you promote a sports culture in rural areas?
3. Despite having high-quality students in our IITs, we still have lower output in terms of quality compared to American institutions – why?
4. What is the environmental significance of the Sahyadri for Maharashtra?

[Member 1]

1. Maharashtra has Warli painting as a tribal art form. What similar initiatives can you take to uplift tribal communities while maintaining their connection with mainstream society?

[Member 2]

1. What is the purpose of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)?
2. Name five medicinal trees and shrubs.

[Member 3]

1. You completed mechanical engineering – is it listed as an optional in the IFoS mains exam?
2. Then why did you choose agriculture engineering as your optional?
3. What policy changes would you recommend in the skill development sector?
4. You are currently working – which piece of work has given you the most satisfaction so far?

[Chairperson (Close)]

1. Should India conduct a caste census? What would be its implications?

♦ ♦ ♦

Acads

Nº 45

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

17 30 April 2025

Education: Electronics & Communication Engineering

Optional: Geology & Forestry

From: Punjab / Chandigarh / Kerala / Maharashtra

DAF Keywords: GST, PNB, Cricket

🔍 Conversational interview. M1 took a lively detour into IPL and Chandigarh's tree cover. Candidate gave around 5 examples of MFP – member wanted more.

[Chairperson]

1. What are the reasons for the decline in indirect tax collection since the 1980s vis-à-vis direct taxes?
2. What is the SWIFT code, and how did it play a role in the PNB scam?

[Member 1]

1. What is the difference between VAT, sales tax, and GST? Has GST been a success?
2. What do you think about Vaibhav Suryavanshi? At what price was he bought in the IPL? Did you watch the match in which he scored a century?
3. Why do you want to become an IFoS officer?
4. What is special about Chandigarh? You said 'City Beautiful' – but isn't it no longer beautiful due to traffic and vehicles? (Candidate spoke about tree cover; member said local people are unhappy about excessive trees – candidate was unaware)

[Member 2]

1. What is shifting cultivation and why is it practised?
2. Tell me about the Taungya system. Where is it practised?
3. What is CAMPA? Under which act does it operate?
4. What do you mean by 'emissions'? Which bodies in India are responsible for controlling pollution?

[Member 3]

1. What policy changes would you make to mainstream tribal communities and increase employment opportunities for them?
2. What is Minor Forest Produce? Give as many examples as possible.
3. NGOs are undermining the interests of tribal communities – do you agree? What should be the way forward?
4. Give examples of tribal products that can be successfully marketed.

[Member 1 (Again)]

1. You have worked across different states – compare them and tell me which one you liked working in the most. (Discussion on Kerala; Chairman signalled time)

♦ ♦ ♦

Nº 46

Board: Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla Sir

 30 April 2025

From: South India

Education: Engineering background

Optional: Geology & Forestry

DAF Keywords: Spirulina, Marathon running

 Member 2 probed on cadre policy and adaptation in the Northeast. Member 3 had a detailed exchange on spirulina's classification and uses.

[Chairperson]

1. What is the meaning of your name?
2. Tell me about the language dispute in your state.
3. Why do we still have a two-language formula despite the voluntary provision in NEP?

[Member 1]

1. Why did you choose geology despite an engineering background?
2. What are the applications of engineering in forestry?
3. What opportunities were available to you when you completed college?
4. Do you know what MRO stands for?
5. Does India have any MRO facility, and where?

[Member 2]

1. Will you be able to learn Hindi?
2. Are you aware of the cadre policy for All India Services?
3. What is renewable energy?
4. Why do people oppose hydropower projects?
5. If persuasion doesn't work to resolve opposition, what next?
6. If enforcement also fails, what then?
7. If posted in the Northeast, how would you execute development projects?

[Member 3]

1. What is spirulina? (From DAF)
2. What are its uses?
3. In what form is it available?
4. What is its biological classification?
5. Can it be used to promote forest growth?
6. Are there other organisms that can be used to promote tree growth?
7. What is Rhizobium?
8. You are a marathon runner – will that make you a good forest officer?



Nº 47

Board: Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla Sir Date: April–May 2025

Education: B.E. IT, MA Sociology

Background: 3 years IT sector; currently Dept. of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of Bihar

 Candidate was severely ill during the interview – mild fever, sore throat, cough. Asked permission to sip water 3–4 times. Maintained composure throughout despite persistent disagreement from the board.

[Chairperson (Cold demeanour throughout)]

1. You are from Bihar – tell me some interesting facts about Vaishali.
2. What was ancient democracy like in Vaishali?
3. How is the current government democratic? Only 4 members of the Cabinet Committee on Security are taking key decisions – isn't that undemocratic?
4. How is decision-making in India different from China or other democracies?
5. How are decisions by just 4 people democratic?
6. How were decisions taken in the ancient democracy of Vaishali?
7. What is the present-day equivalent of Vaishali's democratic institutions?
8. But I don't see those equivalent processes being followed in recent CCS meetings.
9. They won't share all details in an all-party meeting – only what suits them. I am not satisfied with your answers.

[Member 1]

1. Why do you think Bihar has poor quality of administration?
2. How is political instability a reason? Other states like UP, MP, and Andhra also had instability – yet they perform better.
3. Bihar has had the same CM for nearly two decades – where is the instability?
4. Is political instability or corruption unique to Bihar?
5. What is an LLM? Should India have its own?
6. How will India build its own LLM when smart IT people like you are 'falling for' UPSC?
7. Have you watched the Panchayat web series? Can you relate to the character of Abhishek?

8. Do you also have a new girlfriend in your panchayat? (Light moment)

[**Member 3**]

1. What do PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions) do in Bihar?
2. What is the Jal Jeevan Mission? What is the Jal Shakti Mission?
3. What are the schemes for piped water supply in Bihar?
4. What do panchayats do for afforestation?
5. What are the important schemes for afforestation and agroforestry in Bihar? Which plants are commonly used?

[**Member 4**]

1. I think the political dispensation in Bihar has no will for good governance – don't you think?
2. Panchayats are run by dictates from the Centre – grassroot democracy and autonomy is a myth. Don't you agree?
3. How will development occur if grassroot institutions have no real power?
4. How are panchayats actually functioning in your state?

♦ ♦ ♦

Nº 48

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

17 30 April 2025

Education: Civil Engineering, MANIT Bhopal

From: Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh

Optional: Mathematics & Forestry

DAF Keywords: Cricket, Running, Kabaddi

Duration: ~16–17 min

🔑 First 3 minutes in Hindi, then switched to English. Board was cordial and mostly DAF-based with a discussion format. Members were in a hurry toward the end.

[Chairperson (Started in Hindi)]

1. हिंदी में बात करें? (Candidate: हाँ सर)
2. NIT Bhopal – that is MANIT, right?
3. What did you learn from college?
4. What is the current surviving population of cheetahs in India?
5. Who regulates cheetah translocation at the international level? What is the Hindi word for cheetah cubs?
6. What is the full form of CITES?
7. Which forests have you visited?
8. How can mathematics be applied in forestry?

[Member 1]

1. What is Firozabad famous for?
2. What are the problems of the bangle industry?
3. What role do you play in cricket?
4. What is your highest individual score?
5. You both organise and play in cricket tournaments – isn't that a conflict of interest?
6. There are frequent landslides in hilly areas – what are the slope stabilisation measures?

[Member 2]

1. What is the name of the oldest living mammal in India?
2. Tell me about Dudhwa National Park – where does its name come from?

[Member 3]

1. Why has the human species been so successful throughout history compared to other species?
Give both biological and cultural reasons.
2. Have you visited the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (museum) in Bhopal?

Nº 49

Board: Dr. Dinesh Dasa Sir

17 1 May 2025

Education: Computer Science, IIT ISM Dhanbad

Optional: Geology & Forestry

DAF Keywords: Computer Science, IIT ISM Dhanbad, Geology

☛ Cheerful and smiling Chairman. Member 2 kept staring – slightly unnerving. Chairman closed with a rich ethical dilemma about a poor child doing illegal logging.

[Chairperson]

1. You are from which city?

[Member 1]

1. What is the difference between Gemini and Google Search?
2. What is the difference between ChatGPT, Gemini, and other AI models?
3. Why does India not have its own data centres? What is needed to establish them? How can we build them?
4. How will you balance environmental concerns with tribal issues in your district?

[Member 2 (Kept staring throughout)]

1. What is the National Heritage Animal of India?
2. What were the objectives of Project Elephant, 1992? (Candidate named some; member added elephant corridors)
3. What are the objectives of the Green India Mission?
4. How do forest areas get degraded? How would you restore them?
5. If there is illegal mining happening in Dhanbad and you are the DFO – what would you do?

[Member 3]

1. Naxalism – why does it happen? Long monologue followed.
2. What will you do for tribal communities?

3. Your optional is geology – what is the difference between these fossil types? (Candidate had never heard the names)

[**Chairperson (Return)**]

1. Have you heard of the Gadgil Committee and the Kasturirangan Committee?
2. Where would you like to be posted?
3. What qualities do you have to become a good forester? (Chairman: don't give a bookish answer – your interview is over in my mind, now tell me honestly)
4. Suppose a poor child is doing illegal logging in your district – his mother is terminally ill. What would you do? (Asked repeatedly in different ways)
5. Under which act would this person be punished?

♦ ♦ ♦

N^o 50**Board: Sanjay Verma Sir**

17 30 April 2025

Name: Beetle

From: Telangana (Peddapalli district)

Optional: Forestry & Geology

DAF Keywords: Wildlife documentaries, Recreational walking, Telangana

Duration: ~35–40 min

📌 Candidate had appeared before the same board for CSE earlier that year. Chairman remembered and asked about the CSE result at the close. Longest interview in this batch at 35–40 minutes.

[Chairperson]

1. Have we met before? (Candidate: yes sir, for the CSE interview) Were you in the final list?
(Candidate: no sir)
2. What is recreational walking?
3. Everyone walks – why are candidates listing it in the DAF just to fill space?
4. There are many biases in wildlife documentaries – what is your opinion?
5. If you were to create a wildlife documentary, what would you try to include?
6. Do you think there is a spirit or consciousness in forests and animals?
7. Did you watch the movie Kantara? What did you understand from it?
8. Who, according to you, is the real hero of Kantara?

[Member 1 (Male)]

1. What is your stand on the Kancha Gachibowli issue?
2. What industries are present in Peddapalli district? What is the major raw material for those industries?
3. Don't you think mining operations affect forest conservation? What are the other issues?
4. What should mining companies do to reduce their environmental impact?
5. What checks and balances exist to prevent conversion of forests for non-forest purposes?
6. What is the Miyawaki method? Have you visited any place where it has been implemented?

[Member 2 (Lady)]

1. You mentioned wildlife documentaries – which Indian wildlife documentary has won an Oscar?
2. Who is the director?
3. What is the importance of the Paris Climate Summit?
4. Which international body oversees climate change? (Candidate mentioned UNFCCC; member corrected: IPCC. What does IPCC stand for?)
5. Which body in India collects climate-related data? (Candidate mentioned NAPCC; member pointed towards IMD)
6. What does IMD stand for, and with which global organisation does it collaborate?
7. Why is India performing poorly on the Environment Performance Index while doing well on economic indices?
8. What methods are used to measure the amount of carbon in the atmosphere?

[Member 3 (Male)]

1. Many students from Telangana are going to the USA – why?
2. Do you think Trump's policies are affecting Indian students there?
3. What steps has Trump taken in this regard?
4. What should students planning to go to the USA do now?
5. If your own brother wanted to go to the USA, what would you suggest?
6. Have you heard about the Canadian Prime Minister election recently?
7. What would be its implications for India?
8. What were the allegations in the case? (Hardeep Singh Nijjar)
9. Do you know his name?
10. Do you think India did it?

[Chairperson (Close)]

1. Do you think India should have done it?
2. What is wrong with doing that?

– End of Transcripts 41–50 –



acads