

UPSC Lessons

@abhiwhy on twitter

I've spent 5 years of my life on the UPSC journey.

These were my results:

- 6 Attempts
- 4 Mains
- 2 Interviews
- 2 Selections (653 in CSE 2017; R-List in CSE 2018)

= A thread on 10 lessons that I learnt in the process =

1. You will fail, get used to it.

Statistically speaking, most of the people appearing for this exam will fail.

But at the same time:

- You will understand what hard work means.
- You will develop grit and perseverance.
- You will learn to pick yourself up after failures.

2. Focus on keeping yourself healthy.

Your physical health determines your mental and emotional well being. Those in turn determine your output while studying for UPSC or for any other project in general.

Build your health for long term success.

3. Don't take yourself too seriously.

Learn to enjoy the process and don't focus too much on the result. This will make it easier for you to study and not stress too much in case you fail.

Plus when you do get selected, your head won't blow up like a balloon. Stay grounded

4. The skills you build on the UPSC journey will help you no matter where you go.

You've developed:

- Patience
- Grit
- A Learning Process
- A fire to GROW

- A vision to make a positive impact on the world.

Those are valuable qualities.

Now learn to sell them.

5. Sometimes it might feel like hitting GROUND ZERO all over again after a failure. This could be after prelims, mains or even post interview.

UPSC Prep is like that.

But always remember that you've changed and grown a lot as a person.

Learn to appreciate your own growth.

6. UPSC Prep is a mini course in dealing with life itself.

It teaches you about:

- Role of chance in life's endeavours.
- Big dreams must be followed by big actions.
- Most people are all talk no action
- Don't trust people blindly

These are important first principles.

7. Stop caring about what others will think.

Everyone is busy with their own lives.

They are overthinking on the same lines as you and really don't have the time to be concerned about anyone else.

Stop thinking about looking stupid and start doing things.

8. Life isn't fair.

You might get punched in the face (metaphorically) while you may see someone else succeeding without as much as a scratch.

Don't compare yourself with others, they are on their own journeys.

The only comparison which counts is with your past self.

9. Have some self-respect.

Repeated failures in UPSC or in general can be demoralising, especially with social media telling us how successful everyone else is all the time.

Don't be shy, find your strengths and advertise yourself boldly and loudly to the rest of the world.

10. It's hard to live up to everyone's expectations.
Just live up to your own.

If you feel like you haven't fulfilled your potential, there is a big big world full of opportunities out there.

And help may just be a tweet away.
So don't be afraid to ask for it.