



(Regd. No. S0035734/2023-24)

Ivanhoe House 4 Franklin Prestige Road, The Mall, P.O P.S & Distt. Darjeeling West Bengal

Dear Aspirants,

It gives us great pleasure to invite applications for the Second Batch of the Free UPSC Coaching Programme arranged by the Darjeeling Welfare Society (DWS) with the support of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). This programme is a step towards preparing talented, underprivileged youth from Darjeeling for the UPSC and other similar career opportunities. It reflects our collective vision of ensuring equitable access to guidance, resources, and mentorship for aspirants from the hills of Darjeeling.

Our first batch, which began in June 2024, has been a remarkable journey of growth for the students, for DWS, and for the community that supported them throughout. With structured coaching and sustained mentorship, we provided our candidates with the tools they needed to navigate one of the toughest examinations in the country. Alongside comprehensive online classes, we conducted several offline sessions to enable deeper engagement and interaction. Recognizing the critical importance of CSAT in the preliminary stage, we organized special CSAT classes. For candidates living in remote areas and unable to attend in person, online alternatives were arranged to ensure that no student was left behind. For some classes and tests, DWS arranged for students to use study centres in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, and Siliguri.

The programme is being conducted under the esteemed guidance of Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Former Foreign Secretary of India and President of DWS, whose own UPSC journey began in 1984 when he secured All India Rank 15. With 40 years of distinguished service in the Govt of India that included ambassadorial roles in the United States of America, Bangladesh, and Thailand and Chief Coordinator of India's G20 Presidency, his leadership has been instrumental in shaping this initiative. Shri Shringla has taken a personal interest in the aspirants' development, offering guidance beyond academics and helping them grow into capable and compassionate future civil servants.

The UPSC is more than an exam. It is a journey of transformation. Acknowledging its complexity, we made sure that every essential form of support was available to our students. From study resources and structured test series to library access and regular evaluations, each component helped students refine their preparation and gain confidence. As the Prelims approach on 25 May 2025, we feel proud of how far our first batch has come. Their progress has been inspiring, and we are confident that it is only a matter of time before our candidates succeed.

A key strength of the programme is the quality of mentors and guest speakers who have generously shared their insights. From the inaugural lecture by Shri C.M. Ravindran (IPS 1977 Retired) to sessions led by Ms. Gitanjali Brandon (IFS 2012), Ritika Verma (IAS 2023), Jayashree Pradhan (IFS 2023), and Vivek Sonawane (IFS 2023), our students learned directly from individuals who have successfully navigated the UPSC journey. A landmark interactive session was also held with former Ambassadors who had served in the USA, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Germany, Thailand, Tanzania, and Cambodia. This event provided students with invaluable firsthand perspectives on diplomacy, governance, and international affairs.

For the second batch, we are committed to building on this strong foundation. We are introducing more rigorous classes, an early start to the mock test series, expanded CSAT modules, and dedicated current affairs sessions. The goal remains the same. We want to ensure that no talented aspirant is left behind due to lack of access or guidance.

If you are ready to fully commit to this journey and uphold the values of service, learning, and perseverance, we warmly encourage you to apply for this coaching opportunity. Let this be your first step toward a future of meaningful impact.

All selected candidates will be required to deposit a reimbursable amount of ₹3000 subject to certain attendance and performance criteria.

With warm regards  
Team Darjeeling Welfare Society