

Interview date -

● **Name: Karishma Nair**

1. Meaning of your name?
2. Are there any famous namesakes of your name?
3. Does your name justify your personality?
4. Do you believe in miracles?
5. Who is Karishma Kapoor? What are her achievements?
6. Have you watched any of her movies? Which one is your favourite?
7. Who was Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair?
8. Who was G.Madhavan Nair? What is his contribution?
9. There are so many Nair technocrats and bureaucrats who have excelled in their field. Has any one of them inspired you ? Who and How?
10. Who were the Nayanars and Alvars in south India?
11. What occupation were the Nairs engaged in traditionally?

● **General questions:**

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Tell us something about yourself which is not in the DAF?
3. What according to you are your biggest strengths and weaknesses?
4. Did you take any steps to overcome them?
5. Why do you want to join civil services?
6. You might probably get more salary in the private sector. Why come to government service?

● **DoB:22-11-97**

1. Which important day related to our constitution do we celebrate just a few days after your birth date? (26th Nov.-Constitution Day)
2. Why do we celebrate 26th November as constitution day?
3. Composition of Constituent assembly?
4. How successfully have we implemented the constitution as envisaged by the makers of our constitution ?
5. What are the challenges in present day Indian democracy to Constitutional morality?
6. What are the lacuna in our constitution ?
7. Why is our constitution so bulky? How could have we avoided it?
8. Cultural Nationalism vs Civic Nationalism. Which one is the stronger binding force as per you? Why?

● **Mother tongue: Malayalam**



1. Can you tell something unique about “malayalam”- it forms a palindrome.
 2. Do you think that there is a need for a National Language?
 3. Why do some states oppose this idea?
 4. What can be an ideal solution for linguistic nationalism?
 5. Has it weakened or strengthened Indian federalism?
 6. What are 3 stages in the development of Malayalam Literature?
 7. What is the uniqueness of the Malayalam language?
 8. Now-a-days, even dialects are gaining prominence. What famous dialects do you all have?
 9. Origin and evolution of Malayalam language.
 10. Is Malayalam a classical language?
 11. Name some of the literary giants of Malayalam language.
 12. Conditions for a language to be declared as a classical language?
 13. Why do many North-Indians and South-Indians hold stereotypes about each other? Are they justified?
- **Place of residence: Mumbai Suburban, Maharashtra**
 1. Mumbai is overburdened in every aspect of public infrastructure. How do we lessen her burden?
 2. Mumbai is considered as the Financial Capital of the country. Yet the present govt decided to establish the IFSC in GIFT city, Gujarat. Was it the right call?
 3. What is the status of IFSC in GIFT city?
 4. What is an IFSC? What is the reason behind establishing an IFSC in India?
 5. Every monsoon Mumbai gets waterlogged these days halting the maximum city. What are the reasons behind it?
 6. How will you solve this problem as Commissioner of MCGM?
 7. What are the reasons behind poor public infrastructure in a city like Mumbai?
 8. What do you know about the history of Mumbai?
 9. Why is Mumbai considered as safer for women as compared to Delhi? What are the reasons? What is your experience?
 10. Why was the Gateway of India erected? When?
 11. Who is the present Commissioner of MCGM?
 12. Name 3 iconic british era structures in Mumbai.
 13. Bombay or Mumbai. Which one do you prefer ? Why?
 14. Nearly 40% of Mumbai’s population lives in slums. Why? How do we solve the housing problem in Mumbai?
 15. Mumbai is called the ‘City of Dreams’. Why is it called so? Is it still the city of dreams?
 16. What is so special about the cosmopolitan culture of Mumbai?

17. How is the culture of Mumbai different from the rest of the country?
 18. Who is the CM of Maharashtra?
 19. Who is the governor of Maharashtra ?
 20. What are the governance challenges of Mumbai city?
- **Place of Birth:Palakkad, Kerala**
 1. How often do you visit your birthplace?
 2. What is Palakkad famous for?
 3. How is the culture of Palakkad different from that of Mumbai?
 4. Name of the famous Chariot festival in Palakkad.
 5. Why is Palakkad famous?
 6. Name of the hills surrounding Pallakad.
 7. Name of the tiger reserve in Palakkad.
 8. What do you know about the silent valley national park.
 - **Home-State:Kerala**

Historical:

1. Which dynasty was the first prominent kingdom based in Kerala? This Kingdom was contemporary with which other kingdoms of India?
2. Tell me about Vaikom satyagraha. What was Gandhi's role?
3. Which Kerala Monk travelled all over India?
4. Give an idea about Kerala's historical relationship with foreign countries?

Cultural:

5. Other than Kerala in which state would you like to settle?
6. Since your mother tongue is Malayalam , which language did you find easy to learn: Hindi or tamil?
7. Name the tribal festivals of Kerala?
8. Boat race festivals in Kerala have been celebrated in which season?

Political:

9. Kerala has seen political violence between Left wing and Right wing extremists in recent years. What are the reasons behind it?
10. How will you curb it as an administrator?
11. Why did decentralisation work in Kerala and not other states?
12. Why do southern states tend to have law abiding citizens compared to the North?
13. Do you think reservations for women at Gram panchayat are working?
14. Name someone in administration in Kerala, whom you are inspired by?
15. Kerala is good in human development indicators and quality of life. Then why do Kerala need administrators?
16. Kerala panchayat raj system is considered to be a model. But how is it working in tribal areas?
17. Tell me how many Lok Sabha seats are there in Kerala?
18. Do covid Protocols were followed during elections in Kerala?

19. How ethical is conducting elections during Covid times?
20. In 2018 Nipah virus outbreak killed many lives in Kerala. What steps should be taken by the State government to prevent such health related outbreaks in future?
21. Can the success in the Nipah case be replicated if there is a Coronavirus outbreak?
22. How can the state governments be prepared for it?

Economical:

23. Why does tourism play an important role in Kerala's economy? Why not other sectors?
24. What are the similarities between Kerala and north eastern States?
25. Why are there less manufacturing industries in Kerala?
26. How has the fall in Remittances due to the Pandemic affected the economy of Kerala?
27. Why are there so many nurses from Kerala?
28. How will you take forward the tourism sector in Kerala?
29. Isn't Kerala run by remittances?
30. Kerala and industries sound contradictory. Why did Kerala not develop in industrialisation?
31. Kerala is the leading rubber plantation state in India. But, their rubber plantation is on a decline, what are the various reasons?
32. Have you heard about the CRZ(Coastal regulation zone), importance?
33. What is Kerala's model of development?
34. What is the Gujarat model? How is it different from the Kerala model?
35. Consider a hypothetical situation where all emigrants of Kerala come back. How will you manage the situation?

Social:

36. Do you think the rest of India can learn a few lessons on secularism from Kerala? What are those?
37. What is your opinion on the Sabarimala verdict?
38. Is SCs right to interfere in religious matters justified?
39. Why despite matrilineal society Kerala women face oppression?
40. Tell me about some famous personalities from Thiruvananthapuram?
41. Which tribe is living in Kerala?
42. Despite Kerala being a progressive state, why Alcoholism and suicides in Kerala? What is the Solution?
43. Why Kerala tops in social indicators among all states?

Geographical And Environmental:

44. Which beach in Kerala recently received A Blue Flag Certification?
45. Who Issues it?
46. What are the major spices cultivation in Kerala?
47. Why did Europeans prefer spices?
48. What are the plantation crops in Kerala?

49. What do you mean by God's own Country and Is Kerala still a God's own country?
50. Name the various GI Tags of Kerala?
51. What was the Mullaperiyar interstate water dispute?
52. Kerala God's own country - but roads are so narrow. Traffic problems are so high? How to solve it?
53. What are Biosphere reserves and importance? How are they different from National parks? Name of Biosphere reserve of Kerala?
54. Difference between terrorism vs eco terrorism.
55. What is below sea level farming? Where is practice in Kerala? And what are its applications?
56. Kerala has India's largest floating solar power plant. Where is it situated in Kerala? What are the benefits of floating solar Power plants?
57. What is a cage farming project in Kerala?
58. Why have floods become a regular phenomenon in Kerala?
 - a. As a DM what steps would you take to mitigate the situation.

- **Cadre Preference: Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamilnadu**

1. Kerala is already a well governed and a well developed state. Why go there first? How can you improve upon the work that has already been there?
2. Why have you opted MH, Gujarat prior to Odisha, Zharkhand, Bihar? Don't you think a developing state like Odisha needs a better administration compared to developed states like MH?
3. Why remain in your comfort zone(southern states)?
4. Why last preference to North-eastern states?

- **Service Preference: IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS**

1. You are a gold medalist in forensic sciences. We feel that your talent is suitable for IPS. So Why run after IAS first?
2. What is it that IAS will provide you which IPS can not?
3. Why IAS?
4. What reforms does IAS need to meet the challenges of Aspirational India? How do you fit into this more dynamic and challenging role of IAS?
5. One thing that you would like to see change about IAS?
6. What is the difference between An Administrator and a manager?
7. Has IAS lived up to its expectations? Where can it improve?
8. What is the difference between the skill set required by an IAS officer and An IPS officer?
9. Don't you think we should conduct a separate examination for IPS?
10. What is your take on lateral entry into IAS?



● **Educational background: B.Sc in Forensic Sciences, Mumbai University**

1. Why forensic sciences? What prompted you to take up this branch of science?
2. Forensic sciences to Civil Services . Why this switch?
3. How will the knowledge of Forensic sciences help you in administration?
4. What is a proficiency test?
5. What is a competency test?
6. What is the chain of custody? Why is it important?
7. What is a presumptive test? Can you give an example of one?
8. What is a confirmatory test? Can you give an example of one?
9. You received a piece of evidence and before you did anything with it you noticed that there was a big rip on the bag and part of the evidence on the inside could be seen through the rip. What should you do?
10. You are working in the lab and you think you might have switched/contaminated two of the samples. What should you do?
11. Explain any 3 important branches of forensic science.
12. Explain the correct technique of collection and packaging of blood samples from a crime scene.
13. Explain the steps followed by investigators in crime scene investigation .
14. Dying declaration is to be preferably recorded by?
15. The Indian arms act was enforced in?
16. Preservation of footprint on snow can be done by?
17. The bore of a 12 bore gun is?
18. Radioactivity of a substance can be measured by?
19. The book titled 'An introduction to criminalistics' was written by?
20. In an air crash case which method of surveying is most useful?
21. Semen sample having no sperms is called as?
22. Kerosene is a blend of?
23. Blood alcohol concentration is measured in?
24. Confirmation of menstrual blood stain is done by which method?
25. Which is the most suitable material for casting footwear impressions?
26. The total number of bones in the human skeleton in an adult is?
27. Boyde's formula helps to determine?
28. How does a Lie detector test work?
29. What is a Narco Test? What is the legality of Narco Test?
30. What is an IP address?
31. What is IP spoofing?
32. What do you mean by phishing?
33. Is cyberbullying a cybercrime? How do we prevent cyber bullying?
34. How to report a cyber crime?
35. What is DNS spoofing?
36. What is money laundering?
37. How does one combat child pornography?

38. What is the name of India's IT law?
39. Under which section of IT Act, stealing any digital asset or information is written a cyber-crime?
40. Expand the following terms
 - a)GEQD
 - b)NCRB
 - c)CFPB
 - D)AW

● **Optional: Public Administration**

1. You are a science graduate. So why did you choose Public Administration as your optional?
2. What are the recent administrative changes in civil services?
3. There are too many administrative reforms, but public administration in India has not seen much change. Why?
4. Do you think civil servants can really maintain neutrality when working with politicians?
5. One of the biggest problems of bureaucracy is the colonial mentality. Do you think this criticism is justified?
6. Have the administrative reforms since independence changed anything on ground?
7. What is the difference between administrator and manager?
8. What are the differences between public administration as a theory and public administration as a practice?
9. Tell us 5 biggest challenges to Indian administration?
10. Did we achieve our aim of gram swarajya?
11. How to increase the financial conditions of ULB and PRIs?
12. What recommendations would you suggest to UPSC in terms of recruiting civil servants?
13. Do you think the emergence of regional parties has impacted Indian growth?
14. How can we reform the judicial appointment process?
15. What are recent developments in Public administration?

● **Father's profession: Deputy VP, Axis Bank**

1. How notes are printed?
2. Why are we not going for non-Gandhi bank notes?
3. Tell us some names of renowned Indian bankers.
4. Why should RBI be independent?
5. Who in your opinion will be better as RBI governor, an economist or bureaucrat?
6. Tell us the difference between a microfinance bank and a scheduled commercial bank?
7. Tell us the difference between investment banks and commercial banks?
8. What is the NPA crisis?
9. How NPA crisis originated?

9. What are your views on the merging of Banks?
10. Do you think that Privatisation of banks will help in resolving issues in the economy?
11. What is the difference between Repo and Reverse Repo rate?
12. What is Small finance bank?
13. What is a Payment bank?
14. What is priority sector lending?
16. How much successful is Jan Dhan Yojana?
17. What are the steps taken by RBI during corona times for tackling economic crisis?
18. Recent Bank Scams. Is the RBI to blame here?

- **Mother's profession: Special Educator**

1. Which subjects does she teach?
2. Does she teach Divyang children?
3. What challenges are there in teaching special children?
4. How do we teach a blind student?
5. Educational reforms or educational restructuring? What is more appropriate in the current educational structure in India?
6. What are the challenges and issues faced by teachers?
7. Why low learning outcomes according to the ASER report?
8. Do you think that teaching as a profession lacks the necessary respect?
9. What are the problems in Higher Education in India?
10. What is Early Childhood Care and Education?
11. Why is its importance in child development?
12. Should the scope of RTE be expanded to cover the 4 -18 age group?
13. What will be challenges in such a step?
14. Why low women LFPR?
15. Glass ceiling effect is it a reality?
16. What specific challenges does your mother face in managing her work?
17. What is the lacuna of GDP?
18. What are productive non-market activities?

- **Job: nil**

1. Why didn't you opt for a job after graduation?
2. How are you managing your personal finances during your preparation phase?
3. Don't you think your lack of job experience will prove to be a handicap in the initial years of your service if you get selected?
4. Many prepare while doing a job. So why didn't you think of that option?

- **Prize/ achievement:**

1. UNIVERSITY GOLD MEDALIST IN GRADUATION

1. Excellent Achievement that is! So why didn't you go for higher studies? Why Civil Services?
2. How will your expertise in Forensic sciences help you in civil services?
3. Why didn't you go for research in Forensic Sciences?
4. Name India's premier institutes/govt. Bodies in Forensic Sciences.
5. Name India's premier institutes in the field of research in science and tech.
6. Why does India lack research?
7. What is India's Rank in patent filing?
8. What is your significant achievement in life till now? And why is it so?
9. Does achievement always have to be materialistic?
10. What role do prizes/medals play in motivating us? Are external motivational factors superficial ?
11. What motivates you to join civil services?
12. What does motivation actually work? Can we rely on motivation to get things done?

2. SEMIFINALIST AT SPEAK FOR INDIA, MAHARASHTRA

1. What was this event? Who organised it?
2. What were the topics you spoke on here? How did this achievement motivate you further?
3. What is the difference between debate and declamation?
4. In which debate have you participated recently?
5. What are the ingredients of a good debate?
6. What are the directions of nuclear debate in India?
7. Who is your famous debate personality?
8. Which debate programme is your favourite?
9. Which is your favourite debate topic?
10. Do you watch parliamentary debates? Are they worthy?
11. How does debate help in one's personality development?
12. What is the importance of debates in a democracy?
13. How participation in debate, do you think, will be helpful once you become an IAS Officer?
14. Why debates and declamation don't get much attention at school and college level despite being mentally stimulating. Why as a nation are we shy of debates?

3. STUDENT SPEAKER AT BHARATIYA CHHATRA SANSAD, 2017

1. What is a Chhatra Sansad?
2. Who organised this event? Where?

3. What topic did you talk about here?
4. It seems like you are fond of public speaking. How did you take up to public speaking?
5. Why don't you join politics?
6. Who is your favourite public speaker? Why?
7. Which books/newspapers do you refer to while preparing your speech/debate topic?
8. Have you read Amartya Sen's book 'Argumentative Indian'? If yes, what's your review of the book?
9. Why is the quality of parliamentary debates on the decline? How do we address this situation?
10. Do you watch parliamentary proceedings? Who is your favourite speaker in parliament?
11. Shall we discontinue the live telecast of parliamentary proceedings? What are the pros and cons of this move?

● **Sports/ncc:Nil**

1. Why didn't you play any physical sports while in school or college?
2. What role does sports play in moulding one's personality?
3. Indoor vs outdoor gamings?
4. Lack of sports in children leading to obesity and NCDs?
5. As a DM what you will do to promote outdoor sports among children?
6. What steps have been taken by the government to promote Sports in India?
7. What is the Fit India campaign, Khelo India Games?

● **Leadership:**

1. GENERAL SECRETARY OF STUDENTS COUNCIL IN COLLEGE, 2017-18

1. Why was this student's council formed? What activities was this council engaged in?
2. What were your responsibilities as GS of the students council?
3. Whom did you lead here?
4. What were the challenges in this role? How did you overcome them?
5. What leadership skills did you develop here?
6. Has it made you a better leader? How?
7. What events/lectures/conferences did you organize for your students club?
8. How will this experience be useful in administration?
9. Mumbai University has banned student elections for the last many years. Was it the right call? What's your take on this?
10. In light of recent incidents of violence between students on campus in Delhi, Do you think we should ban the student's elections in universities?
11. Why are student organizations becoming more and more polarized on ideological lines?

12. Why can't many of the students these days tolerate an opposing viewpoint? What is your take on this?
13. What role do student unions play in universities? How has your experience been ?

2. STUDENT COORDINATOR OF NATIONAL LEVEL FORENSIC EXPOSITION 2016-17

1. Why was this expo Organized? Who all participated in it?
2. What was your role as student coordinator?
3. Whom did you lead here?
4. What were the challenges in this role? How did you overcome them?
5. What leadership skills did you develop here?
6. Has it made you a better leader? How?
7. How will this experience be useful in administration?
8. What does leadership mean to you?
9. Name three essential traits that you think every leader must possess.
10. Name some of the leaders whom you admire.
11. What is the difference between a leader and an administrator?
12. How will you motivate your team if you are assigned a team of unmotivated or just lazy individuals?
13. A district has become a Covid hotspot with the number of cases skyrocketing with each passing day. People are finding it difficult to secure beds for their near and dear ones in hospitals. You are given charge of this district and assigned the responsibility of controlling the situation. What measures will you take? How will you deploy scarce resources assigned to you?
14. What are the challenges of event management?
15. Which govt body can be called as the best event management organization of the country? Why? (Election Commission)

● **Hobby/extra curricular activities:**

1. PUBLIC POLICY AND RESEARCH INTERNSHIP WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, 2019

1. What areas of public policy did you research about during this internship?
2. What were the outcomes of the research?
3. Name the MPs you worked with during the internship.
4. Did you get to attend the parliament session during this internship? If yes, share with us your experience.
5. How was it like to work with our MPs? What did you learn from them?
6. Name India's premier institutes/think tanks engaged in Public policy and research.
7. Does India lack research in Public policy? How do we address this issue?
8. What is the scope of Public policy as a career choice in India?
9. Shall Internship be made compulsory for every course?

10. Does the NEP address these issues?
11. Name 3 changes India's public policy desperately needs right now.
12. We have completed almost 3 decades of Economic Reforms. Review the hits and misses of India's economic reforms.
13. What about reforms in Administration, Judiciary and police? Where do we stand on it as of now?
14. Can the new Farm bills potentially transform the Indian agriculture? How?
15. If given an opportunity, which bill would you like to pass in parliament? Why?
16. Shall India move to a presidential democracy? Why/Why not?
17. How will you utilise this experience in civil services?

2.DEBATING

1. What prompted you to take up this hobby?
2. What did you do to excel at debating?
3. Which books/newspapers do you read?
4. What is the difference between debate and declamation?
5. In which debate have you participated recently?
6. What are the ingredients of a good debate?
7. What are the directions of nuclear debate in India?
8. Who is your favourite debate personality?
9. Which debate programme is your favourite?
10. What are your favourite debate topics?
11. Do you watch parliamentary debates? Are they worthy?
12. How does debate help in one's personality development?
13. What is the importance of debates in a democracy?
14. Should there be a NRC in India? Debate.
15. India is a country of unrealised greatness. Debate.
16. Cultural Nationalism is growing in India. Debate the pros and cons.
17. IAS is a relic of the colonial era. Debate.
18. How will this hobby of yours help you in Administration?

3.READING FICTION

1. What do you read?
2. How did you develop this hobby?
3. How will it help in your administrative career?
4. Which book have you read recently?
5. Which was the top runner in the Nobel Prize this year?
6. What are the characteristics of good writing?
7. How many books have you read so far and which you liked most and why?
8. Who is your favorite writer and why?
9. Why do Indians win little Nobel Prizes in literature despite rich history?
10. What are the trends in recent writings?
11. How reading helps in shaping the personality of a person?

12. Do you think that electronic media is replacing the habit of reading at a very fast rate?
13. Books are man's best friend. Do you agree with this statement, if yes why?
14. Why are public libraries losing their importance?
15. If you are appointed as D.C., what steps would you take to promote reading habits particularly among children and youth?
16. Difference between fiction and non-fiction?
17. English vs. Indian Writing
18. Shakespeare vs. Kalidas
19. Have you read George Orwell's work. Which one of his books is your favourite? Why?
20. Which Indian authors are your favourite? Name some of their works.
21. Have you read George Orwell's '1984'? What's your review of the book? Are we living in 1984 presently?
22. How did this hobby help you during your preparation phase?
23. Prepare a book properly which can be discussed in the interview comfortably.

4. Playing Badminton

1. Why didn't you mention this in the sports section?
2. Origin of badminton
3. You are playing badminton; now tell me how it will develop your personality?
4. One set of a badminton match consists of how many points?
5. Please tell me the dimensions of the badminton court.
6. Who is the first olympic medalist from India in badminton?
7. Why is badminton less popular than cricket?
8. What can be done about it?
9. What are the benefits of playing badminton?
10. Who is your favorite player?
11. Do you know about the Uber cup in badminton?
12. Why is Gopichand academy so famous?
13. Who is Gopichand?
14. From which animal feather shuttlecock is made?
15. What are materials used for making shuttlecocks?

5. Watching Ted Talks

1. What are your most favourite topics on Ted Talks?
2. If given an opportunity to deliver a Ted Talk, what would you like to talk about?
3. Who is your favorite tedx speaker?
4. How does it motivate people?
5. Which Ted Talk impressed you the most recently? Why?
6. Who founded TED? When?

7. What is the slogan of TED?
8. What is the TEDx program of TED?
9. Have you attended any live TED event? If yes, who was/were the speakers?
10. How has this hobby of yours helped mould your personality?
11. Name some of the most viewed TED speakers in the world.