SPL FC FOR AIS AND CCS OFFICERS MCRHRDI, 11TH DECEMBER 2025

A Time to Think... and Re-Think Strategic Choices and Critical Decisions

Session with Chandrashekhar Rentala

CRITICAL DECISIONS

- 1. CAREER PATH SPECIALIZATION
- 2. GEOGRAPHIC PREFERENCES
- 3. ETHICAL STANCE
- 4. POLICY VS. IMPLEMENTATION
- 5. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT
- 6. BALANCING CAREER AND PERSONAL LIFE
- 7. NETWORKING AND RELATIONSHIPS
- 8. EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY
- 9. NAVIGATING POLITICAL INTERFERENCE
- 10. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

These choices shape your professional path and personal life; they also impact the lives of countless citizens you serve.

1. CAREER PATH SPECIALIZATION

GENERALIST VS. SPECIALIST: CHOOSING WHETHER TO REMAIN A GENERALIST, HANDLING A VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES, OR TO SPECIALIZE IN A SPECIFIC FIELD WITHIN THE AREA OF WORK OF YOUR SERVICE

2. GEOGRAPHIC PREFERENCES

POSTING PREFERENCES: DECIDING BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL POSTINGS AFFECTS EXPOSURE, EXPERIENCE, AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE. RURAL POSTINGS OFTEN PROVIDE RICH, GROUND-LEVEL EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

3. ETHICAL STANCE

INTEGRITY AND ETHICS: CONSISTENTLY MAKING CHOICES
THAT UPHOLD ETHICAL STANDARDS AND INTEGRITY, EVEN IN
THE FACE OF PRESSURE OR TEMPTATION, IS CRUCIAL FOR
MAINTAINING PUBLIC TRUST AND PERSONAL CREDIBILITY.

4. POLICY VS. IMPLEMENTATION

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE: CHOOSING TO FOCUS ON POLICY
FORMULATION VERSUS THE HANDS-ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
POLICIES CAN DEFINE THEIR INFLUENCE AND IMPACT. SOME
MAY PREFER THE STRATEGIC LEVEL, WHILE OTHERS THRIVE IN
OPERATIONAL ROLES.

5. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

LIFELONG LEARNING: INVESTING IN CONTINUOUS EDUCATION
AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH FORMAL COURSES OR
SELF-STUDY, TO STAY ABREAST OF NEW TRENDS,
TECHNOLOGIES, AND BEST PRACTICES IN PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION.

6. BALANCING CAREER AND PERSONAL LIFE

WORK-LIFE BALANCE: MANAGING THE DEMANDING NATURE OF CIVIL SERVICE WITH PERSONAL LIFE AND FAMILY COMMITMENTS IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE LONG-TERM CAREER SUSTAINABILITY AND PERSONAL WELL-BEING.

7. NETWORKING AND RELATIONSHIPS

BUILDING ALLIANCES: CULTIVATING A NETWORK OF
PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE
AND WITH EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS CAN ENHANCE
EFFECTIVENESS AND OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR
COLLABORATION AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT.

8. EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY.

STAYING CURRENT WITH DIGITAL TOOLS AND PLATFORMS CAN DRIVE INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY IN THEIR WORK.

9. NAVIGATING POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

BALANCING ACT: SKILLFULLY NAVIGATING POLITICAL
DYNAMICS AND INTERFERENCE WHILE REMAINING COMMITTED
TO PUBLIC SERVICE ETHICS AND OBJECTIVES IS OFTEN A
CHALLENGING YET ESSENTIAL PART OF YOUR ROLE.

10. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY INTERACTION: CHOOSING THE EXTENT AND MANNER OF ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC TO BUILD TRUST AND ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND SERVICES ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF CITIZENS.

WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS?

THANK YOU

R. Chandrashekhar Chairman, Centre for the Digital Future Former Secretary, Meity & Telecom, GOI Ex-President, NASSCOM Sr Adviser, WITP



rentala.chandrashekhar@gmail.com rc@cdfresearch.org