



Chapter

1

Interview Fundamentals

Introductory Notes

Getting interviewed by an interviewer or a group of interviewers is both unusual and an unsettling experience. The very thought of getting interviewed and thus becoming a victim in the hands of interviewer(s) may put a person into a state of considerable discomfort, often accompanied by anxiety and animated suspense. Candidates complain that their throats go dry, voices choke and there is excessive sweating while they undergo an interview. This is precisely so, since one is not quite familiar with the course of developments that he/she may encounter while facing a selection interview. Fear of landing in an unknown and difficult situation grips the person involved. Most certainly, interviewing is not merely talking or holding an informal conversation, but often a much serious business, with lot at stake. If you do not perform well, you may lose a chance of going to your dream MBA institute or grab the desired job.

While getting interviewed is markedly stressful, facing an interview is both science and art.

Owing to above uncertainties involved in an interview situation, it makes tremendous sense for the interviewee to get acquainted with the process as well as content of an interview. It is now fairly well established that facing an interview is an art, but to prepare for an interview one certainly needs a focused scientific approach. Thus, preparation and subsequently appearing for an interview involve both art and science. In this regard, intricacies of art and logical approach of science come together.

Distinctions between a Normal Conversation and Interview

With a view to appreciating the common process and content of an interview, it is both appropriate and essential to distinguish between a normal conversation and a typical interview situation. First of all, the prime factor that distinguishes the interview from a normal conversation is the very basic structure of the interview. Interviews are carefully conducted with a planned opening and closing and comprehensive probing in between. Secondly, while a normal conversation may not always aim at seeking information from the interviewee, an interview pointedly aims at seeking sufficient and specific information about the interviewee. Thirdly, to take part in a general conversation,

Interview is a planned conversation aiming to collect essential information about the candidate.



Chapter

24

Indo-Russian Relations in Present Times

Nine Candidates are Taking Part in this Group Discussion

Candidate No. 3

“Hindi-Roosi–Bhai-Bhai”. Dear friends, India and Russia were always close friends and will always remain so. I feel, we cannot afford to live without each other. What do you say friends?

Candidate No. 5

I am sorry, but I do not agree with you. There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies in diplomacy.

Candidate No. 1

Both Russia and India are among the top ten countries in terms of economic growth, and both have set goals to double their GNPs within a decade. India has valued its friendly relations with Russia for quite sometime now. This relationship, which is more than 70 years old, has closely witnessed the rivalry of Cold War as well as the sudden disintegration of the powerful USSR. Despite many ups and downs in the international politics, Russia has always extended its unqualified support to Indian concerns. Therefore, I have no hesitation in saying that if India is asked to name one really good and durable friend, she will name no other nation, but Russia. It is of course a different matter, that Russia is no more a superpower. But, it is still the most important military power in the world after the US.

Candidate No. 7

It was really sad that USSR disintegrated into several segments and it lost its halo of a super power of the cold war era.

Candidate No. 2

Yes, let us have a close look at the Indo-Russia relations during the cold war days. After gaining our independence from the British rule, India had joined the club of Non-Aligned Nations. Subsequently, Pakistan sought military alliance with USA and also became a member of CEATO and CENTO. This compelled India to worry about her security aspects, and in this regard, Russia provided the requisite support to India. Russia preferred to look into military, political and economic concerns of India.



Chapter 30

Should India be Proud of its Democracy?

Ten Candidates are Taking Part in this Group Discussion

Candidate No. 6

Good morning everybody. A very good topic indeed which we will discuss. Please express your thoughts one by one. Let's start with No. 10.

Candidate No. 10

Thanks No. 6. I think, before we discuss as to how democracy is functioning in India, let us try and understand the real meaning of democracy. To my mind, democracy implies the government, wherein, the entire power is in the hands of the people. Democracy could either be a direct or indirect type of democracy. In case of direct democracy, the citizens themselves rule, while in the case of indirect type of democracy, citizens elect their representatives and these representatives form a government, which runs the administration. In India, we have the indirect form of democracy that is functioning presently. But, the issue before us is whether we in India are running a healthy democracy, i.e., a government for the people, by the people and of the people, as was defined by Abraham Lincoln. Other forms of democracy are parliamentary and presidential forms of governments. Obviously, we have opted for the parliamentary form in our country.

Candidate No. 1

Actually to my mind, this democracy has spoilt Indians. Looking at the state of affairs in India, this country needs strict military rule. Politics has really degenerated to very low levels. That is the main issue.

Candidate No. 4

I would like to add that for the smooth running of democracy, political parties must function in a responsible manner. While the ruling party conveys the reaction of a larger number of voters to the government, the parties which are defeated in elections also play an important role. They have to function as the opposition, and as and when required, constructively criticise the government's functioning. Thus, political parties play a vital role in the formulation of public opinion. In India, a person who has attained the age of 18 years can exercise his franchise or the right to vote. The right to vote is an equal right for all citizens. Elections provide an opportunity to the people to judge the performance of their leaders. Another important aspect of democracy is the fact that elections

Relations with China in the Immediate Past

The previous Rajapakse government in Sri Lanka had much closer relations with China in the recent past, and China was known to supply arms as well as provide huge loans to Sri Lanka for its development. To shake up India, in 2014, Sri Lanka even allowed docking of a Chinese submarine in Colombo harbor. Since Sri Lanka is only half an hour away by sea and only a few seconds by air from India, this development did send alarm bells to India. China also invested sufficiently in the infrastructure of Sri Lanka, which included building of Colombo international container terminal by China Harbor Corporation. Therefore, during the regime of the previous government in Sri Lanka, China could make her presence visible in Sri Lanka. Even today, Sri Lanka considers China a friend, since China provided equipment and weapons to Sri Lanka even when there was an official arms embargo. However, in the recent past, Sri Lankan government has become conscious of Chinese military interest in making Sri Lanka a forward base to aim India and gain more strategic influence in the region.

Recent Developments

Clearly, while previous Rajapakse government in Sri Lanka preferred to deal more with China, the present government now considers equally significant to have good relations with India. At the leadership level relations are quite cordial, but they have to be translated into action and presently there is some rebalancing in Sri Lanka. The present government feels that after the conflict in Sri Lanka, even though India had a development portfolio of over \$ 2.6 billion, built 50,000 houses and railway tracks, some people in Sri Lanka thought India was only helping Tamils in North Sri Lanka. India's efforts did not receive adequate publicity, which led to certain misunderstandings among Sri Lankan population. Now, the new Sri Lankan government wants that some Indian companies build Colombo Port's East Terminals after China's earlier effort in this region. On the other hand, Sri Lankan government needs to initiate adequate steps to rehabilitate displaced Tamils, who are still in India after the earlier conflict in Sri Lanka.

It has been reported that recently, Sri Lanka refused permission to China to dock its submarine in Colombo port, which has been well appreciated in India.

During his recent visit to Sri Lanka, Indian PM also inaugurated a 150 bed-hospital built with Indian assistance and also interacted with Indian origin Tamil tea-workers. The Sri Lanka government feels that there is a need to have more cultural and religious interactions between the people of two countries to build more trust and faith.

India has been for long Sri Lanka's biggest trade partner and has played a