

Sakshi Excellence Awards 2019-20

CATEGORY: TELUGU PERSON OF THE YEAR

Name of the Winner: KATTA SIMHACHALAM, IAS, SUB COLLECTOR

Age: 42 | Location: Gudapalli Village, Malikipuram Mandal, East Godavari

PROFILE:

Katta Simhachalam was born in a remote village of East Godavari district to an agriculture labourer, Katta Vali and his wife, Venkata Narsamma. While growing up, Simhachalan lost his eyesight at a tender age due to poor nutrition. Being the youngest of five siblings, he was loved and cared by everyone. With the family's support and his own determination, Simhachalam completed his schooling from Andhra Blind School and went on to join RVR college to earn his BA at his home district.

He cleared the B.Ed entrance exam, securing state 12th rank. He thereafter completed his B.Ed degree in Vizag from the Institute of Advanced Studies and began to work as a teacher in the Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Observing Simhachalam's relentless dedication and his ability to achieve the impossible, a professors encouraged him to appear for the Civil Services Exams. With Sociology as an optional subject, Simhanchalan began to prepare for the examination. Although he failed to crack IAS in the first two attempts, he never gave up. His constant efforts saw him passing with with flying colours in the 3rd attempt. Despite a disability and having had his basic education in Telugu medium, he went on to achieve success in every step of his career. Now as the Sub Collector of Rampachodavaram, he is initiating welfare measures for the overall development of the tribals. After all, disability cannot just be an obstacle for one's ability!

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Cracked Indian Trade Service and worked as Director General of Foreign Trade in 2014
- Cracked IRS and worked as an Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax in 2016
- Cracked IAS and secured the 457th national rank in 2019
- Served as an Assistant Collector in Vijayanagaram district
- Served as a Special Officer for SPANDANA
- Presently posted in Rampachodavaram as the district's Sub Collector