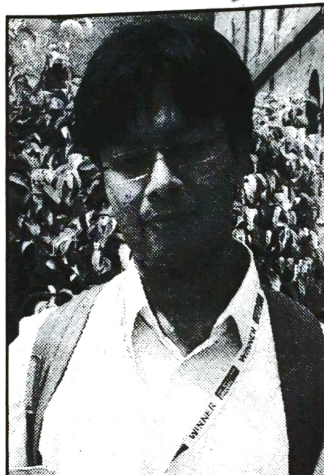


The prestigious fourth position in the list of successful candidates of CSE 2017-18 has been secured by Mr. Atul Prakash, a 24-year-old youth from Rajpur block in Buxar district of Bihar, who shifted to Delhi for the purpose of his preparations for the CSE. Mr. Prakash, son of a mechanical engineer in Railways, also attained this success in his second attempt. Alumnus of IIT, Delhi, he also wanted to become an IAS officer since his childhood. The fifth spot has been bagged by Mr. Pratham Kaushik, again a youth from



**Sachin Gupta
IAS 3rd Rank**



**Atul Prakash
IAS 4th Rank**

Haryana (district Mahendragarh), who has done his graduation in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering from Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh. He started his preparations of CSE immediately after completing his graduation. Mr. Sree Harsha Koya is the second youth from Telangana, after Mr. Anudeep, the topper, who made his state proud by securing sixth position in overall list of successful candidates of CSE 2017-18. A native from Khammam district of Telangana, Mr. Koya did his school education from St. Francis De Sales High School in Khammam. After completing his B.Tech. in Production and Industrial Engineering from National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, he was working with a private multinational company as Product Engineer in Hyderabad.

The 7th Rank in overall list of successful candidates of CSE 2017-18 been bagged by Mr. Ayush Sinha from Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, who made it in his third attempt. After completely missing it in his first attempt, he secured 100th rank in his second attempt and missed the IAS with a very slight margin of two ranks. Since he was determined to make it to the IAS, he took leave from the services to prepare for his third attempt. Mr. Anubhav Singh from Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh has secured the Eighth Rank in CSE 2017-18. A native of Daser village (in Handiya tehsil), 55 kms from Allahabad, 23-year-old Mr. Singh comes from a family of farmers. After completing his school education from Government Primary School and BBS Intercollege in Daser, he went to IIT-Roorkee to do his graduation in civil engineering. In his first attempt in CSE 2016-17, he secured 686th Rank and joined the IRS training as Assistant Income Tax Commissioner and did entire preparation for his second

attempt during the training itself.

The success of Ms. Saumya Sharma from Delhi is also equally inspiring. She has bagged 9th Rank in the overall list of successful candidates of CSE 2017-18. She is only the second of two women candidates who have made it to the top 10. She has attained this success despite the fact that she has been suffering from a hearing disability. A topper from her school days, Ms. Saumya has attained this success in her very first attempt without any coaching whatsoever. She did her schooling from a school in Paschim Vihar, Delhi, and topped her Class X examination. Immediately after her joining Class XI, she was struck by a tragedy when she found that her ears were unable to register voices. Daughter of a doctor father, Ms. Saumya did not allow this hearing disability to get the better of her and did her graduation in Law from National Law University, Delhi, before making herself and her parents proud by making it to the top 10 in CSE 2017-18. The tenth position in the overall list of successful candidates has been bagged by Mr. Abhishek Surana from Bhilwada in Rajasthan, who is the only candidate from his state who has made it to the top 10.

As far as the state-wise representation among the top 10 successful candidates of CSE 2017-18 is concerned, most 3 spots have been occupied by candidates from Haryana, followed by 2 from Telangana and one each from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan. Among these, most of the successful candidates have come from an engineering background. While there are 2 women candidates among 10 top successful candidates, a total of 8 women candidates have made it to the top 25. An analysis of top 25 successful candidates shows that they are mainly

from engineering, sciences, management, law, mathematics, medical and commerce backgrounds, graduating from premier institutions of the country such as IIT, NIT, NLU, NSIT, Delhi University, Mumbai University and Pune University. The topper, Mr. Anudeep Durishetty, has qualified for the examination with Anthropology as his optional subject. Besides Anthropology, the optional subjects of the top 25 candidates ranged from Commerce and Accountancy, Economics, Geography, Law, Mathematics and Physics to Political Science, International Relations, Sociology and Malayalam Literature.

A total of 131 candidates from minority communities, including 51 from Muslim community, have secured their places in the list of overall 990 successful candidates who have been recommended for appointments. The percentage of Muslim candidates in the list of overall successful candidates has increased from 4.5% in CSE 2016-17 to 5.2% in CSE 2017-18. Among top 100 successful candidates, 6 are Muslims including 3 women candidates of the community. The last two years' trend of youths from Jammu & Kashmir making it to the top 10 has been discontinued this year when none of the candidates from the troubled state could make it to either the top 10 or top 25. However, a total of 15 candidates from J&K have been successful in CSE 2017-18 with Mr. Fazlul Haseeb from Haiderpura in Srinagar coming on top among them at 36th overall rank.

Over 4.56 lakh candidates had taken Civil Services Preliminary Examination on June 18, 2017. Of these, 13,366 candidates qualified for the Main Examination held in October-November 2017. Of them, 2,568 candidates qualified for the Personality Test conducted from February 2018 to April 2018 for final selection. Out of these, a total of 990 successful candidates, recommended for appointments, are now destined to play their role in nation building.

**Mr. Durishetty Anudeep
"Passion To Be Part Of Country's
Development Drives Me Here"**

For UPSC 1st Rank holder Mr. Durishetty Anudeep, topping the Civil Services Exam was a dream. "The drive to serve the country, constant hard work and patience fulfilled my dream," he says. The achievement, however, was



Pratham Kaushik
IAS 5th Rank



Koya Sree Harsha
IAS 6th Rank



Saumya Sharma
IAS 9th Rank



Siddharth Jain
IAS 11th Rank

not an easy one to come by. It took the 28-years old Indian Revenue Service Officer five attempts to make it to the top. He says, "This is my fifth attempt. I have failed thrice before, and the journey was not easy for me." Success just eluded him in his first attempt in CSE 2013-14. Then he made it to the IRS in his second attempt in 2014-15. Currently serving as an Assistant Tax Commissioner in Hyderabad, Mr. Anudeep started preparing for the UPSC CSE in 2012. He used to study along with his job and did not take any coaching to prepare for the prestigious examination. Since he had a regular job, he did not get much time to study during the weekdays. So he used to make the most of his weekends and study hard. After completing his engineering in Electronics and Instrumentation from Birla School of Science and Technology (BITS), Pilani, in 2011, he also served at Google, one of the foremost IT companies, as Product Quality Analyst.

The son of Mr. D Manohar, who has retired as an Assistant Divisional Engineer from Telangana Northern Power Distribution Company Ltd., and Ms. D. Jyothy, a homemaker, Mr. Anudeep credits his family, particularly his father, for his results. He says, "My family has been my backbone and if I did not have their support, I would not have been able to top the examinations." His father, in fact, has been his role model and he gives major part of his success to him. He says that his father came from a remote village in Telangana (then Andhra Pradesh) and achieved success in life through sheer hard work. He says that his father taught him to do hard work with a never-say-die spirit till you get the desired success in life. A sports buff, Mr. Anudeep has an obsession for Roger Federer and

Lionel Messi. In one of his Facebook posts, he praised Messi, saying the game of football is not really beautiful, it is brutal, but Messi has an artistic, symphonic beauty to his game that makes the brutal look beautiful. Expressing his love for sports, in another post he wrote, "So I asked myself what do I value more—sports, movies, books or music? Movies are good, books are great and music is soothing. But my life wouldn't be half as joyful or interesting if it were not for the time I spend watching and playing sports."

Though he is an engineer, Mr. Anudeep qualified the CSE with Anthropology as his optional subject. As he said, the subject had been close to his heart right from the childhood as it deals with the evolution of mankind and the society. Elaborating his secrets of success, he says that one of the primary requisite to crack the CSE is to update yourself with current facts, in-depth knowledge of recent topics, and constant practice. Shedding some light on his preparation strategy, he said that he relied on mock tests apart from reading newspapers. "Apart from the day-to-day study, I watched the news and read newspapers and also read magazines. The online mock tests helped me a lot, as they also contained answers. I never got stressed and studied with patience and concentration," he said.

Analysing Prelims question papers 2017, the topper said, "Last year, the three topics that were mainly focused on were Government Schemes, Current Affairs and Environment. The questions were moderate in past years." According to him, the UPSC Mains Examination was the toughest to crack and the aspirants had to concentrate on the writing part as they had to complete 20 subjective questions within a span of

three hours. "Apart from paper-wise study, writing is the part you have to focus. To attempt 20 questions of 200 words in a time span of three hours is a Herculean job," he said. He considers each subject offered to opt for equally tough and important. "There are some thoughts that subjects like Anthropology, Latin, or other non-mainstream subjects are easy to score. There is nothing called 'easy to score', each and every paper is equally tough and important, and IAS aspirants should go for the subjects in which they have in-depth knowledge."

He further says, "Mains is the most crucial part of UPSC CSE and it is subjective papers. Every day, I studied a chapter, analysed the 10 years' questions and practised writing with time. It's really tough to complete the paper having 20 questions of 200 to 300 words each on time. Apart from it, I practised some offline test series also." As for the interview, according to the topper, in UPSC, "It's not an interview, but more of a personality test." Your biodata is quite important; don't put anything which you are not aware of. For example, people write stamp collection, maintaining a diary or others as a hobby. If you really do it, then it is fine, otherwise the interviewers can make you into trouble," he says, adding that being confident shows your personality and that's what interviewers look for. He sums up by saying that "passion to be a part of country's development process drives me here."

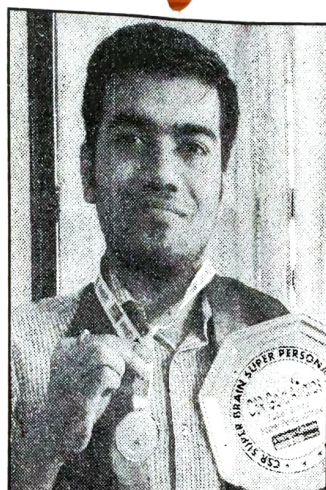
Ms. Anu Kumari

She Could Not Have Achieved This Without Strong Will Power

Success of the 2nd Rank holder, Ms. Anu Kumari, a mother of a 4-year old son, should be inspiring for all those girls and women who do want to do something big in their lives but feel



Ashima Mittal
IAS 12th Rank



Sagar Kumar
IAS 13th Rank



Neha Jain
IAS 14th Rank



Shivani Goyal
IAS 15th Rank

hampered due to circumstances. Ms. Kumari topped the CSE 2017-18 among the other 240 women candidates who managed to clear the examination. Hailing from Sonapat district in Haryana, Ms. Anu Kumari is a B.Sc. (Hons.) graduate in Physics from the Hindu College of Delhi University. After completing her graduation, she pursued her Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) in Finance and Marketing from IMT, Nagpur. Her success is more remarkable because she hails from a state which is known for its poor male-female ratio of population and a low 66.8 percent women literacy. She achieved this success in her second attempt that too without the help of any coaching. She was just short of one mark in her previous UPSC Preliminary Examination. A devoted mother, she not only fulfilled her household responsibilities, but took out 10-12 hours every day for her studies.

The 31-year-old Ms. Kumari had been working for a private sector company for the last 9 years and was earning a Rs. 20 lakh per annum package. She decided to prepare for the UPSC Civil Services examination, one-and-a-half years ago, after she realised that she was not fully satisfied with her work in the private sector and wanted a more meaningful job. She originally belongs to Sonapat but is now settled in Delhi with her businessman husband. Talking about her accomplishment, she said, "I constantly felt like something was missing in my previous job, so I decided to take the plunge. It appeared that my entire life will pass me by running after money. I thought if something has to be done, then I have to be a part of the system. The private sector is always open to me. But I'm glad I wouldn't have to return to it now."

In June 2016, Ms. Kumari decided to live away from her loving husband, left her son with her mother at her parents family and shifted to her maternal aunt's house in a small village to devote herself to the preparation for the examination that was conducted in June 2017. "There was no newspaper in the village where I was preparing for my exams," she said. That is why she had to resort to online content for her CSE preparations. While crediting her family for their support, she said, "My mom and my aunt were my support system. Mom is my role model and I credit all my success to my family."

Sharing her success mantra of cracking the UPSC Civil Services Exam, Ms. Anu Kumari said, "Strong will is necessary to achieve something in life and if you are able to do that, nothing can stop you from being successful." She went on to talk about how things are changing on the front where more and more families are now allowing their daughters the education that they need. She said, "Khap Panchayats have been detrimental to our growth, but I'm glad that the Supreme Court has ruled they cannot have a say in personal matters or when it comes to women empowerment." Haryana government has rightly announced to make her the brand ambassador of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.

Mr. Sachin Gupta

"Dedication And Hard Work Never Go In Vain"

The 3rd Rank holder in CSE 2017-18, Mr. Sachin Gupta, from a small town of Sirsa in Haryana, celebrates his success with some inspiring words, saying, "Dedication and hard work never go in vain." Hearing the inner voice of his own conscience and heart, he started his journey of entering the IAS family

in 2016 when he got an All India Rank of 575. The lack of satisfaction because of the results attained in the previous exams made him to take the next step in his life. The 31-year-old was born in the year 1987 in Sirsa. He is the son of Mr. Sudarshan Gupta who is a farmer as well as a trader who runs a private trading forum. His mother Ms. Sushma Gupta is a teacher by profession in a government school. He is the youngest child among 3 brothers and 3 sisters in the house. He completed his primary and secondary education in DAV Centenary Public School in Sirsa itself. He pursued his higher education from Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology located in Patiala of Punjab. He has graduated in Bachelor of Engineering in the field of Mechanical Engineering. From 2013 to 2015, he worked for Maruti-Suzuki in Gurugram where he was drawing a handsome package of Rs. 6.5 lakh with which he was quite satisfied. But his father inspired him to try and go for civil services. His mother, herself a teacher, is also very passionate about education particularly for the deprived sections of society and hence she also insisted that he must focus on some big goal. As a result, he quit his private job and decided to devote his entire attention to preparation of CSE.

For the sake of completing his dream, Mr. Gupta told his father that he wanted to go for further preparations to Bengaluru. His father knew that he was good at studies and thus gave him permission to go to Bengaluru, a decision he considered as the good one and life-changing. There he joined a coaching institute where teachers guided him with regard to how to move further. Before going to Bengaluru he had previously taken group studies in Delhi and had

appeared in the previous exam but could not get good results as per the expectations. He knew he could do it as he had the potential to crack the exams. His interest is in travelling and reading General Knowledge books.

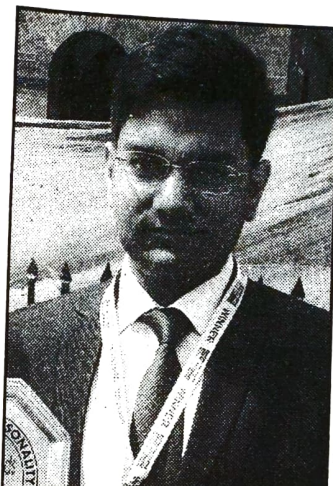
Mr. Gupta has made and followed his own rules of success. To start with the first rule, he followed was being anti-social on online media. He preferred to stay away from social media. Not only that, he also studied for 18 hours a day, listened to what his teachers said and practised the same. He says, "One should never leave hopes and always think that this attempt will be his last attempt. Always do your preparations thinking this, only then you can achieve the success you wish for." He also says, "Always listen to a single teacher and follow whatever guidance he gives. One requires test, practice, and speed to clear UPSC CSE. One must select subjects of one's own choice not depending on which subject has the most demand in the market or how many numbers of students are interested in which subject. It requires hard work and focus and one should not hesitate to *sacrifice anything if your aim demands it.*"

Mr. Atul Prakash
"Consistency, Hard Work And Patience"

When dreams are as high as the sky, no challenge is too big. That is perhaps what drives 26-year-old Mr. Atul Prakash from Mangraon village in Bihar's Buxar district, who secured the 4th Rank in the CSE 2017-18. An alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, from where he did his B.Tech. and M.Tech. in mathematics and computing, he always wanted to join the Indian Administrative Service. In his first attempt in CSE 2016-17, he got selected for Railways with an all India rank of 558, since then he has been working with Railways. The eldest son of Mr. Ashok Kumar Rai, a chief engineer in the construction wing of ECR at Mahendru in Patna, Mr. Atul Prakash studied in different railway schools. Mr. Prakash's father said that his son had always dreamt of becoming a people-oriented civil servant. His success in the UPSC exam would give him the opportunity to realise his dreams, he added. His mother, Ms. Babita Rai, is a home maker. Mr. Atul's younger sister is



Abhilasha Abhinav
IAS 18th Rank



Abhijeet Sinha
IAS 19th Rank

a B.Tech and working with ITC in Bengaluru.

Mr. Prakash always dreamt of becoming a people-oriented civil servant. His success at the UPSC exam would give him the opportunity to realise his dreams. Speaking about how he prepared for CSE, he says that it was all done by self-studying, adding that "I used to study on my own and also gave a number of mock tests and test-series. It was my second attempt and I think the hard work paid off. I gave my previous attempt for Indian Railways and got selected. Then I joined the service in February 2018." Describing his success mantra, he says that his success mantra consists of 3 things—consistency, hard work and patience. "First of all, one must be consistent and hard working. Other than this, one should go through all basic books and focus on general knowledge and current affairs," he says for the benefit of future aspirants.

Mr. Pratham Kaushik
"The Object Is To Serve The Country"

Having cleared the Civil Services Examination with 5th Rank, Mr. Pratham Kaushik is feeling on top of the world. He has not only kept the promise made to his younger sister, but realised his father's dream as well. He says that "IAS has never been his target. It is only the first step. His object is to serve the country, to help the poor people, to help the people to be able to take advantage of government schemes." Hailing from Jhagroli village in Mahendragarh district of Haryana, Mr. Kaushik bagged the fifth position in the CSE 2017-18 in his second attempt. His father Mr. Narender Kaushik is Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner in Kaithal, Haryana. His mother Ms. Rajbala Kaushik is lecturer of geography at Government Senior Secondary School in Dongra Ahir village.

His sister, Ms. Vishesh Kaushik, has completed M.A. (Honours) course from Lady Shriram College in Delhi.

"I was fully confident about clearing the exam this time, but never imagined securing a place among the top five candidates. I wanted to set an example for my sister by keeping my promise of clearing the examination. She wants to follow in my footsteps," he said. Mr. Kaushik made his first attempt in 2015, but could not succeed at the first stage. "I put in equal hard work in both attempts, but perhaps, it was the outcome of people's blessings and good wishes that

I cleared it this time," he said. He gave credit to his parents and teachers. He said that as an IAS officer, his priority would be to work in the direction of women empowerment, gender equality and empowering weaker and deprived sections. His father, Mr. Narendra Kaushik says, "It was my dream to become an IAS officer to serve society, but destiny had another plan. I served as government lecturer for several years initially. I appeared in the Haryana Civil Services Examination in 2001 and was selected for allied services. I am glad that my son has fulfilled my dream."

CONCLUSION

Every success story of youngsters selected for the Civil Services this year tells a different tale. Some have come from the affluent families; some from poor village background. Some had their family members to inspire them; some had only themselves to keep them motivated. But the crux of every success story has been the same. All of them had a burning desire of not only making to the Civil Services but of serving the country to the best of their abilities. And the formula for success that each one of them invented for himself or herself, was also the same. It was sheer hard work, dedication, devotion and smart study with overarching concentration of mind that brought this coveted success to them. Now they are preparing to move to their next big challenge that is to become an active participant in the development journey of the country. We wish them similar success in their next endeavour as well and also best wishes to the future aspirants who wish to make it to the next year's list of successful candidates. Each one of these stories has an explicit message to them : YES, YOU CAN.