

STATE UPSC TOPPERS GIVE CREDIT TO PARENTS

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Two students from Karnataka featured in the top 100 UPSC exam rankings for which the results were announced on Tuesday. Darshan HV has secured 48th rank, while HS Srikanth secured the 56th rank. Many candidates hailing from lower economic and agricultural backgrounds that have made it to the civil services this year. Most exam takers from the state that BM spoke to said they expected better rankings.

Manjunatha HS (26), hailing from a family of agriculturists, secured 566 ranking in the UPSC exam. Manjunatha said, "I was determined to clear exam this time. This was my fourth attempt. My parents had very less understanding of the exam but they gave me a chance to prove myself. Had it not

been for their support, this would not have been possible."

Manjunatha lived off his parents' financial support. He studied electronics and communication in RV College and worked only for three months before he quit to focus on his civil service exams, and this was his last chance to prove himself. Although he secured a ranking, he says he expected more and continues to work towards IAS.

Naveen Kumar DE, who secured 945th ranking, said he hoped to make it at least to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) though he had initially targeted IAS. Despite cracking his MBBS, he chose anthropology since he found the subject 'easier and more interesting'. He said, "I would try to bring in solutions to the healthcare system in the country. I want to make a difference there."

Another MBBS pass-out from Bangalore Medical College, Akash S, who secured 959, said he would be getting IRS too. Akash (26) chose geography as his optional subject for the 'love' of it. He said he studied for nearly six hours daily despite his work schedule as a medical officer in Kolar District. He said, "We were four friends who prepared for the exams together. We used to motivate each other and share our readings and insights on the subjects. One of my friends cleared her exam with 602nd ranking. The other two are still preparing."

For all three, self-studying scored over coaching centres.