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# IPS officer found dead in cops' mess

## Harish, 32, Was To Marry Next Month

## Family, friends shocked by death

Rajiv Kalkod & Merlin Francis | TNN

**Bengaluru:** Shock and disbelief were writ large on the faces of family and friends of Harish N, 32, a 2009 batch IPS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre who allegedly committed suicide in Tamil Nadu, as they gathered at his residence in Manjunath Nagar, west Bengaluru, on Thursday.

Harish's wedding to daughter of a police officer had been arranged for March 18 and 19. On Friday, a *lagna pathrike pooje* had been fixed (where wedding invites were blessed before they're distributed). Friends can't believe he committed suicide, while family members can't understand why he took the extreme step. Harish, incidentally, stayed with DK Ravi, an IAS officer from Karnataka, when they prepared for civil services examination. Ravi allegedly committed suicide last year.

"Soon after news of Ravi's suicide broke out, he called me to ask me what exactly had happened and what the local channels were saying. For a week, he'd call me every day, asking me for updates. He was upset about Ravi's death. It's impossible to believe Harish would choose the same path," said Harish's friend childhood Hari Prasad.



**SHELL-SHOCKED:** Relatives of Harish (inset) (at his Bengaluru residence) on Thursday are unable to understand why he resorted to the extreme step of taking his life

Harish was the eldest child of Nagaraj, a former executive engineer of the PWD, and Shivamma. He had two younger sisters, Asha and Poornima.

Everyone at Harish's Bengaluru home wanted to know how he died. His maternal uncle Nagesh remembered how proud the family was when Harish cleared the UPSC exams in 2008. "He was always a bright child and my favourite nephew," he said. The family was a little disappointed when Harish was posted to Tamil Nadu and not Karnataka, he added.

**Khaki was his calling**  
"Maga (son in Bengalurese), if I take up a job, it'll be only as an IPS officer," Harish

would often tell his friends.

And his academic record would see him to that dream job. He bagged the 513rd rank in CET, the entrance exam to join professional courses in Karnataka. After graduating in electronic and telecommunication engineering from R V College of Engineering in 2006, Harish got an offer from an IT major for a salary of Rs 1 lakh per month. But he declined the offer.

After he cleared his KAS exams, he was posted as assistant commissioner in the health department. This too, he declined, recalled Narendra Babu, who had known Harish for over 25 years.

Harish was determination personified. "He had

books piled up in his room. When he cleared the exams and they cleared his room, the family actually hired a mini tempo to shift all the books," Narendra said.

"When we were young, we'd ask ourselves how he managed to top the class even though he was not one bury himself in books," said Hari Prasad, adding, "We always asked him when he'd study considering we went out, watched movies, played cricket."

Cricket was Harish's passion, he added. A right-arm fast bowler, Harish idolized Javagal Srinath. On campus, Harish was a different person. Prof. Jagannath, who was head of the electronics and communications department, RVCE remembers Harish because of the time he spent in the library. "He was studious, a quiet boy who didn't get into trouble. You would find him in the library college hours on some days and when there were no classes. For a few years after college, he used to visit the library and spend time there," he said.

"He was a shy person but friendly too. Listening to him during discussions and debates were eye-openers. He was well-read and made his point clearly and convincingly," MN Anucheth, now superintendent of police Chitradurga, said

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** IPS officer N Harish, 32, was found dead on Thursday noon in a room at the police officer's mess in Egmore. The death of the 2009-batch officer in the rank of additional superintendent of police with the directorate of vigilance and anti-corruption came as a shock to many as his wedding was arranged for next month. Soon after the news of Harish's death, there were outbursts in social media about the way young officers are handled by seniors.

Sources said Harish was depressed and had taken to drinking owing to personal reasons. The last straw was denial of promotion on grounds that he had not cleared the mandatory Tamil proficiency test for officers.

Local police said the cause of death was yet to be ascertained. The body was sent to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital for post-mortem. A native of Karnataka, the officer was transferred from Madurai a month-and-a-half back. Incidentally, he was a batch-mate of D K Ravi, the Karnataka IAS officer whose suicide made news in March 2015.

While some said Harish had to face some official inquiries, official sources said there was no inquiry pending against Harish.

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