77th in UPSC exam, B'lurean tops state; RVCE Alumni Yatish R 115 Rank

77th in UPSC exam, B'lurean tops state; his heart lies in IFS

Pavan Kumar Pateel | TNN

Bengaluru: Akshay Simha, a 26-year-old Bengalurean, is the Karnataka topper, securing 77th UPSC rank in the civil services exam results announced on Friday evening.

Akshay did his pre-university in Jain College, VV Puram before heading for undergraduate studies at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata. He returned to Bengaluru to prepare for the civil services.

"My uncle is a retired IAS officer and was my inspiration. He guided me to crack the test," said Akshay, who said he'd prefer working for the Indian Foreign Service.

Despite his science background, Akshay opted for Kannada literature as optional subject. "Usually students pursuing civil services tend to read a lot of books and take on a huge burden. But I was focused. I religiously did all the test series offered by my coaching institute. I've been practising for two years. I did not succeed at the first attempt, but this time I did," he said.

He added: "The interview was cordial. There was no hurry, no element of fear. The board made me calm and composed. We were talking more on the future of the country." Asked why he'd choose IFS over IAS, he quipped: "Why IAS!" He added that his interest lay in foreign diplomacy.

This time only Akshay featured in top 100 list. There are three more in the top 200

'This time, competition was tough from other states'

While Karnataka candidates are regulars in the top 100, this time only Akshay featured in the list. There are three more candidates in the top 200.

"The UPSC board doesn't make any difference between states. We have to accept the results. Usually around 7-10 students appear in top 100. This time, even though there were a good number of candidates from Karnataka who qualified, those who made it to the top 200 are fews. This time, the competition was tough from other states. Those students put in a huge effort and it paid off," said Vinay Kumar GB, founder and CEO, Insights on India, Bangalore, where Akshay was a student. Other Karnataka students among the Top 200 are Yatish R (115th rank), KM Priyanka (121st rank) and Nischay Prasad M (130th rank).