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BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO., LTD.

NO. 145. VOL. CLIX • NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1996 • CAPITAL • 30 pages including Ascent • Invitation price Re. 1.50 • Home delivery for June Rs. 50.60.

METRO FILE

Man's body found in Nangloi

NEW DELHI: A 62-year-old Hissar resident, Ram Prasad, was murdered under mysterious circumstances at Bakhrawala village, in the Nangloi area of west Delhi, on Monday.

The police said the victim had come to the village to meet his friend Ishwar Singh on Monday evening. "He went to ease himself in the nearby fields before dinner but did not return. His body, with several stab wounds, was found later," said a police official.

Two persons held for cheating

Two of the three persons, Upender Sharma (42) and Jitender Singh (26), who allegedly duped people on the pretext of getting vehicles financed from banks and leasing companies, have been arrested by the Moti Nagar police.

The third, Joginder Singh, is absconding. Four cars, including a Ceilo and a Maruti Esteem, were seized from the accused who have previous criminal records. "They had set up a company named U.P. Leasing and Fi-

correct passwords were given car sun shades from Times FM music vans in different parts of the city.

The winners were invited to the Grand finale lucky draw. As Ms Menon decided the fate of the lucky few, children and teenagers danced to the beats of Black Night (Deep Purple) and Rock 'n' Roll (Led Zeppelin). Times FM and Pepsi souvenirs were distributed to the enthusiastic crowd as they sipped from their cans and waited for the lucky draw to change their fortunes. Mr Arun Soni won a motorcycle while Ms Neha Singh and Mr Anupam Sharma bagged a cellular phone and discman respectively.

Power cuts

Residents of some areas of Malviya Nagar complained of a breakdown in power for over 12 hours on Monday night. Callers to this office alleged the local DESU office did not act on the complaints as they were busy protesting against the alleged roughing up of some DESU staff by some miscreants on Monday.

Residents from some other

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, June 18:

He lost all his friends to the USA. Two stayed back — one made it to the Indian Administrative Service, the other to the Indian Police Service. What happened to him?

Well, he topped the country's most challenging examination. Meet Iqbal Singh Dahliwal, this year's civil services topper.

At 5.30 on Monday evening, someone told him the civil services results were out. He rang his coaching centre. The first question: Who is the topper? They didn't know.

He rushed to the UPSC office. Last year, too, he had gone to see his results and began looking from the fifth, and at last found his name at the 229th rank. It got him the Indian Accounts Service.

This year began from the top and didn't need to proceed further. His name was first.

"He lifted me up in his arms even as the crowd watched," says his sister Dimple, a doctor at Safdarjung Hospital. "I was hopeful but not expecting it," says Iqbal.

So when did the party begin? "I'm not the partying kind. What I

need is some sleep. I hadn't lost so much sleep even during the preparations," he says. The excitement caught him in its grip, not allowing him a wink.

A Sri Venkateswara College gold-medallist in economics, he joined the Delhi School of Economics for his masters. Did he top there too? "Oh no, only a genius can do that. I just managed 56 per cent," he says.

What did the trick for him, he feels, was the written test performance in the optionals, economics and public administration. "Last year, I had 234 out of 250 in the interview and it was almost 100 per cent. I knew I needed to improve in the written. This year it was a dream performance," he says.

An avid reader of *The Times of India*, he says, "I have maintained clippings of this newspaper religiously. I still have 20 to 30 quotes from the newspaper which I used in the essay paper and one of them even in the interview," he says. The other newspaper he reads is *The Economic Times*.

Right since school, he had wanted to be an IAS officer and it was the dream of his father, a BSF inspector-general who was killed in

an air crash in 1992. "It's the dream job for a person interested in developmental economics. I was always interested in rural development and agricultural economics. This job keeps one at the helm of affairs," he says.

A blue-belt holder in karate, his interests lie in riding, swimming and tennis. "Two years back I got hooked to Star Plus. But when the preparations began, I got the cable connection cut for it hampered studies," he says. In his spare time, he would come out of his room and chat with his sister and mother. "My family was my hobby. It's because of them I could achieve my goal," he says. Studying in isolation, he worked about 14 hours a day. "It was the life of a hermit," he recalls. In fact, had he got the IPS last year, he would have not taken the exam again.

"It's so time-consuming. One entire year is lost in the exam process and if one can't make it in one go, another year is wasted," he says. But for this he has no complaints against the "rejection" process of the UPSC. "Given the constraints, it's the best that can be devised," he says.

It was a hermit's life. Topping civil services was nirvana

Mohammed Ilyas



This year's civil services topper, Iqbal Singh Dahliwal with his mother and sister at their residence in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on Tuesday

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IAS topper claims 5 pc work, 5 pc luck...

by Sonal Manchanda

NEW DELHI, June 17

IT is a dream come true for Iqbal Singh Dahliwal though the news is yet to sink in. His family has reacted with shock, surprise and happiness.

Twenty-four-year-old Iqbal, who has topped the All India Civil Services (Mains) Examinations this year, the results for which were declared today, says with a grin, "This is wonderful. I am still dazed."

"Actually it was quite a shock," pipes in his sister, Dimple, who is a doctor at the Safdarjung Hospital. "He came to know at 5.30 pm that the results had been declared. He was so nervous. When he checked the results, he just lifted me up. I couldn't believe my ears when he told me that he had topped."

Sheepishly, Iqbal adds he was scared. "Last time, my rank was



FLYING COLOURS: IAS topper Iqbal Singh Dahliwal, a pilot's son, joyfully hugs his mother and sister on Monday evening. Ex-

press photo by R K Dayal

229th and I had been placed in the Indian Civil Accounts Services. I was afraid that if I did not make it this time, everyone would consider my achievement a fluke."

He appeared more confident when quizzed about his preparation. "I studied for 12 to 14 hours every day. Since I have done my masters in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, I had a good grounding in the subject. But to prepare for the public administration paper, I joined the Vajiram Institute," he admits.

"He was always good in studies," says his mother with obvious pride. "He was the head boy in school and a college topper." Her only regret is that her husband is not alive to share their happiness. "It is because of his blessings that he has been able to achieve this success," she says, a little sadly.

Echoing her sentiments, Iqbal

Continued on p 9 col 1

IAS topper

Continued from p 1 col 5 admits it was his father's dream and he is glad that he has been able to fulfill it. "I never tried for medical or engineering or even MBA. I just wanted to be an IAS officer. I just wish he was here to see my success," he says.

A pilot with the Border Security Force, Iqbal's father died in a plane crash four years ago.

Hugging his mother, he says that 90 per cent of the credit for his success goes to his family. "It was five per cent hard work, five per cent luck. However, the important 90 per cent was my family."

But his sister points out that he had worked hard for his success and it was well-earned.

Hoping to work for the betterment of the country, the young bureaucrat-in-the-making looks forward to doing his best for the country. "I have always been interested in developmental economics. Given a chance, I would love to work for my home State of Haryana and try to develop its rural side," he says.

DU student tops UPSC examinations

NEW DELHI, June 17: Iqbal Singh Dhaliwal of humanities stream from Delhi University topped the 1995 Civil Services (main) examination, reports PTI.

Among the female candidates, the topper is Mona K. Khandhar. She is an M.A. in Sanskrit from Bombay University. She is seventh in the overall merit list.

In the merit list of 638 announced by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) today, 45 per cent belong to the humanities stream.

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The second attempt made all the difference

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 18

Two successful candidates of the All India Civil Services (Mains) Examinations this time have proved the point that one time failure need not be a barricade to success.

For Mr Iqbal Singh Dhaliwal and Ms Gitanjali Gupta, success came only in their second attempt. Not just that. In fact, while young

class families only.

Moreover, their success has added a feather in the cap of the University of Delhi. If Iqbal proudly calls himself a Venki today as he did his B.A. (Hons.) Economics from Venkateshwara College and Masters from Delhi School of Economics, Gitanjali is proud of calling herself an ex-Mirandian. She did her B.Sc. (Hons.) in Chemistry from Miranda College and Masters in Bio-technology from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

For both of them, it is a dream which has come true at last. If Iqbal had a sleepless night yesterday, Gitanjali has been constantly calling up her parents from Uttar Pradesh.

Till yesterday, Iqbal's house in Vasant Kunj used to be quiet and only an atmosphere of serious studies used to prevail. The same place today is flanked with friends and relatives. Several bouquets are piled up on the dining table.

From his very childhood Iqbal's father always wanted his son to be an IAS officer and daughter Dimple, a doctor. Today, both of them have lived upto his expectations. Iqbal's father died in an air crash four years ago.

An ex-Indian Air Force officer, Iqbal's father joined the Border Security Force in 1972, the year he was born. "Of course, since my childhood I was fascinated by the khakhi uniform. In fact, had I cleared my Civil Services examinations last year today you would have seen me as an IPS officer only," said Iqbal.

But now when he has cleared it, would he also become a typical bureaucrat or will he be accessible

as he is now? "I shall always remain as cheerful and accessible as I am today and I hope God gives me enough strength to remain the same," he said.

He gives total credit to his family for his success. He said: "No doubt I have worked hard to achieve this,

taken the place of being the head of the family. We are proud of him. He has lived upto Dad's expectations," Dimple, his sister chipped in.

"I don't think I could have asked for anything more than this in life. I am loss for words today. I am just

her M.D. in Paediatrics from Safdarjung Hospital.

Joy knew no bounds when they came to know about the result. On Monday at 6 p.m., when Iqbal came to know that he has topped, he lifted his sister in his lap. "We checked the list at least six times to

used to feel that the candidates must be superhuman. But, today when I am sailing in the same boat I am slightly unnerved", he said.

Iqbal's mother who runs a school in Gurgaon, is speechless today. "It is all because of God's grace that he has been able to do so well. Both my children have lived upto their father's expectations", she said.

SUCCESS OF WILL POWER: On other hand, Gitanjali's parents are also loss for words. They feel that Gitanjali's success lies on her will power. In their small house in Janakpuri, both father and mother of Gitanjali are sharing the happiness alone. Gitanjali cleared her Indian Forests Service examinations in 1994. She had sought extension for one year to prepare herself for the Civil Service Examinations. Since her extension term ended in May-end, she joined IFS. But she has decided to switch over to IAS from IFS now. This was her second attempt to Civil Services examination, which she cleared successfully. Now she is posted in Chakrata.

According to her father, who is an ex-Indian Audit and Accounts Service Officer, Gitanjali from the very being was beginning groomed to become at least a Class I officer and she has been sincerely preparing herself for the Civil Services examinations.

Gitanjali's mother who is a simple housewife said: "Munni (Gitanjali) is a quiet girl. Her success to the IAS is only because of her will power."

While Gitanjali has given Delhi as her home cadre, Iqbal has preferred Haryana, which is his home State.



Iqbal Singh sharing the happiest moment of his life with his family after topping the IAS examination in New Delhi on Tuesday. — HT photo by Pradeep Bhatia

but my family was behind me always. I was literally confined at home 24 hours, including on festivals such as Diwali".

"But today he is a big man and

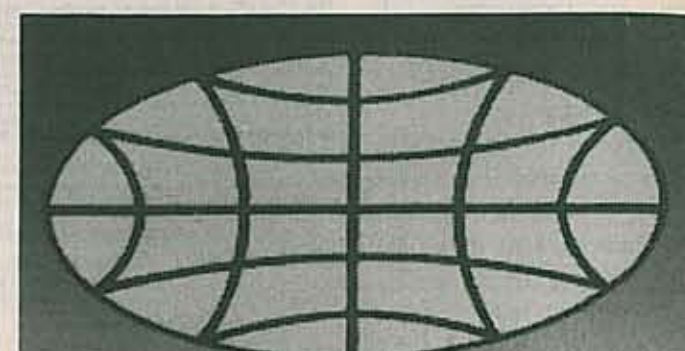
too happy", she added.

"Today, for the first time in two years that Dimple has taken her first holiday from the hospital," said Iqbal proudly. She is doing

confirm and reconfirm the fact. It was quite a wild scene there," said Both Dimple and Iqbal.

"Every year after seeing the name of the toppers in the list, I

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 1996 CITY 5



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