

ITians who went the other way

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L to R: Ram Prakash Patel, Ajinkya Kulkarni and Harsh Paliwal opt to intern with IAS officers before they attempt to enter civil services

IIT students getting into civil services is not new. However, IIT-Gn graduates who are keen on getting into civil services have taken up internships and jobs in government sectors. Working closely with IAS officers, seeing how the government functions, these students want to know everything about the civil services before getting into it.

Said IIT-Gn Director Sudhir Jain, "This is the first time that an IITian is interning or working with IAS officers to get a first hand experience of the system. When the students came to me with their desire to get into civil services, we started approaching government offices who readily agreed to take them as intern."

Ajinkya Kulkarni, Harsh Paliwal and Ram Prakash Patel are currently working with the government. Ajinkya and Harsh are with Industrial Extension Bureau as project executives. "I want to pursue a career in civil services. Before appearing for the civil services exams, we wanted to have an experience of how the government functions," said Ajinkya, who studied mechanical engineering.

He began working with iNDEXTb two days ago. He is joined by Harsh, a student of electrical engineering. Said Harsh, "I am keen on knowing about the system we have. How the policies are framed and how are they implemented. I am keen on working with the masses."

Hailing from a farmer's family in Uttar Pradesh, Ram Prakash opted to work with Gujarat Urban Development Company in Gandhinagar. "For the last three-four years I have been contemplating to get into civil services. Though my family condition is not too good, it is not about earning money. Right now, I am not given too many responsibilities. My profile has not yet been finalised. I will be working on the Metrolink Express for Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad," Ram Prakash said.

According to Dr Jain, "The concept of students interning with bureaucrats was inspired by the US model where bright minds work with the policy makers such as at the Capitol Hill. They work directly under them as research assistants and see how they function." Right from making power point presentations to giving their views on decisions taken, they are a part of it all.