

Y.C.M.O.U graduate tops U.P.S.C. list sets a historical record in the State

In a unique development, Maharashtra youth have displayed their modern mindset as Kaustubh Diwegaonkar, a youth from Latur, secured the 15th position in the country in the list of successful candidates at the UPSC examination. Kaustubh stands 1st in the state of Maharashtra.

The unique feature about Kaustubh is that after completing his HSC he **did not** join a college of any conventional University but in stead, chose to join Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, YCMOU. Having secured maximum marks in Marathi, he chose to join the B.A. programme of YCMOU althoug he had done his H.S.C. in Science.He simultaneously focussed on the preparations of UPSC taking benefit of the liberty available only to YCMOU students of **going to the study centre** only on Sundays to attend the weekly contact sessions.

His mother also had taken an open University Degree. Kaustubh was felicitated in a special programme organised by the YCMOU in its Pune Regional Centre on May 4th. He was given the traditional shawl, coconut and a memento at the hands of the Regional Director Dr.Prakash Joshi. In his brief speech, Kaustubh extended the credit of his success to the training he received and the in-depth lucid study material of YCMOU. He also advised other aspirants of UPSC/MPSC to take benefit of the freedom of the open and distance learning system that allows them to either work or acquire another degree from a conventional University along with a YCMOU Degree. He said, "I had opted for the civil services as I felt that my desire to undertake social work will be better served in this job while making a respectable living as well.

Dr.Prakash Joshi, the Regional Director of YCMOU for Pune said, "Its the third consecutive year when a YCMOU graduate has topped the MPSC or UPSC list at the state level. The modern mindset of the Maharashtra youth is now tilted towards the distance mode of higher education which indicates a welcome trend in career-oriented talented youth.