

■ Power and social status driving force for applicants

## IAS still top career pick : Study

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The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) remains among the topmost preferred choices for the youth as is evident from a sharp rise in the number of applicants. A field survey of over 650 candidates appearing for the civil services examination by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) endorsed this view.

As many as 11,35,943 candidates took the civil services preliminary examination in 2016 as compared to 9,45,908 in the previous year, with the number of aspirants increasing by

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almost two lakh. In 2015, a total of 4,65,882 candidates took the civil services preliminary examination as compared to 4,51,602 in 2014.

While traditionally the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) has been the second-

best choice for aspirants, more and more youth are now going for the Indian Police Service (IPS) if they cannot make it to the IAS. The survey said that the driving force for the aspirants is the clout and power, improved salaries, and above all the social status that goes with the civil servants. "Power, position, and social status are the driving forces even though the job involves security risks, especially in some of the troubled regions, requiring a different kind of personal commitment," the survey paper noted.

It also found out that there has been an increased intake in the civil services from some of

the economically backward states like Bihar and Odisha.

"This may also be possible because more and more boys and girls from the advanced states like Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra are opting for high-end private sector jobs either in India or abroad after completing engineering and MBA from global educational institutions," said Mr DS Rawat, Assocham secretary general.

However, it has also been noted that some of the students from high-end business schools and engineering colleges are also opting to join the civil services.