

# Modi meets 'daftari', son over UPSC success

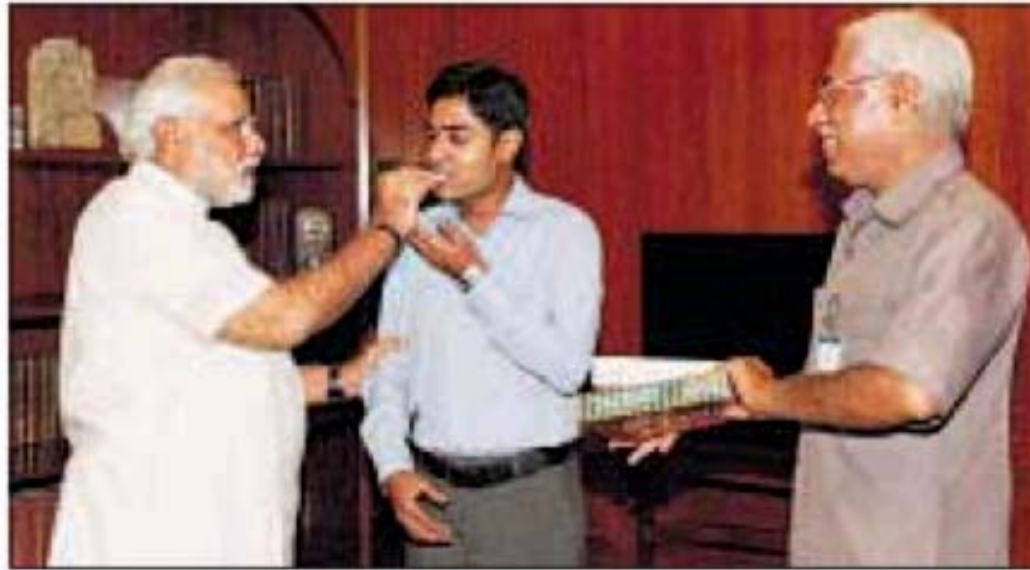
Saubhadra Chatterji

■ saubhadra.chatterji@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** For 36 long years, Devkaran had remained a nameless and faceless employee in the country's highest executive office, hidden behind bulky files he carried from the chamber of one babu to another.

On Wednesday, as he approached the end of the corridor on the first floor, his feet trembled in tension as well as excitement. For the class-four staff of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was about to meet his top boss — Narendra Modi. The occasion was special.

Devkaran's son Rajesh Kumar has secured the 578th rank out of 1,122 selected candidates in the civil service exams and as soon as Modi heard about it he wanted to meet both father and the son.



■ This was Kumar's first attempt in the civil service exam.

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"I could not have expected more in this life. When I entered his room, the Prime Minister stood up, came around the table to feed sweets from his own hands to my son. The PM told my son that whenever he needs any help, he can meet him," said Devkaran,

a daftari (office help) in the PMO.

Another surprise came towards the end of the meeting when Modi told the bright young man what he had been telling his cabinet colleagues and bureaucrats: "If you have any innovative idea (of governance) in your

mind, feel free to tell me."

Rajesh's grandfather Narayan Ram had worked in the first PMO during Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure. When he died in 1978 while still working, Devkaran got a job under compassionate ground.

Last week, after the civil services results were out, an elated Devkaran distributed sweets in the PMO. "I gave sweets to the PM's personal staff and they said they will inform the PM about my son's success. Last evening, I got a call confirming an appointment."

Rajesh, a graduate in Electronics Communication from Alwar's Institute of Engineering & Technology, is currently working as an assistant in the Centre's department of personnel and training (DoPT). The Devkarans originally belong to Rajasthan and come under Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.