

The dream of a lifetime materialized for Prema Jayakumar, when the 24-year-old topped the All India Chartered Accountancy Final Examination in her first attempt. Prema, whose father drives an auto for a living, is now determined to use the milestone as a stepping-stone towards providing her parents with a life of comfort. Residing in a cramped one-room chawl in suburban Malad in Mumbai with her parents and brother, the 24-year-old said, she was ecstatic to have secured the first rank in the examination conducted in November 2012 by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India



Prema Jayakumar with her father, Jayakumar Perumal in their auto rickshaw

Prema's four-member family squeezes itself into a 300 sq ft room in S B Khan Chawl, Malad. Beaming over her success, she said, "The day I start working, I will ensure that my father can rest at home. He has always toiled for my welfare." Prema, who outshone her peers in academics since her school days, scored a remarkable 607 on 800 in the Final Examination.

This is not her first stint on a toppers' list. She scored 90 per cent in her Third Year B Com examination from the University of Mumbai, standing second. Prema said that she owed a debt of gratitude for the professors at her college, who had worked hard with her. The graduate from Nagindas Khandwala College also completed her M Com from the University of Mumbai. While achieving her own personal goals, Prema has also been a guiding force for her 22-year-old brother Dhanraj, who also cleared his CA examination with his sister in his first attempt.



Prema Jayakumar with her parents and her brother

"We registered together with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and appeared for the examination in November 2012, Prema said. My brother completed his B.Com in 2010. But he started studying for the CA examination after his Higher Secondary Course. He managed to gather registration fees for the examination by working at a call centre while completing his degree course." After completing her B Com in 2008, Prema appeared for the Common Proficiency Test (CPT) entrance in December 2008. In November 2009, she cleared both groups of the Integrated Professional Examination (IPCE), which made her eligible for the articleship. The stint made her eligible for her CA final."

While sharing the tips for success in one of the toughest professional examinations in the country, Prema said, "I have noticed that people fail their CA examinations many times. We used to study from 7.30 am till 12 midnight. We used to rest at night. Sleep is very important when you are studying hard the whole day. If the person doesn't rest adequately then exhaustion will hamper preparations. We used to take a single break for lunch. We used to watch TV for half an hour before going to bed, just to relax.

(Source – ICAI Journal)