From Thiruvananthapuram to Solapur: The Journey of IPS Anjana V. S.

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Introduction

In the often challenging world of law enforcement, stories of integrity and resolve shine especially bright. IPS officer **Anjana V. S.** (often referred to as *Anjana Krishna*) is one such example. Her rise from a modest upbringing in Kerala to serving as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Solapur, Maharashtra, and her recent stand during an anti-illegal mining operation, have made her a subject of admiration and inspiration.

Early Life & Education

- **Roots in Kerala**: Anjana hails from **Thiruvananthapuram**, Kerala. Her family's background is modest — her father runs a small cloth shop, and her mother works as a typist in a court.
- **Schooling & College**: She attended *St. Mary's Central School, Poojappura*. For higher education, she pursued a **Bachelor of Science in Mathematics** at *NSS College for Women, Neeramankara*.
- **UPSC Success**: In the 2022–23 Civil Services Examination, she secured **All India Rank 355**, which paved her way into the 2023 IPS batch.

Career & Posting

- **Cadre**: Anjana belongs to the **Maharashtra cadre**.
- **Current Role**: She serves as **Deputy Superintendent of Police** (DSP), stationed at *Karmala (Karmala Tehsil)* in the *Solapur District* of Maharashtra. She's known for being committed, principled, and having a reputation for integrity.

The Viral Incident: Standing Up in Solapur

One of the most widely reported events involving Anjana recently took place during an anti-illegal mining operation in *Kurdu village*, *Madha taluka*, Solapur. Here are the key points:

- **Call to Action**: Anjana led a team of police/revenue officials to stop illegal excavation (of soil/sand) for road construction, based on a complaint. Villagers allegedly claimed Gram Panchayat permission but couldn't produce the relevant papers. **Political Pressure & Response**: During the action, a worker connected to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) handed Anjana a phone, saying Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was calling. She did *not*

immediately accept the request to stop enforcement. She asked the caller to call her directly on her own number so she could verify identity.

- **Video Call & Escalation**: Ajit Pawar then reportedly made a video call to her, insisting she stop the operation and coordinate with the local Tehsildar instead. The matter lasted around **three hours**, with Anjana not backing down until it was confirmed that there were no valid permissions for the excavation.

- **Public Reaction**: The video of the exchange went viral. Many praised her for standing firm, doing her duty despite political pressure. Some saw it as a sign of bureaucratic courage. Others debated the limits of political oversight vs. administrative independence.

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Significance & Lessons

- **Integrity in Practice**: Anjana's insistence on verification before obeying what could have been an inappropriate request underscores the importance of due process in public service.

- **Role Model**: For many young people, especially from underprivileged or middle-class backgrounds, her journey is a reminder that perseverance, education, and ethical commitment can lead to significant public roles. The fact that she comes from a modest family amplifies the value of her achievement.

- **Balancing Politics and Administration**: The incident exemplifies a recurring tension in India between political authority and law enforcement autonomy. It raises important questions: When should political leaders intervene? To what extent should officers comply? And how should officers protect their ability to act lawfully under pressure?

Challenges & What's Next

Though Anjana has gained much acclaim, there are always challenges:

- **Sustainability**: Prolonged resistance to political pressure can bring its own difficulties — transfers, bureaucratic resistance, or being caught in political crossfires.

- **Systemic Support**: Officers like Anjana need clear institutional backing, transparent rules, and public awareness so that forceful, but lawful, actions are not undermined.

- **Public Expectations**: When someone becomes a symbol of integrity, expectations are high. Managing those while doing everyday administrative work is tough.

How to become an IPS officer?

Becoming an **IPS officer (Indian Police Service)** is a prestigious achievement and involves a rigorous selection process. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to become an IPS officer in India:

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□□ Step-by-Step Process to Become an IPS Officer:

1. Meet the Basic Eligibility Criteria

- **Nationality**: You must be a citizen of India.
- **Age Limit** (General Category):
    - Minimum: **21 years**
    - Maximum: **32 years**
    - *Relaxation* for OBC (3 years), SC/ST (5 years), etc.
- **Education**: A **Bachelor's degree** in any discipline from a recognized university.

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2. Appear for the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE)

The IPS is recruited through the **Civil Services Exam (CSE)** conducted by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.

UPSC CSE has 3 stages:

□□ Stage 1: Preliminary Examination (Prelims)

- **Objective type (MCQs)**
- **Two papers**: General Studies (GS) & CSAT
- Only qualifying in nature; marks not counted for final ranking.
- Held around **May/June** each year.

□□ Stage 2: Mains Examination

- **Descriptive (essay-type)**
- **9 papers** (2 qualifying, 7 counted for merit)

- Includes subjects like Essay, General Studies, and optional subject.
- Held around **Sept/Oct**.

□□ Stage 3: Personality Test (Interview)

- Conducted for candidates who clear Mains.
- Assesses personality, leadership, presence of mind, and suitability for civil services.
- Held in **March-April**.

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3. Secure a High Rank

- The IPS is **one of the top services** allotted through the UPSC rank list.
- You need a **good All India Rank (AIR)** to get into IPS, especially if you are from the **general category**.
- Final selection depends on your **total score** (Mains + Interview).

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4. Fulfill Physical Fitness Requirements

After selection, you must meet **physical and medical standards** for IPS. For example:

Men:

- Minimum height: **165 cm** (160 cm for ST)
- Chest: Minimum 84 cm (expansion of 5 cm)

Women:

- Minimum height: **150 cm** (145 cm for ST)
- Chest: Minimum 79 cm (expansion of 5 cm)

Eyesight, hearing, and general health are also evaluated.

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5. Complete Training

Selected IPS officers undergo training at:

- **LBSNAA (Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration)**,

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Mussoorie (Foundational course)

- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)**, Hyderabad (IPS-specific training)

□□ How to Prepare for UPSC?

- Start early with **NCERT books** and standard reference materials.
- Read **newspapers daily** (e.g., The Hindu, Indian Express).
- Practice **mock tests** and write **answer-writing practice** regularly.
- Choose your **optional subject** wisely.
- Consider joining a **coaching institute** or preparing through online platforms if needed.

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□□ Number of Attempts Allowed:

- **General**: 6 attempts
- **OBC**: 9 attempts
- **SC/ST**: Unlimited (till age limit)
- **EWS**: 6 attempts

Conclusion

Anjana V. S. (Anjana Krishna) embodies what many hope for in public servants — honesty, courage, and a strong sense of duty. Her path from Thiruvananthapuram to enforcing law in Solapur, and standing firm in a challenging situation, provides both inspiration and food for thought. Her story reminds us: rules and rights matter; verifying identity and acting by law aren’t optional; and sometimes doing what’s right requires standing alone.

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