

# Shining like the 'Super 30'

When the film's trailer is winning hearts, we bring you close to some students in City who defeated poverty with merit

● **Soumika M Das**

The trailer of Hrithik Roshan's upcoming film, 'Super 30', has put the spotlight on underprivileged kids making it to the IITs and a noble mentor, Anand Sharma. Not known to many, Odisha is also home to such talented students who have toiled hard to crack tough entrances despite being born to poor families.

Born to a marginal farmer and his wife in Nandapur village of Koraput district, Abhishek Babu didn't hear of engineering as a profession until he joined high school. As a child, he had seen his father ploughing a tiny plot



Abhishek Babu

and praying for a good yield each year. His ambition was confined within the boundary of a mud-brick house. But, his father encouraged him to dream big. "He used to earn ₹70,000 per year by growing

seasonal vegetables. He didn't want me and my sister to compromise with education. Despite several difficulties, he managed to get us admitted to a convent school in Simlipada," he said. The next stop was Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, where his ambience expanded. While interacting with his seniors at the school, he learnt about the 'Super 30' programme conducted by Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC).

"I spent six hours a day to crack the OMC entrance. I was inducted into the coaching programme for 2017-2018," he said. As part of its CSR initiatives, OMC provides free coaching to students from underprivileged families for a year to help them crack Advanced JEE entrance. The students are also provided with accommodation facilities.

After a year long training, Abhishek cracked the entrance. He is pursuing B.Tech in engineering at IIT Bhubaneswar. Similar is the story of Subham Subhadarshi, son of a farmer from Jashitir village in Mayurbhanj dis-



Students who cracked NEET 2019 under Zindagi Programme

trict. He is a second year student at IIT Kharagpur. Like Subham and Abhishek, Chandrakanta Mohapatra was also trained under the Super 30 programme. "At the coaching institute, 14 hours was devoted to self study and classroom teaching," Chandrakanta, who is pursuing his engineering at IIT Bhubaneswar, said.

## Fabulous 14

Following Anand Sharma's Super 30 model, City-



based teacher Ajay Bahadur Singh launched the project 'Zindagi' to help hardworking students from poor families who desire to crack medical entrances. Years back, poverty pushed him to sell tea and offer door-to-door coaching to students. He had to give up his dream of becoming a doctor. He had to quit studies after gradu-

ation. In order to accomplish his dreams, he took a franchise for Aakash Institute Bhubaneswar on February 2005. In 2017, he launched the Zindagi programme to empower 14 students each year with free coaching, residential facilities and books.

In 2019 NEET exam, 14 out of 14 students under the programme cracked the entrance. One of the students, Krishna Mohanty was rendered helpless after the death of his father. His mother sells pitha at a temple in the City. He scored 573 out of 720 in NEET.