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A sensuous curve of the lip, an untrimmed beard, rustic hair, short stature and a broad forehead. This is Anand Kumar, a graduate of B N College, Patna, who is making giant strides in the field of mathematics, following in the footsteps of Aryabhata and U N Brahmachari.

"My best is yet to come," he says softly. A mathematician in the making. Anand has provided new dimensions to the research done by A Porgess, a mathematician of world repute. He also claims to have evolved two other mathematical theories - the squaring of the digits of a number and the theory of divisibility. The latter has been published in the journal *The Mathematical Gazette of London*, and his work on the squaring of digits of a number in the mathematical spectrum has been published in Sheffield.

Following the publication of his calculations Anand has received offers from several universities abroad urging him to

THE ABSTRACT ACROBAT

A mathematics whiz kid from Patna has started receiving international recognition, Kaushlendra Sharan Singh meets the young genius



Anand Kumar. Calculations...

pursue higher studies there, including the University of Cambridge, University of Hull, School of Mathematics, University of Kent, University of Aberdeen and the University of Sheffield.

Anand has always had a love for numbers. "From the very beginning I wanted to become a scientist," he says. "I used to think that making radios ultimately lead one to become a scientist, and so started sitting in radio repairing shops, for which I was scolded by my parents."

He adds, "Since I had an obsession to become a scientist. I did not stop visiting repairing shops and due to this I failed in mathematics when I was in the ninth class."

This became a turning point in Anand's career: He took a vow to study mathematics seriously and since then mathematics has absorbed him completely.

An atheist, Anand's hero is Ramanujam. Apart from

of interests. He reads works of Osbo, Ramkrishna Paramhansa and Vivekanand. He loves nature, he writes poems and he has received the first prize in the junior section of the All-India (P and T) Cultural Meet at Hyderabad for his tabla performance.

Anand also runs a coaching institute, which he has named Ramanujam School of mathematics, which provides free guidance to poor students.

ANAND'S father, an account officer in the Post and Telegraph Department, supports his son's endeavours. Anand said, "I get maximum parental support. I cannot speak of my success without mentioning my father who has never pressurised me to become an engineer or to do something job oriented."

The young mathematician belongs to village Deodha of Patna district and is presently residing in Jakkampur mohalla. Quoting K F Gauss he says, "Mathematics is the queen of sciences."

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Anand is quite clear about his goals. "I do not have any confusion about myself. If I get sponsors for studying abroad then all right and if I don't then also there is no problem. I am ready to devote my life to the study of mathematics and to teach it."

Let the world come to me," he added, beaming with confidence. Anand feels indebted to Dr Devi Prasad Verma, professor and HOD Mathematics, Science College, Patna, Dr Bal Gangadhar and to one of his seniors, Mr Kaushal Ajtadh, who have always provided him with guidance.

What is his life's dream? His face splits into warm grin as he says, "I see my Ramanujam School getting wide acclaim and turning into a university, and people from abroad coming to learn too."

The great university of Nalanda may be a source of inspiration for Anand, but his immediate need is to find someone to sponsor his studies abroad. Who knows, the world may then be his oyster.