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A triple treat for Gurugram

Students of Millennium City excel in CBSE Class X exams

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Work consistently hard throughout the year, keep a cool head and stay away from social media, these three rules were the key to success for 16-year-old Prakhar Mittal, an all-India topper of the CBSE Class X exams.

Prakhar, a student of Delhi Public School in Gurugram's Sector 45, shared the top position with three others scoring 499 out of 500.

Having participated in several robotics events abroad, Prakhar said he was proud of his results and wanted to pursue engineering. "I studied till late at night and in the morning. I devoted 1-2 hours daily for studies and was expecting a good result," said the teenager, who is interested in piano, cricket and table-tennis.

Prakhar said he made a vow to keep away from social media so that he would not be distracted from his studies, "I had a phone to talk to my friends, but did not go on Facebook."

Prakhar's father Nitin Aggarwal, a CEO of a private company, said that he skipped a board meeting to be with his son for the special moment.

"I cried on national television today [Tuesday]," said Mr. Aggarwal, who along with his wife Prachi and their younger son reached the school soon after the results were announced.



Writika Sarkar (all-India 2nd rank) and Prakhar Mittal (all-India 1st rank); Anushka Panda (right) was the all-India topper, in the specially-abled category, in the CBSE Class X exam. ■MANOJ KUMAR



Writika Sarkar, also from the same school, secured the all-India second rank, missing the perfect 500 score by just two marks.

'Couldn't believe my eyes'
"I could not believe my eyes when I checked my score online. I called my father in disbelief and cross-checked the result five times," said Writika, who shared her position with six other students across India.

Writika said she did not take any private tuitions and mostly got help from her parents and teachers. To beat the stress during exams, Writika said she watched Amitabh Bachchan movies and practised her singing.

With two of its students grabbing the all-India top positions, the school's principal Aditi Misra reacted to

the result saying: "*Yeh dil maange mor* [my heart wants more]".

She said that the current batch was one of the most brilliant and focussed. "But we did not expect them to get top positions at the national level," said Ms. Misra.

Anushka Panda, a student of Suncity School in Gurugram topped the Class X exams in the specially-abled category in India with a score of 97.8%. "I am thrilled that my hard work paid off. It is really a big moment for me. I was really nervous before the results," said Anushka, who suffers from spinal muscular atrophy.

Suncity School principal Rupa Chakravarty said that the school was proud of Anushka's achievement.



Gurgaon boy jt topper in CBSE Class X, 15 of Top 25 from NCR

Pass Percentage Drops, Rise In High-Scorers

Manash Pratim Gohain & Krittika Sharma | TNN

New Delhi: Pass percentages for the Class X exams have been falling since 2015 and the return of the compulsory board exam after eight years

FULL COVERAGE: P 2

has done nothing to arrest the trend. From 91% last year for the combined board and school-based exams, it has slipped to 86.7% this year.

The fall is precipitous compared with the pass percentage of 97.3% in 2015 and 96.2% the following year. The good news, however, is the spike in the number of high scorers and toppers this year.

25 SCORE 497/500 OR MORE, 5 ARE FROM NOIDA



Just 2 students in top 25 from big metros



Though no Delhi student in the list, there are **15 from NCR**

Bijnor, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Hapur (all UP); Bilaspur, Durg (Chhattisgarh); Sonapat (Haryana); Sangrur (Punjab); Almora (Uttarakhand); Chennai (TN); Hyderabad (Telangana)

499 Four Share
500 Top Spot

- Prakhar Mittal (Gurgaon)
- Rimjhim Agarwal (Bijnor)



- Nandini Garg (Shamli)
- Sreelakshmi G (Kochi)

rers and toppers this year.

The top rank was shared by four students, all scoring 499 out of 500 — missing the perfect score by a single mark, as in the CBSE Class XII boards. Around 8% of all students — 1.3 lakh — scored 90% and above. Over 27,000 had scores of 95% and more.

Although no Delhi student

figures among the top 25 students with scores of 497 to 499, 15 of them are from NCR. Nine of them are small-town success stories, led by Rimjhim Agarwal from Bijnor and Nandini Garg from Shamli who shared the top spot with Prakhar Mittal of Gurgaon and Sreelakshmi G of Kochi.

Seven scored 498 out of 500

to occupy the second spot, and 14 notched up 497 to come third. Some of these students are from places like Durg, Hapur, Almora and Bilaspur.

The board exams had been made optional from 2010, primarily on the initiative of then HRD minister Kapil Sibal.

➤ Score 90% and above, P 2



Over 1.3 lakh students score 90% or above

►Continued from P1

The purpose of this radical move was to reduce stress and let children enjoy their childhood. That year, CBSE introduced a grading system along with Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). This was aimed at addressing a child's holistic development and assessing her performance through tests and grades throughout the year. The outcome of this reduced pressure seemed to be positive with the pass percentage staying above 90%.

CCE was, however, discontinued last year with the decision being taken to reintroduce the board exams. This was in response to feedback from states and representative organisations of parents and teachers that doing away with the exam along with the no-detention policy was affecting academic standards. The board exam was seen by those arguing for its reintroduction as a means of preparing students for the more important school-leaving Class XII test.

The number of students who have scored above 90% this year across India is 1,31,493. In 2009, the number of students who had scored above 90% was significantly less — just 5.8% of the total examinees.

Delhi's picture is not all that rosy with the pass percentage being 78.6% this year, dipping gradually over the past three



years. It was 96% in 2015 and had slid to 78.1% last year from 91.8% in 2016. Among regions, Thiruvananthapuram has the best result with a pass percentage of 99.6%, followed by Chennai at 97.4% and Ajmer at 91.9%.

Overall, boys trailed girls by 3.3 percentage points. Their pass percentage is 85.3% as against 88.7% for girls.

The differently-abled students have proved their spirit and mettle with 92.5% of them passing. The number of such students who have scored above 90% is 135, comprising 3% of the total in this category. The first rankers here are from NCR

— Anushka Panda from Suncity School in Gurgaon and Sanya Gandhi from Uttam School in Ghaziabad, both with a score of 489 out of 500. Somya Deep Pradhan of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Dhanpur (Orissa), has taken the second position with 484.

Among government schools, the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have maintained their pole position for more than a decade with a pass percentage of 97.31% this year, followed by 95.96% of the students of Kendriya Vidyalayas. Private and government schools across India have fallen behind them.

Despite genetic disorder, she shows nerves of steel

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Sanjay Chauhan

Gurgaon: Anushka Panda zooms across her room at the click of a switch attached to her wheelchair. The 14-year-old girl has been suffering from spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic disorder that affects motor nerve cells in the spinal cord and affects locomotion, but she hasn't let it hamper her studies.

On Tuesday, Panda topped the Class 10 CBSE board examination in the specially-abled category, along with Sanya Gandhi of Ghaziabad's Uttam School. A student of Suncity School, Sector 54, Gurgaon, she scored 97.8%. **TOI** spoke to a jubilant Panda at her residence in Sector 67. "I screamed my lungs out when I saw my results," she said. "I like science more than humanities because it involves more practicals than theory. My condition has not limited me in any way, except that I need assistance to change my postures."

Panda loves playing chess as a leisure activity and aspires to become a software engineer. She can speak as many as six different languages. "I stu-



Anushka Panda

died for 2-3 hours daily," she said. "I could not have topped the exam, had I not have received tremendous support from my family and school."

Her father, Anup Panda, said he was extremely proud of his daughter. "The challenges she faced were huge but she has pulled this off like any other good student. She didn't let anything come in the way of her ambitions," he said, adding, "She suffers from physical weakness and was allowed to take 30 minutes more to finish her paper but she would finish by the time the other students did." He said she was only one-year-old when doctors diagnosed her with spinal muscular atrophy, adding, "Her mother and I were always there to assist her. We wanted her to set an example and she did."

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Disability didn't deter Anushka from scoring 97.8% in Class X

One of the toppers in the specially-abled category, she suffers from spinal muscular atrophy

DNA Correspondent
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It was a dream come true for 14-year-old Anushka Panda who defied spinal muscular atrophy and being bound to the wheelchair to become one of the All-India toppers in the specially-abled category, as the class X CBSE exam results were announced on Tuesday. Scoring 489 out of 500, Anushka had prepared for the board exams from day one of the session. A student of Suncity School, Sector-54 Gurgaon, Anushka has scored 97.8% marks. Her phone has not stopped ringing since.

"I can't believe that I'm one of the toppers. I knew I would score above 90 per cent but never imagined it could be this. I'm thrilled to know that my hard work has paid off. I was not able to sit for long at a stretch and had to schedule my breaks for every hour of study," said Anushka, who



Suncity School provided Anushka Panda with special infrastructure to write her exams—DNA Photo

wants to pursue science.

She has scored 99 in Hindi and Mathematics, 98 in Social Studies and Science and 95 in English. For her father, Anup Kumar Panda, it was a big day at work as his colleagues called him up to congratulate for his

daughter's result and he took a half day to attend to mediapersons and relatives.

"In the noon, I got a call from a colleague saying a media portal is running on the web that Anushka is one of the toppers. I opened the web

again to confirm the news and then called her up at home. She could not believe it in the first go as well. She has studied and written her exams like any other regular student," said Panda, who works with an MNC. Talking about Anushka,

he said that she wants to become a software engineer and wants to work with Google.

Anushka has been suffering from spinal muscular atrophy, which is a genetic disease that robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affecting the ability to walk.

"She is an inspiration for all of us. The focus that she possesses is rare to find in other children. What she has achieved many other students would not be able to achieve with all the elements," said, Rupa Chakravarty, principal, Suncity School. Sanya Gandhi, who is visually challenged is another topper in the category from Ghaziabad, too has scored 489 out of 500. She would study on her computer with audio books. "I am so happy to know the result, as it was above my expectation," said Sanya, who is a student of Uttam School for Girls, Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad.

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Differently-abled topper wants to be an engineer

SAKSHIDAYAL
GURGAON, MAY 29

ANUSHKA PANDA, the all-India topper in the PwD (Persons with Disability) category, scored 489 out of 500. A student of Gurgaon's Suncity school, Panda has been in a wheelchair since she was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy.

She scored 99 in Hindi and mathematics, 98 in science and social science, and

95 in English.

"I have opted for physics, chemistry, mathematics, and economics for further schooling... Eventually, I hope to get into engineering in college," she told *The Indian Express*.

"I would study for three-four hours on school days, and seven-eight hours during holidays," added Panda, who is a voracious reader, especially of

crime fiction novels, and also enjoys playing chess in her free time.



ANUSHKA PANDA



■ Prakhar Mittal of DPS Gurgaon



■ Rimzhim Agarwal of RP Public School, Bijnor



■ Nandini Garg of Scottish International School, Shamli



■ Sreelakshmi G of Bhavan's Vidyalaya, Kochi

Four stars shine in CBSE class 10 galaxy

By Mail Today Bureau
in New Delhi

FOUR students scored 499, a point less than the perfect figure, to emerge as CBSE Class X board examination toppers this year. As always, girls outshone boys in the race. The results were declared on Tuesday.

The overall pass percentage was 86.70. Girls, with a pass percentage of 88.67, did better than the boys, who registered a pass percentage of 85.32.

Four students — Prakhar Mittal of DPS Gurgaon, Rimzhim Agarwal of RP Public School, Bijnor, Nandini Garg of Scottish International School, Shamli and Sreelakshmi G of Bhavan's Vidyalaya, Kochi — topped the exam with 499 marks out of 500, the board said.

While seven students secured the second position with 498 marks, 14 students bagged the third

Pass percentage in Delhi is 78.62

spot with a score of 497. The top three performing regions are — Thiruvananthapuram (pass percentage 99.60), Chennai (97.37) and Ajmer (91.86).

Delhi recorded a pass percentage of 78.62. As many as 1,31,493 candidates secured 90 per cent marks and above, while 27,426 candidates secured 95 per cent marks and above, the board said.

The pass percentage for differently-abled students

QAMAR SIBTAIN



Students celebrate the CBSE results in Delhi on Tuesday.

27,426

students secured 95% marks and above.

86.70%

is the overall pass percentage in India.

1,31,493

students secured 90% marks and above.

SHOCK! 2 SUICIDES OVER MARKS

Hours after the CBSE results of class 10 were declared, a 15-year-old student of Ryan school hanged herself at her residence in Vasant Kunj. Pragya Pandey, who is the daughter of a govt officer, scored 70% marks. According to police, she was depressed.

In another incident, Rohit Kumar Meena committed suicide in Dwarka allegedly due to disappointment over his board score. He was a student of Vivekanand school in Dwarka.

was 92.55, with Anushka Panda of Sun City, Gurgaon and Sanya Gandhi of Uttam School, Ghaziabad topping in the category by securing 489 marks out of 500. Somya Deep Pradhan of JNV, Dhanpur in Odisha bagged the second spot with a score of 484.

As many as 135 candi-

dates in the differently-abled category secured 90 per cent marks and above, while 21 of them secured 95 per cent marks and above, the board said. As many as 1,86,067 candidates got compartment.

Over 16 lakh students had appeared for the Class 10 CBSE exams this year.

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The Tribune

Class 10: 4 students top with 1 short of full 500



Nandini Garg **99.8%**



Prakhar Mittal **99.8%**

NEW DELHI, MAY 29

Four students topped the Class 10 Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examinations this year, with girls once again stealing a march over boys. The overall pass percentage was 86.7.

Four students — Prakhar Mittal of DPS, Gurugram; Rimzhim Agarwal of RP Public School, Bijnor; Nandini Garg of Scottish International School, Shamli, and Sreelakshmi G of Bhavan Vidyalaya, Kochi — topped the exam with 499 marks out of 500, the board said. While seven students secured the second position with 498 marks, 14 bagged the third spot with a score of 497.

The top three performing

regions were Thiruvananthapuram (pass percentage 99.6), Chennai (97.37) and Ajmer (91.86).

As many as 1,31,493 candidates secured 90 per cent marks and above, while 27,426 secured 95 per cent marks and above.

The pass percentage for differently-abled students was 92.55, with Anushka Panda of Sun City, Gurugram, and Sanya Gandhi of Uttam School, Ghaziabad, topping by securing 489 marks.

As many as 1,86,067 candidates got compartment.

This was the first batch to take the exam after the CBSE decided to junk the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). — PTI

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City girl beats disability to corner board glory

Sadia Akhtar

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GURUGRAM: Anushka Panda (15) suffers from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease that has confined her to a wheelchair. While the odds were against her, they couldn't deter her from fighting her way to success.

On Tuesday, Anushka topped the Class 10 CBSE board examination in the differently abled category in the country. A student of Suncity School in Sector 54, Anushka scored 489 marks out of 500 to secure an aggregate of

97.8% in the examination.

Anushka has been suffering from spinal muscular atrophy since she was a one-year-old child. SMA robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affecting their ability to walk and restricting upper-body movement. But, Anushka didn't let her physical disability limit her. "I screamed my lungs out when I saw my scores. I had tears in my eyes and immediately called my parents to inform them. My phone has been ringing ever since. Congratulatory messages have been pouring in from

friends, family and teachers," Anushka said.

Anushka said the results are way beyond her expectations.

"While I was confident of doing well, I did not expect such good scores. I think it's going to take me another month for the realisation to sink in. I used to study each subject for at least half an hour every day. I tried to maintain a momentum all throughout which helped me during the final exams," Anushka said.

Anushka's teachers attributed her success to her indomitable spirit and determination.

"Anushka is a brilliant and

dedicated student. She has a special place in our hearts. Every teacher loves her. We are all proud of her achievement," Rupa Chakravarty, principal of Suncity School, said.

Chakravarty said the school helped Anushka in every way it could on her road to board glory. "We realised that she would face trouble climbing up the stairs to reach the biology lab. Hence, we got a ramp made for her," she said.

When asked about her future plans, Anushka said, "I have opted for the Science stream in class 11 and want to become a soft-

ware engineer."

"She has always been a good student but we never expected her to be the topper. She did not get enough time to study because of health concerns and meetings with physiotherapists," Anup Panda, Anushka's father, said.

In 2015, Panda had reached out to then HRD minister Smriti Irani to discuss how the lack of infrastructure for differently abled children was affecting their academic future. The minister had personally met the family. Panda hopes that Anushka's future isn't marred by deficiencies in infrastructure.

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Girls share top spot in spl category

Peeyush Khandelwal

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GHAZIABAD: Sixteen year old Sanya Gandhi loves singing songs by singer Arijit Singh. The Class 10 student from Uttam School for Girls, Shastri Nagar - Ghaziabad is a joint national topper with 489 marks in CBSE's Class 10 result declared for the differently-abled category. The girl is the only child of her parents and has damaged optic nerves since birth.

'Study hard during the day and chill out with friends at night,' is the mantra she followed while pursuing her studies. Her disadvantage helped her stay away from the social media, which she says is a major distraction for students of her age.

"I studied the entire day till 9pm. Thereafter it was *masti* (chill) time by listening to music and chatting with friends till late night. The issue with vision did not distract me and kept me away

from the social media which could have consumed a lot of time. But my parents never stopped me from pursuing anything I like. My teachers have been very supportive. I cannot believe that I could get such high marks as I was aiming for 90% marks. Becoming a country topper is dream come true," Sanya said.

She has now opted for psychology, history, English, political science and music as her subjects for the next class. She wants to become an IAS officer and wants to serve people.

Regarding her preparations for the Class 10 exams, she said, "I aimed to complete my entire syllabus by September and then started with solving question papers of last 10 years and thereafter I started revisions. I want to serve as an IAS officer because the country needs better people to serve citizens and I want to see my country emerging very



■ Sanya Gandhi from Ghaziabad is the joint national topper with 489 marks. HT PHOTO

strong."

GURUGRAM TOPPER

Anushka Panda (15) suffers from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease that has confined her to a wheelchair. While the odds were against her, they couldn't deter her from fighting her way to success.

On Tuesday, Anushka topped

the Class 10 CBSE board examination in the differently-abled category in the country. A student of Suncity School in Sector 54, Anushka scored 489 marks out of 500 to secure an aggregate of 97.8% in the examination.

Anushka has been living with spinal muscular atrophy since she was a one-year-old child. SMA robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affecting their ability to walk and restricting upper-body movement. But, Anushka didn't let her physical disability limit her.

"I screamed my lungs out when I saw my scores. I had tears in my eyes and immediately called up my parents to inform them. My phone has been ringing ever since. Congratulatory messages have been pouring in from friends, family and teachers," Anushka said.

Anushka said the results are way beyond her expectations.

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CBSE CLASS X RESULTS

Four students top with 99.8%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday declared the Class X board examination results with overall pass percentage at 86.70. This year, four students topped the examinations by scoring a staggering 99.8 per cent even as girls once again outperformed boys in pass percentage. Girls, with a pass percentage of 88.67, did better than the boys, who registered a pass percentage of 85.32.

Four students — Prakhar Mittal of DPS Gurugram, Rimzhim Agarwal of RP Public School, Bijnor, Nandini Garg of Scottish International School, Shamli and Sreelakshmi G of Bhavan's Vidyalaya, Kochi topped the exam scoring 499 marks out of 500, said the CBSE.

While seven students secured the second position with 498 marks, 14 students bagged the third spot with a score of 497.

The top three performing regions are Thiruvananthapuram (pass percentage 99.60), Chennai (97.37) and Ajmer (91.86). Delhi recorded a pass percentage of 78.62. As many as 1,31,493 students secured 90 per cent marks



Girls celebrate after seeing their CBSE class 10th result at St. Thomas School New Delhi
Atwin Singh | Pioneer

and above, while 27,426 candidates secured 95 per cent marks and above, said the CBSE.

The pass percentage for differently-abled students was 92.55, with Anushka Panda of Sun City, Gurugram and Sanya Gandhi of Uttam School, Ghaziabad topping in the category by securing 489 marks out of 500.

Somya Deep Pradhan of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Dhanpur in Odisha bagged the second spot with a score of 484. As many as 135 candidates in the differently-abled category secured 90 per cent marks and above, while 21 of them secured

95 per cent marks and above, the Board said. As many as 1,86,067 candidates got compartment. The Board exams this year were marred by controversy with question paper leaks being reported from Delhi-NCR and Jharkhand. The HRD Ministry had decided against conducting a re-examination of the Class X mathematics paper in the "interest of students".

This was the first batch to appear for the Class X Board examinations after the CBSE decided to drop the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and reintroduce the Board exams. Over 16 lakh students

had appeared for the Class 10 CBSE exams this year.

Among all the categories of schools affiliated to the CBSE, the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) schools recorded the best pass percentage, while government schools registered the lowest pass percentage. According to CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya schools recorded a pass percentage of 95.96, followed by private schools, which registered a pass percentage of 89.49.

The schools under the Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA) recorded a pass percentage of 86.43, while the pass percentage in Government-aided schools was 73.46. The government schools recorded a pass percentage of 63.97, the lowest among all the categories.

Anushka Panda, a student of Suncity School Gurugram, who topped the board exam in the differently-abled category, with a score of 97.8 per cent, scored 99 in Mathematics and Hindi,

98 in Science and Social Science and 95 in English.

Anushka, who is suffering from genetic disorder could not deter Anushka Panda, is also a trained classical singer. A fan of singers Mohd Rafi and Kishore Kumar, Panda aspires to become a software engineer.

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G'gram gets 2 toppers in CBSE Class X exams



Prakhar Mittal
499/500

Prakhar Mittal of Delhi Public School has secured the second spot CBSE Class X examinations, the results of which were declared on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: S CHANDAN

“I had expected to top the district or may be the state. But bagging the top position in the country is overwhelming. When I learnt about it, I was numb for some time. It took a lot of time for the feeling to settle in.”

“I want to be a software engineer and I know I will become one. I am not just happy but super excited with my result. It is true joy to win when all, including a part of you, believe you can't.”



Anushka Panda
489/500

Anushka Panda with her father Anup Panda (right) and mother Archana Panda (second from right). She has topped in differently abled category. TRIBUNE PHOTO

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, MAY 29

After a disappointing performance in Haryana board results, the city stands proud with two national toppers in CBSE Class X examinations, the results of which were announced on Tuesday.

Prakhar Mittal, a student of

Delhi Public School here, has topped in the country by scoring 499 marks out of 500 (99.8 per cent). He shares the top position with Rimzhim Agarwal from Bijnor (UP), Nandini Garg from Sharni (UP), and Sreelakshmi G from Cochin (Kerala).

In the differently abled category, city girl Anushka Pan-

da from Suncity School has topped. She scored 489 marks (97.8 per cent), sharing the spot with Sanya Gandhi from Ghaziabad (UP).

Prakhar aspires to be an engineer. “The result is a surprise for me. I had expected to top the district or may be the state. But bagging the top position in the country is over-

whelming. When I learnt about it, I was numb for some time. It took a lot of time for the feeling to settle in,” he said.

He was excited to be the centre of social media jokes and memes. “Tipper memes and jokes are fun. I have been reading about others till now. I am eager to see what they come up with for me,” he added.

Anushka, for her part, is “super excited” to have beat the odds. She is suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease that robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affecting the ability to walk. Notwithstanding her disability, she worked

hard to fulfil her dreams.

“I want to be a software engineer and I know I will become one. I am not just happy but super excited with my result. It is true joy to win when all, including a part of you, believe you can't. It takes a spirited heart, not body, to dream and achieve. I am happy I exemplified it,” Anushka said.

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Gurugram's Prakhar & Anuska emerge national champions

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: Tuesday May 29 proved to be a special day for Gurugram when Prakhar Mittal, student of Delhi Public School-Sector 45 was among the four toppers in the huge number of 16 lakh students that had taken the examination. Such was the achievement that Prakhar lost just mark and scored 499 out of 500 marks. Among specially abled category, Gurugram's Anuska Panda declared topper in the country as she got 489 marks. "It was not that I gave most of my time to prepare for my examination. On an average I used to spend four to five hours in the preparation. The most important thing

was the cool mindset I had in approaching my examinations. I had no pressure on me to perform from my parents as well as teachers," said Mittal who wants to make his career in the field of robotics. The most special position was however reserved for 14-year-old Anuska Panda who was among the two topper in the specially abled category by scoring 489 marks. Student of Suncity School and suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease that robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affecting the ability to walk. Being wheelchair-bound did not stop her from fighting her way to success.

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CBSE CLASS 10 TOPPERS TALK ABOUT THEIR SUCCESS STORIES

Calm & composed mindset made us win, says All India topper

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: Even though he knew he had done well, it was a score that this Gurugram's Delhi Public School (DPS) student never expected. Yet, when the marks were finally known at around 1:30 pm, Prakhar Mittal had become one of the four toppers. Moreover, he had topped the examinations in which over 16 lakh students from all over the country had participated. Prakhar missed scoring 500 out of 500 by just one mark. The one mark which he lost was in the French subject.

Despite achieving such a big feat, the 16-year-old was calm and composed in his demeanour. In fact, he mentioned the role of his calm composure to be the main reason for his success in addition to his hard work.

"It was not that I gave most of my time to prepare for my examination. On an average, I used to spend four to five hours in the preparation. The most



Prakhar Mittal, who secured first spot in CBSE's class 10th exams along with Nandini Garg, Rimzhim Aggarwal and Sreelakshmi G, at his residence in Gurugram, on Tuesday

important thing was the cool mindset I had in approaching my examinations. I had no pressure on me to perform from my parents as well as the teachers. The importance of teachers and a strong family support system can be emphasised more. I had extremely good teachers and parents who

just supported and assisted me in clearing my doubts academically and mentally," said Prakhar Mittal.

"I feel proud of my son. I knew about his capabilities and therefore, I did not apply any pressure on him. Ultimately, his hard work, passion and dedication have triumphed," said Prakhar's mother.

Prakhar has his eyes set in doing something in the field of robotics and digital programming. In 2016, Prakhar participated in a Robotic Olympiad where he won laurels for his innovations. Not only in the field of science but Prakhar also excels in creatively. An avid piano player, singing is one of his main hobbies. He is also a sports lover and plays cricket frequently. To prepare for his future, Prakhar has already begun preparing for engineering examinations. He, however, reiterated that it is not only studies but participation in all-round activities that results in a holistic development of the student.

Will power overcomes the limitations of disability

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: Gurugram celebrated its students who excelled academically by scoring nearly cent per cent marks in the Class 10 board exams. Such was the dominance of the city that not only the top position but even the second and third positions were secured by the students of the city. The most special news, however, came from Anushka Panda who was among the two toppers at all India levels in the specially-abled category. The 14-year-old student who is the student of Suncity school in Gurugram scored 489/500. She shared her position with Sanya Gandhi from Delhi-NCR. Sanya belongs to Ghaziabad.

Anushka suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a



genetic disease that robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affecting the ability to walk. Being wheelchair-bound did not prevent her from chasing her dreams of becoming a software engineer and made her more resilient. Her resolve was further supported by the education board and her school that provided her with special infrastructure during her preparation for the main examina-



tions. "I am thrilled, my hard work has paid off. It is really a big moment for me. I was really nervous before the results," an elated Anushka said.

Just like Anuska, Sanya Gandhi who is 90 per cent emotionally impaired never prevented herself from getting distracted from the limitations. "I want to just emphasise that it is important that you utilise your time well and never let your focus waver," said Sanya.

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The Statesman

Class X results out, girls fare better than boys again

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 MAY

The results of the Class X examinations, held after a gap of ten years in which over 16 lakh students appeared, were declared on Tuesday. The overall pass percentage was 86.7 per cent and girls fared better than boys. Girls pass percentage is 88.67 while for boys it is 85.32.

Regionwise, Thiruvananthapuram has the best pass percentage at 99.6. Chennai and Ajmer have pass percentage of 97.37 and 91.86 respectively.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar congratulated those who have passed. "Those who could not pass must now prepare for compartmental exams. They will get through, I am sure. It was on demand of people particularly parents, teachers and students that we reintroduced the exams. This is a preparation for Class XII," said Javadekar.

The pass percentage of Delhi Region is dismal at 78.62 per cent. Altogether 2,86,660 students appeared and 2,25,361 passed out of these in Delhi region

Four students have obtained 499 marks out of 500, the highest in the CBSE X board exams. They belong to DPS Gurgaon, RPPublic School, Bijnor, Scottish International School, Shamli and Bhavan's Vidyalaya, Cochin. The toppers with 499 marks each are Prakhar Mittal, Rimjhim Agarwal, Nandini Garg and Sreelakshmi G.

Of the students who took the exam, 1,31,493 students have obtained 90 per cent and above and 27,476 have obtained 95 per cent and above.

The pass percentage of Delhi Region is dismal at

78.62 per cent. Altogether 2,86,660 students appeared and 2,25,361 passed out of these in Delhi region. In foreign schools, 23,787 students appeared and 23,388 passed. This makes the pass percentage among foreign school 98.32 per cent.

The pass percentage of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas is the best at 97.31. Kendriya Vidyalayas are behind them at 95.96 per cent. With pass percentage of 73.46 per cent, government aided schools are the worst performers.

Among the differently abled student category, Anushka Panda, Sanya Gandhi and Somya Deep Pradhan are the toppers. They belong to Suncity, Gurgaon, Uttam School, Ghaziabad and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Dhanpur, Orissa. Altogether 135 differently-abled students have obtained 90 per cent and above and 21 differently-abled students have obtained 95 per cent and above.

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THE ASIAN AGE

Father: My daughter didn't want to be treated as special category child

New Delhi, May 29: A genetic disorder could not deter Anushka Panda from passing the Class 10 CBSE Board exam with flying colours.

She topped the board exam in the differently-abled category, with a score of 97.8 per cent. She scored 99 in Mathematics and Hindi, 98 in Science and Social Science and 95 in English.

Anushka, a student of Suncity School Gurgaon, is also a trained classical singer. A fan of singers Mohd Rafi and Kishore



Anushka Panda

Kumar; Panda aspires to become a software engineer.

"She suffers from muscular spinal atrophy and is wheelchair bound. She could not study for long hours and had to lie down after studying for

an hour but she remained determined. She has to wear a spinal brace which makes it difficult for her to sit for long hours," her father, Anup Panda, told PTI.

Despite all this, Anushka never wanted to be treated as special or differently-abled, her father said. She had a special bench provided to her by the school, he said.

"She never wanted to use the extra time that was provided to her to finish the exam," he said.

— PTI

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THE ASIAN AGE

CBSE Class 10 results out, 4 score 499/500

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

Girls once again outshone boys in the Class 10 CBSE examinations, the results of which were declared on Tuesday.

Four students topped the examinations with 499 marks out of 500, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said.

Prakhar Mittal of DPS Gurgaon, Rimzhim Agarwal of RP Public School, Bijnor, Nandini Garg of Scottish International School, Shamli, and Sreelakshmi G of Bhavan's Vidyalaya, Kochi, all topped the exam. While seven students secured the second

position with 498 marks, 14 students bagged the third spot with a score of 497. The top three performing regions are — Thiruvananthapuram (pass percentage 99.60), Chennai (97.37) and Ajmer (91.86).

The overall pass percentage was 86.70, it said. Girls, with a pass percentage of 88.67, did better than the boys, who registered a pass percentage of 85.32.

Delhi recorded a pass percentage of 78.62.

As many as 1,31,493 candidates secured 90 per cent marks and above, while 27,426 candidates secured 95 per cent marks and above, the board said. **The pass**

percentage for differently-abled students was 92.55, with Anushka Panda of Sun City, Gurgaon and Sanya Gandhi of Uttam School, Ghaziabad topping in the category by securing 489 marks out of 500.

Somya Deep Pradhan of JNV, Dhanpur in Odisha bagged the second spot with a score of 484.

As many as 135 candidates in the differently-abled category secured 90 per cent marks and above, while 21 of them secured 95% and above.

Over 16 lakh students had appeared for the Class 10 CBSE exams this year. As many as 1,86,067 candidates got compartment.

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CBSE Class X results...

CBSE from Page 1

More than half of 16,60,123 students of class X had opted for school-based examinations in 2017.

Girls outshone the boys by showing a higher pass percentage than those of the latter by 3.35% in the board examinations this year.

The pass percentage of the girls reached 88.67 while the percentage of boys passing the examinations was pegged at 85.32.

Four students grabbed the top slot by securing the highest 499 out of a total marks of 500, seven figured in the second slot with securing 498 marks and 14 third slot with scoring 497. Of these students, 12 are from Uttar Pradesh.

The board, however, did not rank these students in terms of first, second and third in the country.

Prakhar Mittal from the DPS Gurugram; Rimzhim Agarwal, RP Public School, Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh); Nandini Garg, Scottish Inter-

national School, Shamli (Uttar Pradesh) and Sreelakshmi G, Bhavana's Vidyalaya, Kochi (Kerala) topped the examinations. Each of them secured 99.8% marks.

Among the differently abled students, Anushka Panda from Suncity school, Ghaziabad, and Sanya Gandhi from Uttam School, Ghaziabad emerged as the top scorers by securing a total of 489 marks each out of 500. They were followed by another girl Somya Deep Pradhan, student of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Dhanpur, Odisha. She scored 484 out of 500 in the examination.

"A total of 1,86,067 students (11.45%) were placed in compartment this year," CBSE spokesperson Rama Sharma said.

Just 1,31,493 students out of over 16 lakh students secured 90% and above marks in the Class X board examinations held by the CBSE from March 5 to April 4.

As many as 13,746 students skipped the examinations this year.

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CBSE 10TH EXAM RESULTS

Four toppers, pass percentage 86.70%...

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

FOUR students topped the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 10 Board Exam this year, while the overall pass percentage stood at 86.70 per cent.

On Tuesday, the CBSE declared that of the over 16 lakh students who appeared for the exam, 14,08,594 have passed. Girls have done better than boys — the overall pass percentage of girls is 88.67 per cent and 85.32 per cent for boys.

The best performing region was Thiruvananthapuram, with a pass percentage of 99.60 per cent. Chennai region's pass percentage was second best at 97.37 per cent. Ajmer was at the third spot with 91.86 per cent.

Prakhar Mittal from Gurugram, Rimzhim Agarwal and Nandini Garg from Uttar Pradesh and Sreelakshmi G

from Kerala were declared all India toppers with each of them scoring 499 marks out of the total 500.

In the differently abled category, Anushka Panda from Sun-city Gurgaon school and Sanya Gandhi from Uttam School in Ghaziabad with 489 marks have topped the merit list. Sonya Deep Pradhan with 484 marks from JNV Dhanpur, Odisha has bagged the second spot.

A total of 1,31,493 scored above 90 per cent and 27,476 scored above 95 per cent. A total of 3,760 differently-abled students appeared for the exam, out of which 3,480 have passed the exam with 92.55 per cent.

Over 97 per cent students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya passed the examination, followed by Kendraiya Vidyalayas at about 95 per cent and private schools at 89 per cent. Students from government schools fared the worst at 63 per cent.



Students celebrate their success in the CBSE 10th exam in New Delhi after the results were declared on Tuesday | **PARVEEN NEGI**