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Girls outshine boys in CBSE class X, XII results



■ EJ News - New Delhi

Girls continued to outshine boys in CBSE board exams for classes 10 and 12, while the number of candidates scoring above 90 per cent in both classes recorded a dip, according to Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board exam results for the two classes were announced on Monday.

In class 12, 88.39 per cent of candidates cleared the exam, a marginal rise from last year's 87.98 per cent. The pass percentage in class 10 stood at 93.66, marginally up from last year's 93.60 per cent.

Girls edged past boys in class 12 by a margin of 5.94 percentage points, while the margin in class 10 pass percentage stood at 2.37. Transgender's pass percentage was 100 in class 12 as against previous year's 50. In class 10, the

pass percentage of transgenders was 95 against last year's 91.30. The board, however, did not divulge the number of transgender candidates who appeared for the exam in both classes.

CBSE officials attributed the rise in pass percentage to an increase in the number of competency-based questions this year.

"In 2025, CBSE introduced 50 pc competency-based questions in the examinations. To help the students for better preparation of the examinations, CBSE had taken various measures including early release of the datesheet, sample papers and model questions. All efforts have yielded results in the form of improving the results," Bhardwaj said.

In class 12, a total of 1,11,544 candidates scored above 90 per cent marks, while 24,867 candidates scored above 95 per cent. Last year, 1.16 lakh students scored above 90 per cent and 24,068 above 95 per cent in class

Concerns that the UK policy shift may affect South Asian students' interest



■ EJ News - Agency

There was a mixed reaction as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday set out tighter new rules to clamp down on soaring immigration figures, which is set to impact Indians as one of the largest groups of student and skilled worker visa applicants to the UK.

The new rules, framed in a new Immigration White Paper, double the standard qualifying period for settlement status in Britain to 10 years and impose stricter English requirements, with assessments of improvements in language skills embedded within the visa rules for applicants and their dependents.

Overseas student visas, a category dominated by China and

India, will witness a tightening of the post-study Graduate Route visa offer from the current two years to 18 months. "While we are relieved that the Graduate Route has been preserved, albeit with a reduced duration, we urge that its implementation, and that of the wider reforms, be approached with care, clarity, and collaboration," said Sanam Arora, chair of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK.

The organisation flagged concerns about the impact on Indian students, the largest users of the Graduate Route with an aim of acquiring international work experience at the conclusion of their degrees.

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'We stand with nation': Jamia Millia Islamia also cuts ties with Turkish Institutions



■ EJ News - New Delhi

Jamia Millia Islamia has suspended all Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Turkish educational institutions, amid escalating calls across the country to boycott Turkey over its vocal support for Pakistan during the recent conflict.

Speaking to ANI, Professor Saima Saeed, PRO of Jamia Millia Islamia, said, "We have suspended all MoUs with institutions affiliated with Turkey. Jamia stands with the nation and the Government of India."

The development follows Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU)

suspension of its academic agreement with Inonu University in Malatya, Turkey, citing national security concerns. JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit also called out Turkey for supporting Pakistan, saying: "Turkey has openly backed Pakistan, and that cannot be ignored." The MoU, signed on February 3, 2025, with Inonu University in Malatya, Turkey, was meant to run till 2028. JNU is fully subsidised by Indian citizens. If the Indian state is being undermined, how can we continue ties with a country like Turkey? As an academic and citizen, my security is at risk—and that of every Indian," JNU VC has said.

India's higher education institutions are not the only ones reacting. The wider public has also launched an informal boycott campaign against Turkey and

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Teenage group problems

Teenagers are people from 16 to 20 years old who are developing both physically and mentally during this period. This can be called the most difficult period because it is simultaneously a dangerous and pleasant time in their lives. This is a period when their final character is formed. During this period, even a slightly rough behavior can cause great trauma to a teenager. They need a cozy environment and good treatment. Some parents believe that if they are treated strictly, it will be better for them, but at this time everything is the opposite. At this time, an authoritarian atmosphere may be created at home. Parents can be possessive and try to make their children dependent on them. These two views can cause rebellion in a child or, conversely, kill the child's natural inclination towards adventure, which is necessary at their age. Children need to form their own views and aspirations. How do they understand the term "teenager", and whether a teenager is associated with freedom? Observe and study each other's views and aspirations.

To make a comparison between Georgian and European teenagers. To find similarities and differences. To contact their peers in European countries via the Internet and study their aspirations.

Teenagers, due to their current situation (age), have to adapt to two different environments: the home where they must live with their parents and the school where they must go to receive education... 1) The most important factor is the home where the child receives primary education, as well as learns elementary ethics and cultural behavior.

2) And no less important is the school, where in the primary grades he gets used to interacting with his peers and receives general education. When neither at home nor at school he receives proper and objective information about such an amorphous formation



as street mentality. As we have mentioned, he is unprepared, but if he possesses sufficient information and education, he does not stop at one stage and continues to develop. It is sad, but many children in today's Georgia cannot overcome this stage and develop an unclear kind of sympathy for street life.

Teenagers often give in to impulses and this often leads to undesirable consequences for them. In my opinion, this is the charm of adolescence. Make mistakes and learn from your mistakes. Do what you want, what gives you pleasure, even if your parents are against it. This is the time

when you have the opportunity to do stupid things with your friends, joke about meaningless topics, laugh a lot and also cry a lot about problems that an adult would laugh at. I am not saying that a teenager should be allowed to do whatever he wants. Moderate severity is also acceptable. However, a parent

should understand that a teenager will still get his way and do what he wants, but the difference will be that he will do it silently and the parent will be deceived. In the 21st century, it is very difficult to trust a person at this age, but a parent is forced to trust his child, so to speak, in order to earn his trust and be more involved in his child's life. A person is formed slowly, slowly acquires qualities, therefore he is obliged to follow the ladder of life and not fall behind.

The problem of Georgian teenagers (and not only teenagers) is that they differ in mentality from European teenagers... They shout a lot and do little... They say they are independent, they can do everything, but they cannot express

their position out loud. They start smoking somewhere where no one will see them and then try to get rid of the smell from their hands. They are afraid of everything, no matter what happens, they say one thing and do another. This problem of smoking does not only concern boys,



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time with them.

Social media takes up a lot of time for children and leaves them less time for learning. Nowadays, when they want to read something, they search for the desired story on the Internet and read it there. This proves that the Internet has a very big place in the lives of teenagers.

As you know, the teenage years are a time when everyone wants to have fun and be with friends, but the issue of teenage work is quite relevant. Most teenagers like the idea that they can have their own money and not have to beg their parents, so to speak, but despite this, a very large number of teenagers are too lazy to work or cannot work due to certain issues, such as their parents' different opinions about work or lack of time due to good studies.

Let's consider school and teenagers. Most teenagers think that school is not necessary, they don't listen to teachers, they don't study and they behave badly. You have probably often heard the following phrases from your friends: "Oh, how bad it is when school starts", "I'm so lazy", "What does he do there every day", "What do I need

school for", etc. ...

This is precisely the problem. Our teenagers, especially students in grades 9, 10, 11, 12, are lazy to go to school and have no desire to get an education (there are many exceptions, of course). This is probably due to age, because laziness appears precisely during this period.

But what's worst is that they don't even want to do anything useful outside of school. On the contrary, they don't care much about their parents' opinions, don't pay attention to anyone, and follow their own obsessive thoughts. They drink alcohol, and often become interested in cigarettes.

All this ultimately leads to disastrous consequences, which, you must admit, is very unfavorable..!

The biggest problem of Georgian teenagers is that they cannot express their opinions boldly because they are under the influence of their peers. There are countless people who believe that fashion is what they like and do not care about other people's opinions. In my opinion, such people will succeed more in life... Georgians follow the crowd and cannot take risks to do what they like, and this is the fault of a bad mentality. One or two people cannot fix this, but each person should try to do what they want and what will bring them happiness. The decisive word on this or that issue should be theirs, not many other people's... And so slowly, let's hope that every person will have their own opinion on all issues and, most importantly, they will not be afraid of others and openly express their opinions.

BTech and Artificial Intelligence: A Futuristic Career Option

AI: From Concept to Core Business Enabler

Once a field limited to academic research and science fiction, AI is now at the heart of corporate innovation and strategic decision-making. Its influence spans multiple sectors—healthcare, finance, transportation, retail, and manufacturing. From automated diagnostics and predictive analytics to autonomous systems and personalized customer experiences, AI has become integral to both core operations and customer engagement.

AI applications are no longer experimental—they are essential. Whether it is robotic surgery in healthcare, algorithmic trading in finance, or self-driving vehicles in transportation, AI technologies such as machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing, and computer vision are revolutionizing the global business environment.

AI: Blending Technical Foundations with Real-World Impact

The BTech in Artificial Intelligence program is structured to deliver a comprehensive education in emerging technologies and their practical applications. Students are exposed to both theoretical concepts and hands-on learning, enabling them to solve real-world challenges with technical precision.

Key Areas of Learning:

- ♦ Mathematics and Statistics:

Foundational tools like linear algebra and probability essential for AI model development.

- ♦ Programming Languages: Mastery of Python, R, C++, and Java to implement and test AI algorithms.



- ♦ Machine Learning and Deep Learning: Understanding of learning systems, neural networks, CNNs, and RNNs.

- ♦ Natural Language Processing (NLP): Training machines to understand and generate human language.

- ♦ Data Science and Big Data: Managing and analyzing massive datasets for decision support.

- ♦ Robotics and Computer Vision: Applying AI in autonomous systems and image/video interpretation.

The program often includes capstone projects, internships, and industry collaborations, enabling students to work on real-time AI challenges across different sectors.

Career Possibilities: BTech + AI as a Launchpad

A BTech in AI opens the doors to multiple career paths in both emerging and established industries. AI professionals are in demand across the globe, and the skills developed during the program can be applied to various specialized roles:

Machine Learning Engineer—Develop predictive models and learning algorithms.

Data Scientist—Extract actionable insights from structured and unstructured data.

AI Research Scientist—Innovate and advance AI algorithms and frameworks.

- ♦ Robotics Engineer—Build and program intelligent machines.

- ♦ NLP Engineer—Design systems that understand and interact using human language.

- ♦ Computer Vision Engineer—Enable systems to process and

interpret visual data.

AI Product Manager—Bridge the gap between technical teams and business strategy.

AI Consultant—Guide companies in integrating AI for operational and strategic improvements.

AI Across Industries: Where BTech Graduates Make an Impact

- ♦ Industries adopting AI are rapidly expanding their technical workforce. Some key sectors where BTech AI graduates are highly sought after include:



Dr. Dhiraj Gupta
Director
GONIT
Gr.Noida -India

- ♦ Technology and IT: Companies like Google, Amazon, and Microsoft lead in AI R&D.

- ♦ Healthcare: AI supports diagnostics, drug discovery, and personalized treatment plans.

- ♦ Finance and Banking: Fraud detection, customer insights, and risk modeling benefit from AI integration.

- ♦ Automotive and Transport: AI powers innovations like autonomous vehicles and intelligent logistics.

- ♦ Retail and E-commerce: AI enhances personalized marketing, inventory forecasting, and customer analytics.

- ♦ Manufacturing: Predictive maintenance and robotic automation are reshaping production lines.

- ♦ Government and Defense: AI is used in surveillance, security, and strategic planning.

AI Integration in the Curriculum: Future-Ready Learning

BTech programs that incorporate AI are aligned with contemporary industry needs. As AI continues to permeate all aspects of society, students trained in both technical development and strategic application will be the frontrunners in innovation. The curriculum also lays a strong foundation for AI-based entrepreneurship and start-up ventures, making it a versatile and future-proof career path.

Conclusion:

As industries transition towards AI-powered transformation, the need for professionals who can build and apply intelligent systems is rising sharply. The combination of a BTech degree and AI specialization equips aspirants with technical acumen, problem-solving capability, and adaptability—the very skills that define next-generation careers. With its global relevance, wide application, and high demand, a BTech with artificial intelligence is more than just a degree—it's a gateway to shaping the future.

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VIT Chancellor conferred with Honorary Doctorate by RIT, USA



■ EJ News - Vellore

The Founder and Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), G. Viswanathan, was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), New York, recently.

According to a press release, Prabu David, provost and senior vice president, Rochester Institute of Technology (Academic Affairs), honoured Mr. Viswanathan with the honorary

doctorate towards his vision and leadership in the expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering & Management (STEM) education across India and in recognition of his dedication towards supporting the underprivileged.

Previously, the VIT chancellor was honoured with an honorary doctorate by West Virginia University in 2009 and by the State University of New York, Binghamton University in 2024 in addition to being conferred a doctorate by St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, in the year 2025.

Expressing gratitude, Mr. Viswanathan thanked RIT for conferring the doctorate on him. On the occasion, Sankar Viswanathan and Sekar Viswanathan, vice-presidents of VIT, were present, the release said.

Punjab Board Class 12th result 2025: 91% students pass, girls outshine boys



■ EJ News - Chandigarh

The Punjab School Examination Board (PSEB) announced the results of PSEB board Class 12 exams on May 14. Students can check their results at the official website after entering their login details. This year, 91 per cent of students have passed the Punjab Class 12 board examination.

The PSEB Class 12 result 2025 is available for the students at the official website of the board - pseb.ac.in. For more information on PSEB Punjab Class 12 result, supplementary exams, and revaluation dates, students can check the IE Education portal - education.indianexpress.com.

Girls dominate the merit list, with Harsirat Kaur from Barnala scoring 100% in all subjects. Manveer Kaur and Arsh shared rank 2 as both got 498 out of 500 marks. A total of 2,65,388 students appeared for the Class 12 exam, of which 2,41,506 students passed, bringing the overall pass percentage to 91%. Among the results, girl students have once again outshone boys - 1,24,229 girls appeared, with 1,17,175 passing (94.32%), while 1,41,156 boys appeared and 1,24,328 passed (88.08%). Three transgender students appeared and all passed the exam.

Under the school categories, non-government schools recorded

the highest pass percentage at 92.47%, followed by government schools at 91.01%, while aided schools registered a pass percentage of 86.86%.

Interestingly, rural students slightly outperformed their urban counterparts. In rural areas, 1,49,085 students appeared and 1,35,969 passed, resulting in a pass percentage of 91.20%. Meanwhile, in urban areas, 1,16,303 students appeared and 1,05,537 passed, with a pass percentage of 90.74%.

The students who appeared for this year's PSEB Class 12 board exams can check their results and download the marksheet from the official website using their roll number and other personal details.

The Class 12 mark sheet will have the result status, grades, and marks scored by students in different subjects. After a few days, students need to visit their respective schools to collect the PSEB Class 12 original mark sheets. The board will provide the original hard copies of the mark sheets to the schools, and students can collect them from their schools. Students who have failed to clear the exams will be able to appear for the Punjab Board compartment exams.

In 2024, the Punjab board declared the Class 12 results on April 30 through a press confer-

Punjab board Class 12th Result 2025: The students who appeared for this year's Class 12 exams can check their results on the official website of the Punjab Board - pseb.ac.in.

ence at the board's Mohali headquarters. The scorecards were released the next day, May 1.

The PSEB board Class 12 exams last year were held between February 13 and March 30.

As per data that was released by the board, of the 284,452 students, 264,662 had successfully cleared the Class 12 board exams in 2024. The overall pass percentage last year was 93.04 per cent. The pass percentage last year witnessed slight improvement from 2023. In 2023 the pass percentage was 92.47 per cent.

The girls had performed better than the boys by scoring 4 percentage points more. The pass percentage among girls was 95.47 per cent, whereas for boys it was 90.47 per cent. The top position was secured by Ekampreet Singh of BCM Senior Secondary School by securing 100 per cent and second position was secured by Ravi Uday Singh of Govt Sr. Secondary School, who too had scored 100 per cent.

The Government schools had a pass percentage of 92.57 per cent, Non-government schools had a slightly higher pass percentage of 94.63 per cent, whereas aided schools had a pass percentage of 91.86 per cent.

IGNOU starts registration for July 2025 session

■ EJ - New Delhi

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has opened the re-registration portal for the July 2025 academic session. The re-registration portal is for all ODL, and online programmes. The portal will remain till June 30. Interested students can re-register to the IGNOU dashboard: ignou.samarth.edu.in/index.php/site/login.

Interested candidates will have to visit the the University's official website and accordingly have to re-register for a course or apply for the admission to the University. Also, candidates will have the option to cancel their application directly through the registration portal. It is important to note that requests for application cancellation should not be sent via email or through iGRAM. Once an ap-



plication is canceled, it cannot be reinstated, and any applicable refund will be processed according to the university's policies. For further details, candidates are encouraged to visit the official IGNOU portal.

Meanwhile, India's number one open university (as per NIRF Rankings 2024) has seen an increase in overall registration from 6.73 lakh in 2018-19 to 7.53 lakh in academic session 2023-2024. In these six years, the varsity has added many programmes at all levels - certificate, diploma, Bachelor, Master and PhD.

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is particularly popular for its UG programmes, however, the numbers suggest a drop in popularity. About 3.64 lakh students enrolled for admission in 2018-19, this year it saw a minor decline (3.52 lakh).

Unlike regular universities with only one admission cycle (usually July -June), IGNOU has two admission cycles - July and January. For example, the enrolment of 2021-22 covers the enrolment of July 2021 and January 2022. Accordingly, the university conducted its examination twice a year - in June and December every year. "In every examination, approximately 8 lakh students appear at more than 800 examination centres across the country as well as at our overseas centres," said Rupam.





Education Jagat

Indian Readers	Global Readers	Figures in Million's
Qtr. Ended Dec. 2024	Qtr. Ended March 2025	Groth %
5.39	5.64	+4.7%
3.26	3.71	+13.9%

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Difference between Understanding and knowledge

Many people mistakenly associate understanding with knowledge, as both are nouns and are used in the English language. However, the fact is that they are different. Experts, as well as great characters, who de-

also early on.

Definition of Knowledge

Knowledge is a broader idea than understanding as well as knowledge. It is the superior quality of a person to assume, act or distinguish what is best, correct, real



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knowledge is complicated and integrated.

Understanding is deterministic, while wisdom is not deterministic.

Knowledge leads to understanding of a particular subject, while wisdom develops the ability to recognize and reason in a person. Expert approach is academic. Unlike wisdom, which has a spiritual method.

In terms of acquisition, knowledge is gained by acquiring details or learning truths by following or education and learning. In comparison, wisdom creates in a person through daily experiences in life.

Understanding has the same connection with the mind as knowledge has with the spirit.

Conclusion

After I have described the above factors, it can be concluded that there is a difference between knowledge and wisdom, but they are related principles. Knowledge without wisdom is feasible, however wisdom without knowledge is difficult. Although knowledge is limited, knowledge has no visible end. Expertise can have favorable or negative results in the sense that it can be valuable to individuals if they use it correctly, but it can also harm others if they use this knowledge in the wrong directions. In contrast, wisdom, which has only favorable results, due to the fact that it is the application of knowledge with an active and kind technique.



fine the importance of these two terms, point to a lot of quotes and sayings that concern understanding and knowledge. Sir Francis Bacon claimed: "understanding is power;" while Gautam Buddha believed that "knowledge is the highest of the five merits." Knowledge is the accumulation of details gained through education or experience. On the other hand, wisdom is when you understand exactly how to use your understanding, for the benefit of others. Right here we have simplified the difference between expertise and wisdom. The difference between understanding and knowledge

Interpretation of knowledge

The term "understanding" only refers to the understanding or awareness of an individual, thing or object, such as facts, skills, information, etc. This is the state of what you learn about a particular subject. This is the familiarity with different topics, tools, locations, societies, events, truths, concepts, etc. it can be a theoretical or rational competence acquired over time through education or experience through understanding, observation, research, discussion, learning and

and lasting. It is the application of common sense, knowledge and experience at the right time, place, manner and circumstances in relation to adhering to the best feasible strategy. It creates the ability to evaluate and make useful and effective choices in life. Expertise and understanding are the foundation of knowledge, however experience is essential for acquiring knowledge. It connects understanding and experience with understanding as well as enhances an individual's understanding of partnerships as well as the significance of life.

Understanding refers to gathering details as well as truth about something or a person with knowledge and experience. The ability of an individual to judge, use education and experience in practical life and make the right choice is called knowledge.

Expertise is nothing but the arranged details. It is not about the quantity of information, however, that should be important. However, wisdom is the quality of applying expertise right into functional life.

Expertise is inherently careful, it mostly buys only specialized information. On the contrary,

CBSE class 10, 12..

were CSWN. Sixty-six students from this category scored above 95 per cent.

The CBSE has announced that there will be no merit list to "avoid unhealthy competition." Officials said the board has also scrapped awarding first, second, and third divisions based on scores.

"According to the earlier decision of the board to avoid unhealthy competition among students, the CBSE has not published the merit list. However, the board will issue merit certificates to 0.1 per cent of students who have scored the highest marks in the various subjects," Bhardwaj said.

The 2025 board exams for classes 10 and 12 began on February 15, and concluded in 33 and 49 days.

More than 1.41 lakh candidates have been placed in the supplementary category or compartment in class 10, while the figure for class 12 is more than 1.29 lakh. The number is marginally up for both the classes.

In class 10, Trivandrum and Vijayawada regions recorded the highest pass percentage, 99.79, while Guwahati region the lowest, 84.14.

In class 12, Vijayawada region recorded the highest pass percentage at 99.60, followed by

Trivandrum, 99.32 per cent. Prayagraj region reported the lowest pass percentage at 79.53. In both the classes, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas recorded the highest pass percentage.

Turkish Institutions

Azerbaijan, both of which have been accused of supporting Pakistan diplomatically and militarily. Leading Indian travel platforms like MakeMyTrip and EaseMyTrip have reported a surge in cancellations of travel bookings to both countries.

Many users cited the nations' "anti-India stance" and their support for Pakistan during the ongoing conflict as the reason. Public anger further intensified after it was revealed that Turkey had supplied advanced military technology, including drones, to Pakistan.

On the night of May 8, Indian defence forces intercepted and neutralised between 300 and 400 drones allegedly launched from Pakistan across a wide swath of Indian territory—from Leh in the north to Sir Creek in the south. Preliminary forensic investigations have confirmed that many of the drones were Turkish-made, reportedly the Asisguard Songar combat drone model.

UK policy...

The group also called for better alignment between student and

skilled worker routes, another category dominated by Indians and set to face tougher minimum salary requirements.

"We are pleased to see recognition of our long-standing calls for better alignment between immigration and skills, and we strongly support the push for greater transparency and accountability in education agent practices, for which we have laid out very clear asks," added Arora.

Almost every UK visa category is set to be impacted by the White Paper, with the Health and Social Care visa – led by Indians and other South Asian applicants – in line to be axed.

"The closure of the Health and Care Worker visa to new applicants has been framed as a response to growing exploitation, but with the numbers of visas granted to first time entrants already dwindling, it is but a distraction," said Dr Dora-Olivia Vicol, CEO of the UK's Work Rights Centre.

"Because of this failed visa scheme, thousands of migrant care workers already in the UK are facing destitution, and the government is yet to offer them any workable support. What they need is not more hostility and victim-blaming, but the flexibility to take their skills to the businesses that need and value them," she said.

CBSE Class 10 and 12 results 2025: Meet the UAE toppers



■ **EJ** - Moh. Zakir

India's Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) results for Grades 10 and 12 for 2025 are out, and Indian expat students in the UAE have once again proven their academic mettle.

Three students from GEMS Education schools in Dubai and a student from Mayo Private School in Abu Dhabi have topped the charts in their respective grades, based on results shared by schools by 8pm on Tuesday.

Hafeed Meera Shahul Hameed from GEMS Our Own Indian School, Dubai and Rishab Sinha from Mayo Private School in Abu Dhabi became the highest scorers in the UAE, achieving a staggering 99.6% in Grade 10 board exams.

An elated Hafeed said: "Today, I am proud to say that I scored 99.6% in my board exams – an achievement born from hard work, perseverance, and unwavering dedication."

He credited his parents, teachers, and friends for their support: "This achievement would not have been possible without the constant support of my parents, the guidance of my teachers, and the encouragement of my friends.

I am deeply grateful to each one of them."

He called this success a stepping stone in a much bigger journey. "There are many more steps to climb, challenges to face, and lessons to learn — because the pursuit of knowledge never ends," he added.

Meanwhile, a jubilant Rishab said: "The two key ingredients in my achievement are my hard work, and the constant support from my teachers and parents. My sincere thanks to all who helped me achieve this."

In Grade 12, Kirti Roshankumar Thakar of GEMS Our Own English High School, Dubai, emerged as the school and Science stream topper with an impressive 99%.

Mukesh Balasubramanian from GEMS Our Own High School, Al Warqa'a, also aced the exams with the same score.

Mukesh Balasubramanian, Kirti Roshankumar Thakar, Rishab Sinha Supplied

Kirti now wishes to pursue engineering at IIT Delhi – Abu Dhabi. "As my dreams unfold into reality, I feel deeply humbled and extremely grateful to my parents for being my strongest pillars of support, and to my teachers, whose invaluable guidance lit the path

through every challenge I faced in the pursuit of excellence. I shall be eternally grateful to OOD for making my school years truly unforgettable," she said.

Mukesh, who is also the school and Science stream topper in his school, said he wishes to pursue electrical engineering at NIT Trichy in India.

He said: "This journey would not have been possible without the unwavering presence of compassionate mentors, encouraging friends, and a family whose belief in me never wavered, even in my moments of doubt. Their support anchored me when the tides were high and inspired me to rise stronger with every fall."

"In the end, I've come to see that success is not measured solely by percentages or accolades. True success lies in the resilience nurtured through trials, the confidence forged through uncertainty, and the inner growth that endures long after the marks fade. These life lessons continue to guide my path, shaping not only how I pursue my goals, but how I live – with purpose, humility, and hope," Mukesh added.

School leaders were quick to praise the effort behind the numbers.

US university....

competitions, and other opportunities used to prepare graduates for successful careers in global markets. Courses are expected to be delivered by an internationally recruited faculty, including visiting professors from Illinois Tech's U.S. campuses and faculty with global academic credentials. Indian students will gain access to career-accelerating opportunities without the need to relocate abroad—while also benefiting from cross-campus study options and global classroom experiences.

The university's diverse learning environment includes students from more than 100 countries, with more than a quarter of the student population at Illinois Tech's Chicago campuses being international. The Mumbai campus is expected to provide opportunities for students from various backgrounds to engage in a transformative educational experience to prepare them for leadership roles in a globalized economy.

Recalling his association with Illinois Tech, Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman and Managing Director of Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited said that the institute had equipped him with not only technical expertise but also with a global perspective and an entrepreneurial mindset.

UGC grants US-based Illinois Tech to set up an independent degree-granting campus in India

The university's Mumbai campus will facilitate access to cutting-edge STEM education for students from all backgrounds and is expected to catalyse innovation and establish a vibrant knowledge corridor between India and the US. According to 2025 U.S. News and World Report rankings, Illinois Tech's undergraduate and graduate computer science programs are among the top 100 in the United States.

Illinois Tech's business programmes are also highly ranked, with its master's in management, marketing and finance programmes ranked among the most popular in the US.

"Illinois Tech was founded to democratize access to technology and innovation to all. Having begun my educational journey in Chennai and later earning a PhD in the United States, I have witnessed opportunities offered by both education systems. These systems together leverage the best of both and uniquely prepare students to thrive in a global economy," remarked Raj Echambadi, president of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

CBSE Results 2025: Time to celebrate and an opportunity to reflect deeply



The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced the Class 10 and 12 results this week, revealing an encouraging narrative of academic perseverance. Over 24,000 students scored above 95%, and more than 2 lakh crossed the 90% threshold—milestones that naturally spark celebration across households and schools in India. These results reflect dedication, long hours of preparation, and immense support from families and educators. However, beyond the jubilation lies a deeper layer of introspection that demands national attention.

This year's results, like those in previous years, reiterate the dichotomy of excellence and inequality in our education system. While some students have clearly thrived, others continue to struggle—often due to systemic limitations rather than lack of effort or intelligence. The time is ripe not only to honor our achievers but also to question what these achievements truly signify. Are these high scores representative of real learning and intellectual growth, or do they highlight a system that rewards memorization and test-taking over creativity and understanding?

Rote Learning vs Real Understanding

The conversation around academic excellence in India often centers on marks. But marks, though measurable, are not always meaningful. Educators have long expressed concern that our examination system promotes rote memorization. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 confirmed these fears: over 40% of Class 10 students were unable to solve basic division problems, and many Class 12 students struggled with reading comprehension suited for lower grades. These findings reveal a troubling disconnect between academic performance on paper and actual cognitive development.

This discrepancy underscores the issue of 'learning poverty'—a term popularized by the World Bank in a 2021 study. The paradox it presented was stark: despite rising enrollment and pass percentages, foundational learning continues to stagnate. The implication is clear—students are moving through the system without acquiring core competencies, and the examination results are masking the true health of our education landscape.

Employability and the Skills

Gap

A broader and equally pressing concern is the link between academic performance and employability. The India Skills Report 2024, developed in collaboration with Wheebox, AICTE, and CII, found that only 49.5% of Indian graduates were considered employable. These figures include students who performed well in their board exams, demonstrating a troubling gap between scholastic success and workplace readiness.

This issue is particularly visible in technical education. Reports from NASSCOM indicate that nearly 80% of Indian engineering graduates are not equipped with the skills demanded by employers. From poor communication skills to a lack of problem-solving abilities, the deficiencies are widespread and rooted in an education system overly focused on theoretical knowledge and under-invested in real-world application.

The Need for Holistic Education

Educational thought leaders like Sir Ken Robinson and Dr. Howard Gardner have repeatedly emphasized that in-

telligence is multi-dimensional. Standardized tests, which dominate Indian academic evaluation, fail to assess creativity, emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, ethical reasoning, and practical aptitude. These are precisely the capabilities that employers and society value in the modern era.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognizes this limitation and marks a radical shift in educational philosophy. It proposes competency-based learning, formative assessments, and a curriculum that balances academic rigor with life skills, values, and vocational training. Yet, the implementation of these ideals remains inconsistent. The spirit of NEP must translate into classroom practice, teacher training, and institutional accountability.

Beyond the Top Percentile: Celebrating All Forms of Success

While we rightly laud those who score 95% and above, we often overlook the equally significant stories of students who overcame adversity. Consider the student who scored 60% while juggling household responsibilities, or the one who struggled with learning disabilities yet managed to pass. These students may not make newspaper headlines, but their journeys are a testament to courage, resilience, and growth.

UNESCO's assertion that "true equity in education is not about equal results—but equal opportunities to develop individual potential" is especially relevant here. Our system must be inclusive, not just in access but in recognition. Every child's achievement, however modest, deserves validation.

Mental Health and the Cost of Academic Pressure

The pursuit of high marks also brings a heavy emotional toll. Mental health issues among students are on the rise. The pressure to perform can lead to anxiety, depression, and even self-harm.



Pushpendra Kumar Rana
Renowned Career & college counselor
JBadal - India

In an age where competition begins early and margins between success and failure are razor-thin, it becomes vital to reconsider how we define academic achievement.

Schools must evolve into spaces that prioritize emotional well-being alongside intellectual growth. Teachers and administrators need to be trained to identify and support students facing mental health challenges. Parents, too, play a critical role in fostering balanced expectations and unconditional encouragement.

A New Vision for Assessment and Learning

Reimagining education requires us to challenge long-standing assumptions. Should exams be the primary benchmark for learning? Can we create a culture where curiosity is valued more than conformity? How can technology be used to personalize learning without making it transactional?

To begin with, assessments must shift from one-time summative exams to a blend of diagnostic, formative, and portfolio-based evaluations. This allows for a more comprehensive understanding of a student's progress and potential. Schools should also encourage interdisciplinary learning, creative projects, and civic engagement.

Empowering Teachers and Schools

None of these transformations can occur without empowering educators. Teachers must be seen not just as content-deliverers but as mentors and facilitators. Continuous professional

development, better remuneration, and greater autonomy are crucial for motivating teachers to adopt innovative practices.

Similarly, schools need structural freedom to design context-specific curricula and learning models. A one-size-fits-all approach cannot cater to the diversity of learners in India. Encouraging partnerships with local industries, NGOs, and universities can also enrich the educational experience.

From Learning to Life-long Growth

In the fast-changing world of AI, climate change, and global disruption, the future belongs to those who can learn, unlearn, and relearn. Education must prepare students not just for the first job but for a lifetime of adaptation and growth. This requires nurturing traits like curiosity, grit, empathy, and ethical reasoning.

In this context, success in board exams becomes only a milestone—not the destination. True education is a continuous journey that goes beyond report cards and rankings.

A Call to Celebrate—and Transform

The CBSE results for 2025 offer much to be proud of, but they must also inspire us to question and evolve. We cannot afford to equate high scores with high quality. We need to move from a culture of rank obsession to one of meaningful learning.

It's time to celebrate the top-pers, but also to remember every student's story. It's time to acknowledge our achievements, but also to confront our blind spots. It's time to reform our system, not out of criticism but out of care.

Let us envision an education system that empowers every learner to think, feel, imagine, and act with purpose. Let us build a future where success is not measured solely by grades but by the growth, contribution, and character of our young citizens.

As Albert Einstein wisely said, "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." Now is the moment to make that vision a reality.

First US university given green light to establish Indian campus



EJ- Agency

Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) students will be able to study in a US university's Indian campus in India itself. The Illinois Institute of Technology is set to become the first US university to be approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to

establish an independent degree-granting campus in India. The campus which is set to open in 2026 with its Mumbai campus will offer a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs in technology fields such as computer science, engineering, and business.

The aim of this university is to bring a new Illinois Tech campus in Mumbai by offering technology education from a major technology university of the US here in India. The university will be accessible to students from all backgrounds. Based in Chicago, United States, Illinois Tech offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering, computing, architecture, business, design, science and human sciences.

Illinois Tech's Mumbai campus will provide the same experiential, and industry-aligned curriculum as the university's Chicago campuses. This will include offering Illinois Tech's renowned Elevate program, which guarantees all students access to real-world experiences such as internships, research,

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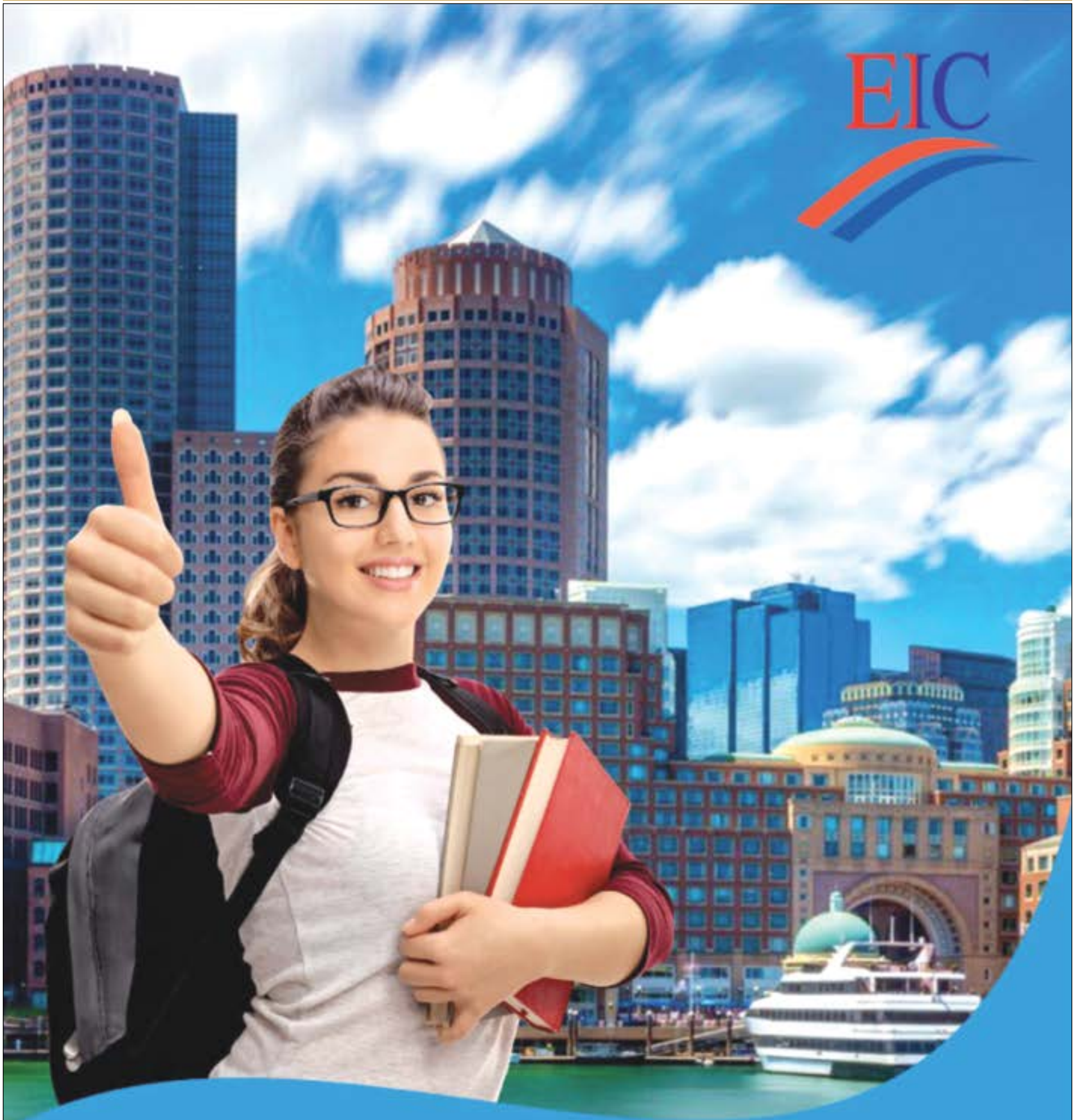
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