Pass percentage drops, principals say due to change in exam pattern

CBSE RESULTS: 'First Normal Board Exams' Since Pre-Pandemic Yrs, Say Officials
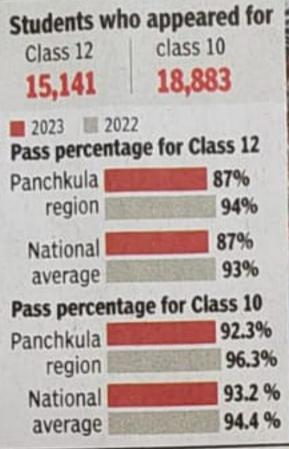
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Gurgaon: Called the "first normal board exams" since 2019, 86.93% students in Haryana cleared Class XII and 92.3% passed the Class X papers, according to results declared by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday.

Pass-percentage, however, dipped from last year, in a trend that holds up for most of the country.

The Panchkula circle — of which most Haryana districts are a part, including Gurgaon — the decline in Class XII was 7.15 percentage points as compared to 2022, when around 94% students cleared the board exams. Pass percentage in Class X dropped four percentage points, from 96.3% in 2022.

Across India, the region ranked ninth in pass percentage for Class XII, and eleventh for Class X.

Schools and CBSE officials said this drop can be attributed to multiple factors. Key among them was that the students who appeared for Class XII exams this year were giving their first board papers as the pandemic had disrupted their Class X. Second, CBSE has adopted a competency-based format for the academic session; at least 40% of all questions in the papers were to be application-based, instead of theory.

"There has been a dip in schools' average scores. Also, the number of students scoring straight 100s has come down. But since the board has moved toward a competency-based exam pattern, these results better reflect students' capabilities," said Aditi Mishra, principal of Delhi Public School in Sector 45 who is also the city's coordinator for CBSE board exams.

Pass percentages were also higher in the peak pandemic years, when the marking system was lenient as alternative evaluation methods were used to grade students. In 2022, the first full-fledged board exams were held, but the format of the papers was different.

"This is the first normal board exam after 2019. Students got a complete year of offline education and gave exams in a normal manner," CBSE joint secretary and examination controller Sanyam Bhardwaj told **TOI**.

Some Class XII students in the city said it was the first time they were sitting for boards. "Technically, it was the first actual board exams for my batch. I am humbled to have achieved this score," said Nandini, a science student who scored 99.4%. The 18-year-old, who studied at DPS, says she wants to pursue Mathematics (Hons) from St. Stephens College in Delhi University.

For the second consecutive year, the board continued to do away with releasing a merit list. But based on information from schools in the city, several students scored over 99%. In the science stream in Class XII, 99.4% was among the highest scores. A student from Amity International School in Sector 46 got 99% in commerce subjects, and another student from DPS got 98.4% in humanities stream. In Class X, among the highest scores in the city was 99.6%, achieved by a DPS student.

A student with dyslexia also scored 96.6% without the help of a scribe in Class X. "Teachers helped me understand concepts through experiential activities and mind maps, timelines, etc. That raised my confidence. I'm hopeful I can do better in Class XII," said 16-year-old Medhavi Kaushik, a student of Amity International School.

This was the first time over 1,000 students of four Government Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary Schools (GMSSS) in the city sat for board exams. The average pass percentage of these schools, which got affiliated with the board just last year, was 90.75% for Class X and 76.5% for Class XII. In Gurgaon, 15,141 students appeared for CBSE Class XII exams and around 18,800 for Class X.

Rashmi Malik, principal of Salwan Public School said the change in paper pattern helped students prepare for competitive exams. "Our students who got top scores have cleared competitive exams or feel better about clearing them. For instance, a science student scored over 97% in Class 12 and has cleared JEE Mains," Malik said

OVER 15K STUDENTS TOOK CLASS 12 EXAMS

Photo: Vinay Gupta

Students who appeared for

Class 12	class 10
15,141	18,883

■ 2023 ■ 2022

Pass percentage for Class 12

Panchkula region	87%
	94%
National average	87%
	93%

Pass percentage for Class 10

Panchkula region	92.3%
	96.3%
National average	93.2%
	94.4%