

## Specially-abled kids reap rewards of hard work

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**Pune:** Years of patience, consistency and faith in special children fructified into endless happiness for these parents. Though marks are just numbers, science stream students Akshay Shanbhag (95.6 pc), Shardul Patil (75 pc), Daksh Kanoria (74.6 pc) scored exemplary marks while making their weakness their strength.

### An autistic child

Akshay has secured second position in his school and has been preparing to pursue his higher education in IISER, Pune. Akshay had ranked second in the country under persons with disabilities (PwDs) category in Kishore Vaigyanik Protisahan Yojana (KVPY) at his first attempt and got direct admission in IISER, "I have been a mathematics and computer science enthusiast since childhood. So I wish to become a scientist in field of physics, chemistry, mathematics or computer science," said Akshay.

Geeta Shanbhag (mother), had first learned about Akshay's condition when he was 1.8 years old. "Akshay has speech disability. His play school teachers had informed us that he would never respond to them. Initially, we thought he had hearing problems,



**Akshay Shanbhag**



**Daksh Kanoria**



**Shardul Patil**

however later we got to know that Akshay is an autistic child," said Geeta. Her struggle to bring her child into the mainstream began since then. Geeta would take personal therapies and take up exercises with Akshay and report about each development to her psychologists. Only after his Std X exam, Geeta felt that she should pursue some course for herself, and now she has started working with a city-based NGO.

From a very young age, Akshay was a maths genius. "At the age of 2.5 years, if asked when will a particular date for example January 12, 2019 fall, he could calculate within few minutes and tell the right day. He had started reading encyclopedias at three years of age," said Geeta.

Autism is a mental condition, present from early childhood, characterised by great difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people and in using language and abstract concepts.

### Dyslexic students

For Shardul and Daksh, words and languages could never make sense.

Daksh who has dyslexia and attention deficit disorder (ADD) wants to become a coder and pursue higher education in computer science or engineering. Although, words have been alien for him, technological codes have been his favourite language. "I could never score in languages like Hindi and Marathi till Std XIII. It was exempted in IX and X when I replaced it with computer science. Initially, I would doubt myself and have a kind of peer pressure to excel like others but my parents and teachers told me that I did not have to compete with anyone. This built my confidence," said Daksh.

Jyoti Kanoria, (mother) said, "He was in Std III when we understood Daksh has dyslexia. He could never remember any spelling. Then he started taking remedial education which he continued till Std IX. However, for us marks was never a criteria. We would always tell him to concentrate on

the concepts than obtaining marks. Even when he stumbled in making correct sentence or saying right spellings in public, we assured him that it was fine there is no harm in being different," said Jyoti.

Even for Parineeta Patil, it was a challenge to console her son Shardul that he is unique. "Shardul had to change several hobby classes in his childhood, because no teacher would understand why he could not cope with others. Guitar was his favourite hobby but unfortunately, he discontinued because of the isolation he would face in these classes. Moreover, his biggest disappointment was in Std X, when he was unhappy with his score of 82 per cent. He didn't have a dyslexia certificate, therefore he felt, he could have scored better otherwise," said Parineeta.

"He would only say that he wrote correct answers but lost marks because of spelling and handwriting. It was difficult to boost his confidence and cheer him up for not being able to score like others, as back in schools, his teachers never considered his condition, rather were unaware about dyslexia," said Parineeta.

Dyslexia is a general term for disorders that involve difficulty in learning to read or interpret words, letters and other symbols, but that do not affect general intelligence.

## Pune's schools get 100 pc result with many meritorious students

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**Pune:** City schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) received a 100 per cent pass percentage in the Std XII results declared on Saturday.

Akshara International's Shruti Bhagwat scored 95.40 per cent to top the science stream; 39.28 per cent students scored 90 per cent and above in the school and 15 students out of 86 scored above 91 per cent marks. Global Indian International School's Ayushi Kashyap scored 92.8 per cent in science to emerge the topper while in Commerce stream, the school's Julii Patwardhan scored 95 per cent to grab

### CBSE STD XII RESULTS

the top spot. Army Public School Kirkee also saw a 100 per cent result. "Three students scored 100 marks in Maths, IP and Psychology. In science stream, Arunima Bandopadhyay topped with 96.2 per cent while Manavi Pandey with 96.4 with 96.2 per cent and Zaynah Somjee with 96 with 96.2 per cent topped in Humanities and Commerce streams respectively," said Arti Sharma, Principal, APS Kirkee.

Utkarsh Singhania from DPS, who topped with 97.2 per cent commerce stream, while speaking to Sakal Times said, "I'm in a relaxing mood now and my family is extremely happy." When asked his future plans, he said that he will appear in the CA CPT entrance exam next month. He also added that for good



**Utkarsh Singhania**



**Rayyan Khan**



**Abhinav Shankar**

grades, one must be consistent in studies. "Do not work for one month and expect miracles, but at least study for two hours daily for six months," he said.

Abhinav Shankar from APS Ghorpadi got 96.8 per cent in science. Speaking to Sakal Times, he said he is feeling very good and he is waiting for his JEE Advanced result. He also added that one should be focused in studies for good marks.

Aastha Tiwari from APS Ghorpadi scored 98.4 per cent in Arts and said she did not expect these many marks. She is planning to do Psychology from St Xavier's, Mumbai. She also added that one should not take too much stress before exams and should listen to your parents and teachers.

In The Lexicon International School, Wagholi, 11 students got 90 per cent and above. "Siddharth Raghuvanshi with 94.6 per cent is the science topper while Riya Jha who scored 92.2 per cent is our commerce topper," said Gursimran Kaur, Principal.

In Delhi Public School, Utkarsh Singhania with 97.2 per cent topped in Commerce followed by Rayyan

Shabbir Khan with 97 per cent in Humanities and Shruti Nishith with 96.2 per cent in Science stream.

Out of 87 students who appeared for class XII examination from GG International School, 61 students are from Science and 26 from Commerce stream and 44 per cent students scored distinction. Science stream topper was Sanchi Thawani with 95.4 per cent while the Commerce stream topper was Mansi Gupta with 95 per cent. JSPM's Blossom Public School Tathawade secured 100 per cent results out of which 15 students got above 90 per cent from a class of 89. Purva Moghekar with 95.4 per cent topped the school in science stream.

Out of 223 students who appeared in class XII this year from City International School, Wanawadi, 36 students scored more than 90 per cent marks. Sharon Mathur with 97 per cent topped the school in science stream. Sanskriti School once again registered a 100 per cent success rate in the class 12 exam. Adarsh Mohan Ninganur topped the school with 94 per cent in Science.