CBSE

year after a gap of nine years. Till then, the exam was optional.

"For the 2017-18 batch, the announcement to make board exam compulsory was made early last year. This year, however, students were mentally prepared. They were also able to access last year's sample paper unlike last time," said Amita Wattal, principal, Springdales School, Pusa Road.

Among regions, Thiruvananthapuram recorded the highest pass percentage at 99.85%, followed by Chennai at 99% and Ajmer at 95.89%. Even though Delhi region improved its passing percentage from 78.62% in 2018 to 80.97% this year, it ranked ninth in state-wise performance.

Among the 13 students who topped the exam, three were from Noida—Shivani Lath of Mayoor School, Siddhant Pengoriya of Lotus Valley International School, and Divyansh Wadhwa of Bal Bharti Public School—while three were from Ghaziabad—Ish Madan of Ch Chhabil Dass Public School, Apoorva Jain of Uttam School of Girls, and Ankur Mishra of SAJ School.

Among differently abled candidates, Dilwin Prince of Devamatha CMI Public School in Thiruvambady in Kerala emerged as the nationwide topper by securing 98.6%.

Twenty-five students shared the second rank by scoring 498. It included Delhi's Shivika Dudani, a student of Amity International School, Pushp Vihar. Among the 59 students who finished third, scoring 497 marks out of 500, six were from Delhi.

In terms of institution-wise pass percentage, government-run Kendriya Vidyalayas outperformed others with a pass percentage of 99.47%, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), also run by the government, achieved a pass percentage of 98.57%, while for private schools the percentage was 94.15%.

As many as 11,267 students across India scored a perfect 100 in Social Sciences as compared to 9,614 who scored 100 in Maths and 2,872 students who got a perfect score in Science. In languages, 2,758 students scored 100 marks in Sanskrit, while 1,820 and 2,276 had a perfect score in English and Hindi, respectively.

Citing reasons behind the better performance in Social Scien-

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