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Centre grants permanent commission to



he ministry of defence has finally issued the formal order to grant Permanent Commission(PC) to women officers in the Indian Army, paving way for empowering women officers to shoulder larger roles in the 13

The order specifies grant of permanent commisofficers in all the 10 streams - army, air defence signals, engineers, army aviation, electronics and to the existing streams of judge and advocate general and army educational corps

THE STORY, SO FAR

- ➤ In the Armed Forces, while male SSC officers could opt for permanent commission at the end of 10 years of service, this option was not available to women officers, who comprise just 4% of the total strength of the commissioned offi-
- They were, thus, kept out of any command appointment, and could not qualify for the government pension, which starts only after 20 years of service, as an officer
- ➤ Last November, the apex court had directed the Army to take a decision on the permanent commission to eight women army officers, who had approached the apex court in 2010, against the bar on their absorption in the Armed Forces. The case was first filed in the Delhi high court by the women officers in 2003, and had received a favourable order in 2010. But the order was never implemented, and was challenged in the SC by the government
- ➤ In a landmark verdict in February this year, the SC had directed that women army officers be granted permanent commission and command postings, rejecting the Centre's stand of their physiological limitations as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women"

The long wait is finally over. The glass ceiling

has been shattered. Every modern and pro-

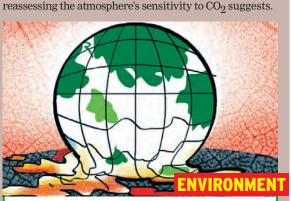
gressive nation-state takes pride in providing equal opportunities to women in all the fields. In the army, this is a significant step in the attainment of that goal

What's your take on this landmark decision? Let's know your views. Please share your thoughts at

Earth's atmosphere more sensitive to CO₂ emissions than

he hope that the rise in average global temperatures by 2100 might be capped below 2.5°C will remain a distant dream, if the greenhouse gas emissions continue at the current rate, a new research

thought: Study



- ➡ The study, under the Geneva-based World Climate Research Programme, offers the first clear progress in decades, towards narrowing the range of temperature rise caused by doubling of carbon dioxide levels, since the pre-industrial times
- ➡ Its findings show that doubling would trigger 2.6 to 4.1°C in average warming above pre-industrial levels, putting the lowest rise more than one degree above the scientists' previous estimated range of 1.5-4.5°C
- → Known as the climate sensitivity parameter, a doubling of CO2 concentrations has been a mainstay of models for the future global temperature. since the late 1970s

SERIES ON HILLARY CLINTON

olitician Hillary Clinton's life is the sub-

ject of a new series, 'Rodham', which

tracks her story, when she was not mar

ried to the former US president Bill Clinton.

Hulu has optioned the rights to Curtis Sitten-

feld's alternative history book, 'Rodham' for a

series that will tell the story

ENTERTAINMENT

of an ambitious young

woman, developing her

extraordinary mind in

the latter part of the

20th century, moving

from idealism to cyn-

icism, and all the way

back again. Sarah

Treem is all

set to write

and produce

IN DEVELOPMENT AT HULU

STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

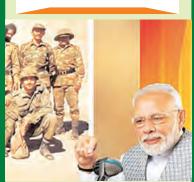


PM RECALLS THE VALOUR OF OUR **SOLDIERS IN** THE KARGIL WAR

Recalling the valour of the Armed Forces during the Kargil War, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that India's brave soldiers had defeated the enemy perched on the mountain heights.

The country observed the 21st anniversary of the victory in the Kargil War on Sunday.

The Indian Armed Forces had defeated Pakistan on July 26, 1999, by recapturing the mountain heights that were occupied by the Pak Army.



In his monthly, 'Mann ki Baat' radio address, the PM also said that the threat of coronavirus is not over yet, and we need to remain vigilant against the deadly virus.

He said the focus on wearing masks and maintaining social distancing has to continue.

Modi also applauded the efforts of groups in various states, including Bihar, Jharkhand and northeast to promote local products during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said this year's Independence Day will be celebrated amid the pandemic, and urged youth to resolve to make India self- reliant and free of the pandemic.



WHAT: Delhi, along with several other states, have started sero surveillance mapping to flatten the Covid-19 curve. **Sero surveillance** is a globally-used and trusted standard that measures the levels of antibodies against a certain infection, and decodes the percentage of the population, which has been previously exposed to the virus. The tool is also used as a measure for the officials to check on mass inoculation and see the level of immunity people have.

ero surveillance will help in observing if a vaccine can actually provide immunity. Given that we have a vaccine ready for the masses by the end of 2020 or early 2021, a sero survey could show if the Covid-19 vaccine being deployed to the masses is actually working. Sero surveys could also identify any infection cases (asymptomatic, mild ones, or ones which may have gone away on its own), that may have been missed

WHY: While a vaccine or a definite treatment plan is not available to us, experts believe that the only way to prevent further spikes in the infections or find out the actual data about our exposure levels is to test the presence of antibodies among

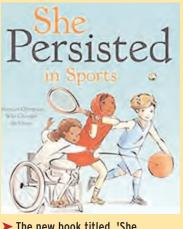
HOW IS IT DONE: Sero surveys derive the results from the presence of antibodies and proteins meant to fight off the infections, which are part of the body's immunology make-up. For a sero survey, sample blood tests are done, and if the antibody levels in the blood are detected, it can mean that a person has considerable immunity against the said infection. Sero surveys done routinely could also show how long do the antibodies last in the body and provide immunity against the disease, which is a pressing concern.

HAS IT BEEN USED **BEFORE?** In the past, sero surveillance has been used to map the spread of diseases and infections, like hepatitis B, hepatitis C, diphtheria, tetanus, polio and mumps.

BOOKS

CHELSEA'S NEW BOOK 'SHE PERSISTED' SERIES HON-OURS WOMEN IN SPORTS

ormer US president Bill Clinton and former secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton's daughter, Chelsea Clinton's new children's book, which is a part of the 'She Persisted' series, will be released later this year. Chelsea wrote the first book, 'She Persisted', way back in 2017. It featured the stories of inspiring girls and women who made a name for themselves with their grit and determination.



➤ The new book titled, 'She Persisted in Sports: American Olympians Who Changed the Game, will include sections about some prominent women in sports, including Venus and Serena Williams, Wilma Rudolph, among others. The 32-pages book is illustrated by Alexandra Boiger

➤ The book is expected to be released in September 2020

MASSIVE STUDY SHOWS SHARKS ARE



n a global study of the world's reefs, scientists have found that the ocean's top predator sharks are 'functionally extinct' on nearly one in five of the reefs surveyed. The research team, who surveyed 371 reefs in 58 countries, found that the sharks were rarely seen on close to 20 per cent of those reefs."This doesn't mean that there are no sharks on these reefs, but what it does mean is that they are 'functionally extinct' — they are not playing their normal role in the ecosystem," said the researchers.

The findings showed that almost no sharks were detected on any of the 69 reefs of six nations: the Dominican Republic, the French West Indies, Kenya, Vietnam, the Windward Dutch Antilles and Qatar. According to the research team, it's clear that the primary problem is the intersection between high human population densities, destructive fishing practices and



TAYLOR SWIFT'S 'FOLKLORE' EXCEEDS 1.3 MN COPIES SOLD IN 24HRS

op icon Taylor Swift delighted her fans by releasing a surprise new album recently. 'Folklore', her eighth studio album, comprises 16 songs. According to The Hollywood Reporter, on Spotify, it was streamed 80.6 million times, breaking the record for the firstday album streams by a female artiste. It was also the most-streamed pop album on Apple Music on its first day of release, with 35.47 million streams.

MUSIC

Dessner co-wrote / produced 11 of the songs on 'Folklore', Swift said. The megastar's last album, 'Lover', was released in August 2019

EAT CHOCOLATE ONCE A WEEK TO KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY

for the heart, as researchers have said that consuming chocolate at least once a week is linked with a reduced risk of heart disease. The study suggests that chocolate helps in keeping the heart's blood vessels healthy. In the past, studies have shown that chocolate is beneficial for both—blood pressure and the lining of blood vessels. For the latest study, the analysis included six studies with a total of 336,289 participants, who reported their chocolate consumption. During a follow-up, 14,043 participants developed

➤ Chocolate contains heart-healthy nutrients, such as flavonoids, methylxanthines, polyphenols and stearic acid, which may reduce inflammation and increase good cholesterol (high-density lipoprotein or HDL cholesterol)

➤ Chocolate appears promising for the prevention of coronary artery disease, but more research is needed to pinpoint how much, and what kind of chocolate could be recommended, the study authors wrote

➤ Moderate amounts of chocolate may protect the coronary arteries, but it's likely that large quantities do not, they said

pared with consuming chocolate less than once a week, the findings showed that eating chocolate more than once a week was associated with an coronary artery disease. Com- 8% decreased risk of coronary artery disease.



What it costs to guard

our LAC

While the Galwan Valley clash is firmly in India's rear view mirror, there's no reason to drop our guard. Therefore, the **Indian Army has** decided to deploy additional troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Here's what it entails for an average soldier...

1 Apart from the high probability of conflict, soldiers will also have to brave the extreme cold weather, as temperatures drop to minus 20 degrees. Ladakh, being a high altitude region, breathing also becomes harder.

To station soldiers in such a clime during the winter requires resources — from matchboxes and fuel, to flasks and food — amounting to₹10 lakh per soldier; just to keep them there, other costs notwithstanding.

• All these supplies and the soldiers have to Obe transported to the location, an easy task in the summer, when roads are operable, but once the snow falls, supplies will have to be flown in to the Army's bases. An hour-long flight to the LAC costs the Army at least ₹24 lakh.

4To avoid any unnecessary expenditure, the Army stocks up supplies during the summer using trucks, which costs ₹ one lakh for a Srinagar-Leh trip. Helicopters are used sparingly.

irtual classes started way back in 1986 for university teaching but with time it expanded its reach to include college and tutorials as well. With the deadly Coronavirus on the prowl, a lockdown is in place since March 24. Schools have been forced to turn to online teaching to help their students continue with learning and engagement during this nationwide shutdown. The new digitally-enabled learning programmes are helping to create a seamless experience and enable students to keep pace with their academic and non-academic golas. At the same time some of the programmes are helping them stay positive during these days of isolation.

This initiative has come as a great relief to parents, anxious and concerned about their child's educational progress. These 'virtual schools' are a big hit with parents as they too are getting a chance to be a part of the learning process of their kids and it looks like they are here to stay at least to augment classroom

education then why the parents are waiting so eagerly for the reopening of the schools? Firstly because the school is a platform where a student learns not only subjective knowledge but much needed soft-skills and values. You can not replace the warmth of a touch of a teacher, a word of appreciation, the art of adjustment, cooperation and what not. Secondly the online education can't meet the expectations of a large section of society who can't afford it. Thirdly the ill effects of online teaching are more serious than real teaching. Why a child should be deprived of all those petty things which he/ she does in the school?



Nabnita Giri, the principal of Mount School, Litera Zee Howrah says, "The challenges are there, but they are only temporary challenges. Online

also getting interested in it gradually as they have also understood that this teaching has no replacement at least at present.

This idea of Online teaching is not new, but yes, in the schooling system Online education system is new, we all have taken time to get adjusted with it. Now all are adjusted with it as there is no other way. So, let's learn online as at the end of the day we

can't compromise with our life. In this way learning and living are moving hand in hand. Let them move on, let the progress go on, let the children flourish.

Vandana Paul, the principal of La Maternelle School says, "The current Covid 19 crisis has shown us how susceptible the education sector is to a lockdown and the importance of online classes. For

much screen time for the children. Every crisis teaches us a lesson and necessity is the mother of all invention. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. We already are in collaboration with Delta Step which has mapped the English, Science and Maths syllabus for classes V to X. We are further going to extend the same for classes I to IV. We wish to overcome this adversity and guide the students in their homes so that once we reopen the pressures are reduced. Online classes are necessary in the education sector when we have such situations along with the chalk and talk methods which allows children to interact and com-

Adrian Phillips, assistant teacher, political science at St Augustine's Day **School** points out "People start learning right from when they are born till their last breathe. Learning in any

Are online classes the future of education? ALTHEA PHILLIPS spoke to

some school heads, educators and students, many of whom agree that

the teaching and learning process is certainly going virtual...

apps have been designed to facilitate this process which enable the students to keep learning and the teachers to conveniently proceed with their curriculum. Students now need not lose out on time and stay active and occupied with productive work as well. Educational institutes as well as the parents of the children are actively supporting this medium of learning. After all, it's not about where we learn as long as we never cease to learn.'

Priyasha Bhattacharyya, a teacher of Birla High School agrees. "The Covid-

19 affliction of the world has brought about changes globally in each and every sector of humanity. Education too cannot remain immune to this change. With schools and colleges shutting down for an unascertained period, online education and digital content



ONLINE IS IN

Heads of institutions and educators une ducation will flourish....** The time has the first time in the history derstand that online education may well be the way forward in education.

R S Sharma, the director, of Tribeni Tissues Vidyapith, Chandrahati says, "Online classes can't be the future of education. It can be one of the tools to assist the learner. If it is the future of



come to accept Online education system in of mankind nearly 1 billion spite of it's many demerits. There is no doubt that online teaching can never replace classroom teaching where not only teaching continues, there remains student teacher relationship, warmth of friendship,

But the need of the hour is online teaching and at present everything is being possible through online teaching. Students are

children are at home and hence the importance of going online is the need of the hour. But let's also be realistic, this requires good internet connections and a device for all the children to log in

Many households may not have the accessibility to both or many would not like so

form and anywhere is an enriching experi- are the only resources to help our students. ence in itself; it cannot be confined within This phase of a trial run of online educathe four walls of an educational institution or through books alone! This concept has become all the more pertinent during this lockdown which cannot and has not stopped the teaching-learning process. Learners are able to get information not only through internet and other sources but also by being a part of virtual classrooms where they can interact with their teachers online. Many

tion will show its advantages and disadvantages. Post Corona, the world may give us a completely different situation with reduced number of professionals and infrastructure. Depending on the damages it leaves behind, online education may be the

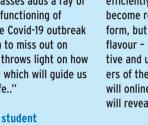
only feasible option then.' Students too seem to have embraced online

Rupam Shukla, a class XII student of Sunrise English **Medium School** is sure that online classes are going to be the new next thing in the educational field which will benefit both the students and the school. This will make education available at our finger tips, thereby making it fun learning.



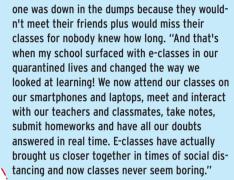
the teachers from expressing their dedication towards this art. "Online classes adds a ray of hope to the existence and functioning of mankind and shows how the Covid-19 outbreak is not good enough a reason to miss out on acquisition of knowledge. It throws light on how education is the only candle which will guide us through the dark times of life.."

Aadrit Banerjee, a class XI student of Apeejay School Park Street says, "Online classes have both pros and cons, but its use in these testing times, is a clear symbol - to how it could shape the educational



sector in the future. However, it has to be used efficiently, so as to ensure that students don't become robots instructed over the digital platform, but that education retains its original flavour - that is to develop a humane perspective and understanding among future torch bearers of the world. Education must liberate, but will online classes be able to do it? Only time will reveal the answer."

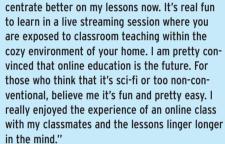
Asish Singh, a class XII student of St Augustine's Day School Barrackpore recalls that for schoolgoers nationwide the notification of lockdown was like a frozen nightmare - every-



Arjaita Aditya, a class XII student of St. Xavier's Institution Panihati says, "Schools coming up with the idea of imparting education

learning in their home bound virtual classrooms. through online classes is a real boon for us. It's a change from

the rigorous classroom coaching where there are a lot of distractions for both the teachers and the students. I can con-



Y STUDENTS SHINE IN ICSE, ISC 2020

midst this pandemic hit academic year, above with the school topper the students of MSB Kolkata have performed exceedingly well, with the highest percentage recorded in ICSE being 94.2% by Mustafa Chaiwala, followed by Hussaina Chaiwala and Zoeb Udaipurwala scoring

93.2% and 92.4% respectively. Of the 125 ICSE candidates in Calcutta **Girls' High School**, 90 got 90% and above while the remaining 35 got between 80% and 89.9%. The ICSE school topper was Senjuti Ghosh with an average of 99.4%. She was closely followed by Mayukhi Khan with 98.8% and Sulagna Ghosh with 98.6%.

The ISC results were no less spectacular. Of the 97 students who sat for the examination, Manishka Seal, pursuing Humanities, topped the school with 96%. Shreya Giri, Mayurakshi Mookerjee, Maniparna Sen and Abhipsha Mukhopadhyay secured 94.25% and the second rank, while Ankita Choudhury with 93.75% is

The ICSE toppers from Salt Lake Point School are Shubham Sarkar with 96.6%, followed by Bitopama Modak with 96.4%, Hrithiman Guha with 96.2%, Sagnik Rahman with 95% and Ronit Singh with 92.4%.

The ISC toppers are Kushal Shaw with 95%, followed by Sreejoni Majumdar and Shreya Bhattacharya with 93.75%, Shrutika Saha with 92.5%, Harsh Singhi with 92.25% and Ruptanuka Mukherjee with 91.25%

From St Xavier's Institution Panihati in the ICSE examinations 141 students scored more than 90% while 282 students scored over 80%. The ICSE toppers are Samriddha Ganguly, Debojyoti Das and Sayoni Roychowdhury with 98%, followed by Mainak Ghosh and Shalini Bhattacharyya with 97.8 % and Abhigyan Bhattacharya with 97.6%.

In the ISC examinations 15 students scored 95% and above, 55 students have obtained more than 90% and 183 students have scored more than 80%. The ISC school toppers are Agnish Bhattacharya with 98.25%, followed by Ahana Sarkar, Adrija Ray Karmakar and Anushka Pal with 97.25% and Riddhima Bhowal with 97%.

The Aryans School was thrilled by the brilliant performances of its students in ICSE and ISC 2020. The number of students that appeared for ISC was 101 and pass percentage was 100 per cent, while 107 appeared for ICSE and the pass percentage was 100 per cent.

In class XII, 20 students scored 90% and

Anuraag Ghosh (Science stream) scoring the highest with 98.5% He scored 100 marks in two subjects and 95 in English. He was followed by Anushka Guha (Humanities) scoring 94.75% and Aniket Gupta (Commerce) scoring 92.25%

In class X, 30 students scored 90% and above and 37 students scored 80% and above. Rishav Banerjee scored the highest with 98.4% followed by Nandini Shaw scoring 98% and Sohini Sadhukhan scoring 96.8%.

In Tribeni Tissues Vidyapith out of the 113 students who appeared in the ICSE, 112 students secured 1st division of which 30 students scored above 90%, bringing the average percentage of marks to 81.67%. The school topper's spot is shared by Anshumohan Acharya and Soumyadip Biswas, both securing 98% marks.

In ISC, Science stream, all the 40 students who appeared scored above 60% and 12 students scored above 90% bringing the overall average percentage to 85.16%. The topper Oishik Bandopadhyay

Out of the 33 students who appeared in Commerce, 28 students secured above 60%. The school topper, Subrata Ghosh, secured 89.75% marks.

The ISC toppers from St Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore are Abhirup Mazumdar with 98% (Science), Taisi Ghosh with 94.25% (Commerce), Sthapita Sutradhar and Priyasha Das with 98.25% (both from Humanities).

Altogether 161 students appeared for the ISC examination, of which 8% secured 95% to 99%, 25% got 90% to 94%, 45% obtained 80% to 89% and 19% secured 70% to 79% marks.

Some students have got 100% marks in physics, mathematics, computer science,

WEST BENGAL BOARDS

The toppers from **Andhra Association** High School for Higher Secondary examinations are Ritika Tiwari with 494 marks and 98.8%, followed by Ronak Agarwal with 493 marks and 98.6% and Aniket Choubey with 474 marks and 94.8%. Altogether 71 students appeared and passed from the school, out of which seven obtained 90% and above, 27 secured 80% to 89%, 18 obtained 70% to 79%, 13 secured 60% to 69% and six achieved 50% to 59%.

The WBBSE (Madhyamik) toppers from Silver Point School are Bikram Dev with 628 marks (90%), followed by Mrittika

Debnath with 623 marks (89%) and Saheli Paul 615 marks (88%). The WBCHSE (Higher Secondary examina-

tion) toppers from are Samaprita Mandal from Science stream with

450

marks

marks (92%), Sakshi Rajak with 458 marks (91.6%) and Priva Prasad with 400 marks (80%).

Paromita Das from the Humanities

In Hartley Higher Secondary School the

Madhyamik toppers this year are Soumi

Verma with 644 marks (92%) and Ravan

Lala with 646 marks (92.3%), Abhay

The Higher Secondary Science toppers

(87.6%), Meghadri Koley with 418 marks

(83.6%) and Shuvam Pal with 416 marks

Sweta Shah with 487 marks (97.4%), Ritu

Yaday with 481 marks (96.2%) and Nisha

Kumari with 460 marks (92%). The Arts

toppers are Akansha Singh with 460

(83.2%). The Commerce toppers are

are Saptaparna Ray with 438 marks

stream with 441 marks (88.2%).

Hota with 626 marks (89.4%).

and political science. The topper for ICSE examinations is Anirvan (90%), followed by Protonu Ghosh from Chakravarty with 99%. Altothe Science stream with 445 (89%) and gether 170 students appeared for ICSE examinations, out of which 12% scored above 95%,

36% above 90%, 68% above 80%, 68% above 80%, 88% above 70% marks. The highest marks, 100%, was achieved in Hindi, mathematics, computer applica-

tion, history/geography, science, eco application. The ISC toppers from **St** Augustine's Day School, **Shyamnagar** are Rounak Das with 97.50% (Science), Anubhav Sarma Sarkar with 96.25% (Commerce) and Singhani Roy Chowdhury with 90% (Hu-

manities). Altogether 81 appeared for the ISC examinations, out of which 6% achieved 95% to 99%, 21% achieved 90% to 94%, 36% secured 80% to 89% and 26% obtained 70% to 79%

The highest 100% marks was achieved in the following subjects — computer science, commerce and physical edu-

aminations is Nikhil Singh with 98.60%. Altogether 95 students appeared for the ICSE examinations, out of which 12% achieved 95% to 99%, 19% achieved 90% to 94%, 45% secured 80% to 89%, 20% obtained 70% to 79% marks.

The highest 100% marks, was achieved in Hindi, mathematics, history/geography, computer science, eco application.

The ICSE toppers from Agrasain Boys' School Liluah are Sukrit Malpani with 98%, followed by Prince Prasad with 97% and

physical education, commerce tal 139 students who appeared in the 3rd ICSE-2020 batch, 15 students achieved 94% and above, 16 students achieved between 90% and 93%, followed by 40 students in the range of 80% and 89% while 36 students got in the 70s. Remarkable feats have been achieved by the ICSE students (100%) in subjects: English Paper 2, second language (Hindi), history & civics, geography, mathematics, biology and computer

applications. The ISC Science toppers are Nitin Bhimrajka with 92.5%, followed by Divya Kumar Baid and Aman Singh, both securing 90.7%, and Subham Kumar with 88%. The Commerce toppers are Medhaj Khandelwal with 95.5% followed by Harsh Agarwal with 90.25% and Saurya Mal with 87.25%, Atidipt Pandey with 90.25%, followed by Shashank Tiwari with 82% and Shivwans Pandey with 77% topped the Humanities stream. Special mention with 100% marks were achieved in computer science (ISC-Science) and Commerce (ISC-Com-

Pailan World School has been seeing 100% success results for five consecutive years in ICSE. In ICSE Ananya Kundu came first with 96% (Science). Shirrsha Chakrabarti came second with 90.4% (Commerce) while Puradhi Roy Burman was in third place with 88.2% (Commerce).

In ISC the top performers were Shejal Kumari in first place with 91% (Science), Abhinaba Chouwdhury in second place with 90.3% (Science) and Mehendi Guha Roy in third place with 88.2% (Commerce).

The second ISC batch and 10th ICSE batch The topper for ICSE ex- of Lions Calcutta (Greater) Vidya Mandir came up with spectacular results this year. Thirty-eight students got above 90% while 69 got between 80% and 90% where 188 out of 190 passed in 1st division. In ICSE the toppers were Jaydeep Kuiti and Prashansa Mondal with 98.2% followed by Soham Dutta and Trisha Chakraborty with 96.4%.

In ISC the school toppers were Ahana Nandy with 96.75% (Science), Shreyansh Dugar with 90.75% (Commerce) and Tridip Mandal with 96% (Humanities).

The toppers from Admire English Medium School in the ICSE examinations are Mohit Kumar Singh with 87% and Akash Kumar Shaw with 80% marks. Mohit scored more than 90% in four subjects, while Akash scored more Oishik Nandi with 96.8%. Out of the to- than 85% marks in four subjects.