



212

Total number of species of freshwater fish found in western ghats



17%

Area of Maharashtra covered with thick forests

All of 13, boy clears Std XII, sets sights on engineering

dna correspondent

correspondent@dnaindia.net

It usually takes 16 to 17 years for one to complete his/her schooling and junior college, but Jamnagar boy Nirbhay Thacker has finished his HSC at age 13. It was possible thanks to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) board. Thacker said he completed his Stds VIII, IX and X in six months and later Stds XI and XII in three months in 2015-16.

On Thursday, he was given the Young Achiever Award by World Education Congress 2016.

"I believe that if you understand what you are reading you can clear any examination, learning by rote never helps one. That is how I cleared my schooling and junior college. I was in a CBSE school till Std VI, and that school was not allowing students to participate in any competition till completion of Std VI. So, I decided to change schools. I took admission in an IGCSE school as a private candidate. That helped me to clear five grades in one year."

Thacker also appeared for the JEE (Main) in which he secured 75/360. He now hopes to complete



Nirbhay Thacker felicitated at Taj Lands End on Thursday

—Emmanual Karbhari

his engineering in one year.

The teenager said, "We have approached the Gujarat Technological University to allow me to enrol. The university's vice chancellor has sent the proposal for approval to the University Grants Commission and All-India Council of Technical Education. We have also met Gujarat education minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, who assured of discussing the proposal with MHRD minister Smriti Irani."

"I wish to complete five branches of engineering in four years and meet our PM," he added.

Accolades for excellence in the field of education

Entrepreneur Karan Gupta received an award for Outstanding Contribution to Education at the National Education Awards, 2016. Since the past 17 years, Karan, a graduate of the Harvard Business School and IE Business School, has helped thousands of students with their education and career goals with his pathbreaking innovations in education.

He says, "It is an honour to receive this prestigious award. A lot still needs to be done to help students with their careers and I am grateful to make a difference in so many lives."



Karan Gupta

World Education Congress Highlights

Prof Dr Chandra Mauli Dwivedi, Director, N L Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research; and Chairman of the recently concluded World Education Congress (WEC), shares his perspective on the evolving Indian education scenario

Several reports state that about 45% of Indian graduates are unemployable. This is primarily due to a lack of effective communication skills (oral and written), poor cultural etiquette and lack of perspective when it comes to the implications of global citizenship. While we can look at creating finishing schools to shape up our students to meet contemporary employability demands, students must also be proactive when it comes to enhancing their abilities in soft skills, as required.

A lot of our graduates are unemployable simply because our existing curriculum does not

prepare them for the jobs available in the real world. Some of the students are smart enough to study for industry-relevant certifications whilst they are still in college, but it's time that we make functional skill development and vocational training part of the core curriculum. While the private sector is taking the onus of training people specifically to meet its requirements, we also need to look at the upcoming requirements and create an



industry-relevant curriculum, whether with regard to innovations, business analytics, digital marketing or emotional intelligence.

An excellent education must go beyond ISO certification and National Board of Education accreditation. Creating an academic-industry advisory board to align the course curriculum with industry requirements and involving the industry in designing the curriculum, could make a big difference to both the quality of education and the employability of graduates. In addition, we

need to facilitate soft-skill education that will develop students' emotional intelligence, creative skills and personality, whilst teaching them how to be innovative, take responsibility for the future and become business leaders.

'If not now, when?' was the theme of the WEC, which was attended by global thought leaders and educationalists from over 75 countries. The 'role of technology in shaping the future of higher education', 'education for sustainable development', 'creativity and innovation toward an excellent global workforce', were some of the other topics discussed.