



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

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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

**E**ntrepreneur 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