



Internship at Times of India's Mumbai Office in May-2023.



The Times of India - India's largest English newspaper (with over 2 million copies circulated daily), is very selective in offering student Internships, and am very happy to have been selected for this opportunity.

My internship was in the Editorial Division of **Times Response**, which is responsible for publishing the **Mumbai Edition of Times of India**. During this full-time Internship, I apprenticed under **Mr. Nauzer Bharucha, Senior Editor, The Times of India**, Mumbai, and was assigned by him to cover various *topical news stories* as an *Intern Correspondent*.

I enjoyed the Internship journalistically, and right from the first day of the Internship – and started independently covering external interactions (e.g. a Press Conference) as Tol's correspondent. I also visited Mumbai Police's Crime Branch to interact with Senior Police officials, conducted in-depth interviews, wrote news articles, attended planning meetings and worked closely with the Editing team to get my news articles published.

This Internship gave me a ring-side view of the deadline-oriented breaking-news cycle by working with the Editorial team through weekends and late nights to ensure that breaking stories were covered without a lag.

Five of my **independently authored news stories** and **Four co-authored news stories**, were published in the Main Book of the Mumbai Print Edition of Times of India, as well as released on Tol's Digital platforms.

S.No.	News Stories published	Publication Date	Web-link
SELF-AUTHORED NEWS STORIES			
1	2 years after heart transplant, Andheri student bags 74.1% Mission Admission (Page 02)	26 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/43nnaFf
	timesofindia.indiatimes.com	26 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3OGDwEk
2	85% for sailor student despite surgery month before exams Times City (Page 05)	14 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3O7YkEb
	timesofindia.indiatimes.com	14 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/41Ob6Lu
3	Magnified-font paper helps student with visual impairment score 83.4% in Class 12 Mission Admission (Page 06)	13 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3Mnnldg
	timesofindia.indiatimes.com		https://bit.ly/3BFVfKE
4	Despite fractured hand, teen notches 72.5% Mission Admission (Page 06)	13 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/44YaiXe
	timesofindia.indiatimes.com		https://bit.ly/3WocYtq
5	Times City (Page 04): Manipur Christians caught in violence sponsored by state	12 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3WkRH3v
	timesofindia.indiatimes.com: Secular activists denounce violence against Christians	11 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3ptuCPP
CO-AUTHORED NEWS STORIES			
6	Mission Admission (Page 02): Two ace exams despite motor, bleeding issues	26 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3WCaE1H
7	Mission Admission (Page 06): MEET MMR'S CLUB OF FIVE: ALL TOPPED WITH 99.8%	15 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3Oa0PWz
8	Mission Admission (Page 06): MEET SOME OF INDIA'S TOP 3	15 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3OaqjDj
9	Mission Admission (Page 06): COULDN'T HAVE BARGAINED FOR MORE	13 th May, 2023	https://bit.ly/3MuA2mW

News Headline: Secular activists denounce violence against Manipur Christians

Published on 12th May, 2023 in Times of India's Main Book, Times City Page (Page 4)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Secular activists denounce violence against Manipur Christians

TNN | May 11, 2023, 11:53 PM IST



By Bella Jaisinghani and Kuhu Bhattacharya

MUMBAI: Like-minded secular activists held a press conference at CSMT Thursday denouncing what they called the "state sponsored violence" that has engulfed the tribal Christian community of Manipur. Over 50 churches have been burnt, 60 people killed and thousands of tribals displaced in the small hill state.

The press conference was called by an organisation named United Against Injustice and Discrimination led by Justice (retd.) Abhay Thipsay, Shakir Shaikh and Dolphy D'souza.

Speakers including Catholic priest Fr Frazer Mascarenhas SJ, activists Irfan Engineer and Salim Khan, as well as journalist Niranjn Takle urged Mumbaikars to "stand in solidarity with minorities in other states, lest the danger that has knocked on the neighbour's door arrive at our doorstep."

A Behind the Scenes Glimpse: attending the Press Conference at Press Club of Mumbai, as Tol's correspondent, for the above-mentioned article:



News Headline: **STUDENTS BEAT HEALTH CONDITIONS, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES TO BEST EXAMS**

Published on 26th May, 2023 in Times of India's Main Book, Mission Admission Page (Page 2)

STUDENTS BEAT HEALTH CONDITIONS, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES TO BEST EXAMS

Two ace exams despite motor, bleeding issues

Mumbai: Krina Khokhani, a student of R A Podar College in Matunga, scored 94.17% in the HSC commerce exam despite battling Von Willebrand disease that impedes clotting of blood, since she was a toddler.

The 18-year-old has one piece of advice for students: There is no substitute for hard work. "I spent most of my 11th grade pursuing online extracurriculars and interning at a company as a sales associate," said the aspiring CA.

Another student of Podar College, **Om Patil** (18), born with a locomotor disability in both his arms, passed HSC commerce with 73%. Although his college offered him the option of a writer, he opted out, with the belief that he could appear for the exam all by himself.

The aspiring CA continued to prepare for the upcoming entrance exams while juggling preparation for HSC. He gives credit to his family and college faculty for constantly motivating him. — **Gowri Ramaswamy & Kuhu Bhattacharya**



2 years after heart transplant, Andheri student bags 74.1%

Kuhu Bhattacharya

Mumbai: Devendra Dubey—who underwent a heart transplant in 2021—scored 74.14% in his HSC arts exam. Despite battling cardiac failure and losing his state-level boxer brother, Gajendra, to a similar condition a few years ago, Dubey sailed through his board exams.

Dubey was diagnosed with the condition in December 2020 when he was 15 years old. During the second wave of the pandemic, he was admitted to Fortis Hospital. On January 21, 2021, he found a heart donor at 6pm and after eight hours of criteria checks, was taken to the operation theater at 2am the next day.

Though Dubey, a student of Bhavan's College in Andheri, is currently struggling with a condition called foot drop which makes it difficult for him to operate both his legs simultaneously, it did not stop him from serving the NSS



Devendra Dubey with his parents

(National Service Scheme) group of his college or take his board exams as a regular student. "I wouldn't be alive if it weren't for my parents' unconditional support, the heart donor and God's grace," said Dubey who aspires to study BMS.

18-yr-old with tubers, autism notches 63.8%

B B Nayak

Navi Mumbai: Ishaan Vivrekar (18), a CBD Belapur resident and student of Father Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashti, who has a rare genetic medical condition called Tuberosus Sclerosis Complex (TSC) that causes tubers in various parts of the body, including the brain, which left him with a speech disorder, and who also has autism spectrum disorder, scored 63.83% in his HSC science board exams.

As he had just recovered from Covid-19, he got special permission from the divisional board to have his mother, Namita, accompany him to the exam hall to physically support his elbows while he typed his answers on a laptop under the supervision of an invigilator and the permitted support of a reader. "He is good in computer science and English in which he scored 83.5% and 84%, respectively," said his mother. Vivrekar aims to become a computer engineer.



Lost-&-found sisters do orphanage proud

Gowri Ramaswamy

Mumbai: Sisters Rajeshree and Dhanshree Dhumal who were separated when "extremely young" miraculously found each other in 2011, when they were 8 and 6, respectively, at a city railway station. The police then led them to Snehasadan, an orphanage in Andheri (East).

They took the HSC arts exam this year along with 4 other students from the same orphanage. Rajeshree passed with 75.33% and Dhanshree scored 64.33%.

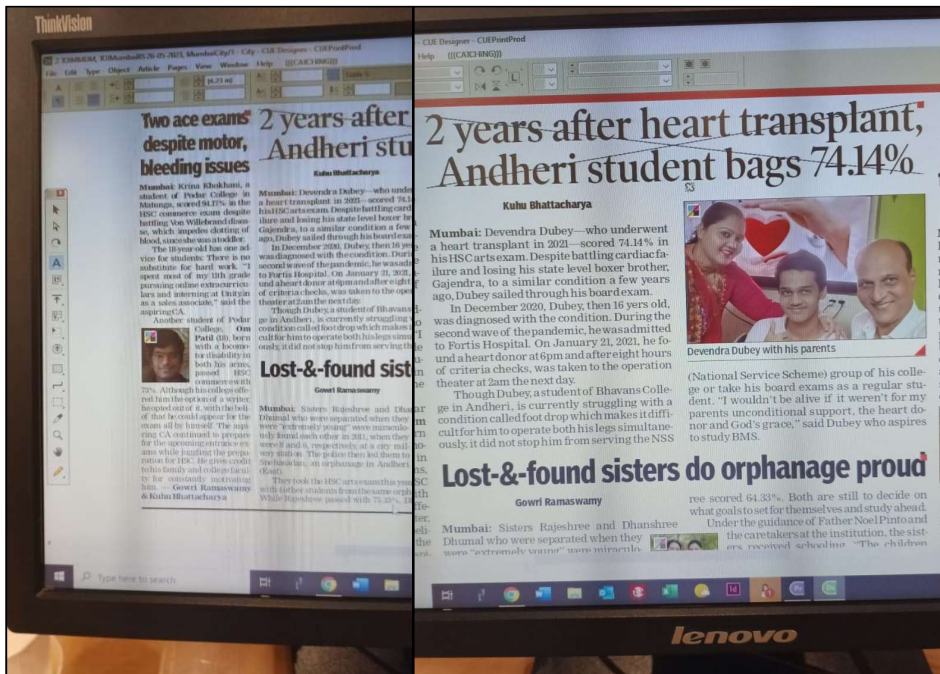


Both are still to decide on what goals to set for themselves and study ahead.

Under the guidance of Father Noel Pinto and the caretakers at the institution, the sisters received schooling.

"The children who come here are usually out of school and have not had basics covered in pre-school stages. They only start proper schooling after coming here," said Father Pinto. "It takes a lot of effort for the children to start at that age, and develop what it takes to face the board exams," he added with pride in the students.

A Behind the Scenes Glimpse: Pagination in progress at 'The Desk'



News Headline: MEET MMR'S CLUB OF FIVE: ALL TOPPED WITH 99.8%

Published on 15th May, 2023 in Times of India's Main Book, Mission Admission Page (Page 3)

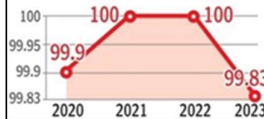
Text: Kuhu Bhattacharya. Pics: Anil Shinde

ICSE (Class 10)

PASS RATE All-India (%)

2020	2021	2022	2023
99.3	99.98	99.97	98.94

Maharashtra (%)



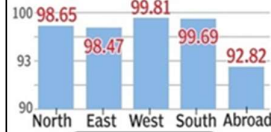
All-India (numbers)

Year	Schools	Students registered	Students successful
2020	2,341	2,07L	2,06L
2021	2,422	2,19L	2,19L
2022	2,535	2,31L	2,31L
2023	2,616	2,37L	2,35L

Maharashtra (numbers)

Year	Schools	Students registered	Students successful
2020	226	23,336	23,319
2021	234	24,359	24,358
2022	245	26,083	26,083
2023	253	27,109	27,063

Region-wise performance in 2023 (%)



BOYS VS GIRLS

All-India (Success rate %)

Gender	Success Rate (%)
Girls	99.2
Boys	98.7

Maharashtra (Success rate %)

Gender	Success Rate (%)
Girls	99.9
Boys	99.8

SCHOOL REPORT CARD

School	Students	Those with 90% & above
Jamnabai Narsee	276	194
Bombay Scottish	228	179
Chatrabhuj Narsee	197	151
Cathedral & John Connon	105	90

MEET MMR'S CLUB OF FIVE: ALL TOPPED WITH 99.8%



Shreya Upadhyay Bombay Scottish School, Mahim

As the valedictorian of my graduating class, I would like to emphasize for my junior peers the importance of consistency and avoiding burnout. The 10th syllabus is extremely simple and you should make time to pursue extracurriculars



Hiya Sanghavi Children's Academy, Malad

I'm immensely grateful to my parents and teachers, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been instrumental to my success. I owe a great debt of gratitude to them. I would like a career in music. One should pursue what one loves and never give up



Tanay Shah Kapil Vidyanidhi International School, Kandivli

This was the perfect Mother's Day gift. My mum supported me in my academic journey. I always believed in concentrated study and devoting time to extra-curricular activities. I plan on becoming a CA and to pursue an MBA after that



Advay Sardesai

Campion School, Fort

As head boy, I feel I've made my family and school proud. I would like to say, study every day, even if it is just for an hour. Now I am studying for A-levels in maths, physics and economics at the City of London School to prepare for my dream, a place at Oxford

I'm on top of the world looking at my score. Throughout the board exam season, I would take regular walks. So, take it easy, work hard and give your best. Study daily and don't give up. I come from a family of IITians and am preparing for JEE

News Headline: MEET SOME OF INDIA'S TOP 3

Published on 15th May, 2023 in Times of India's Main Book, Mission Admission Page (Page 3)

Text: Kuhu Bhattacharya, BB Nayak. Pics: Anil Shinde, KC Singh

MEET SOME OF INDIA'S TOP 3

ISC (Class 12)

PASS RATE All-India (%)

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pass Rate (%)	96.8	99.76	99.38	96.93

Maharashtra (%)

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pass Rate (%)	98.5	99.94	99.76	98.69

All-India (numbers)

Year	Schools	Students registered	Students successful
2020	1,125	88,409	85,611
2021	1,166	94,011	93,781
2022	1,228	96,940	96,340
2023	1,291	98,505	98,483

Maharashtra (numbers)

Year	Schools	Students registered	Students successful
2020	46	3,150	3,104
2021	53	3,427	3,425
2022	55	3,781	3,772
2023	62	4,113	4,059

Region-wise performance (2023)

Region	Score (%)
North	98.65
East	98.47
West	99.81
South	99.69
Abroad	92.86

GIRLS VS BOYS (2023)

Category	Registered	Passed	Pass Rate (%)
All-India Girls	46,724	45,796	98.01%
All-India Boys	51,781	49,687	95.96%
Maha Girls	2,179	2,157	98.99%
Maha Boys	1,934	1,902	98.35%

Special difficulty cases: Learning disability (216 students, of whom 19 secured above 90%)

Visually challenged (17 students, of whom two secured over 90%)

Ipshta Bhattacharya | 99.75% AIR 1, with 4 others | Humanities
Smt Sulochanadevi Singhania, Thane

“ I expected a high score, but not this much. I didn't go for tuitions. It was self-study. I didn't find comprehending subjects to be difficult. I want to pursue psychology now

Kirti Makhija | 99.25%. AIR 2, along with another | Commerce
Smt Sulochanadevi Singhania, Thane

“ I aspire to be a CA, like my parents, and prepared to gain entry to it along with my studies for the boards. This was my first board exam as our Class 10 exams were canceled because of Covid

Sudeep Bera | 99%. AIR 3, along with 5 others | Science
North Point School, Navi Mumbai

“ I skipped JEE this year because I wanted to secure impressive marks in Class 12. Now I will take a break from college for a year so that I can better prepare for JEE. I want to pursue computer science

News Headline: 85% for sailor student despite surgery month before exams

Published on 14th May, 2023 in Times of India's Main Book, Times City Page (Page 5)

85% for sailor student despite surgery month before exams

Mihika Dhamankar, a X student sailor studying at The Somaiya School in Vidhyavihar, is living proof that one can pursue a passion while excelling academically. Despite a grueling schedule, Mihika remained focused on her studies and sport.



Her day started at 4.30am, with an hour of studying, followed by a training session with her personal coach. She would attend school for half a

day and headed to the INWTC Sailing Club in Colaba at noon, where she trained for almost eight hours, attending the '470 Sail Boat' class. Mihika remained committed to her academic pursuits and attended tuition classes from her car on the way home at 8pm, after training.

However, Mihika's path has not always been 'smooth sailing'. During the tryouts for the Asian Games 2023, she suffered a serious knee injury

that required her to undergo an ACL and lateral meniscus surgery a month before her CBSE exams. This forced her to be confined to bed rest during a crucial time in her academic year.

Mihika got 85.2% with the help of parents, teachers and school principal Parveen Shaikh. On the big day, Mihika said, "Though I experienced discomfort with mobility in the exam hall, I was mentally determined to give my best."
—Kuhu Bhattacharya

News Headline: Magnified-font paper helps student with visual impairment score 83.4% in Class 12

Published on 13th May, 2023 in Times of India's Main Book, Mission Admission Page (Page 6)

Magnified-font paper helps student with visual impairment score 83.4% in Class 12

Mumbai: Soham Sesh, a Class 12 science student of R N Podar Hiranandani, secured 83.4% despite suffering from a genetic visual impairment. This condition causes the involuntary movement of the eyeballs, making it difficult for him to focus his vision. Sesh (17) also struggles with reading smaller fonts due to the ailment.

The CBSE board helped him by providing a separate chemistry question paper with a magnified font.

Sesh was also permitted to use a magnifying glass in the exam room for the remaining



set of his papers.

For his fellow juniors who have disabilities, Sesh has this advice: "We must not lose hope because the biggest roadblock to our success is our own inner voice, dictating our limitations. Beating this voice, empowered and helped me power through exam season."

Sesh expressed his gratitude to his family and teachers for their constant support throughout the academic year and exams. "Your disability does not disable you," said Sesh. —Kuhu Bhattacharya

Text: B B Nayak, Kuhu Bhattacharya. Pics: K C Singh

CBSE 2023 Class 12

NATION

Year	Schools	Students	Passed
2019	12,441	12L	10L
2020	13,108	11.9L	10.6L
2021	14,088	13L	12.96L
2022	15,079	14.4L	13.3L
2023	16,728	16.6 L	14.5 L

MAHARASHTRA

- Till 2019, Maharashtra was part of the Chennai region
- From 2020 onwards Pune region includes: Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

HIGH SCORERS

Year	Above 90%	Above 95%
2021	1.5L	1.3L
2022	1.1L	1.1L
2023	70,004	22,622

BOYS VS GIRLS: INDIA

(Success rate in %)

Year	Boys	Girls	Transgender
2019	79.4	88.7	83.3
2020	86.2	92.2	66.7
2021	99.1	99.7	100
2022	91.3	94.5	100
2023	84.67	90.68	60

BOYS VS GIRLS: MAHARASHTRA

(Success rate in %)

Year	Boys	Girls
2023	89.3	85.3

'COULDN'T HAVE BARGAINED FOR MORE'

“ I am preparing for JEE Advanced now to pursue computer science. My school and my parents contributed a lot to my success story. Scoring high, I could not have bargained for more. I was also one of the Class 10 board high scorers in 2021 with 99.8%. I am glad I have been able to maintain distinction on yet another occasion. I studied for 10-12 hours in the runup to the exams, which yielded the desired result
— Jairam Suresh Ayyar* | 99.4%, Science, Delhi Public School (DPS), Nerul
*Has scored 100 out of 100 in English and computer science and 99 out of 100 in chemistry, mathematics and physical education

“ I didn't expect over 95% but crossing 97% was a surprise. My law entrance exam got advanced to December, so I could spend only two months preparing for the boards. Giving my first board exam after online school for two years was intimidating but my father's mantra, "Life is a long way", got me through
— Ananya Dipali* | 97.6%, Commerce, RN Podar School, Santacruz
*Has scored 99 in economics, 98 in English, entrepreneurship and business studies, 95 in accountancy

“ Changing my stream was challenging, but I coped. I was in science in Class 11 and after the annual exams decided to embrace humanities in Class 12 because I was not good at maths. I never studied long hours and preferred breaks in the middle to rejuvenate. I have decided to pursue either computer science or psychology. Carnatic music and Bharatanatyam training for almost a decade helped me remain calm and composed
— Jaanavi Anand* | 98.2%, Humanities, Delhi Public School, Navi Mumbai
*Has scored 99 in psychology and informatics practices, 98 in physical education and English, and 97 in political science

Verification & Improvement

- Board will issue a notice for verification of marks.
- Students can improve performance in 1 subject (exam on Aug 23)
- 2024 exam from Feb 15 next year

PERFORMANCE OF INDIA'S TOP 3 REGIONS (in %)

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022
Thiruvanthapuram	98.2	97.67	99.89	98.83
Chennai	92.9	97.05	99.83	98.16
Delhi	91.8	96.17	99.7	97.79

PUNE REGION Pass %

News Headline: Despite fractured hand, Bhayander teen notches 72.5%

Published on 13th May, 2023 in Times of India's Main Book, Mission Admission Page (Page 6)

Despite fractured hand, Bhayander teen notches 72.5%

Mumbai: A fractured left hand a month before his board exams could not break Sahil Memon's spirit to appear for his Class 10 exams.

The 16-year-old scored 72.5%, with help of writer Vedant Maurya, a Class 9 student. Though Sahil is right-handed, "performing geometrical tasks was a challenge and hence my school provided me with a writer," said the student of R B K Global School in Bhayander.

On the fateful day of January 24, when Memon was riding pillion with his elder brother Naved, their scooter skid and the brothers fell. "The entire pressure of my body fell on my left hand and I had to be operated on. My brother escaped unhurt," said Memon, who took his second preliminary exams online. His first preliminary exams were taken before the accident. Memon's fragile bone required a plate for support, leading him to spend a month in bedrest. Weeks before the exams, when Memon was feeling better, he managed to attend extra classes in school. Memon said had he written the papers himself he would have scored more marks. He now wants to pursue the commerce stream.

The thought of not taking the board exams did not cross Memon's mind as his teachers encouraged him to keep studying. He said his father ensured he was available to take him to school to attend the extra lecturers. — **Kuhu Bhattacharya**

