CBSE and ICSE ace state boards

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New Delhi, March 12: Schoolchildren from national boards have outperformed those from the state boards in the first-ever standardised countrywide test of Class X pupils, carried out as part of a sample survey by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Students from the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, which conducts the ICSE exam, and the Central Board of Secondary Education have come out tops while Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu hug the basement. **(See chart)**

NCERT surveyors visited 7,216 schools, affiliated to 33 state boards and two national boards, and tested 277,416 students on five subjects with a standard set of multiple-choice questions.

Nagaland and Goa are top among the states while Bengal and Karnataka follow closely. Bengal's Class X pupils have done the best across the nation in the modern Indian language test (Bengali in their case), scoring 73 against a national average of 53.

They have beaten the national average in English as well and equalled it in mathematics while slipping in science and social science.

Rural and Dalit children have fared worse than urban and upper caste pupils, while those from government schools have lagged their counterparts from government-aided and private schools.

The survey was conducted in November 2014 and February last year but the results were released recently.

"The findings give the state-wise level of performance. The states can analyse the data and take measures to improve the standards of learning," said Y. Sreekanth, head of the NCERT's education survey division.

In English and modern Indian language, the students were tested on reading comprehension and "language elements".

In mathematics, the questions were from arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, coordinate geometry and statistics.

The science questions were from chemistry, physics, biology, food and natural resources. The social science test covered history, economics, geography and politics.

SCHOOL REPORT

How students of some state boards and national boards performed in countrywide tests that were part of an NCERT sample survey (figures show scores out of 100)

	English	Math	Science	Social Science	MIL*
National average	41	40	43	47	53
CISCE (ICSE)	84	61	68	61	69
CBSE	68	50	57	59	70
Nagaland	63	34	41	48	NA**
Karnataka	45	32	43	53	NA**
Bengal	44	40	41	45	73
Odisha	38	43	37	38	53
Assam	38	38	38	37	49
Punjab	32	30	32	34	48
Gujarat	30	31	33	32	48
MP	30	31	31	35	44
Tamil Nadu	30	30	33	36	40

*** Modern Indian Language, the main language in the state**

**** Not uploaded by NCERT till Saturday evening**

Study survey

Sreekanth said the NCERT surveys students of Classes III, V and VIII every three years. This survey of Class X students followed a prod from the Union human resource development ministry.

Individual results will not be provided to the students, Sreekanth said.

"The objective of the study was to find out the performance of a state in general. This was not to target the individual learner but to address systemic issues in learning," he said.

Two years ago, Bengal had figured among the top four states — with Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh — in the NCERT's latest survey of Class V and Class VIII pupils. But experts had said the state's high dropout rate may have played a part by weeding out the weaker students.

Bihar and Jharkhand had figured near the bottom.