

# Sunshine story: Jangalmahal boys make a mark in CBSE

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Two tribal boys, who had very rudimentary understanding of English till five years ago, scored 91 and 83 in the subject in the CBSE Class X exams. While Rohit Mahadeb Kumar Mandi and Mahadeb Ba-



gal are elated, principal and teachers at South Point High School said they were particularly proud of their performance, given their disadvantaged backgrounds and odds of transiting from a rustic life in sparsely populated Jangalmahal to the city.

Rohit from Murasol in Jhargram, who scored 74% in the boards, and Mahadeb from Nunia, who scored 83.6%, are among the 11 children who were hand-

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**Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee |**  
PRINCIPAL, SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL

picked by chief minister Mamata Banerjee during her visit to Jangalmahal five years ago. South Point was entrusted with their studies and grooming, a responsibility the school authorities had accepted with a hint of trepidation. The other children are now in Class X and will appear for their boards next year.

“It is not easy to leave one’s family and friends behind in a remote village and adjust to life in a big city, especially when the

person is in Class VI. They were initially tentative, shy and apprehensive. But they had dreams of their own and determination. They were also lucky to have classmates who welcomed them with warmth and friendship. It did not matter the new boys spoke differently, and at times, hardly spoke. Teachers paused to make sure that Rohit and Mahadeb were not left behind,” said principal Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee.

Teachers said the students were always strong in Bengali (Mahadeb scored 97 in the subject and Rohit 90). But it was heartening the way they took to English as a medium of instruction. Special classes and counselling by mentor teachers ensured the initial apprehension chipped away. “We are so happy that they are now no different from the other students in the school,” added Bhattacharjee.

Rohit and Mahadeb have taken admission in the commerce stream in Class XI.