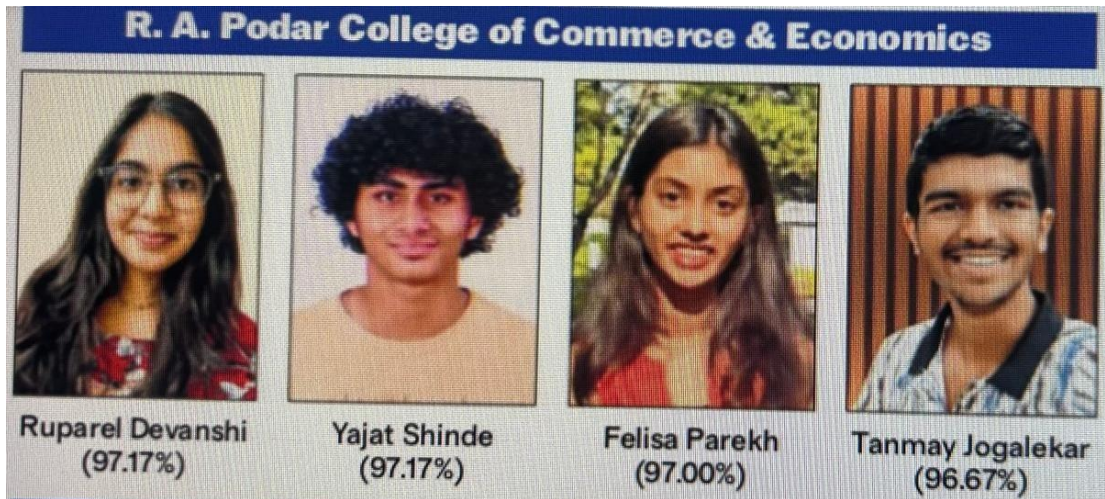


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News article on the HSC Toppers, Maharashtra – May 2026



Gymnast scales 97.17% peak in Commerce

Simple Vishwakarma
MUMBAI

For most Class 12 students, the Maharashtra HSC result marks the end of one demanding academic year. For Yajat Shinde, it came in the middle of something even more layered: board exams, competitive entrance preparation, recovery from surgery and years of national-level sport.

The student from RA Podar College of Commerce and Economics scored 97.17% in the commerce stream, a result he says he took in stride. Yajat, a national medallist in gymnastics, has been practising the sport for nearly 10 years.



During the HSC year, his sporting background earned him 15 additional marks for winning a state-level gold medal.

Behind the high score was also a difficult physical phase; Yajat underwent surgery in February 2025 for a shoulder injury sustained during gymnastics practice in 2023. The recovery required six months of rest, a major pause for an athlete.

Realistic about returning to full-scale gymnastics, Yajat has shifted to the Integrated Programme in Management Aptitude Test (IPMAT) scheduled for May 4. He aims to pursue the programme offered by select IIMs, with a preference for Indore or Ranchi.

This is a stepping stone, says RA Podar student

Simple Vishwakarma
MUMBAI

RA Podar College of Commerce and Economics (RAPCCE) student Devanshi Ruparel emerged as a notable performer in the commerce stream with 97.17%. For Devanshi, the result was reassuring and personal. "I am very grateful and over the cloud. This is like a stepping stone towards success," she said, adding that the result strengthened her self-belief and confidence.

Unlike the image often associated with board toppers, Devanshi said her preparation was not built

around long, exhausting study hours. Her classes ended in December 2025, around the same time as college prelims. The intensive phase of preparation began in January 2026. "My board exams stretched for almost a month. Usually, commerce exams get over earlier, but mine went on till March 10 because of two extra subjects," she said. Even during the exam period, she did not isolate herself, continuing to go out for dinners and meet friends. She also celebrated her birthday during the examination period.

Devanshi also did not take a social media break, maintaining her Instagram account throughout.

