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More toppers to push cutoffs at Delhi University

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NEW DELHI: The jump in the number of high-scorers in the CBSE final exam this year is likely to impact the cutoffs for the undergraduate admissions at Delhi University and Ambedkar University. The situation may be especially critical in the humanities with 21 out of the 23 all-India top three rankers coming from this stream.

This year, the number of the students scoring between 90% and 95% has shot up by 21,700 compared with last year, while 17,690 students have scored more than 95% marks, a jump of 12,737. There is likely to be a tough competition to get into popular humanities courses at DU with several students getting the perfect 100 — 1,818 in economics, 660 in political science, 577 in history and 659 in psychology.

The two all-India toppers — Karishma Arora and Hansika Shukla who got 499 out of 500 — have already expressed their desire to study psychology in DU. “I want to apply at Lady Shri Ram College, Jesus & Mary College or St Stephen’s,” Arora said.

While some colleges are planning to start with a high first cutoff, several others will wait for the number of applications. A senior LSR official said, “As many toppers are willing to study here, the cutoff is likely to increase.” Last year, the cutoff for psychology at LSR was the highest at 98.75%. However, principal Suman Sharma said the college would take the final decision on the basis of the number of applications.

Several other principals agreed. “The DU cutoff depends on the number of applications colleges receive. As these applications

are centralised, an estimate cannot be made,” said Miranda House acting principal Bijayalaxmi Nanda. There’s also a world beyond North Campus colleges, she said.

Simrit Kaur, principal of SRCC, said, “We will have to wait for more information to arrive at a specific number.” DU had been, for the past two years, asking its colleges to keep a “reasonable cutoff list”.

Ambedkar University (AUD), another sought-after destination, is also planning to tweak its cutoffs. Though a conservative cutoff was kept last year, the Delhi-based university is likely to increase it this year because of popularity for its “progressive courses”.

AUD vice-chancellor Anu Lather said the “students understand the importance of such cross-sectional, intersectional and interdisciplinary work”.