



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 9, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On May 8, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation (TNCF) at an event in Chennai.
- ✓ The TNCF is formed to improve sports and sports infrastructure in the state with contribution from corporate



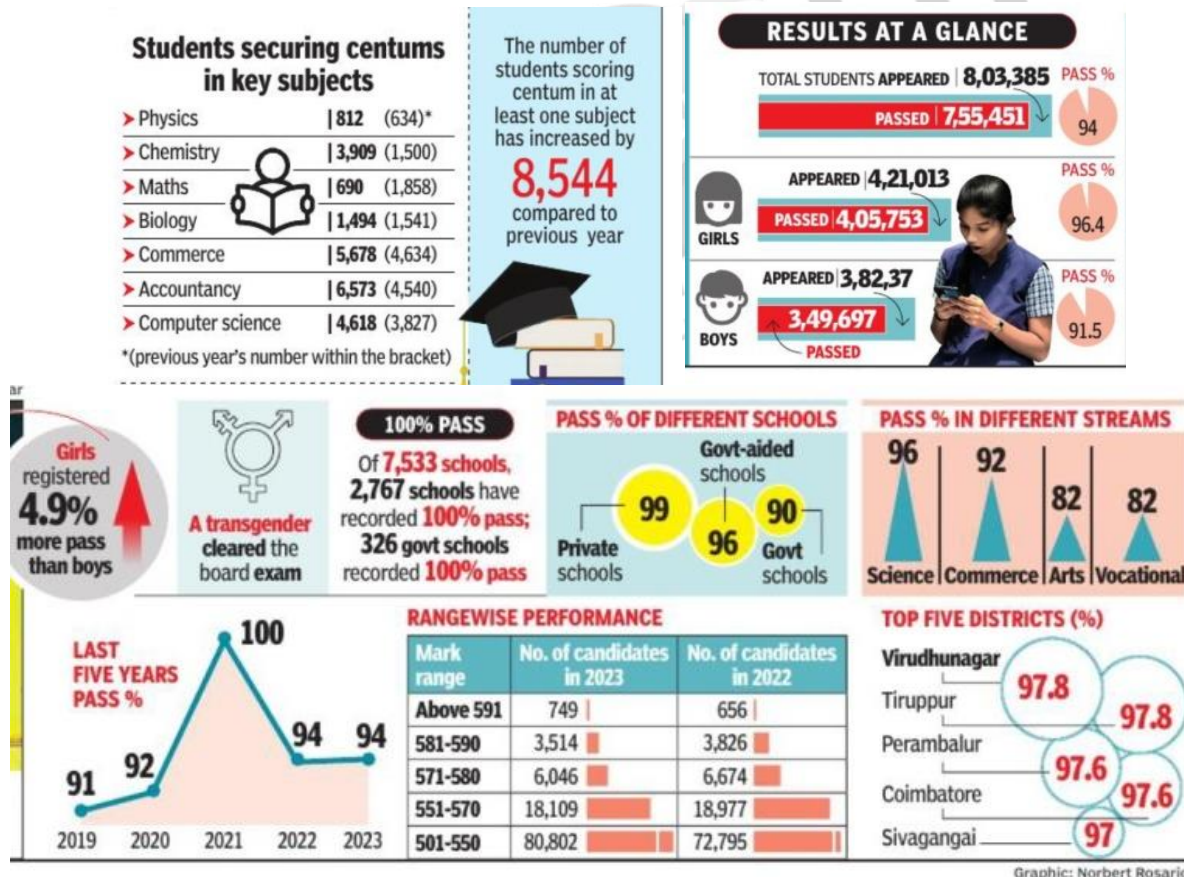
- ✓ Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin presided over the event, while Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was the guest of honour.
- ✓ During the event, M S Dhoni launched the logo and portal of the foundation, which is a unique initiative of the sports department.
- ✓ Senior cabinet ministers Thangam Thennarasu, Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, MP Dayanidhi Maran and other state sports authorities and officials participated in the event.
- ✓ A logo and mascot for the Chief Minister's trophy besides a theme song were also unveiled during the occasion.
 - ✓ The CM's Trophy logo is the tamil word 'Tamil Nadu' with embedded illustrations of persons playing various sports and chess horse, while it has the slogan 'Kalam Namathae! (The field is ours!)'.

- ✓ The official mascot is the humanoid Nilgiri Tahr, the state animal of Tamil Nadu, named 'Veeran'
 - ✓ Responding to a request made by Sports Minister Udhayanidhi, the Chief Minister announced a contribution of Rs 5 lakh from his funds towards the foundation.
 - ✓ The foundation, which will serve as an ideal launchpad for sports promotion in the state, is a public-private partnership venture.
 - ✓ The TNCF is a registered company facilitating corporations to provide funds under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme
 - ✓ A total of Rs 23.50 crore has been received as a contribution, including the government's share, within five days of the pre-launch of the event on May 3
 - ✓ Before the TNCF initiative was announced, Sports Minister Udhayanidhi had visited Odisha and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Odisha government.
 - ✓ This was the first time in the State that an MOU has been signed with another State for promoting and sharing sports training and infrastructure
- **S Nandhini, a student from Dindigul district - has made history by scoring 600 out of 600 marks in the Class 12 board examination in Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ This is the first time a student has secured 100 out of 100 marks in all subjects in the Plus Two examination.
- ✓ School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi declared the Class 12 board exam results at Anna Centenary Library Complex, Kotturpuram, Chennai on May 8
- ✓ A student of the commerce group, Nandhini scored six centums in Economics, Tamil, English, Accountancy, Commerce and Computer Application
- ✓ Nandhini's achievement is remarkable, given her humble background as her father is a carpenter.
- ✓ She was studying Commerce at Annamalaiyar Girls Higher Secondary School in Dindigul, a government-aided institution.

- ✓ She is one among two students in the state who have scored centum in Tamil.
- ✓ N Gayathri, who studied in the corporation school on the M H Road in Perambur, got the highest marks among corporation school students after scoring 592 out of 600 marks.
- ✓ Corporation school in Kodambakkam's Puliur secured 100% pass percentage.
- ✓ The overall pass percentage of students who appeared for the class 12 exams in Tamil Nadu was 94.03%.
- ✓ Out of the total number of students who passed, 91.45% were male, and 96.38% were female
- ✓ In accountancy, 6,573 students scored full marks followed by students of commerce (5,678) and those of computer science (4,618).
- ✓ The highest number of students who passed in a subject was in computer science (99.2%).
- ✓ In the science subjects, the most centums were recorded in chemistry (3,909), while in English, where it is generally considered difficult to score a centum, 15 students scored full marks.



- ✓ A total of 8,03,385 students appeared for the exams, held in March-April, with 7,55,451 of them passing.
- ✓ As many as 4,398 differently-abled candidates appeared for the exams and 3,923 (89.2%) of them passed.
- ✓ Further, 79 out of 90 prisoners who wrote the exams passed, while the lone transgender who appeared in the exams also cleared it

- ✓ Last year, the pass percentage was 93.76%.
- ✓ According to the School Education department, Virudhunagar topped the districts with the highest number of passes (97.8%) followed by Tirupur and Perambalur districts with 97.8% and 97.6%.
- ✓ The school education minister said the state government would give special coaching to the 47,000 students who did not appear for the Class XII exam.
- ✓ Further, the state government is offering mental health counselling and guidance to 47,934 students who have failed to clear the class XII board examination
- ✓ Three centres – around 20 of them from 104 call centres in DMS, 60 from the 1100 chief minister’s helpline and 20 counsellors from 14416 Tele Manas, a national tele mental health programme – have been speaking to students and their parents to “prevent them from making wrong decisions”.
- ✓ The supplementary exams are scheduled to be conducted from June 19.

AWARDS

- **University of Delhi professor Sathyabhama Das Biju, also popularly known as the “Frogman of India” - has been named as a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard University for 2023-2024.**



- ✓ This fellowship will allow him to pursue his ongoing research on the conservation of amphibian species in the Indian subcontinent at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study in the upcoming academic year.
- ✓ The Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University is a highly prestigious research institution that selects fifty fellows each academic year
- ✓ The Institute selects the academicians who “demonstrate an extraordinary level of accomplishment in their work” and grants them a year-long stipend to fulfil their respective projects using the interdisciplinary setup and the immense resources of Harvard
- ✓ Biologist Sathyabhama Das Biju is currently the head of the Systematic Labs at the Department of Environmental Studies in University of Delhi

- ✓ Past fellows have included intellectuals and academicians like Jill Lepore, Samantha Power, Zadie Smith, Elizabeth Warren, and the Nobel laureate Michael Kremer.
- ✓ Professor Biju started his career as a plant systematist at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute in 1992
 - ✓ Later, he shifted to amphibian research in 2000 and joined Franky Bossuyt at the Amphibian Evolution Lab in Brussels.
 - ✓ From then on, Professor Biju discovered 100 new species and formally describing 96 new species, eight new genera, and two new families of amphibians in the span of a decade.
- ✓ His work came into international limelight with the creation of his conservation projects, namely, the Western Ghats Network of Protected Areas of Threatened Amphibians (WNPATA) and the Lost Amphibians of India (LAI), to save rapidly vanishing amphibians in the South Asian subcontinent.
- ✓ Professor Biju is the sixtieth fellow representing Biological Sciences in the 23 years of this programme and only the second fellow in this discipline from India
- ✓ He had recently won the Kerala Sree award instituted by the Kerala government for his outstanding contributions in the field of science.

