

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 7, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chennai region - recorded a pass percentage of 99 in the Class X board exam results announced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on May 6**
 - ✓ In the Chennai region, girls recorded a pass percentage of 99.39, which was slightly higher than that of the boys, who recorded a pass percentage of 98.70.
 - ✓ Chennai region stood at the second place in the entire country, behind Trivandrum which secured the top spot
 - ✓ B. Kaviya Varshini, a student of Vidhya Niketan Public School, Coimbatore, who secured 497 marks, found a place in the list of 97 toppers from across the country
 - ✓ Chennai region comprises of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu

STATES

- ◆ **Karnataka Government – issues guidelines on the reduction of weights of schoolbags**
 - ✓ Following the order of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, the state had taken necessary steps to ensure that the weight of a schoolbag is not more than 10% of the child's weight
 - ✓ Highlights of the Guidelines
 - ✓ The bag of a student in Class 1 or 2 would weigh no more than 2 kg
 - ✓ For students from Class 3 to 5, the bag can weigh anywhere between 2 to 3 kg
 - ✓ The students in Class 6 to 8 can carry bags weighing 3-4 kg range
 - ✓ Students in Class 9 and 10 are allowed carrying bags in the 4-5 kg range
 - ✓ Students in Classes 1 and 2 should not be given any homework, with all the classwork notes to be kept in the school itself in allocated spaces

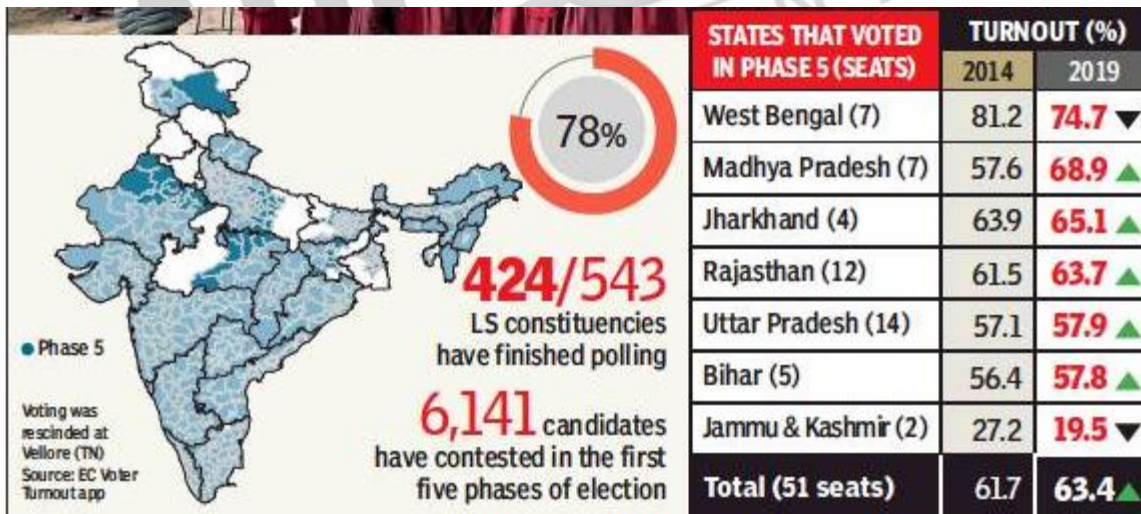
- ✓ Students should not carry water bottles to the schools and it is the school's responsibility to make sufficient provisions for the drinking water facilities
- ✓ The third Saturday of every month would be observed as a "No School Bag Day" and on that day, the teachers should engage the students without any books in field activities or games

NATIONAL

◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has announced a further assistance of Rs 1,000 Crore for assistance to the Fani affected state, Odisha

- ✓ Earlier, Rs 341 crores had been provided to Odisha as an advance to its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)
- ✓ Prime Minister also announced Rs. 2 lakh ex-gratia each for the family member of dead in the natural disaster and Rs. 50,000 for the injured
- ✓ Around 1.08 crore people in 14,835 villages spread across at least 11 districts have been affected by the cyclone Fani in Odisha

◆ More than 63% voter turnout - was witnessed on May 6 during the fifth phase of polling for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections



- ✓ With this phase, polling for 78% of parliamentary constituencies has been completed

◆ The Centre - has announced the new guidelines for FAME-2 scheme

- ✓ As per the new norms, the Electric and hybrid vehicle manufacturers will have to indigenize a significant portion of the components to avail benefits

- ✓ The Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) has put out a list of key components for the manufacturers to source locally in order to avail the incentives under the scheme
- ✓ These guidelines are applicable across all vehicle categories including electric two-wheelers, electric three-wheelers and e-rickshaws, four-wheelers and electric buses
- ✓ Electric vehicle manufacturers will have to localize manufacturing of wheel rims integrated with hub motor and the HVAC units (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) from 1 October 2019.
- ✓ Key components like electronic throttle, vehicle control unit along with the onboard charger for all approved vehicle categories, and electric compressor and the DC charging inlet, both for the electric cars and buses are aimed for indigenization from 1 October 2020
- ✓ The first phase of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles Scheme or the FAME scheme was introduced on 1 April 2015
- ✓ The scheme is part of the government's ambitious plan to boost electric mobility through greater indigenization
- ✓ With an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore till 2022, the Phase 2 was notified in March 2019
- ✓ The second phase aims to create adequate charging infrastructure by proposing 2700 charging stations, so that there will be availability of at least one charging station in a grid of 3 km x 3 km

◆ **'GRIHA for Existing Day Schools', a rating tool – launched by The Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council – to evaluate the performance of schools with respect to the environment**

- ✓ After the evaluation, it will provide solutions for enhanced energy and water efficiencies, increased thermal and visual comfort, and decreased operational and maintenance costs
- ✓ GRIHA Council was founded by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) with support from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy along with a variety of experts in the field

◆ **The overall pass percentage of 91.1% - is recorded in the CBSE Class X exam results declared on May 6**

- ✓ It is the highest in the history of compulsory Class X Board exams for CBSE
- ✓ 13 students topped scoring with 499 out of 500 (with eight of them from schools in Uttar Pradesh), followed by 25 students who got 498 and 59 who scored 497
- ✓ The last compulsory Class X exam before the CCE era was in 2009 when the pass percentage was 88.84%.

- ✓ Girls continue to outshine boys with 92.45% pass percentage as against 90.14% of the boys.
- ✓ Of the 17.6 lakh students who appeared for the tests, a record 2.25 lakh scored 90% and above, with as many as 57,256 scoring 95% and above in aggregate.
- ✓ Region-wise, Trivandrum topped with a pass percentage of 99.85, followed by Chennai at 99 and Ajmer at 95.89
- ✓ Guwahati region is at the bottom with a pass percentage of 74.49%
- ✓ Among the institutions, Kendriya Vidyalayas (99.47%) have outperformed the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas this year (98.57%)
- ✓ Lowest in the rank among institutions are the government schools with a pass percentage of 71.91%
- ✓ The results were announced 32 days after the completion of the exam.

◆ **A three-judge in-house Supreme Court panel headed by Justice S A Bobde - dismissed a sacked SC woman employee's sexual harassment complaint against CJI Ranjan Gogoi**

- ✓ The in-house committee has found no substance in the allegations contained in the complaint dated April 19, 2019, of a former employee of the Supreme Court of India
- ✓ The panel, comprising Justices Bobde, Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee, submitted its report to Justice Arun Mishra, the third most senior judge in the SC after the CJI, as the second most senior judge, Justice N V Ramana recused himself from the panel
- ✓ The woman had sent the affidavit to the judges on April 19 complaining of alleged sexual harassment on October 11, 2018, by the CJI
- ✓ The complainant said she was "highly disappointed and dejected" to learn that the in-house committee had found no substance in her complaint
- ✓ According to Indira Jaising vs Supreme Court of India & Another [2003 (5) SCC 494] case verdict, the report of a committee constituted as a part of the in-house procedure is not liable to be made public
- ✓ Indira Jaising vs SC was also a case of sexual harassment by sitting HC judges of Karnataka

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

◆ **The Supreme Court - rejected the review petition filed by 21 opposition parties on May 7, 2019 - seeking 50% verification of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) during counting of votes in Lok Sabha Elections 2019**

- ✓ A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi mentioned that it would require huge manpower and is not feasible due to infrastructural difficulties

- ✓ Earlier on April 8, 2019, the SC had directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to increase the random checking of VVPAT slips from 1 EVM to 5 EVMs in each assembly of a parliamentary constituency
- ✓ The Election Commission also informed SC that the 50% verification would delay the announcement of results by at least 6 days
- ✓ The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is a method of providing feedback to voters, through a printed paper, as to whom they had voted

DEFENCE

- ◆ **The Indian Army - to induct an additional 464 Russian-origin upgraded T-90 “Bhishma” main battle tanks (MBTs) on Pakistan front**



- ✓ These tanks would be inducted in the 2022-2026 time-frame at a cost of Rs 13,448 crore
- ✓ The ‘indent’ to produce the tanks would soon be placed on the Avadi Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF) under the Ordnance Factory Board
- ✓ The Army already has around 1,070 T-90 tanks as well as 124 Arjun and 2,400 older T-72 tanks in its 67 armoured regiments.
- ✓ After the first 657 T-90 tanks were imported for ₹8,525 crore from Russia from 2001 onwards, another 1,000 are being progressively licensed produced by HVF with Russian kits.

APPOINTMENTS

◆ Justice PR Ramachandra Menon - was sworn in as the 13th Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court



- ✓ He replaces Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi, who has resigned after his appointment as judicial member of Lokpal
- ✓ Justice Menon has earlier served as Additional Judge of Kerala High Court from January 2009, elevated later as the permanent Judge of Kerala High Court in December 2010

◆ Industrialist Milind Pralhad Kamble - has been appointed chairperson of the Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Management, Jammu



- ✓ With the appointment, he becomes the first person from the Scheduled Caste community to occupy the position
- ✓ In October 2018, the law ministry said fresh board of governors (BoGs) should be constituted in each IIM in keeping with the IIM Act, 2017
- ✓ The IIM Act was passed in December 2017 and notified in February 2018
- ✓ The Act requires each IIM to set up a 15-member BoG with representation from specific categories, including alumni, SC/ST, faculty and so on.
- ✓ Kamble is the founder of the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI)

SPORTS

- ◆ **Anmol Jain and Esha Singh won the mixed air pistol team bronze medal in the Grand Prix of Liberation international shooting competition at Plzen, Czech Republic**



- ✓ The other Indian team of Deepak Sharma and Annu Raj Singh also made the final, shot in the old format with the top five teams, but ended up fifth.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ◆ **World Asthma Day – May 7, 2019**



- ✓ The World Asthma Day is observed annually on the first Tuesday of May
- ✓ The observance of the day intends to spread awareness about Asthma and its care around the world.
- ✓ The day is organised and sponsored by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)
- ✓ Theme 2019 – ‘STOP for Asthma’
- ✓ In the theme, STOP stands for Symptom evaluation, Test Response, Observe and assess & Proceed to adjust treatment
- ✓ The Day was first organised in 1998 and was celebrated in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain.
- ✓ The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) was launched in 1993 in collaboration with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, USA, and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ✓ GINA is also one of the founding participants in the World Health Organization's Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD).

