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Niche coaching options aid civil service test performance

Tamil literature, a popular subject among candidates, is a winning factor

CHENNAI: Tamil literature is a popular option among candidates taking the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examinations, and it often proves to be a winning factor, teachers at civil services training centres say.

There is a perception that the marking system is favourable to them. The availability of dependable coaching facilities in Chennai and the fact that Tamil medium students find it a relatively advantageous choice add to its popularity. Of the 20 successful candidates from Ganesh's IAS Academy, a coaching centre here, nine had taken Tamil literature for these reasons, says Ganesa Subramaniam, its director.

While specialised coaching centres are not a new phenomenon, IAS coaching centres are increasingly concentrating on their core strengths, without trying to offer coaching for all subjects. This makes certain subjects and coaching centres popular, as students need to take only two optional subjects besides their general studies paper in the main examination. Mr. Subramaniam's centre, for example, offers coaching only for Tamil literature, public administration and geography.