

August - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The AU Small Finance Bank is the largest small finance bank in India.
  - It is the first financial services provider in India to present a 24×7 live video banking solution.

## TAMIL NADU

### Freedom Filling Station



- ❖ It is located at Puzhal central prison, Chennai.
- ❖ It has the Special Prison for Women (SPW-Puzhal).
- ❖ It is the nation's first retail fuel outlet run by women convicts.
- ❖ The prisoners will get Rs 6,000 each as monthly salary for this work.
- ❖ Earlier, the same kind was established at Coimbatore in 2019 by Indian Oil.
- ❖ But it was the male prisoners and this time it was female.

### Porpanai kottai – circular brick structure

- ❖ A portion of a circular brick structure has been unearthed by archaeologists at Porpanaikottai
- ❖ It is a Sangam-age site in Pudukkottai district.

- ❖ Potsherds, comprising glazed ware, blackware, black and red ware, roof tiles, perforated ware and three pieces of rouletted ware, a distinctive type of decorated pottery, have also been found.
- ❖ A hopscotch made of rouletted ware is a rare and important find.
- ❖ A Sangam-age fort is believed to have existed here.
- ❖ A habitation mound, spread over 1.26 hectares, is believed to have existed within the fort.



## **NATIONAL**

### **Panel to select Election Commissioners**

- ❖ The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 was introduced by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Instead of the CJI, the three-member panel would consist of a cabinet minister besides the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, and the Prime Minister, who would head it.
- ❖ It aims at removing the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from a three-member panel to select the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners.
- ❖ At first, a list of five persons would be prepared for the selection committee's consideration for appointment as the CEC and Election Commissioners.
- ❖ In March, the Supreme Court had ruled that the selection panel should comprise the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha and the CJI.

- ❖ The court had said the order would hold good until a law was made by Parliament.
- ❖ Till this SC ruling, Election Commissioners and CECs had been appointed by the President after recommendations from the government.

## Unevenly Balanced

Clause 7 (1) of The Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service And Term of Office) Bill, 2023, says



**CEC and ECs shall be appointed by President on the recommendation of a selection committee consisting of the PM (chairperson), the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (or leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha) and Union Cabinet minister nominated by the PM**

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Clause 6 says search committee will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary, and comprise of two other members not below the rank of secretary of the Government of India

### 133rd report on Judicial Process and their Reforms

- ❖ A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has recommended extending the retirement age of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts of India.
- ❖ It further recommended that judiciary needs to be sensitized from shutting down courts en masse for a couple of months a year.
- ❖ The committee suggested six reforms that includes

- Social Diversity in the appointment of Judges in the High Court and Supreme Court;
- Feasibility of Regional Benches of Supreme Court;
- Exploring the possibilities of increasing the retirement age of High Court and Supreme Court Judges;
- Vacations in the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- Mandatory declaration of assets by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- Preparation and publication of Annual Reports by the Supreme court and High court.



### Health Management Information System (HMIS) 2022-23



- ❖ It reveals that 6 States/Union Territories (UTs) have attained full immunization coverage (FIC) of 100%.
- ❖ While 17 States have achieved FIC of over 90%.
- ❖ The Mission Indradhanush (MI) initiative is operating under the Universal Immunization Program (UIP).

- ❖ It focuses on low-immunization areas to vaccinate children and pregnant women who missed Routine Immunization.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Belem Declaration



- ❖ The South American nation leaders convened to prioritize the Amazon rainforest's protection during the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization summit (ACTO).
- ❖ It marks the first meeting of the 45-year-old organization (1978) in 14 years.
- ❖ It held at Belem, a Brazilian city.
- ❖ It reinforces Brazilian President's strategy to leverage global concern for Amazon's preservation
- ❖ ACTO serves as a global entity dedicated to fostering sustainable growth within the Amazon Basin.
- ❖ The nations involved in this organization are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.
- ❖ The Amazon stretches across an area twice the size of India.
- ❖ Two-thirds of it lie in Brazil, with seven other countries and one territory share the remaining third.
- ❖ Its vast expanse still holds 10 percent of Earth's biodiversity.

## ECONOMY

### Jan Dhan beneficiaries

- ❖ In the fiscal year 2022-23, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu emerged as the leading three states in terms of the most number of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.



- ❖ The core aim of the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is to ensure equitable access to a range of financial services.
- ❖ It is including the availability of fundamental savings accounts, access to customized credit, seamless remittance capabilities, insurance coverage, and pension benefits for underserved segments, notably weaker sections and low-income groups.

State	Beneficiary Rank	Beneficiary Count	Fiscal Year	Scheme Impact
Bihar	1st	84,89,231 individuals	2022-23	Exemplary success, underscores scheme triumph, inclusive growth
Uttar Pradesh	2nd	68,08,721 individuals	2022-23	Penetration in populous regions, financial stability, self-sufficiency
Tamil Nadu	3rd	64,06,513 individuals	2022-23	Impact in developed economic landscape, widespread scheme reach

## RBI Policy Meeting Highlights August 2023

### Meeting Schedule of the Monetary Policy Committee for 2023-2024

As per Section 45ZI of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, it has been decided that Monetary Policy Committee will meet during 2023-24 on the dates indicated below:

Dates of meetings of Monetary Policy Committee for 2023-24
April 3, 5 and 6, 2023
June 6-8, 2023
August 8-10, 2023
October 4-6, 2023
December 6-8, 2023
February 6-8, 2024

- ❖ This is the third meeting on the trot that the MPC decided to maintain the status quo on the repo rate.
- ❖ The RBI Monetary Policy Committee has kept the key policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5%
- ❖ The MPC last raised this rate from 6.25 per cent to 6.50 per cent at its meeting in February.
- ❖ It has announced that the cash reserve ratio (CRR) remains unchanged at 4.5 per cent
- ❖ The Reserve Bank is planning to artificial intelligence (AI) in UPI payments.

- ❖ The Near Field Communication (NFC) technology will be deployed in offline payments via in UPI-Lite.
- ❖ The central bank raised payment limit via UPI lite to Rs 500 from Rs 200.

## STATES

### State Assembly's Resolution on Keralam



- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Central government to change the name of the state from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'.
- ❖ In Malayalam, the state was denoted as 'Keralam', but in alternative languages, it is called as 'Kerala'.
- ❖ The term 'Keralam' traces its roots to the fusion of two Malayalam words – “Kera,” symbolizing coconut, and “Alam” denoting land.
- ❖ Thus, 'Keralam' intricately encase the essence of the “Land of Coconut Trees”.
- ❖ It is a pivotal contributor amounting to about 45% of India's overall coconut harvest.
- ❖ It is sought to be instituted through the provisions of Article 3 of the Constitution to change it in the first schedule.
- ❖ This alteration would encompass the adoption of 'Keralam' as the state's official name across all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

