

**July - 27**

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ National Health Authority, the agency which implements Union Government's flagship health scheme 'Ayushman Bharath' has signed a MoU with Healthcare Federation of India to streamline delivery of services and improve efficacy of the scheme.
- ❖ On the event of Gandhi's 150 anniversary celebrations, the Tamilnadu Postal Circle has released special envelopes and stamps on the theme "Gandhiji's Earliest Footprints in Tamilnadu".
- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has pulled out of the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly in September to protest the dropping of "Shooting" from the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games roster.
- ❖ Gujarat government has passed 'The Gujarat Irrigation and Drainage (Amendment) Bill' which provides for stringent punishments including two years' jail term for "Water Theft".
- ❖ In Gujarat, a lion cub has been rescued in Gir Sanctuary with the help of a special Lion-Ambulance.
  - This was the first such instance after the special lion ambulance initiative was launched last month by the Gujarat administration.
- ❖ The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) led by World Cup-winning former captain Kapil Dev is entrusted with the responsibility of selecting India's new coach.
  - Former Women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy and former men's coach Anshuman Gaekwad are other members in the panel.

## TAMIL NADU

### Water Conservation Measures in TN

- ❖ Tamilnadu government has announced new measures for water conservation.

#### Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission

- ❖ "An intensive one-week campaign will be launched in the first week of August to convert the Mission into a people's movement.
- ❖ The Mission will involve rainwater harvesting and conservation of water bodies to increase their capacity.

- ❖ Water Protection Councils will be created in villages and panchayat unions.

#### ***Nadanthalai Vaazhi Cauvery***

- ❖ It is aimed at preventing the Cauvery river from getting polluted.

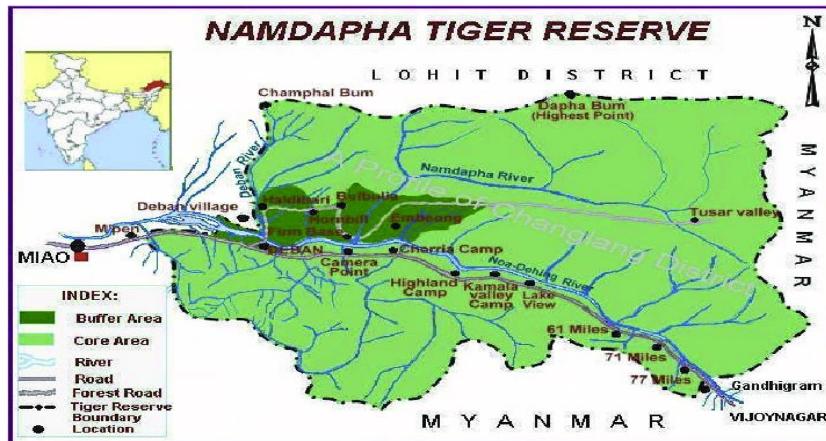
## NATIONAL

#### **Public Accounts Committee**

- ❖ The leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has been appointed as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
- ❖ The PAC has 22 members (15 members from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha).
- ❖ The term of office of members of the committee does not exceed one year at a time.

#### **Namdapha Tiger Reserve**

- ❖ Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger has taken a hit in the Namdapha Tiger Reserve as the authorities have discontinued the services of 53 frontline staff and all casual employees.
- ❖ The Namdapha Protected area is a Tiger Reserve and a national park.
- ❖ It is located in Arunachal Pradesh near the international border with Myanmar.
- ❖ It is India's Easternmost tiger reserve.



### **POCSO Special Courts**

- ❖ The Supreme Court asked the Centre to set up Special Courts in 60 days for POCSO cases.
- ❖ These courts would be centrally-funded.
- ❖ They are established in areas where there are more than 100 cases registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.
- ❖ This order came on a suo motu Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition registered by the Supreme Court itself.
- ❖ Between Jan 1 – June 30, 2019 around 24,212 FIR were filed under POCSO Act.
- ❖ But only 911 cases were decided by trial courts. This necessitated special courts.

### **Migration Data based on Census 2011**

- ❖ According to the Census 2011 data on migration released last week, Marriage and employment are the major reasons for migration.
- ❖ When a person is enumerated in Census at a different place than his/her place of birth, she/he is considered a ‘migrant’.
- ❖ Over 45.58 crore Indians were found to be “migrants” during Census 2011.
- ❖ Nearly 39.57 crore people had moved within their states.
- ❖ 5.43 crore people have moved from one state to another.

### **CARE4U Android App for Elderly People**

- ❖ IIT Kharagpur team has developed an Android app for elderly people.
- ❖ The app connects the caregiver to the elderly person and has a “Medicine Reminder” facility.
- ❖ The app also has a record of medical histories, allergies’ account, an SOS button, real time location tracking and so on.

### **RTI Amendment Bill, 2019**

- ❖ After being passed in Lok Sabha recently, the Right to Information (RTI) Amendment Bill, 2019 was passed by the Rajya Sabha.

## THEN AND NOW

### TERM

**2005 ACT:** Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) at central and state levels will serve for five years.

**2019 BILL:** Central government will notify the term of office.

### SALARY

**2005 ACT:** At central level, salary of CIC and ICs equivalent to salary of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively. At state level, equivalent to salary of Election Commissioners and Chief Secretary, respectively.

**2019 BILL:** Salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central

government.

### DEDUCTIONS

**2005 ACT:** At the time of appointment, if CIC and ICs (at central and state levels) are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to that pension. Previous government service includes service under: (i) the central government, (ii) state government, (iii) corporation established under a central or state law, and (iv) company owned or controlled by the central or state government.

**2019 BILL:** The Bill removes these provisions.

*Source: PRS Legislative Research*

- ❖ The Bill changes the “Terms and Conditions of Service” of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (IC) at the Centre and in States.
- ❖ Union Government has allotted “itself” the powers to set salaries and allowances for CICs and ICs.
- ❖ According to estimates, nearly 60 lakh RTI applications are being filed every year.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Secret Chinese Naval Base in Ream

- ❖ China and Cambodia have reportedly signed a “secret pact” which allows China exclusive use of a naval base on the Gulf of Thailand.
- ❖ Ream Naval Base is a facility operated by the Royal Cambodian Navy on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand.
- ❖ China plans to post military personnel, store weapons and berth warships at Ream for 30 years.
- ❖ This would be China’s second overseas naval foothold, after a base in Djibouti opened in 2017.



### **Underwater Military Vehicles Museum**

- ❖ Jordan has unveiled its 1st Underwater Military Museum on the bed of Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba.
- ❖ The Museum features 19 decommissioned pieces of military hardware, submerged at depths up to 92 feet.
- ❖ This unique tourism experience is expected to attract more tourists to the already popular Aqaba diving resort.

#### **About Red Sea**

- ❖ The Red Sea is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying between Africa and Asia.
- ❖ It is designated as a Global 200 ecoregion by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature).
- ❖ Over half of the ecoregions in the Global 200 are rated endangered.

## STATES

### **Yamuna Water Conservation Project**

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal has approved the Delhi government's Yamuna water conservation project.

- ❖ Recommended by NGT in 2015, this project is named as 'Mail Se Nirmal Yamuna Rejuvenation Plan'.
- ❖ The project aims to deal with the water shortage in the National capital, particularly during summers by
  - Conserving water in the Yamuna floodplains
  - Building reservoirs

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Operation Vijay - Kargil War 20

- ❖ The Kargil War was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan that took place between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LOC).
- ❖ It is also referred to as Operation Vijay.



- ❖ July 26, 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the successful culmination of Operation Vijay against Pakistani infiltrators.

- ❖ The Indian Army, supported by the Indian Air Force, forced the Pakistani forces to withdraw and won back all the high outposts.
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