

July – 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Supreme Court has agreed to finally adjudicate the question of “whether the members of the Rohingya community are entitled to refugee status” and hence, immunity from deportation.
 - The Union government has proposed a plan to deport 40,000 refugees of the Rohingya community to the land of their origin, Myanmar.
- ❖ The Delhi government has announced that the Rajghat thermal power plant will be officially shut and turned into a solar park. The current units of this coal-based plant were commissioned in 1989.

NATIONAL

Aadhar Bill

- ❖ The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by both Houses of the Parliament on July 08, 2019.
- ❖ The amendments were as per the directions of the Supreme Court ‘on privacy’ and recommendations of Justice B.N.Srikrishna’s Amendments to Aadhaar.
- ❖ It amends
 - Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016
 - Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
 - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

Key Amendments

- ❖ No individual will be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo authentication for the purpose of establishing his identity unless provided by a law made by Parliament.

THE AADHAAR AND OTHER LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019: WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE FOR

- Voluntary use of Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form by authentication or offline verification with the consent of Aadhaar number holder
- Use of 12-digit Aadhaar number and its alternative virtual identity to conceal the actual Aadhaar number of an individual
- An option for children who are Aadhaar number holders to cancel their Aadhaar number on attaining the age of 18 years
- Use of Aadhaar number for authentication on a voluntary basis as an acceptable KYC document under the Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002
- Deletion of Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act relating to the use of Aadhaar by private entities
- Prevents denial of services for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo an authentication
- Provides for civil penalties, its adjudication, appeals in regard to violations of Aadhaar Act

- ❖ It allows the use of Aadhaar number for authentication on a voluntary basis as an acceptable KYC document to open bank accounts.
- ❖ It gives a child an option to exit from the biometric ID programme on attaining 18 years of age.
- ❖ It prevents denial of services for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo authentication.
- ❖ It provides for the establishment of Unique Identification Authority of India Fund.
- ❖ It provides for civil penalties, its adjudication, appeal thereof in regard to violations of Aadhaar Act and provisions by entities in the Aadhaar ecosystem.

Philip Campose Task Force of Experts

- ❖ Defence minister Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting to review the recommendations of the Philip Campose Task Force of Experts.
- ❖ The task force was constituted to evolve methodology to prevent ammunition accidents and minimise its effects.
- ❖ The defence minister gave directions to expedite implementation.

Direct Benefit Transfers to Farmers 2.0

- ❖ Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched the Phase-II of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Fertilizer Subsidy.
- ❖ It is a step towards improving the lives of farmers through the use of modern technology and plugging leakages, pilferages and black marketing.
- ❖ The new initiatives of DBT 2.0 are
 - DBT Dashboards - Live reports regarding the Fertilizer Stock position
 - PoS 3.0 Software - Facilitates registration, login and sale activity in DBT software
 - Desktop PoS Version - It as an alternative or added facility to PoS devices to manage rush.
- ❖ Both PoS versions are multilingually available.



Compulsory Retirement of Government Officials

- ❖ The Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office stated that Union government has the absolute right to retire Government officials prematurely.
- ❖ They can be asked to retire and removed on the grounds of
 - Lack of integrity and ineffectiveness,
 - In public interest,
 - As per the provisions of Fundamental Rules 56 (j) (1), Rule 48 of Central Civil Services Rules, 1972 and All India Service Rules, 1958
- ❖ It has the power to review the officials and a total of 36,756 Group-A and 82,654 Group-B officers have been reviewed between July 2014-May 2019.
- ❖ 125 Group A and 187 Group B officials have been listed for disciplinary action.

Facial Recognition System

- ❖ The National Crime Records Bureau has released a Request for Proposal for an Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS).
- ❖ It will be used by police officers across the country to identify criminals, missing people, unidentified dead bodies and crime prevention.
- ❖ AFRS works by maintaining a large database with photos and videos of peoples' faces.
- ❖ It is an easier solution for finding accurate match especially for identification amongst crowds.
- ❖ On July 1, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has trialled AFRS for airport entry at Hyderabad Airport.
- ❖ This technology also raises privacy concerns and fear of data breach.

INTERNATIONAL

Zamzam Holy Water from Haj

- ❖ Air India has said that pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia after Haj will be allowed to carry holy water from the Zamzam within permissible baggage allowance.
- ❖ The well of Zamzam is located in Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

- ❖ Many Haj pilgrims bring the holy water from the well for family and friends.

Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act in US

- ❖ The US House of Representatives have passed to remove the 7% the seven per cent country-specific cap on Green Card applicants.
- ❖ A Green Card allows a non-US citizen to live and work permanently in America.
- ❖ More number of highly skilled Indian IT professionals who enter US mainly on the H-1B work visas are expected to get permanent legal residency.

ECONOMY

Third Party Insurance Administrators

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced changes in the regulations governing Third-Party Administrators (TPAs) Health Services.
- ❖ TPAs act as an intermediary between the insurance company and policyholder.
- ❖ They also handle insurance claims.
- ❖ New regulations allow the policyholders themselves to choose TPA of their choice.

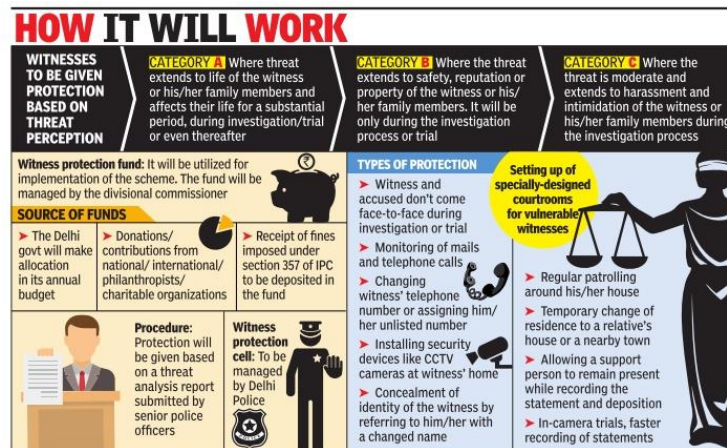
Unauthorised Leak of Sensitive Information

- ❖ The Finance Bill, 2019 has given the SEBI powers to levy huge fines on “entities” that tamper or destroy electronic databases or fail to furnish data during investigation.
- ❖ Fines are up to ₹10 crore or three times the unlawful gains, whichever is higher.
- ❖ Individual brokers can be laid fines upto ₹1 crore.
- ❖ The move is aimed to prevent unauthorised leak of pricing information and other sensitive data through Whatsapp and other digital means.

STATES

Witness Protection Program Implemented in Odisha

- ❖ The Odisha state government has implemented the Centre's Witness Protection Scheme-2018.
- ❖ It provides for the protection of witnesses during investigation/trial or thereafter based on the threat assessment.



- ❖ This scheme encompasses protection/change of identity of witnesses, their relocation, installation of security devices at the residence of witnesses, usage of specially designed Court rooms, etc.
- ❖ Three categories of witness protection are offered based on threat assessment - Category A, B, C.
- ❖ A State Witness Protection Fund for meeting the expenses of the scheme will be created
- ❖ This fund shall be operated by the Ministry of Home under State/UT Government.

Sah-beej Seeds of Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Along with distribution and marketing of certified and high-quality seeds to farmers, Madhya Pradesh government also plans to produce "seeds".
- ❖ The brand name of seeds will be 'Sah-Beej'.
- ❖ They will be produced from next "Rabi season".
- ❖ State seed committees will involve in marketing of these seeds.

Karchi Puja of Tripura

- ❖ Kharchi Puja is one of the most popular festivals in Tripura.
- ❖ It is celebrated at capital city Agartala (Puran Agartala) in the temple premises of fourteen gods.
- ❖ It's a week-long royal Puja which falls in the month of July on the eighth day of the new moon.
- ❖ Kharchi Puja is basically done to clean the post menstrual phase of mother earth's menstruation.
- ❖ Animal sacrifice is also an important part of this festival.