Tamil Nadu: 28-06-2024

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016	**Why in the news?** ● The Madurai Bench of the **Madras High Court** has taken cognizance of a **public interest litigation (PIL) petition**, urging authorities to **ensure that all government offices in Tamil Nadu are accessible to differently-abled individuals**. **About Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**: ● **Enactment and Objective**: ○ Enacted by the Parliament of India in December **2016**. ○ Aimed at ensuring **equal opportunities, protection of rights, and full participation of persons with disabilities**. ● **Key Provisions**: ○ **Definition Expansion**: The Act expands the **definition of disabilities** from 7 to 21 conditions, including autism, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and multiple disabilities. ○ **Reservation in Employment**: Increased reservation for persons with disabilities in **government jobs from 3% to 4%**. ○ **Educational Rights**: Mandates **inclusive education and reservation of seats for children with disabilities** in higher educational institutions. ○ **Accessibility**: Requires both **public and private establishments to adhere to accessibility norms and standards**. ○ **Legal Capacity**: Recognizes the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life. ○ **Special Courts**: Establishment of special courts in each district to **handle cases concerning the violation of rights of persons with disabilities**. ● **Chief Commissioner and State Commissioners**: Appointment of a Chief Commissioner for persons with disabilities at the central level and State Commissioners at the state level for redressal of grievances.
Aadhaar authentication	**Why in the news?** ● The Minister for Food and Civil Supplies announced the **introduction of iris-based scanners for Aadhaar authentication**

at fair price shops, alongside the existing fingerprint-based system.

About Aadhaar authentication:
- **Definition**: Process involving **submission of Aadhaar number** and **individual information for verification**.
- **Types of Information Submitted**:
  - **Demographic Information**: Includes name, date of birth, gender, etc.
  - **Biometric Information**: Includes fingerprint or iris data.
- **Verification Authority**: UIDAI's Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).
- **Verification Process**: UIDAI verifies the submitted details based on its records, confirming correctness or identifying discrepancies.

Direct purchase Centres (DPC)	**Why in the news?** - The Minister for Food and Civil Supplies revealed plans to **construct 50 new buildings for direct purchase centres (DPC)** in 14 districts, under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**. **About DPC**: - **Definition**: Direct Purchase Centres (DPC) are **facilities set up by government agencies** to **directly procure agricultural produce from farmers**. - **Objective**: The main objective of DPCs is to **ensure that farmers get fair and remunerative prices for their produce without the involvement of middlemen**. - **Location**: DPCs are **typically established in rural areas close to the farming communities** to facilitate easy access for farmers. - **Products Procured**: These centres primarily procure staple crops such as rice, wheat, and other grains, depending on the region and the agricultural produce predominant there. - **Government Agencies**: Agencies such as the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** and **state-level agricultural marketing boards** manage the DPCs. - **Pricing**: **DPCs purchase produce at Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** set by the government to **safeguard farmers against price fluctuations**.
MoU for cybersecurity and renewable energy technologies	**Why in the news?** - The **Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM)**, **Kancheepuram**, signed an **MoU with** the **National Power Training Institute (NPTI)** to **collaborate on cybersecurity and sustainable renewable energy technologies**.

	● The partnership **aims to offer short-term training courses** and enable **joint research activities in these fields**.

Green Yercaud Project	**Why in the news?**
	● The **Salem district administration** has launched the **Green Yercaud Project** to **make the hill station of Yercaud a plastic-free zone**.
	
	About Green Yercaud Project:
	● **Objective**: To **enhance the green cover** and **promote sustainable tourism in Yercaud**, a hill station in Tamil Nadu.
	● **Key Components**:
	  ○ **Afforestation**: Planting native tree species to restore degraded forest areas.
	  ○ **Eco-tourism**: Developing eco-friendly tourism facilities to attract visitors while preserving the environment.
	  ○ **Waste Management**: Implementing solid waste management practices to reduce pollution and promote recycling.
	  ○ **Water Conservation**: Installing rainwater harvesting systems and restoring water bodies to ensure sustainable water supply.
	  ○ **Biodiversity Conservation**: Protecting and conserving local flora and fauna through various conservation programs.