Tamil Nadu: 12-07-2024

New Pamban bridge	**Context:** ● **Railway officials recently checked the progress of the new Pamban Bridge construction.** ● The construction work is expected to be completed in two months, followed by trial runs in another two months. **About:** ● The Pamban Bridge project, **undertaken by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), marks India's first vertical-lift bridge over the sea, connecting the mainland with Rameswaram island.** ● **Length:** 2.08 kilometers. ● The new bridge promises **improved travel efficiency, allowing higher-speed train operations between Mandapam and Rameswaram**, which were previously only accessible via train until a road bridge was constructed in 1988. **Replacement:** ● Substituting the **1913-built Pamban Bridge,** closed since December 2022. ● Prioritized for safety and improved transport efficiency. **Infrastructure Development:** ● Symbolizes India's infrastructure modernization efforts. ● Supports increased traffic between mainland and island communities.
Healthcare Initiatives in Tamil Nadu	**Context:** ● Health Minister **Ma Subramanian recently highlighted Tamil Nadu's healthcare achievements at Harvard University.** **Key points:** He emphasized several key factors contributing to the state's success: ● **Primary and Promotive Healthcare:** Tamil Nadu's focus on primary healthcare and promotive health has been

instrumental in improving health outcomes.

- **Medical Services Management:** Efficient recruitment systems for medical services, robust drug procurement, and distribution systems have enhanced healthcare delivery.
- **Comprehensive Health Insurance:** The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme has benefitted 14 million people from July 2009 to June 2024. Government hospitals treated 4.32 million beneficiaries, with claims totaling $49.45 billion.
- **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme:** This initiative introduced home-based screening services through Woman Health Volunteers (WHVs) from self-help groups. Each health sub-centre area is served by a designated WHV, enhancing service accessibility and affordability.
- **Community Participation:** These efforts aim to improve service coverage and outcomes, ensuring greater equity and social inclusion.

Elevation of Madras HC Acting Chief Justice R Mahadevan to Supreme Court	**Context:** - The Supreme Court's Collegium has recommended the **acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, R Mahadevan, for elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court.** - This recommendation follows the retirement of Justice **Aniruddha Bose and Justice A S Bopanna, creating two vacancies in the Supreme Court.** **Key points:** - Justice R Mahadevan, belonging to a backward community in Tamil Nadu, brings significant diversity to the Supreme Court Bench if appointed, noted the notification. - The Collegium highlighted Justice Mahadevan's extensive judicial experience and leadership as key factors supporting his suitability for the role.
Centre to Launch Over 125 Fisheries Projects in Tamil Nadu	**Context:** - Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh is set to launch over **125 fisheries projects in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, during the Fisheries Summer Meet scheduled on June 12.** - These projects, collectively valued at more than Rs 100 crore, mark a significant investment in the fisheries sector. **Key points:** **Project Details:**

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- **Initiatives under PMMSY:** The projects are part of the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY),** a flagship programme aimed at promoting sustainable development in fisheries. They include:
  - Fish retail kiosks
  - Shrimp hatcheries
  - Brood banks
  - Ornamental fish units
  - Biofloc units
  - Fish feed mills
  - Fish value-added enterprises
- **Expected Impact:** While specific financial details were not disclosed, these initiatives are expected to boost local businesses and enhance India's fisheries output.