



04 February 2025

### Telangana State Regional News

<p><b>State Information Commission (SIC)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RTI appeals have been accumulating as all positions of state information commissioners, including the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), have remained vacant for the past two years, since February 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State Information Commission (SIC) is a statutory body established under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, to promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of state public authorities.</li> <li>The RTI Act mandates every state to establish its own commission to ensure effective implementation of citizens' right to information, thereby promoting transparency in public authorities at the state level.</li> <li><b>Composition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is headed by a State Chief Information Commissioner, with up to 10 State Information Commissioners. The number of commissioners varies based on the state's administrative needs and is determined by the respective state governments.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Appointment:</b> The Governor appoints the State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners based on recommendations from a selection committee.</li> <li>This committee comprises the Chief Minister as its chairperson, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and a state Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wetlands</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister for Environment and Forests, Konda Surekha, announced that the Telangana government has identified Manjeera Reservoir, Pakhal Lake, Kinnerasani Reservoir, Ramappa Lake, and Ameenpur Lake as wetlands, and a notification regarding this will be issued soon.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <p>A wetland is an area of land that is either covered by water or saturated with water. The water is often groundwater, seeping up from an</p>



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	<p>aquifer or spring. A wetland's water can also come from a nearby river or lake. Seawater can also create wetlands, especially in coastal areas that experience strong tides The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands defines wetlands as "areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its primary goal is to <b>conserve and sustainably use wetlands, which are vital ecosystems</b> that provide numerous <b>ecological, economic, and cultural benefits</b>.</li> <li>• The Convention encourages the designation of "<b>Ramsar sites,</b>" which are <b>wetlands of international importance due to their unique ecological characteristics</b>.</li> <li>• Member countries are obligated to maintain the ecological character of these sites and promote their sustainable use.</li> <li>• It also has <b>172 signatory countries</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The selection of Ramsar sites is based on various criteria defined under the convention.</li> <li>○ For example, "A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions."</li> <li>○ It also looks at the sites' capacity to support fishes and waterbirds.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Waqf Amendment Bill 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, is expected to be introduced in the Lok Sabha, which will announce the inclusion of thousands of additional waqf properties identified in the second survey.</li> <li>• However, the Telangana government and the Telangana State Waqf Board have yet to finalize and release a gazette notification for these properties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024, proposes significant changes to the governance and management of Waqf properties in India.</li> <li>• This legislation seeks to <b>amend the Waqf Act of 1995, aiming to enhance transparency, accountability, and</b></li> </ul>



	<p>efficiency in the administration of Waqf properties while addressing long-standing issues within the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What is a Waqf Property?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Waqf is a property donated by Muslims for a specific religious, charitable, or private purpose. Ownership of the property is considered to belong to God, while its benefits are directed to the specified purposes.</li> <li>○ <b>Establishment:</b> A Waqf can be established through a written deed, legal instrument, or orally.</li> <li>○ <b>Use and Permanence:</b> A property may be recognized as Waqf if it has been used for religious or charitable purposes over an extended period. Once declared Waqf, the property's status is permanent and irreversible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Key Changes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Waqf Amendment (Bill) 2024 proposes changing the name of the parent Act from the Waqf Act of 1995 to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act of 1995.</li> <li>○ <b>Government Property:</b> Government properties identified as waqf will revert to state ownership. The District Collector will determine ownership in disputed cases.</li> <li>○ <b>Waqf Property Determination:</b> The Waqf Board's power to determine waqf properties is removed.</li> <li>○ <b>Waqf Survey:</b> Collectors will conduct waqf surveys under state revenue laws.</li> <li>○ <b>Tribunal Composition:</b> Muslim law experts are removed. Tribunals will include a District Court judge and a state officer of joint secretary rank.</li> <li>○ <b>Appeals:</b> Tribunal decisions can be appealed to the High Court within 90 days.</li> <li>○ <b>Central Government Powers:</b> The central government can set rules on registration, waqf accounts, and Board proceedings. Audits can be conducted by the CAG.</li> <li>○ <b>Separate Waqf Boards:</b> Separate Waqf Boards are allowed for Bohra and Agakhani sects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), will be launching two new products — Hilsa Fishery Advisory (HiFA) services and INCOIS Global Ocean Reanalysis (IGORA) Version 1 — to commemorate its 26th Foundation Day.</li> </ul>

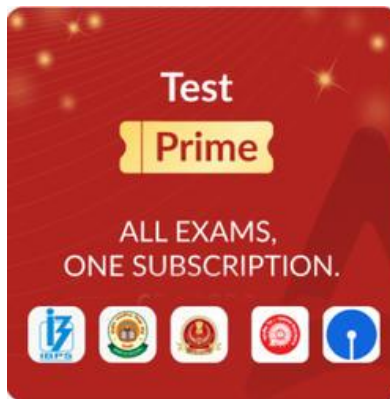


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	<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was established as an <b>autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).</b></li> <li>• <b>Mandate:</b> To provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies, and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvements through systematic and focussed research.</li> <li>• Provides <b>round-the-clock monitoring and warning services for the coastal population on tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, etc. through the in-house Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC).</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>MITRA-TG</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB), in collaboration with the Education and IT Departments, has introduced MITRA-TG, an AI-powered chatbot on WhatsApp.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed with input from health professionals, MITRA-TG aims to provide an accessible and private way to evaluate potential risks related to substance abuse, offering a proactive approach to prevent drug misuse among students.</li> <li>• This innovative tool is designed to help parents and teachers assess substance use risks in students through a confidential evaluation process.</li> </ul>





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