



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

June 20, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Resolution Against the Mekedatu Dam Project

A special resolution moved by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly opposing the Karnataka Government's proposed Mekedatu Dam project and urging the Union Government not to grant approval was unanimously passed with support from all parties.

During the second day of the Assembly session, chaired by Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar, the Chief Minister stated:

(i) Opposition to Karnataka's Move

- Karnataka's attempt to construct a dam across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu cannot be accepted under any circumstances.
- The move disregards the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (5 February 2007) and the Supreme Court judgment (16 February 2018).
- Karnataka has proceeded without obtaining the consent of the basin states or the approval of the Central Government.
- The Assembly strongly condemned Karnataka's actions.

(ii) Central Government Should Not Grant Approval

- The Assembly urged the Union Government not to grant any technical, environmental, or other clearances to the Mekedatu project.
- Both the Cauvery Tribunal and the Supreme Court have identified the Cauvery basin as a water-deficit basin.
- Since the available water has already been allocated among the basin states, no new projects or additional water utilization should be permitted.

(iii) An Emotional Issue Between States

- The Cauvery dispute is an emotionally sensitive issue for both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Karnataka should not undertake any new dam, reservoir, or water-storage project in the Cauvery basin without the consent of the basin states and approval from the Central Government.
- The Assembly urged the Union Government to direct Karnataka accordingly.
- It also requested the Central Water Commission not to examine, process, or approve Karnataka's Detailed Project Report.
- The Assembly unanimously extended its support to all measures taken by the Tamil Nadu Government to safeguard the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers and prevent the project.

2. Ebola Outbreak in Congo and Uganda

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) reported that deaths from the Ebola outbreak spreading in Congo and Uganda have exceeded 200 within a month.

(i) More than 90% of the cases have been reported in Ituri Province in eastern Congo. The disease has spread to neighboring Uganda, where 19 cases have been confirmed and two deaths recorded.

(ii) The outbreak has increased by 38% compared to the previous week. A total of 894 confirmed cases have been reported. Compared to previous outbreaks, this wave has caused severe impacts at a much earlier stage.

(iii) The outbreak is caused by the rare Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus. No approved vaccine or specific treatment has yet been developed for this strain. Ongoing internal conflicts and the region's dense forest terrain have made disease-control efforts extremely difficult.

(iv) Insufficient funding and shortages of healthcare personnel have worsened the crisis. Of the \$900 million pledged globally for Ebola response efforts, only \$90 million has been released so far.

3. Zimbabwe Extends Presidential Term

A constitutional amendment bill extending the Presidential term in Zimbabwe from five years to seven years was passed by Parliament with majority support.

(i) The amendment would extend the tenure of current President Emmerson Mnangagwa, aged 83, by an additional two years. As a result, the next Presidential election would be postponed until 2030.

(ii) The bill also proposes replacing direct Presidential elections with a system in which members of Parliament elect the President.

(iii) The bill is awaiting approval from the Senate and is expected to pass there as well.

(iv) Although Africa has the world's largest youth population, many countries continue to be governed by elderly leaders who remain in power for long periods.

4. Global Chess Festival

Tamil Nadu's P. Iniyan won the Global Chess Festival held in Mumbai, securing the championship with 7.5 points.

5. VP G RAM G Rural Employment and Livelihood Guarantee Scheme

The Vikasit Bharat Rural Employment and Livelihood Guarantee Scheme (VP-G RAM G), also known as the 125-Day Employment Scheme, will come into effect from 1 July.

(i) More than 100 regional officers will be appointed across the country by the Central Government.

(ii) The VP G RAM G Act was passed by Parliament last December as a replacement for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), commonly known as the 100-Day Employment Scheme.

(iii) Key provisions include:

- Employment guarantee increased from 100 days to 125 days.
- In states and Union Territories with legislatures:
 - Central Government: 60% funding
 - State/UT Governments: 40% funding
- In Northeastern states, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir:
 - Central Government: 90% funding
 - State Governments: 10% funding

(iv) As interim funding, the Central Government recently released ₹95,692 crore. Tamil Nadu has been

allocated ₹7,957.57 crore under the scheme.

(v) The regional officers will help coordinate State Governments, district administrations, and field-level staff. They will also support capacity building, sharing of best practices, and resolution of implementation challenges.

(vi) The officers have received orientation training on:

- Key features of the Act
- Implementation framework
- Institutional arrangements
- Technology-based governance systems
- Support mechanisms for states and districts

(vii) All states and Union Territories have integrated with the Central Government's transaction and financial management platform.

(viii) Around 93% of workers have completed online verification procedures.

6. Tuberculosis Cases Decline in India

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda stated that India's tuberculosis (TB) incidence rate has declined by nearly 23% over the last decade.

(i) A high-level virtual meeting chaired by J.P. Nadda was attended by Health Ministers and senior officials from states and Union Territories.

(ii) The meeting reviewed progress under the TB-Free Bharat Campaign and discussed future measures to achieve a TB-free India.

(iii) In 2014, TB incidence stood at 243 cases per 100,000 population. By 2024, it had declined to 187 cases per 100,000 population. This represents a reduction of about 23% over ten years.

(iv) In 2014, TB mortality was 34 deaths per 100,000 population. By 2024, it had fallen to 21 deaths per 100,000 population. Thus, TB-related deaths have also declined significantly over the decade.

7. LNG Carrier "Disha" Reaches India

The vessel Disha, carrying 62,370 metric tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar, safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz and arrived at Dahej Port in Gujarat. The ship belongs to the Shipping Corporation of India.

8. PM Vikasit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that nearly 7 million people have obtained employment under the Prime Minister's PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana.

(i) The scheme was launched in August last year to assist first-time job seekers and expand social-security coverage across various sectors.

(ii) To support the creation of 1.5 million jobs, Prime Minister Modi released ₹2,400 crore as incentives directly into the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

9. Global significance of yoga and its roots in ancient Indian philosophy.

(i) Origins and Global Recognition

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea of a National Yoga Day at the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2014.
- With the support of 177 nations, the UN officially declared June 21 as 'International Yoga Day' on December 11, 2014.
- The first International Yoga Day was celebrated globally on June 21, 2015, and it has since become a massive movement promoting health and awareness across all sectors of society.

(ii) 2026 Theme: Yoga for Healthy Aging

- The theme for the 12th International Yoga Day in 2026 is "Yoga for Healthy Aging".
- This theme highlights yoga's role as a comprehensive approach to maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle as people age.
- While life expectancy is increasing globally, yoga helps ensure those additional years are lived with vitality and physical well-being.

(iii) Economic Impact and the "Silver Economy"

- Healthy aging is linked to the "Silver Economy," which involves health services and products for senior citizens.
- In India, the market for senior healthcare and rehabilitation services is valued at approximately ₹73,000 crore and is expected to grow.
- For individuals aged 45 to 64, yoga offers a low-cost, self-reliant method to maintain health and reduce the financial burden of medical expenses.

(iv) Ancient Philosophical Foundations

- Yoga's history traces through ancient texts like Raja Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Laya Yoga, and Mantra Yoga.
- It specifically highlights the contributions of Thirumoolar in his work Thirumandiram (3,000 songs) and Patanjali in his Yoga Sutras (196 sutras).
- Both sages have deep connections to Tamil Nadu; Patanjali is associated with Chidambaram and Thirupattur, while Thirumoolar is linked to Chidambaram and Santhanoor.

(v) The Science of Ashtanga Yoga

- Yoga is described as a subtle science that aims to unite the mind and the soul.
- It consists of eight limbs, known as Ashtanga Yoga:
 1. Yama (Abstinence)
 2. Niyama (Observance)
 3. Asana (Postures)
 4. Pranayama (Breath control)
 5. Pratyahara (Withdrawal of senses)
 6. Dharana (Concentration)
 7. Dhyana (Meditation)
 8. Samadhi (State of pure consciousness).
- Pranayama, in particular, is noted for its ability to provide a long life and physical health.

(vi) Conclusion: A Gift to the World

- International Yoga Day is viewed as India's effort to share this ancient virtue with all of humanity to ensure the well-being and happiness of everyone.

