



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Birthright Citizenship for All Children Born in America

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that all children born in the United States are eligible for American citizenship.

- I. Earlier, President Donald Trump had issued an executive order stating that children born to individuals who were residing in the U.S. illegally or temporarily would not be granted U.S. citizenship. The Supreme Court struck down this order.
- II. Shortly after assuming office for a second term as President in January last year, Trump signed an order imposing strict restrictions on granting U.S. citizenship to immigrants from other countries.
- III. The order was widely viewed as contrary to the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which grants citizenship to all persons born in the United States, except children of foreign diplomats and members of occupying foreign military forces.
- IV. Following nationwide protests, a federal court in New Hampshire invalidated the executive order.
- V. The U.S. Government appealed the decision before the Supreme Court. The Court upheld the New Hampshire ruling and reaffirmed that all children born in the United States are entitled to citizenship.
- VI. In a 6-3 verdict, a bench led by Chief Justice John Roberts delivered a 91-page judgment, with a majority of the judges appointed by Trump ruling against the administration's citizenship order.
- VII. Unconstitutional:
 - The historic judgment stated that citizenship has long guaranteed the rights necessary for full participation in American political society.
 - It emphasized that the framers of the Constitution expanded these protections through the 14th Amendment to ensure citizenship for all persons born in the country.
 - The Court held that this constitutional guarantee must continue and declared the President's order restricting citizenship unconstitutional.
- VIII. Second Trump Order Struck Down:
 - Earlier, in February, the U.S. Supreme Court had invalidated additional tariffs imposed by Trump on countries, including India, engaged in trade with the United States.
 - Trump strongly criticized that ruling and the judges involved.
 - This marks the second time the Supreme Court has ruled against a major executive order issued by his administration.

2. New Rural Employment Scheme “VP-G RAM G” to Replace MGNREGA

A new rural employment scheme called VP-G RAM G (Viksit Bharat – Grameen Rozgar and Jeevika Yojana), which guarantees 125 days of employment annually to rural households, will come into effect across Tamil Nadu from Wednesday (July 1), according to a Government notification.

- I. The BJP-led Central Government has introduced this scheme as a replacement for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which was introduced by the previous Congress-led UPA Government and guaranteed 100 days of employment.
- II. The Central Government announced that the VP-G RAM G Act, passed by Parliament with the objective of restructuring rural development infrastructure as part of the vision to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, will come into force nationwide from July 1.
- III. Under the new law, the guaranteed annual employment period for each rural household has been increased from 100 days to 125 days.
- IV. The Union Government has allocated ₹95,692.31 crore for the scheme in the 2026-27 financial year. Including state contributions, the total value of the scheme is expected to exceed ₹1.51 lakh crore.
- V. The previous DMK-led Tamil Nadu Government opposed the scheme, arguing that the new 60:40 cost-sharing ratio between the Centre and states would increase the state's financial burden. It also objected to the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme and passed a resolution in the Assembly demanding continuation of the existing scheme and funding pattern.
- VI. Following the change in Government in Tamil Nadu, the TVK-led Government has accepted the VP-G RAM G scheme, which will now be implemented from Wednesday.
- VII. The Tamil Nadu Government has opened a new account with the Reserve Bank of India for implementing the scheme. While the Centre has allocated ₹7,957.57 crore to Tamil Nadu, the state will have to contribute 40 percent of the total cost, amounting to ₹5,305.04 crore.
- VIII. Southern states including Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry have also announced the implementation of the 125-day employment scheme.
- IX. Congress-ruled Telangana and Karnataka are still considering whether to implement the scheme in full or challenge certain provisions legally. However, the new scheme is expected to be implemented in around 19 states and Union Territories from Wednesday.

3. Poet Puviyarasu Passes Away

Poet Puviyarasu, one of the founders of the Coimbatore-based Vaanampadi poetry movement and a two-time Sahitya Akademi Award recipient, passed away in Coimbatore at the age of 94 due to ill health.

- I. Initially associated with M.P. Sivagnanam's Tamil Arasu Kazhagam, he later became a supporter of the Communist Party of India and held various positions in the Tamil Nadu Art and Literary

Association. He was among the principal founders of the Vaanampadi poetry movement and served as editor of the Vaanampadi literary journal from 1970 to 1977. During the 1970s, the movement played a major role in bringing revolutionary modern poetry focused on social change to the public.

- II. The Vaanampadi magazine, which featured literary personalities including Mu. Metha, Na. Kamarasan, Sirpi Balasubramaniam, Abdul Rahman, and others, operated from Puviyarasu's residence.
- III. Beginning as a poet, Puviyarasu expanded his literary career into drama, novels, short stories, essays, translations, and visual media. He authored 58 original works and contributed over 70 books through translations, children's literature, and general knowledge publications.
- IV. He translated works by William Shakespeare, Kahlil Gibran, Omar Khayyam, Osho, and Rabindranath Tagore into Tamil. His poems were translated into Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi, English, Sinhala, Russian, Hungarian, and other languages.
- V. He translated Bengali poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's work *The Revolutionary* into Tamil under the title *Puratchikkaran*, earning the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award in 2007. His poetry collection *Kaiyoppam* received the Sahitya Akademi Award for Tamil literature in 2009.
- VI. Along with writer Indira Parthasarathy and poet Sirpi Balasubramaniam, Puviyarasu was among the few Tamil literary figures to receive the Sahitya Akademi Award twice—once for original writing and once for translation.

4. Sri Lanka's Dengue Cases Cross 54,000

The number of dengue cases in Sri Lanka has exceeded 54,000, with 31 deaths reported so far. As hospitals continue to fill up with patients, the Government has issued an emergency alert and intensified preventive measures.

5. Afghanistan's First Astronaut Dies

Abdul Ahad Momand, the first and only Afghan astronaut to travel to space, has died of cancer in Germany at the age of 67. He undertook his historic mission in 1988 under the Soviet space program.

6. Anti-Immigrant Protests Intensify in South Africa

South Africa is witnessing growing tensions as citizens and several organizations have launched protests against illegal immigration. Protest groups had demanded that all undocumented foreigners leave the country by Tuesday.

- I. Protesters claim that illegal immigrants are taking away local jobs, contributing to crime, increasing drug trafficking, and dominating local retail businesses.
- II. However, the South African Government has firmly rejected these demands. President Cyril Ramaphosa met protest leaders and urged them to conduct peaceful demonstrations.
- III. Return of Migrants:
 - Due to the unrest, thousands of migrant workers from neighboring countries such as Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Nigeria have begun returning home.
 - The Nigerian Government has started repatriating its citizens through emergency flights, with over 600 Nigerians already returning.
 - Many returning migrants reported that their businesses had been looted and that they feared for their lives.

7. UN Warns of Massive Economic Impact from Ebola Outbreak in Congo

The United Nations has warned that the rapidly spreading Ebola outbreak in the Republic of Congo could cause economic losses of up to \$3.6 billion across Africa and threaten hundreds of thousands of jobs.

- I. The UN stated that unless the international community provides urgent financial and medical assistance, the health emergency could result in a prolonged economic slowdown throughout Africa.
- II. Since the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola began spreading on May 15, 1,307 people have been infected and 377 have died. No approved vaccine or definitive treatment currently exists for this strain.
- III. The outbreak has spread to neighboring Uganda, and a French doctor returning from Congo has also tested positive. Experts warn that it could further spread to South Sudan, Rwanda, and Angola.
- IV. To prevent further spread, the Congolese Interior Ministry has banned public gatherings in Kinshasa and other provinces not yet affected.
- V. Opposition parties have accused the government of using the Ebola outbreak as a pretext to suppress planned protests against constitutional amendments that would allow President Félix Tshisekedi to seek a third term.
- VI. President Tshisekedi announced an emergency response package worth \$319 million and urged citizens to follow public health guidelines, emphasizing that Ebola is a serious health crisis.

8. MSC to Acquire 49% Stake in Vizhinjam Port

Swiss shipping giant Mediterranean Shipping Company will acquire a 49% stake in the Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala for approximately \$1.4 billion.

- I. Opened in December 2024, Vizhinjam is India's first deep-water trans-shipment port and is located just 10 nautical miles from major international shipping routes connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and East Asia.
- II. The port currently handles 1.6 million containers annually and is being expanded to increase its capacity by 3.5 times by 2029.
- III. This partnership, considered the largest foreign private investment in India's port sector, is expected to significantly increase international cargo traffic through Vizhinjam, including cargo from Bangladesh that currently depends on Southeast Asian ports.

9. Rajiv Kumar Appointed Chairman of HDFC Bank

Former Finance Secretary and former Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new part-time chairman of HDFC Bank.

- I. He replaces Atanu Chakraborty, who resigned in March, citing conflicts with his personal ethical principles.
- II. HDFC Bank's board has approved Rajiv Kumar's appointment as an independent director for four years and has sought final approval from the Reserve Bank of India for his appointment as part-time chairman for three years.
- III. Rajiv Kumar served as India's 25th Chief Election Commissioner and successfully oversaw the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the world's largest democratic exercise.

10. Denmark Seeks Olympic Recognition for Greenland and Faroe Islands

Denmark has requested the International Olympic Committee to recognize its autonomous territories, Greenland and Faroe Islands, as separate teams for participation in the Olympic Games.

11. India's External Debt Rises to \$762.8 Billion

According to the Reserve Bank of India, India's external debt increased to ₹72.08 lakh crore (\$762.8 billion) by the end of March 2026.

- I. The increase was primarily due to the appreciation of the U.S. dollar, which adversely affected the value of the Indian rupee and other currencies. India's external debt stood at ₹69.58 lakh crore (\$736.3 billion) in March 2025.
- II. Excluding valuation changes in the U.S. dollar, external debt would have increased by \$51 billion instead of \$26.3 billion.
- III. The external debt-to-GDP ratio rose from 19.8% in March 2025 to 20.8% in March 2026. Long-term

debt (with maturity exceeding one year) increased to \$613.5 billion.

- IV. The share of U.S. dollar-denominated debt stood at 55.5%, followed by the Indian rupee at 29.4% and the Japanese yen at 6.4%.
- V. The RBI noted that the Government's share in overall external debt had declined, while non-Government debt had increased.

12. UPI Officially Launched in Greece

India's digital payment platform Unified Payments Interface has been officially launched in Greece.

- I. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal described the launch as another major milestone in India's efforts to expand its digital payment ecosystem globally.
- II. A few weeks earlier, UPI services were introduced at the famous Galeries Lafayette department store in Nice, France. UPI had previously been launched in Paris in 2024. Greece has now become the tenth country to adopt the Indian digital payment system.
- III. Besides Greece, UPI services are available in Singapore, United Arab Emirates, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia.
- IV. Indian travelers in these countries can make payments using the same UPI applications they use in India.

13. Dhiraj Seth Assumes Office as the 31st Chief of the Indian Army

Dhiraj Seth has assumed office as the 31st Chief of the Indian Army.

- I. Dhiraj Seth has taken over the leadership of the Indian Army at a time when it is emerging as a self-reliant and future-ready force while simultaneously addressing security challenges along the country's borders. With approximately 1.3 million personnel, the Indian Army is one of the largest military forces in the world.
- II. The tenure of Upendra Dwivedi, the 30th Chief of the Indian Army, concluded on Tuesday. Following this, Dhiraj Seth formally assumed charge as the new Army Chief at a ceremony held at South Block in New Delhi. Prior to taking over this position, Dhiraj Seth served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and brings with him more than 40 years of experience in various appointments within the armed forces.