



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

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1. The Supreme Court advised the Central Government not to introduce the Three-Language Policy in Class 9 in CBSE schools and suggested that, if necessary, it could instead be introduced in Classes 5 or 6.
 - i. The Court observed that introducing the Three-Language Policy in Class 9 would unnecessarily increase students' mental stress.
 - ii. Recently, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a circular making the Three-Language Policy mandatory for Class 9 students from July 1. This step was taken as part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for School Education 2023.
 - iii. According to the circular, students must study three languages, of which two must be Indian languages. A foreign language may be chosen as the third language. For Class 10 students, no board examination will be conducted for the third language in order to reduce academic pressure and help them concentrate on learning. Assessment for the third language will be carried out internally by the respective schools.
 - iv. Following the announcement, objections were raised by several stakeholders, arguing that students who had already chosen different language combinations would be adversely affected. Consequently, CBSE permitted students currently studying in Classes 7 to 9 to continue with their existing language choices until Class 10 under the Three-Language Policy.
 - v. Meanwhile, a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu Government challenging the Madras High Court's order directing the establishment of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) schools in every district of Tamil Nadu came up for hearing before a Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan.
 - vi. The Tamil Nadu Government has opposed the establishment of Navodaya schools on the grounds that they follow the Three-Language Policy.
 - vii. The Supreme Court granted the Tamil Nadu Government three weeks' time to file its response in the matter relating to the establishment of Navodaya schools.

2. Energy sector expert Serhiy Koretskyi has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Ukraine.

- i. At the same time, the removal of the country's young Defence Minister has sparked public dissatisfaction and protests.
- ii. As Ukraine continues its war with Russia for more than four and a half years, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has carried out a major reshuffle in his wartime cabinet.
- iii. Former Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, who had assumed office only a year earlier, resigned from her post. Following this, Serhiy Koretskyi, the former Chief Executive Officer of the state-owned energy company Naftogaz, was appointed as the new Prime Minister.
- iv. In a vote held in the Ukrainian Parliament, 289 Members of Parliament voted in favour of Serhiy Koretskyi. With this, he became Ukraine's third Prime Minister since the outbreak of the war with Russia.
- v. In another significant move, President Zelenskyy removed 35-year-old Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov from office after only six months. Reports suggest that disagreements between Fedorov, who advocated modern defence reforms, and Commander-in-Chief General Oleksandr Syrskyi (60), who comes from a traditional Soviet-era military background, led to his dismissal.

3. Around 530 people are feared to have died after two boats carrying Rohingya refugees capsized in the Bay of Bengal.

- i. According to statements issued by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the boats had departed from Myanmar's Rakhine State and were carrying mostly Rohingya Muslims, including refugees who had been living in camps in Bangladesh.
- ii. The first boat, carrying around 250 people, lost contact with the control centre shortly after beginning its journey. The second boat, believed to have been carrying around 280 passengers, reportedly sank near Myanmar's Ayeyarwady coast on July 8.
- iii. The details regarding the accident and the number of casualties have not yet been officially confirmed. More than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees have taken shelter in overcrowded refugee camps in Bangladesh after fleeing violence by Myanmar's military.

They continue to face severe hardships due to reductions in international aid and their inability to return to their homeland.

- iv. As a result, many Rohingya refugees continue to undertake dangerous sea journeys in unsafe, overcrowded boats towards countries such as Malaysia. This has led to the deaths of thousands of people, including women and children, making such tragedies a recurring humanitarian crisis.

4. Iran has reportedly instructed Yemen's Houthi rebels to be prepared to close the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the strategic gateway to the Red Sea, if the United States launches attacks on Iran's power plants and other critical infrastructure.

- i. Following this reported confidential request from Iran, the Houthis have allegedly begun positioning missiles and drones in Yemen's mountainous regions in preparation for possible attacks in the Red Sea.
- ii. Iran has already closed the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20% of the world's crude oil supply passes. If the Red Sea route, which accounts for about 7% of global oil trade, is also blocked, both of the Middle East's key oil export routes would be disrupted simultaneously.
- iii. Following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Saudi Arabia redirected nearly 70% of its oil exports through its Red Sea port of Yanbu. Therefore, any closure of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait is expected to have severe consequences for the global economy and international oil markets.
- iv. Meanwhile, U.S. forces intensified attacks in northern Iran and areas surrounding the capital, Tehran. In retaliation, Iran reportedly carried out aerial strikes targeting Bahrain, Jordan, and Kuwait.

5. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) resolved more than 5,000 investor complaints during June through its online grievance redressal platform, SCORES (SEBI Complaints Redress System).

- i. During June, SEBI received 5,035 new complaints from investors and successfully resolved 5,037 complaints. As a result, the number of pending complaints declined from

5,537 to 5,524 by the end of the month.

- ii. However, 17 complaints against companies including Aditya Birla Money, Finolex Industries, and HBL Power Systems have remained unresolved for more than three months.
 - iii. Under the upgraded SCORES 2.0 mechanism, investor complaints are forwarded directly to the concerned companies, which are required to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) within 21 days.
 - iv. If investors are dissatisfied with the company's response, they may apply for a first-level review within 15 days. If they remain dissatisfied after that review, they may seek a second-level review, involving SEBI's intervention, within another 15 days.
 - v. According to SEBI data, companies took an average of four days to submit their Action Taken Reports during June, while first-level review complaints were resolved in an average of eight days.
6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first hydrogen-powered train service.
- i. Equipped with multiple advanced safety features, the train will operate between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana. The project marks another milestone in India's transition towards clean energy and sustainable, environmentally friendly railway transportation.
 - ii. Unlike conventional electric trains that draw power from overhead electric lines, the hydrogen train generates electricity onboard through a hydrogen-oxygen chemical reaction using hydrogen fuel cells.
 - iii. Powered by a 1,200-kilowatt hydrogen fuel-cell propulsion system, the train can travel at speeds of up to 75 km/h. It has 10 coaches and can accommodate approximately 2,600 passengers. It will cover the 89-kilometre journey between Jind and Sonipat in about two hours.
 - iv. The train is equipped with advanced safety systems capable of detecting hydrogen leaks, excessive heat, flames, and smoke, making it one of the safest trains of its kind. Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the service at a function in Jind, Haryana.
 - v. India joins a select group of countries
 - Burning fossil fuels releases harmful pollutants such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulphur oxides (SO_x), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). Hydrogen, however, does not produce these

harmful emissions during its use, making it a clean fuel.

- With the launch of this service, India joins a select group of countries—including Germany, France, China, the United States, and Japan—that have either introduced hydrogen-powered trains or are actively developing them. Germany became the world's pioneer by launching the first hydrogen-powered train service in 2018.
- More than 99% of India's broad-gauge railway network has already been electrified. The introduction of hydrogen-powered trains represents the next major step in India's efforts to achieve zero-emission railway transportation.

7. The Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has named the New Delhi–Ghaziabad elevated corridor as "Ram Setu."

- i. Officials also announced that a bow and arrow structure will be installed at the Delhi entrance of the 11-kilometre-long elevated corridor. Speaking to reporters, Ghaziabad Mayor Sunita Dayal said:
- ii. "The entrance to the Ram Setu elevated corridor is being constructed at a cost of ₹1 crore. Reflecting our cultural identity, the grand gateway will welcome people entering Ghaziabad from Delhi."
- iii. The ₹1,147-crore Ram Setu elevated corridor was inaugurated on 30 March 2018 by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The project has significantly reduced travel time between Delhi and Ghaziabad.

8. The Central Government will introduce a Bill during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament to replace the Ordinance that increased the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38.

- i. The Monsoon Session is expected to commence on 20 July and continue until 13 August.
- ii. When the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was enacted, the number of judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India) was fixed at 10. The strength was increased to 13 in 1960 and to 17 in 1977 through subsequent amendments.
- iii. Another amendment in 1986 increased the number from 17 to 25. It was later raised to 30 in 2009, and in 2019 the sanctioned strength, including the Chief Justice of India, was

increased to 34.

- iv. Earlier this year, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal to raise the strength from 34 to 38. Before Parliament could consider the Bill, the Government promulgated an Ordinance to implement the increase. Following the Ordinance, five new judges were appointed to the Supreme Court.
- v. Since an Ordinance remains valid only for six months, a replacement Bill must be passed within six weeks of Parliament reassembling. Otherwise, the Ordinance will lapse. Accordingly, the Government will introduce the replacement Bill during the forthcoming Monsoon Session.
- vi. Opposition resolution accepted
 - It is a common parliamentary practice for Opposition parties to move resolutions opposing an Ordinance when the Government later introduces the corresponding Bill in Parliament.
 - Such resolutions provide the Opposition with an opportunity to debate the legislation. According to a Lok Sabha press release, the Opposition's resolution against the Ordinance has been accepted.

9. The Raipur Consumer Commission has directed a vehicle manufacturer to compensate a car owner for problems allegedly caused after using E20 petrol.

- i. Concerns have been raised that petrol blended with ethanol, particularly E20 fuel (20% ethanol), may cause mechanical issues in vehicles, especially older models. At the same time, the Central Government continues to promote ethanol-blended fuel. Against this backdrop, the Commission's ruling has attracted significant attention, as it is reportedly the first judgment in India relating to E20 petrol.
- ii. Earlier, the owner of a Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara Strong Hybrid filed a complaint before the Raipur District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Chhattisgarh.
- iii. The complainant stated that after using E20 petrol, the vehicle repeatedly developed engine problems. Although the car was repaired several times at an authorised service centre, the defects continued. After hearing the case, the Commission accepted the complainant's arguments.
- iv. The Commission directed Maruti Suzuki and the dealer either to provide a new vehicle of

the same model fully compatible with E20 fuel or pay compensation of up to ₹21.6 lakh.

10. The world-renowned Jagannath Rath Yatra commenced with great enthusiasm at Puri in Odisha.

- i. Despite heavy rainfall, hundreds of thousands of devotees gathered in Puri to participate in the festival. Multi-layered security arrangements were put in place for the event.
- ii. The famous Jagannath Temple, built in the 12th century, is located in the coastal town of Puri. Its annual Rath Yatra is one of the world's most celebrated religious festivals.
- iii. During the festival, the magnificently decorated chariots of Lord Jagannath, his brother Balabhadra, and his sister Subhadra are pulled from the main temple to the Gundicha Temple, located about 2.6 kilometres away and traditionally regarded as their birthplace. After nine days, the three deities return to the main temple in a grand return procession, marking the conclusion of the festival.

11. Current landscape of higher education in India and Tamil Nadu, focusing on enrollment successes, administrative failures, and the urgent need for systemic reform.

(i) Enrolment Statistics and Regional Comparison

- According to research conducted for the 2023–24 academic year, Tamil Nadu has surpassed the 50% mark in higher education enrollment.
- Out of 68.4 lakh youth in the 18–23 age group, approximately 35.8 lakh (52.3%) are enrolled in higher education.
- This enrollment figure represents a 3.2% increase compared to the previous year.
- Delhi leads the nation with an enrollment rate of 53%, followed closely by Tamil Nadu. Other high-performing states include Uttarakhand (48.5%), Telangana (46.6%), Himachal Pradesh (46.4%), and Sikkim (46.4%).

(ii) Impact of State Welfare Schemes

- Pudhumai Penn Scheme: Tamil Nadu's high enrollment rates to long-standing Government efforts, specifically mentioning the ₹1,000 monthly assistance provided to girl students who transition from Government schools to colleges.

(ii) The Infrastructure and Admission Gap

- There are 181 Government Arts and Science colleges in Tamil Nadu with a total of 1,26,959 available seats.
- As of July 11, only 83,276 students (65.59%) have joined these colleges. Experts estimate that final enrollment may only reach a maximum of 70%.
- Students and parents are increasingly favoring private colleges due to a lack of basic infrastructure, a shortage of professors, and the absence of modern laboratories in Government institutions.

(iii) Administrative Crisis: Vacancies in State Universities

- Due to ongoing conflicts between the Governor and the State Government, 16 out of 22 state universities are currently functioning without Vice-Chancellors (VCs).
- It is projected that by January 2027, 20 universities will be without appointed VCs.
- The absence of VCs has halted professor appointments, promotions, research approvals, and critical financial decision-making, severely impacting students' futures.

(iv) Faculty Vacancy Statistics

More than 50% of professor positions are vacant across various state universities:

- University of Madras: Vacancies stand at 67.9% for assistant professors, 85% for associate professors, and 43% for professors.
- Madurai Kamaraj University: Out of 50 sanctioned professor posts, only two are currently filled; associate professor vacancies have reached 86.1%.
- Anna University: Professor vacancies are at 62.6%, while associate professor vacancies stand at 67.5%.

(v) Quality, Ranking, and Employability Facts

- Despite high graduation rates, more than 50% of engineering graduates in the state struggle to find suitable employment. On average, only 30% of all college graduates obtain jobs matching their qualifications.
- Due to the state's decision not to implement the National Education Policy (NEP), Tamil Nadu colleges are reportedly losing 100 out of 1,000 points in NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) evaluations.
- Educational experts warn that these ranking losses could hinder students' ability to secure funding for advanced research.

(vi) Conclusion and Strategic Recommendations

For enrollment achievements to be meaningful, the Government must treat higher education as a top priority by:

1. Immediately appointing Vice-Chancellors to resolve administrative deadlocks.
2. Filling the massive faculty vacancies across all state institutions.
3. Improving infrastructure and modernizing labs in Government colleges.
4. Updating curricula to align with modern industrial needs to improve employability.

12. Intense global competition for resources and technological dominance is reshaping geopolitics and the environment.

(i) Shift in Global Geopolitics and Alliances

- Every nation is currently forced to chart its own economic path to secure its future.
- The global search for power is increasingly turning the world into an authoritarian landscape.
- Tensions between China and the USA are manifesting in their competition for influence over nations like Venezuela and Greenland.
- The intense rivalry between nations has begun to erode the global cooperation necessary to face existential challenges like climate change.

(ii) The Technological and Energy Rivalry

- A major source of international tension is the competition between traditional internal combustion technologies (powered by oil, gas, and coal) and emerging renewable energy and electric vehicle technologies.
- A significant rift is forming between nations rich in oil resources and those emerging as "electricity powers".
- Climate change mitigation is no longer just about energy transition; it is determined by which nations control the supply chains for rare minerals, coal, and oil.

(iii) Geographical Facts: The Arctic Frontier

- Due to climate change, Arctic ice is melting, creating new, faster shipping routes through the Arctic region.
- Russia and China view these Arctic routes as highly advantageous for reaching the Western Hemisphere more quickly.

- The melting ice is exposing previously inaccessible oil and mineral deposits, leading to a new wave of resource exploitation in the region.

(iv) Global Scramble for Critical Minerals

- Global demand for Copper is projected to double within the next 10 years, driven by the expansion of electricity infrastructure, green technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- International attention has shifted toward mineral-rich nations such as Peru, Chile, and Congo.
- To meet demand, new mines are being opened in dense forests and areas of high biodiversity.
- China currently processes approximately 50% of the world's copper and leads the world in the implementation of green technologies.
- There is a surge in the demand for other rare minerals essential for modern technology, including Lithium and Graphite.

(v) Economic Blocs and International Trade

- Mercosur: Mercosur (Spanish: Mercado Común del Sur), a South American trade bloc.
- European Union farmers are currently opposing trade agreements with Mercosur due to concerns over income protection, market stability, and environmental standards.
- The World Economic Forum meeting in Davos (2026) clearly highlighted the deepening contradictions between the economic goals of various nations.

(vi) Conflicting National Priorities

- Sharp divergence in priorities- USA continues to prioritize fossil fuels, while China focuses on green infrastructure, renewable energy, critical minerals, and green finance.
- Many nations find themselves caught in a struggle between choosing "friendly" energy suppliers and maintaining stable technological supply chains.

This relentless competition is rapidly creating a "new world," though it remains to be seen if this new order will be beneficial for the Earth and its inhabitants.