



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. The Tamil Nadu Government has officially renamed the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme after former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj. A Government Order has been issued in this regard.
 - i. The "Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme", launched in 2022 by the then Chief Minister M.K. Stalin under the DMK Government, will henceforth be known as the "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme."
 - ii. The present Government under Chief Minister Joseph Vijay had already decided to extend the scheme, which previously covered students from Classes 1 to 5 in Government and Government-aided schools, to students of Classes 6 to 8 as well. The Government Order announcing this expansion was issued by the Department of Women and Child Development on July 15, the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj.
 - iii. At present, 1,934,230 students studying in 37,447 Government and Government-aided schools across Tamil Nadu are benefiting from the scheme.
 - iv. The expansion is estimated to require an additional annual expenditure of ₹343.55 crore. For the current financial year, the Government has allocated ₹217.63 crore. The expanded breakfast scheme will come into effect from September 17, the birth anniversary of Periyar.
2. Despite Tamil Nadu urging the release of Cauvery water as directed by the Supreme Court, no decision was taken at the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) meeting held in New Delhi, as Karnataka stated that Bengaluru requires water for drinking purposes.
 - i. The 53rd meeting of the CWMA was chaired by S.K. Haldar.
 - ii. After prolonged discussions, the Authority decided to monitor rainfall and water inflows for another week. Based on the views of the states and prevailing hydrological and meteorological conditions, the proportionate sharing of Cauvery water among the states will be decided at the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee meeting scheduled for July 28, according to the official statement.

3. France has become the first country in the European Union to pass legislation banning children below the age of 15 from using social media platforms.

- i. The law also prohibits the use of mobile phones by students in secondary schools. The Government plans to implement the legislation from September, when the new academic year begins.
- ii. However, educational, scientific, and online knowledge resources have been exempted from the ban.

4. Despite continuing economic sanctions against Cuba, the United States has sent food and medical supplies directly to the Cuban people.

- i. The aid worth \$60 million is the first installment of the \$100 million humanitarian assistance package announced earlier by the United States for Cuba.
- ii. To ensure direct delivery to the public, the United States plans to distribute the aid through Catholic organizations, bypassing the Cuban Government.

5. The 23rd Commonwealth Games begin on July 23 in Glasgow, Scotland.

- i. The Games will be held over 11 days, until August 2, with around 3,000 athletes from 74 countries participating. Competitions will be conducted across 10 sports at four venues, along with six Para sports.
- ii. India has sent a contingent of 191 members, including 78 male athletes, 48 female athletes, and 65 officials. Notable participants include Neeraj Chopra (javelin), Mirabai Chanu (weightlifting), Lovlina Borgohain (boxing), Gurvinder Singh, Animesh Kujur, and Murali Sreeshankar (athletics).
- iii. Reduced Number of Sports
 - Unlike previous editions that featured more than 20 sports, this edition includes only 10 sports: Athletics, Swimming, Track Cycling, Artistic Gymnastics, Boxing, Judo, Bowls, Weightlifting, Netball, and 3×3 Basketball.
 - Six Para sports—Para Athletics, Para Swimming, Para Track Cycling, Para Bowls, Para Powerlifting, and 3×3 Wheelchair Basketball—will also be held.
 - To reduce costs, sports such as Hockey, Shooting, Wrestling, Badminton, and Table

Tennis have been dropped, which could significantly affect India's medal tally.

- iv. The opening ceremony at the OVO Hydro Arena will be attended by King Charles III, Queen Camilla, and Scottish cycling legend Chris Hoy. For the first time, the batons from all 74 participating nations will be brought together in Glasgow.
- v. History
 - The Commonwealth Games originated among countries that were once part of the British Empire.
 - The first edition was held in 1930 as the British Empire Games.
 - Until 1974, they were known as the British Commonwealth Games, and from 1978 onward they have been officially called the Commonwealth Games.
 - After the Olympic Games and the Asian Games, they are considered one of the world's major multi-sport events.
- vi. Held Every Four Years
 - Organized every four years by the Commonwealth Sport, the Games have so far been hosted in 20 cities across 9 countries.
 - Australia has hosted the Games a record five times.
 - Glasgow is hosting them for the second time.
 - The inaugural Games in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (1930) featured 400 athletes.
 - India hosted the Games for the first time in New Delhi in 2010, with around 6,081 participants from 71 countries.
 - The 2026 Games were originally scheduled to be held in Victoria, Australia, but were shifted to Glasgow after Victoria withdrew due to financial constraints.

6. The Supreme Court has requested all State Governments and Union Territories to consider increasing the retirement age of district judges from 60 to 61 years.

- i. While the retirement age is 65 years for Supreme Court judges and 62 years for High Court judges, the retirement age for judges in subordinate courts varies across states. A petition seeking a uniform retirement age of 61 years for district judges nationwide came up before a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohan.
- ii. The Court directed that:

- All States and Union Territories should consult their respective High Courts and decide whether the retirement age should be increased to 61 years.
- If approved, judges in those states may continue in service up to the age of 61, subject to the final outcome of the case.
- This interim arrangement will take effect from April 1, 2026.
- It will not affect the Supreme Court's final decision on whether the retirement age should ultimately be increased to 62 years nationwide.
- All States and Union Territories must submit their reports to the Supreme Court within two weeks after consulting their High Courts.

7. Continuous heavy rainfall has caused severe flooding across several districts in Assam.

- i. With 10 more deaths reported due to rain-related incidents, the total death toll has risen to 31. More than 565,000 people have been affected across districts including Sivasagar, Biswanath, Charaideo, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon, and Tinsukia. Sivasagar is the worst-affected district, with over 360,000 people impacted.

8. The United States has announced plans to impose tariffs on imports of generic medicines. Currently, such imports are duty-free. Under the new policy, a 100% tariff will be imposed after two years, followed by a 200% tariff from the subsequent year.

- i. Since India is the largest exporter of generic medicines to the United States, concerns have been raised that the policy could significantly affect India's pharmaceutical exports.
- ii. President Donald Trump announced the policy on the Truth Social platform, stating that imports of generic medicines would continue to remain duty-free until August 1 and for the following two years, after which a 100% tariff would apply for one year, followed by a 200% tariff.
- iii. According to Trump, the objective is to encourage domestic production of generic medicines in the United States. Companies that fail to establish manufacturing facilities and equipment within the stipulated period may face penalties. He said the policy is

intended to safeguard the interests of the American people.

- iv. Generic medicines contain the same active ingredients, strength, and therapeutic effect as branded medicines but are sold at lower prices because they do not incur branding and marketing costs.
- v. Impact on India
 - India, often referred to as the “Pharmacy of the World,” exports medicines to numerous countries and is the largest supplier of generic medicines to the United States.
 - During the previous year, India exported pharmaceutical products worth \$25.8 billion worldwide, of which 38% (\$9.7 billion) went to the United States.
 - India supplies nearly 47% of the generic medicine requirement of the United States.
 - India also exported medicines worth \$4.05 billion to European Union countries.
 - Indian generic medicines are widely used to treat hypertension, diabetes, cancer, infectious diseases, and mental health disorders.
 - Industry experts believe that the proposed U.S. tariff policy could have a significant adverse impact on India’s pharmaceutical export sector.