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1. Delegation of Citizenship Approval Authority to District Collectors

- i. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has officially notified the Citizenship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, shifting citizenship-granting verification powers directly to local District Collectors.
- ii. This delegation is authorized for border districts spanning the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura, as well as the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- iii. District Collectors in these regions can now directly process and approve applications requesting citizenship through registration or naturalization, effectively accelerating regional processing backlogs.
- iv. These modified rules explicitly exclude tribal-dominated autonomous districts governed under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the states of Assam and Tripura.
- v. All pending citizenship verification files currently held by previous Special Authorities or District Committees are ordered to be immediately transferred to the respective District Collectors.

2. Supreme Court Inquiry Committee on Delhi Student Protests

- i. The Supreme Court of India has constituted a 5-member high-level inquiry committee, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice R. Subhash Reddy, to investigate allegations of police excesses—including the use of pellet guns—against students protesting over competitive exam paper leaks in Delhi.
- ii. The Supreme Court directed the committee to prioritize the safety and security of female protestors, evaluate appropriate interim relief for injured students, and

assess overall public property damage.

3. 31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting

- i. The 31st Southern Zonal Council (SZC) meeting was held at Kovalam near Chennai under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ii. The meeting was attended by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay, Karnataka CM D. K. Shivakumar, Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu, Telangana Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Kerala CM V. D. Satheesan, Puducherry Lt. Governor Kailashnathan, Andaman & Nicobar Lt. Governor Admiral D.K. Joshi, and Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Patel.
- iii. Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted that the Union Government's intervention successfully resolved 5 out of 8 long-pending river water disputes in the northern region over the preceding five months, serving as a model for southern states.
- iv. The council discussed joint administrative measures to tackle national challenges, including a 3-year coordinated action plan against drug trafficking and a unified approach to addressing malnutrition.
- v. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay urged the Union Government to provide legal and statutory guarantees that states succeeding in demographic control will not face a reduction in their percentage of parliamentary representation.
- vi. Tamil Nadu currently commands a 7.18% share of representation in the Lok Sabha.
- vii. The state had previously passed a legislative assembly resolution demanding that the total Lok Sabha strength remain at 543 and the inter-state seat sharing ratio be preserved to protect progressive states from being politically penalized.

4. Bangladesh Presidential Election

- i. Senior Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir (78) was elected as the 23rd President of Bangladesh.
- ii. Alamgir secured a decisive victory, winning 255 votes in the parliamentary

election out of the 343 total votes cast by lawmakers, defeating joint opposition candidate Kazi Ahmed (88 votes).

- iii. This landmark election was the first Presidential election featuring contesting candidates in Bangladesh in 35 years (since 1991).
- iv. Although the Presidency is largely a ceremonial role, the President in Bangladesh retains critical powers to appoint the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice, and oversees the military during transitional caretaker Governments.

5. Strait of Hormuz Blockade and India's Crude Import Diversification

- i. Due to severe geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran, shipping channels through the strategic Strait of Hormuz have faced disruptions since February.
- ii. India, the world's third-largest crude importer, has drastically shifted its crude oil imports away from West Asia and toward South American markets.
- iii. India imported an average of 4.44 lakh barrels per day (bpd) from Venezuela in August, making Venezuela India's fourth-largest crude supplier, far ahead of the US (1.53 lakh bpd) and Iraq (1.18 lakh bpd).
- iv. West Asia's share in India's oil imports fell to 30% during the April–July period compared to 43% last year, while South American nations' (Venezuela and Brazil) share expanded to 12.7% from just 3.5% last year.
- v. Sourcing from South American countries involves significantly higher transportation costs and longer shipping times compared to imports from West Asian ports.

6. 4th India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)

- i. A high-level Indian ministerial delegation—comprising Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal—visited Singapore for the 4th ISMR.
- ii. The delegation met with Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Deputy

PM Gan Kim Yong to discuss deepening strategic economic and digital partnerships.

- iii. The two nations signed key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance bilateral cooperation in telecommunications, digital broadcasting, food security, and maritime heritage.

7. Nine Core Infrastructure Industries Performance in July

- i. India's core infrastructure sector index grew by 5.4% in July, compared to 6% in June and 3.2% in July of the previous year.
- ii. Iron ore was newly integrated as the ninth core sector in the index database, with the base year officially updated to 2022–23.
- iii. Growth was driven by output expansions in iron ore (29.5%), cement (13.1%), electricity generation (9%), and coal (7.6%).
- iv. In contrast, output declines were witnessed in fertilizer production (–8%), crude oil (–5.3%), and natural gas (–3.7%).

8. Supreme Court Directive for National Cancer Registry

- i. The Supreme Court of India directed 19 remaining states and Union Territories to make cancer a "mandatory reportable disease" and establish a cohesive national registry.
- ii. The ruling emphasized that the lack of structured epidemiological data prevents the Government from formulating effective health policies, potentially violating Articles 14 and 21 (Right to Health and Life).
- iii. In India, approximately 16 lakh people are diagnosed with cancer annually, causing 8.70 lakh deaths, with Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Assam recording the highest incidence rates.
- iv. The court noted that compiling a registry helps study regional correlations between cancer clusters and environmental/lifestyle triggers, including tobacco

use, alcohol, and urban environmental degradation.

9. Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa finished as the runner-up in the prestigious Sinquefield Cup chess tournament held in Saint Louis, USA.

- i. He drew his final 9th round game with black pieces against Anish Giri of the Netherlands to end with 5.5 points.
- ii. America's Wesley So clinched the championship title after defeating Praggnanandhaa in the sudden-death Armageddon tiebreaker.
- iii. With this performance, Praggnanandhaa secured a live FIDE rating of 2,759.7, officially claiming his rank as India's No. 1 chess player.
- iv. He is also among the top 4 players who successfully qualified for the Grand Chess Tour finals.

10. Supreme Court Directives and Federal Challenges

- i. The Supreme Court of India has directed 19 states and Union Territories to declare cancer as a "mandatory reportable/notifiable disease" (அறிவிக்கப்பட வேண்டிய நோய்).
- ii. Because health is primarily on the State List and cancer is a non-communicable disease, there has historically been a long delay in issuing such notifications across states. The Supreme Court's intervention aims to resolve this long-standing federal bottleneck.
- iii. Public Health Benefits of Mandatory Reporting
 - Traditionally, notifying a disease enables public health authorities to trace contacts, isolate individuals, and deploy emergency preventive measures.
 - For cancer, declaring it a mandatory reportable disease will provide essential statistical data to evaluate:
 - The impact and prevalence of cancer among the public.
 - Patient treatment progress under public health initiatives.

- Precise preventive steps and precautions that need to be planned.
- The implementation progress of various health schemes.

iv. Consequences of Lacking a Notification System

- Because cancer has not been practiced as a mandatory reportable disease in India, there is a severe shortage of proper epidemiological data on its spread.
- This data gap leads to an absence of systematic surveillance and monitoring for affected individuals.
- Without structured data, Governments are unable to formulate effective policies and implement targeted schemes to control and treat the disease.

v. Alarming Global and National Statistics

- Annually, about 2 crore (20 million) people are diagnosed with cancer globally, causing 98 lakh (9.8 million) deaths.
- If this trend continues, the WHO and the American Cancer Society project that the global annual incidence will reach 3.50 crore (35 million) by 2050. Notably, more than half of those affected belong to developing nations, including India.
- In India, approximately 16 lakh (1.6 million) people are diagnosed with cancer annually, leading to 8.70 lakh (870,000) deaths.
- The impact is disproportionately higher in northeastern states, particularly Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Assam.
- Studies indicate that environmental degradation from urbanization, dietary shifts, alcohol consumption, and tobacco use are the primary lifestyle drivers.

vi. Vicious Cycle of Late Detection and the Srivastava PIL

- In many states, because of the lack of surveillance, patients are diagnosed only at an advanced/terminal stage. This makes treatment extremely difficult, highly expensive, and increases the mortality rate.
- Renowned doctor Anurag Srivastava filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court, citing a policy paralysis (கொள்கை முடக்கம்) in managing India's alarming cancer epidemic.

- The petition argued that failing to declare cancer as a mandatory reportable disease constitutes a severe evasion of the government's constitutional obligations under Articles 14 and 21 (Right to Equality and Right to Life and Health).

vii. Current Progress and Call to Action

- Based on a Parliamentary Standing Committee's recommendations, 17 states and Union Territories have already notified cancer.
- Tamil Nadu had already taken progressive action by issuing the notification in the year 2018.
- The Supreme Court has directed the remaining 19 states and UTs to rapidly decide on this matter and submit response petitions.
- Under the Constitution, though health is on the State List, both Central and State Governments hold concurrent power to notify diseases. Central and State Governments must act swiftly to declare cancer as a mandatory reportable disease nationally and create an integrated National Cancer Digital Registry (எண்மப் பதிவேடு).