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1. Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay released water from the Mettur Dam for irrigation in the Cauvery Delta. Subsequently, he offered prayers by sprinkling flowers and paddy grains into the water gushing out of the dam.

   i. Through the Mettur Dam in Salem district, 16.05 lakh acres of agricultural land in 12 Cauvery Delta districts receive irrigation facilities. Traditionally, if the water level of the dam is above 90 feet, water is released from the Mettur Dam for Delta irrigation every year on June 12. This year, however, water was not released on June 12 because the dam did not have sufficient water.

   ii. Meanwhile, due to the release of surplus water from Karnataka's reservoirs, the water level of the Mettur Dam has now crossed 90 feet. Consequently, it was decided to release water from the dam for Delta irrigation on September 1.

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India after completing his two-day visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

   i. During the visit, the Prime Minister first travelled to Uzbekistan, where he met and held discussions with the country's President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. During the meeting, both countries decided to strengthen their diplomatic relations and increase annual bilateral trade to $5 billion (₹47,750 crore) by 2030.

   ii. Later, the Prime Minister travelled to Kyrgyzstan to participate in the SCO summit, where he held discussions on bilateral relations with the leaders of several countries. Prime Minister Modi also held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and other leaders.

iii. At the summit, when Prime Minister Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping, the two leaders shook hands and spoke briefly. However, no separate bilateral meeting was held between them.

iv. Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to participate in the BRICS Summit to be held in New Delhi on September 12 and 13.

3. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stressed that water, which is the lifeline of the region, should never be used as a weapon or as a tool of intimidation.

i. Following last year's terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, India has kept the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in abeyance.

ii. Amid India's rejection of a recent ruling by an international arbitration tribunal that urged India to abide by the treaty, Shehbaz Sharif made these remarks while addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in Kyrgyzstan.

iii. As Pakistan assumes the Chairmanship of the SCO for 2026–27, Shehbaz Sharif announced that priority would be given to IT, AI infrastructure, energy and disaster management.

4. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest public-sector insurance company, has successfully completed 70 years of service.

i. To address the lack of public confidence in India's life insurance sector, LIC was nationalised on September 1, 1956. The organisation was established under Government control by merging 245 insurance companies, with an initial capital of just ₹5 crore.

ii. LIC began its operations with the twin objectives of providing security to people's

savings and transforming those savings into investments for the country's infrastructure development.

iii. Initially, the organisation began operations with assets worth ₹400 crore. It has now grown into a giant institution managing assets worth ₹57.29 lakh crore.

5. The Defence Ministry announced that Shakti Sharma has been appointed as the first woman Deputy Chief of the Indian Air Force in the non-medical branch.

6. India has categorically rejected the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Netherlands concerning the temporary suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

i. The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960. Meanwhile, 26 people were killed in a terrorist attack carried out in the Pahalgam area of Jammu and Kashmir in April last year. Considering Pakistan to be behind the attack, India took several diplomatic and economic measures against Pakistan. As part of these measures, India temporarily suspended the Indus Waters Treaty. India also stated that steps were being taken to ensure that Pakistan would not receive water in the future from the Indus River and its tributaries.

ii. Pakistan approached the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands, challenging India's temporary suspension of the treaty.

iii. After hearing the matter, the court ruled that all grounds cited for India to temporarily suspend or terminate the Indus Waters Treaty had been examined. None of those grounds justified India's decision to suspend the treaty. Therefore, India was required to fulfil its obligations under the treaty, and its decision to suspend the treaty was declared invalid.

iv. India has rejected the ruling. In a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, India said that it had never recognised the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. It stated that the tribunal was illegally constituted by the World Bank in violation of the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty. Therefore, India categorically rejected the tribunal's ruling.

v. India stated that the tribunal had no jurisdiction to adjudicate on matters concerning India's sovereign decisions. It also reiterated that the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty remains in force.

vi. Although the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Netherlands is nominally a court, its proceedings primarily seek to resolve disputes through conciliation and coordination between Governments.

7. Growing global crisis of space junk, recent catastrophic impacts, and the urgent need for international legal and technological reforms.

(i) The Growing Threat to Earth and Space

- While the Earth protects life like a mother and space acts like a protecting father, human activity is systematically destroying the Earth, which is now being pelted by falling debris and waste from space.
- The massive accumulation of orbiting junk is causing space itself to lose its natural power and capacity.
- Rapid increases in scientific exploration, the dominance of international private corporations, the commercial expansion of private satellites, and the rise of space tourism have severely heightened global anxieties regarding space debris.
- In 2025 alone, more than 300 rockets were launched into space—a frequency four times higher than the launch rates of the previous decade, further complicating the issue of abandoned older satellites and rocket boosters.

(ii) Composition and Scale of Space Debris

- According to Mariusz Slonina, head of space situational awareness at the Polish

Space Agency, space debris comprises abandoned rocket components, dead satellites, and fragments of shattered spacecraft.

- There are currently more than 36,000 fragments larger than 10 cm orbiting the Earth, alongside hundreds of millions of smaller fragments, totaling a combined weight of 13,486 tons.
- Debris enters the Earth's atmosphere daily, with massive objects weighing 1,000 kg or more falling back to Earth about once every week.
- While only 110 objects re-entered Low Earth Orbit (LEO) a decade ago, the US Space Force warned of approximately 820 objects re-entering the atmosphere in 2025.

(iii) The Kessler Syndrome and Collision Risks

- Debris fragments in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) travel at an extreme speed of approximately 7 km per second.
- Collisions at this velocity trigger the "Kessler Syndrome", a domino effect where crashes produce more fragments, raising LEO density to a point where continuous, unstoppable collisions occur.
- If left unchecked, this cascade will render vital orbits completely unusable for future satellites and space research.

(iv) Real-World Impact and Recent Incidents

- In December, a massive metal ring from a rocket—taller than a human and heavier than a horse—crashed into agricultural land in Mugu village, southeast of Nairobi, Kenya, terrifying locals who feared it was the "end of the world". Though the Kenya Space Agency dismissed it in early 2025 as an isolated incident, experts confirm such falls are becoming frequent.
- Metallic spheres washed ashore in northeast Queensland, Australia, prompting the space agency to warn the public to keep their distance. Professor Alice Gorman of Flinders University explained that while most rocket debris burns up, unburnt components falling to Earth is a common occurrence.
- ISS debris recently smashed onto a home in Florida, SpaceX rocket parts fell in

Poland, a defunct Chinese satellite broke up over Spain's Canary Islands, and space debris was recovered in the Philippines.

(v) The Lunar Impact (August 5, 2025)

- In January 2025, the second stage of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket was left stranded in space without fuel.
- After drifting for over a year, the 4-ton rocket stage crashed into the Moon's surface on August 5, 2025, at a velocity of 8,700 km per hour.
- The impact created a massive crater 18 meters wide and 4 meters deep, throwing up a massive plume of dust that shocked scientists. NASA and a South Korean lunar orbiter are actively investigating the crash site.

(vi) Future Risks and the Need for Policy Reform

- Experts warn that with massive private constellations like Starlink (where SpaceX alone operates over 10,000 satellites), a decade of unchecked debris falling towards Earth will pose an 85% risk of severe disruption to living beings and commercial aviation.
- The United Nations guidelines on space debris are non-binding and legally outdated. They were drafted in 2007 when satellite density was exceptionally low, and the UN is now under pressure to modernize them.
- The US Aerospace Corporation notes that predicting where debris will land remains extremely difficult, as a mere one-minute error in calculating atmospheric re-entry time can shift the crash site by up to 300 miles.
- Space experts assert that Governments and private companies must implement strict regulations forcing spacecraft to utilize technologies that ensure they completely burn up and disintegrate into ash upon re-entry.
- Sean O'Keefe, a Syracuse University professor and former NASA Administrator, warns that humanity lacks the imagination to realize these disasters could happen to us directly. We must turn space waste into useful resources, protect the five natural elements (panchabhutas), and build a pollution-free Earth.