

**P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY****Building Bureaucrats Since 2006****September 7, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah firmly stated that just as the Narendra Modi Government eliminated Naxal extremism in the country, it should also eradicate the threat of drugs. He said that a target has been set to make India drug-free by March 2029. A high-level meeting chaired by Amit Shah on combating drugs was held in Panaji, the capital of Goa.

(i) What measures have been taken?

- In 2019, a four-tier National Coordination Committee was established to prevent drug trafficking. Under this mechanism, coordinated action by the Central and State Governments, as well as at the district level, was ensured.
- Dedicated anti-narcotics task forces have been established in all States and Union Territories, linking local police forces with a national-level strategy.
- A Joint Coordination Committee was also established so that Central agencies and State Governments could take coordinated decisions against large-scale drug trafficking networks and their international connections.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), the country's anti-drug enforcement agency, has been strengthened in terms of restructuring its offices, improving human resources, expanding regional presence, and enhancing operational capabilities.

(ii) 'MANAS' Helpline

- Along with campaigning against drugs, the Government has incorporated awareness, treatment, psychological counselling, and livelihood opportunities into its efforts. The 'MANAS' helpline number 1933 was introduced to provide psychological support to people addicted to drugs.
- The Central Government is committed to achieving the goal of a drug-free India by 2029 through political commitment, coordinated enforcement, prevention of drug addiction, and rehabilitation of affected people. The three-year action plan

is based on a four-pillar approach aimed at dismantling the drug-trafficking ecosystem.

(iii) What are the four pillars?

- Intelligence- and operation-based enforcement, control of synthetic drugs, reduction of drug use and its harmful effects, and building effectiveness and coordination constitute the four pillars.
- The comprehensive internal security strategy of the Narendra Modi Government has succeeded in addressing three long-standing challenges: terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, insurgency in the Northeast, and Left-Wing Extremism in various States.
- Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards development after overcoming terrorism. Following the abrogation of Article 370, separatist sentiments have declined there. In the Northeast, 11,000 young people have surrendered their arms. Fourteen peace agreements have been signed with insurgent groups, and the northeastern region is progressing towards development.
- Just as Naxal extremism was eliminated, the drug threat will also be eradicated. By March 2029, 100 national- and international-level drug networks will be dismantled, and 100 drug traffickers who have fled abroad will be extradited and brought back. By March 2027, the entire drug supply chain will be brought under a surveillance network.
- At least 75 clandestine drug laboratories will be destroyed by the end of the current year. He said that a drug-free India is essential for making a developed India possible.

2. Two members of a Kuki tribal militant organisation were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Churachandpur, Manipur. Two other militants were injured.

- Clashes broke out in Manipur in 2023 between the Meitei community, which constitutes the majority of the State's population, and the Kuki tribal community.

Numerous houses and vehicles were set on fire. Thousands of people who lost their homes have been staying in government relief camps for the past three years. More than 300 people have been killed in the violence.

- As complete peace has still not returned to the State, militants from both communities continue to carry out attacks from time to time. Security forces have been conducting intensive operations against these militants.

3. Mount Anak Krakatau in Indonesia erupted early Sunday, following which volcanic ash began spreading across the western parts of the country. As a result, all flights at Jakarta International Airport were cancelled.

- The volcano, located on an island in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra, had shown signs of an impending eruption since last Friday. According to Indonesia's Geological Agency, it erupted at 3:53 a.m. on Sunday.

4. Kimi Antonelli, the Italian-born Mercedes driver, won the Italian Grand Prix, the 13th race of the Formula One (F1) season, on Sunday.

5. European countries are increasingly importing diesel from India. In August alone, India exported approximately 200,000 barrels of diesel per day to European countries by ship. According to statistics from Vortexa, a company that tracks the movement of cargo and energy vessels:

- i. The war between Ukraine and Russia has continued for more than four years. To put pressure on Russia, the United States has imposed economic sanctions on the country. The US has also directed countries around the world not to import crude oil from Russia. As a result, European countries have been unable to purchase crude oil directly from Russia.
- ii. In terms of diesel, European countries are increasingly importing it from India. European countries import 60% of their total diesel requirements from India. In

August alone, India exported 200,000 barrels of diesel per day to European countries by ship. All these vessels travel to Europe through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

- iii. Similarly, Russia, which exports crude oil to India at discounted prices, is also importing significant quantities of petrol and diesel from India to meet its own requirements. This is because production at Russian crude-oil refineries has been affected by successive Ukrainian attacks on those facilities.
- iv. India is considered to have the world's fourth-largest crude-oil refining capacity. The country has the capacity to refine 258.1 million tonnes of crude oil annually. From April 2025 to March 2026, India exported 61.5 million tonnes of petroleum products, most of which went to European countries and Russia.

6. The EOS-05 (GISAT-1-A) satellite successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

(i) Launch Mission and Context

- The satellite was successfully launched last Friday at 2:55 AM from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- The mission was executed using a GSLV F-17 rocket, which successfully placed the satellite into its planned orbit after a 19-minute flight.
- This successful deployment serves as a major relief and boost for ISRO scientists. It follows the consecutive launch failures of the EOSN-1 satellite (launched on January 12) and the EOS-09 satellite (launched on May 18, 2025), both of which failed and had been launched using PSLV rockets.

(ii) Satellite Specifications and Orbital Profile

- The satellite has a total mass of 2,367 kg and possesses an operational design lifespan of 10 years.
- It was initially injected into an orbit with a minimum altitude (perigee) of 171 km and a maximum altitude (apogee) of 31,026 km.

- Using its onboard propulsion motors, the satellite will gradually raise its altitude step-by-step to reach its final geostationary orbit located approximately 36,000 km from Earth.

(iii) Historical Milestones and Records

- This mission represents the 107th space effort sent from the Sriharikota launch center.
- This is the heaviest satellite payload successfully launched by a GSLV rocket to date, showing significant technological progression since 2001 when the GSAT-1 satellite launched via GSLV weighed only 1,536 kg.
- For the first time in ISRO's history, a satellite placed at a 36,000 km Geostationary orbit is being utilized for dedicated earth observation and surveillance. All of India's previous 21 remote-sensing satellites were positioned in either low Earth orbits or Sun-synchronous orbits.

(iv) Surveillance and Observation Capabilities

- Operating as India's watchful observer, the satellite will continuously monitor and photograph all regions of the Indian subcontinent.
- Equipped with two types of 3D cameras, it can capture highly detailed images of the Earth's surface with a precision of up to 40 meters.
- Its imaging will be used for weather monitoring, tracking climate disasters (like cloudbursts and floods), maritime surveillance, border movements, and researching mineral resources.

(v) Technological Sovereignty and Safety Applications

- The high-precision data will help authorities execute critical precautionary measures ahead of natural disasters like storms, floods, and cloudbursts.
- Security and defense agencies will regularly receive vital geographical data and intelligence regarding border monitoring.
- Historically, India relied heavily on foreign agencies like America's NASA for critical weather alerts; the deployment of EOS-05 establishes technological sovereignty

and self-reliance in meteorological tracking.

(vi) Future Roadmap and Leadership Endorsements

- ISRO is actively working toward its human spaceflight program, Gaganyaan.
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed that an unmanned Gaganyaan orbital flight is scheduled for launch later this year.
- Over 8,000 tests have already been completed for the Gaganyaan program to date.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that the success of this first imaging satellite adds a new strength and dimension to India's space program while expanding capabilities across the entire space ecosystem.

7. National Commemoration & Awareness Initiatives

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has designated the period from August 25 to September 8 as the National Eye Donation Fortnight.
- September 8 is officially recognized and commemorated as the National Eye Donation Day in India.
- These initiatives are organized to spread public awareness about the significance of eye donation, dispel common myths, and educate the public on the surgical aspects of corneal transplantation.

(i) Global and National Burden of Vision Loss

- Worldwide, at least 220 crore (2.2 billion) people suffer from near or distance vision impairment.
- The leading global causes of vision problems are refractive errors and cataracts.
- In India, glaucoma (increased eye pressure) and corneal diseases are spreading as a "silent epidemic," leading to widespread visual loss.
- Corneal blindness or opacity accounts for 8.2% of total blindness in individuals aged 50 years and above in India.

(ii) Understanding Corneal Blindness

- The cornea is a clear, dome-shaped transparent tissue located at the very front of the eye.
- To facilitate vision, the cornea must remain transparent; if it becomes scarred, swollen, or opaque due to infection or injury, light cannot enter the eye, causing corneal blindness.
- Corneal damage is commonly caused by infections, injuries, nutritional deficiencies (such as Vitamin A deficiency), chemical burns, traditional harmful practices, keratoconus (cone-shaped cornea), and bullous keratopathy following cataract surgery.
- Increased computer and smartphone screen time is causing dry eye syndrome, which further affects corneal health.

(iii) Demand-Supply Deficit of Corneas in India

- India requires 2.5 lakh corneas annually to treat patients suffering from corneal blindness.
- Only about 50,000 eyes (corneas) are collected annually in India.
- Out of the 50,000 collected corneas, only 60% are found to be medically fit and usable for transplantation.
- Only about 15,000 to 30,000 corneal transplant surgeries are successfully performed across the country every year.
- Out of more than 700 eye banks registered in India, only 100 operate with modern laboratory and preservation facilities.

(iv) Donor Eligibility and Contraindications

- Anyone can donate their eyes regardless of age, gender, or blood group.
- People who wear glasses, have undergone cataract surgeries, or suffer from diabetes and hypertension are completely eligible to donate.
- Donation is legally and medically prohibited only if the deceased suffered from transmissible conditions like HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B or C, rabies, septicemia, leukemia, eye cancer (retinoblastoma), or active systemic cancer spreading to

other organs.

(v) Post-Mortem Eye Retrieval & Care Protocol

- Corneas must be collected within 6 hours of death, with the ideal time being within 4 hours.
- Upon a person's demise, family members should keep the deceased's eyelids closed, turn off fans to prevent the corneas from drying, and place wet cotton or ice cubes over the eyes.
- Families must immediately contact the nearest eye bank or call the national toll-free number 1919.
- The harvesting process takes only 15 to 20 minutes, causes no bleeding or disfigurement to the face, and does not delay funeral arrangements.

(vi) Preservation, Grafting, and Future Milestones

- Collected corneas are evaluated in a laboratory, stored in scientific solutions like MK Medium or Cornisol, and must be transplanted to a recipient within 14 days.
- One deceased donor can restore sight to two blind individuals.
- Currently, only 0.3% to 0.4% of deceased individuals (about 25,000 people annually) in India have their eyes donated.
- If the donation rate can be scaled up to cover just 2% to 4% of total deaths in India, the waiting list of corneal blind patients in the country would be completely eliminated.