



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. Chief Minister Joseph Vijay has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the Mokedatu dam dispute. In a letter written to the Prime Minister on Tuesday, he stated:
 - i. Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary had informed Parliament in a written reply that the 2018 Supreme Court judgment did not specifically state that Karnataka must obtain the consent of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry before constructing a dam across the Cauvery River.
 - ii. The statement has drawn criticism from all political parties in Tamil Nadu. It came at a time when Chief Minister Joseph Vijay had sought an appointment with Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar regarding the Cauvery issue.
 - iii. In his letter, Chief Minister Vijay requested the Prime Minister to withdraw the Union Minister's statement. He further stated:
 - In the Almatti Dam case in North Karnataka, the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench ruled that the dam's height could not be increased without the consent of downstream states, including Andhra Pradesh.
 - Similarly, in the Pambar Hydroelectric Project in Kerala, the Tribunal directed Tamil Nadu and Kerala to jointly regulate water release to ensure that downstream farmers are not affected.
 - The Supreme Court's final judgment also states that all projects affecting Cauvery waters are subject to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's award, and that concerned states should act in consultation with the regulatory authority to safeguard downstream irrigation.
 - Therefore, the Mokedatu project should not be decided merely on the basis of an engineering feasibility report. The Central Government must conduct a legal review based on the Tribunal's final award, the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment, and the rights of downstream states.
 - In 2019, the Central Water Commission returned Karnataka's Detailed Project Report

(DPR) on the Mekedatu project to ensure compliance with the Tribunal's award.

- Hence, the Central Government should withdraw the Union Minister's statement and refrain from granting preliminary or administrative approval to the project without considering the Tribunal's award and the Supreme Court's judgment.
- Before taking any further technical or legal action, the views of all downstream states, including Tamil Nadu, must be obtained.
- The Cauvery is not merely a river but the lifeline of millions of farmers and citizens in southern India.
- To uphold constitutional principles and federalism, the Tribunal's award and the Supreme Court's judgment must be respected.
- The Prime Minister should intervene in the larger interest of implementing court judgments and preserving cooperative federalism.

2. Fourteen people were killed and several others injured in violence that broke out during the first phase of voting in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) Assembly elections held on Monday.

- i. Elections have been announced for 45 of the 53 Assembly seats, with the remaining eight being nominated seats. Voting in the first phase was held for 13 constituencies.
- ii. The main contest was between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), both coalition partners in the federal Government. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) boycotted the election.
- iii. The PML-N won nine seats, while the PPP secured four seats. The PPP rejected the results, alleging widespread electoral malpractice and claiming that victories in seven constituencies had been unfairly awarded to the PML-N. However, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's adviser Rana Sanaullah rejected the allegations, stating that the elections were largely peaceful and fair.
- iv. India strongly condemned the elections held in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
 - Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said:
 - "The election is a futile attempt by Pakistan to legitimise its illegal occupation and conceal serious human rights violations in the region."

- "The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inseparable parts of India."
- "The ongoing protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are a direct consequence of Pakistan's economic exploitation and denial of fundamental rights to the local population."

3. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), a UN agency, has warned of a significant rise in the trafficking of people to illegal online scam centres operating across Asia.

- i. Around 300,000 people are believed to be forcibly employed in such scam centres in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos alone. These centres mainly target elderly people in Western countries through online financial scams.
- ii. Criminal networks use attractive fake job advertisements on social media to recruit educated young people with good English skills. Once recruited, victims' passports and important documents are confiscated, and they are forced into cyber fraud through threats and violence.
- iii. Many victims are reportedly subjected to sexual abuse, solitary confinement, physical assault, debt bondage, and severe psychological trauma.
- iv. IOM Director General Amy Pope said that victims from more than 80 countries have been identified, and the organisation has already assisted victims from 30 countries.
- v. She also warned that those escaping from these centres sometimes face legal action after being mistakenly treated as criminals. She urged countries to work together to rescue victims, ensure their safe return home, provide rehabilitation, and raise public awareness about such trafficking.

4. India's Sonam Uttam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon won the bronze medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the Shooting World Cup being held in China.

- i. The Indian pair finished third with 441.2 points to secure the bronze medal.

5. India's Valluri Ajay Babu won the silver medal in the men's 79 kg weightlifting

category.

- i. He lifted 149 kg in the snatch and 181 kg in the clean and jerk, for a total of 330 kg, finishing second overall. His 149 kg snatch set a new Commonwealth Games record.

6. India's Sarvesh Anil Kushare won the silver medal in the men's high jump, becoming the first Indian to win a silver medal in the event at the Commonwealth Games.

- i. Previously, Tejaswin Shankar's bronze medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games had been India's best performance in men's high jump. Kushare improved that record by winning silver in his debut Commonwealth Games appearance.

7. India's Sharmila won the gold medal in the Women's Para Shot Put event at the Commonwealth Games, becoming the first Indian para-athlete to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal.

- Sarvesh Anil Kushare also became the first Indian male high jumper to win a Commonwealth Games silver medal.
- Valluri Ajay Babu's silver medal was India's sixth medal in weightlifting at the ongoing Commonwealth Games, continuing the country's strong performance in the sport.

8. The Central Government has stated that, due to increased domestic demand:

- Urea imports have risen by 83%.
- Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) imports have increased by 36%.

9. Rising concerns over the quality of Indian agricultural exports and the frequent rejections by international markets.

- i. India's Agricultural Production and Export Goals
 - India is a world leader in the production of pulses, cloves, cardamom, pepper, and milk.
 - The country ranks second globally in the production of rice, wheat, fruits, and vegetables.
 - In the 2024–25 academic year, India's grain production reached a record 357.7 million tons.

- Agricultural exports rose from \$34.5 billion in 2019–20 to \$51.1 billion in 2024–25.
- The Central Government has set an ambitious goal to reach \$100 billion in agricultural exports by the year 2030.

ii. Recent Global Rejections and Specific Incidents

- Japan: Recently rejected a shipment of Indian mangoes because they were not properly processed (treatment for pests/shelf-life) before export.
- China: Rejected Indian green chilies after detecting residues of Methidathion, an organophosphate pesticide that can cause neurological damage.
- Spice Bans: In 2024, five countries banned various Indian spice mixes due to the presence of Ethylene Oxide (ETO), a cancer-causing chemical.

iii. European Union (EU) Trade Statistics and Challenges

- Approximately 12% of India's total agricultural exports are destined for the European Union.
- Between 2020 and 2026, a total of 2,028 Indian export consignments were categorized as "hazardous" or "risky" by EU authorities.
- Consignment Outcomes:
 - 1,001 shipments were rejected and returned from EU ports without being allowed to unload.
 - 608 shipments were permitted entry but only with formal warnings.
- Primary Contaminants: Herbs and spices accounted for roughly 50% of the flagged products. Specifically, 507 shipments had excessive Ethylene Oxide, and 136 shipments contained Aflatoxin.

iv. Discrepancies in International Safety Standards

- Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for chemicals vary by country.
- Ethylene Oxide was banned in EU fields as early as 1991, whereas India still allows a pesticide limit of 0.1 mg.
- In some instances, chemicals found in exported goods are not even formally registered for use in India, yet traces persist.

v. Underlying Causes and Structural Deficiencies

- India lacks a sufficient number of testing laboratories certified by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to verify product

safety.

- Farmers often use excessive pesticides due to a lack of awareness and formal training on international safety standards.
- There is an urgent need to modernize post-harvest handling and indigenous processing technologies to meet global quality requirements.

vi. Conclusion and Recommendations

While India has achieved self-reliance and record production, these milestones are undermined if the products are deemed unsafe. It emphasizes that both export-bound and domestic agricultural goods must be of the highest quality and free from toxic residues to protect human health and national reputation.