

**P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY****Building Bureaucrats Since 2006****September 6, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

1. India votes in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution calling for a new, more accurate world map by correcting errors in the existing world map.
 - i. The resolution, proposed by Togo, was put to a vote in the 193-member UN General Assembly. India, Pakistan and 162 other countries voted in favour, bringing the total to 164.
 - ii. Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine abstained from the vote, while the United States was the only country to vote against the resolution. The resolution stated:
 - “The world map developed by geographer Gerardus Mercator in the 16th century for maritime navigation is still widely used in education, the media, digital platforms and official records. This map depicts countries near the Equator as smaller and countries farther from the Equator as much larger.
 - As a result, Africa, Latin America and South Asia appear smaller than their actual size, creating a distorted and unequal perception of the world. Therefore, the resolution called for corrections to the existing map, which contains various distortions, and for the preparation and publication of a new map.”
 - iii. Welcoming the resolution, Raghu Puri, First Secretary at India’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations, said:
 - “Maps play an important role in helping society understand world geography and other countries. India believes that this resolution calls for the creation of an equal-area map that accurately represents the actual size of continents and regions.
 - In the new map, the shape, direction and distance of countries would be appropriately preserved. Therefore, we expect the new map design to be technically sound and neutral. On this basis, India voted in favour of the resolution, he said.”

2. The United States has announced that it will stop its annual funding for Namibia's HIV prevention programme.
- i. The United States has been providing \$45 million (approximately ₹425 crore) annually to Namibia, an African country, for HIV prevention programmes since 2003. The US will also provide \$45 million as annual funding for 2027. Including this amount, the United States has provided more than \$1.1 billion (approximately ₹10,390 crore) in financial assistance to Namibia so far.
 - ii. In this situation, the United States has decided to discontinue the funding, and Namibia has accepted the decision. In a joint statement issued by the US and Namibia, it was stated that the United States would stop funding after 2027. Thereafter, Namibia itself would bear the expenses, while the US would provide only technical cooperation.
 - iii. The United States had sought information from Namibia, including data relating to the health of its citizens. However, Namibia refused to provide the information, citing its sovereignty and right to privacy. It is reportedly following this refusal that the United States decided to discontinue the financial assistance.
 - iv. It is noteworthy that the United States recently stopped its annual \$400 million (approximately ₹3,770 crore) funding for HIV prevention programmes in South Africa.
3. Following Tim Cook's retirement from the top position, John Ternus, a 25-year hardware veteran of Apple, has taken over as the company's new leader. Under his leadership, Apple's annual product launch event is being held for the first time amid high expectations on the 9th.
4. Anil Chakravarthy has been appointed as the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the prominent American multinational software company Adobe.
- i. He will take over the new position from December 1, replacing Shantanu Narayen,

who has successfully led the company for more than 18 years. Shantanu Narayen will move to the position of Executive Chairman.

5. The Madras High Court has granted the Tamil Nadu Government three months to identify areas that should be declared elephant corridors and submit a report.

- i. A case had been filed before the Madras High Court seeking identification of elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu and issuance of a notification declaring them.
- ii. Hearing the case, the High Court had ordered the formation of a committee headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to identify elephant corridors.
- iii. The case came up before a special bench comprising Justices N. Sathish Kumar and K. Rajasekar, which hears cases relating to the environment, forests and wildlife. At the hearing, the Government submitted a report.
- iv. The report stated that the Tamil Nadu Government had issued a Government Order on August 27, declaring three areas—Jawalagiri-Thakkatti, Jawalagiri-Anchetty and Billikkal-Jawalagiri—as elephant corridors.
- v. Venu Prasad, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and head of the committee constituted to identify elephant corridors, stated that the committee formed by the Tamil Nadu Government had identified 41 areas as elephant corridors. A study is currently being conducted to determine whether all these 41 areas should be officially declared elephant corridors. He requested additional time to complete the study and submit a detailed report.
- vi. Accepting the request, the judges granted three months to identify the areas that should be declared elephant corridors and submit a report. The hearing was adjourned to December 4.

6. India-Nepal Joint Disaster Relief & Rescue Operations

- i. Under the coordination of Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava, Indian technical and engineering expert teams were deployed to assist the Nepalese Army.

- ii. The Indian team successfully utilized specialized heavy machinery to pump out water and clear massive landslide blockages inside the tunnels of the Upper Trishuli-1 and Sanjen hydroelectric projects.
- iii. In addition to clearing infrastructure, Indian medical units have established specialized healthcare camps in flood-ravaged villages to provide immediate relief.

7. Transboundary Migrant and Refugee Crisis in the Palk Strait

- i. The Sri Lankan Navy successfully rescued eight individuals, consisting of four women and three children (aged 2, 11, and 14), stranded on a barren sandbank near Talaimannar.
- ii. Initial naval investigations revealed that the individuals were Sri Lankan Tamils who had boarded a boat from Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, and were illegally abandoned on the sandbank by human smugglers.
- iii. The rescued group was safely transported to the Talaimannar naval base, where they were placed under secure custody for necessary legal, security, and medical processing

8. Global Climate Loss and Damage Compensation

- i. Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah is scheduled to address the 81st UN General Assembly session in New York, running from September 8 to 28, 2026.
- ii. Nepal will formally demand climate loss and damage compensation from the international community during the session.
- iii. The Nepalese Government highlights that severe transboundary ecological disasters, such as glacial lake outburst floods, are directly triggered by greenhouse emissions from major industrial nations, specifically pointing out China, the United States, and India.
- iv. Prior to the UN trip, Nepal's Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal held extensive consultations with foreign ambassadors in Kathmandu to build consensus on climate justice.