

**P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY****Building Bureaucrats Since 2006****September 1, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

1. Israel has signed a \$3.5 billion defence agreement with Greece to establish a multi-layered air defence system in the country.
 - i. Greece has undertaken this initiative as part of a comprehensive plan to modernise its military. This is not only Israel's largest-ever defence export agreement with Greece but also one of the largest defence contracts in Israel's history.
 - ii. Under this agreement, named 'Achilles Shield', Israel will supply Greece with the David's Sling and SPYDER systems manufactured by Israel's Rafael company, the Barak MX system manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), and MMR radars for aerial surveillance.
2. The deep-sea submarine rescue support vessel 'INS Nipun' has been inducted into the Indian Navy.
 - i. Following the induction of INS Nistar last year, this is the second deep-sea submarine support vessel to be inducted into the Indian Navy.
 - ii. The vessel will be deployed to provide support to the Navy's submarines, including deep-sea rescue and other safety operations. It was built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
 - iii. According to a press release issued by the Indian Navy, INS Nipun, specially designed for deep-sea and underwater operations up to a depth of 300 feet, is 119.4 metres long and has a displacement/capacity of 10,500 tonnes.
 - iv. Built indigenously by Hindustan Shipyard Limited in Visakhapatnam, the vessel is equipped to enhance diving operations involving compressed air and Heliox (a mixture of helium and oxygen, excluding nitrogen). It will also support deep-sea

surveys and trials, provide life-saving and medical facilities, and assist in dealing with emergencies at sea.

3. Tata is set to manufacture the United States' advanced 'Javelin' missile system in collaboration with American companies. The Javelin is a modern missile system designed to track and destroy targets such as armoured vehicles.

- i. Tata Advanced Systems, a Tata Group company, has entered into a Javelin joint agreement with Raytheon, a company of the US RTX Group, and Lockheed Martin to manufacture these missile systems in India.
- ii. India recently entered into an agreement with the United States to procure Javelin missile systems to further strengthen the combat capabilities of the Indian Army. Following this, the companies have entered into a joint agreement to manufacture the systems in India.

4. SCO Summit: Bilateral Strategic Dialogue Between India and Iran

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ii. During the talks, PM Modi emphasized that attacks on cargo ships, merchant vessels, and civilian infrastructure in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden must not be carried out under any circumstances.
- iii. Both leaders agreed to strengthen long-term bilateral ties, and PM Modi invited President Pezeshkian to the upcoming BRICS Summit in India.
- iv. President Pezeshkian requested PM Modi's assistance in utilizing India's strong relations with other nations to facilitate peace talks and restore stability in West Asia.

5. SCO Summit: India's Diplomatic Stand on the Ukraine Conflict

- i. PM Modi held high-level discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin during the SCO Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ii. India reiterated its firm stance that dialogue and peace talks are the only viable path to resolve the Ukraine conflict, citing the immense human cost of war.
- iii. PM Modi emphasized that "the path of peace" is the core message of India, rooted in the ancient land of Gautam Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi.

6. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 7.8% in the April-June quarter (Q1) of the fiscal year 2026-27, as per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

7. Nepal Floods: Glacial Outburst and Transboundary Disaster Management

- i. The death toll from sudden, severe floods in Nepal rose to 939 people, with the number of missing persons increasing to between 2,500 and 4,250.
- ii. The catastrophe was triggered on August 26 by a massive glacial landslide on the Tibet-Nepal border that blocked the Lende River, which subsequently burst to inundate the Bhote Koshi, Trishuli, and Narayani river basins.

8. Tamil Nadu CM S. Joseph Vijay announced the establishment of a modern Supercritical Thermal Power Station in Thoothukudi at an estimated cost of ₹20,800 crore.

- i. The new plant will replace five old coal units (totaling 1,050 MW) that have been operational since 1979.
- ii. The modern facility will have a total capacity of 1,600 MW (consisting of two units of 800 MW each).
- iii. The project will utilize advanced supercritical technology to comply with modern

environmental standards.

9. ₹33,066 Crore Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Scheme

- i. The Tamil Nadu Government announced the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Scheme at a cost of ₹33,066 crore.
- ii. The scheme mandates the construction of 196 new substations and 15,000 km of new transmission lines to efficiently convey electricity to major consumption centers.
- iii. A key objective of this transmission expansion is to strengthen grid infrastructure to handle surplus clean energy generated from wind and solar sources.

10. ₹175 Crore Semiconductor Park in Kancheepuram and Coimbatore Fintech Hub

- i. CM S. Joseph Vijay announced a ₹175 crore Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Park to be set up at Madhuramangalam in Kancheepuram district.
- ii. The park is expected to attract up to ₹2,000 crore in private investments and create 5,000 direct and indirect jobs by offering advanced R&D facilities.
- iii. Additionally, a ₹400 crore Digital Financial Services Center (Coimbatore Fintech Hub) will be developed in Coimbatore under TIDCO to attract international financial technology investments.

11. Multi-Modal Logistics Park in Trichy

- i. The State Government announced the establishment of a Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in the Trichy region.
- ii. The park is strategically planned to leverage Trichy's heavy concentration of MSMEs and industrial manufacturing units.
- iii. TIDCO will conduct a feasibility study and draft a detailed project report to develop the dry port and storage systems.

12. Godown Expansion and GI Tag Initiatives

- i. Farmers Welfare Minister R. Vinoth announced the construction of nine new seed storage godowns at a cost of ₹11.64 crore.
- ii. These seed godowns will be built in Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Pudukkottai, Dharmapuri, Salem, Tiruppur, and Tiruvarur to preserve seed quality.
- iii. Additionally, the Government will seek Geographical Indication (GI) tags for 11 local agricultural products, including Kancheepuram chili, Noyyal eggplant, Karumandurai gallnut, and Ooty garlic.

13. Argentina's legendary footballer Lionel Messi (39) officially announced his retirement from international football, concluding a historic 20-year career with the national team.

- i. He retires as Argentina's all-time leading scorer with 125 goals in 207 appearances, placing him second globally behind Cristiano Ronaldo (146 goals).
- ii. He has won the Ballon d'Or, the highest individual award in the world of football, eight times (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021 and 2023).

14. The Mecca Pact and Bangladesh's Geopolitical Shift

- i. On August 7, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey signed the Mecca Joint Defense Pact in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, establishing a mutual defense clause where an attack on one member nation is treated as an attack on all three.
- ii. A permanent secretariat is planned to be established in Saudi Arabia to oversee the implementation of this joint defense pact.
- iii. Bangladesh's Deputy Foreign Minister, Humayun Kabir, recently announced that Bangladesh is actively exploring the opportunity to join this three-nation military alliance to protect its interests amidst changing global trade and economic environments.
- iv. Bangladesh's interest in joining this alliance is seen as a sign of the country

strategically distancing itself from India.

- v. India shares an extensive 4,000 km border with Bangladesh.
- Despite deploying security fences and drone-based aerial surveillance, monitoring this vast border remains highly challenging, and hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis have successfully infiltrated West Bengal over the years.
 - Pakistan is seeking to use Bangladesh as a forward base to launch terrorists into India, which could trigger a highly volatile and unstable situation in India's eastern and northeastern regions.
 - Under these circumstances, it has become a strategic necessity for India to plan defensive countermeasures to withstand potential direct and indirect joint threats from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China.