

**P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY****Building Bureaucrats Since 2006****August 22, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the founders and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of 20 space-sector start-ups in New Delhi.
 - i. The interaction with the Prime Minister was attended by the CEOs and founders of space-sector start-ups, including Skyroot Aerospace, Agnikul Cosmos, Pixxel, Dhruva Space, GalaxEye, PierSight, SatSure, Manastu Space, Astrobee, TakeMe2Space, Cosmoserve Space, and OrbitAide Aerospace.
 - ii. These companies are working in areas such as rocket manufacturing, avionics, satellites, advanced propulsion systems, defence intelligence operations, space-debris removal, and AI-based weather forecasting.
 - iii. The CEOs and founders briefed the Prime Minister on the growth of India's private space sector and their vision for the future. They also expressed their gratitude for the Central Government's continued support and cooperation.
 - iv. They also explained to the Prime Minister their efforts to develop technologies domestically and build capabilities within the country.
2. The United States and South Korea concluded their annual joint military exercise, "Ulchi Freedom Shield," six days ahead of its original 11-day schedule.
 - US President Donald Trump ordered his defense department to scale back the size and scope of the joint exercises, citing his personal relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.
3. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir (78) was elected as the 23rd President of Bangladesh, representing the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

- i. Alamgir secured 255 votes out of the 343 total votes cast by lawmakers in the parliament, defeating candidate Kazi Ahmed.
- ii. This landmark vote represented the first contested Presidential election featuring multiple candidates in Bangladesh in 35 years, dating back to 1991.

4. The 14th BRICS Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Ministers' Meeting was held in Chennai under India's 2026 BRICS Chairmanship.

- i. The core theme selected by India for the multilateral summit was "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability for Infrastructure".
- ii. Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh represented India, driving discussions on expanding joint BRICS research in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, and supercomputing.

5. The Indian Government revised its FDI policy, permitting foreign investments of up to 10% from Chinese and Hong Kong entities under the automatic route.

- i. Following this policy shift, India received 29 FDI proposals worth ₹4,895.65 crore between May and August 20, 2026. These proposals originated from international investment hubs including Mauritius, the US, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore, targeting high-tech sectors like AI, displays, telecom, and pharmaceuticals.

6. RBI Governor – Sanjay Malhotra is the current and 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

7. Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed border security operations at the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) frontier headquarters in Siliguri, West Bengal.

- i. Shah criticized previous delays in acquiring 1,129 acres of land since 2014 for border fencing along the India–Bangladesh border.
- ii. Following local administrative resolutions, 560 acres of land were cleared for the SSB to enhance border patrolling and secure the strategically sensitive Siliguri Corridor

8. The National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) in Trichy introduced two newly developed banana varieties: "Cauvery Thangam" and "Cauvery Naadan".

- i. "Cauvery Thangam" contains 1,000 micrograms of Provitamin A per 100g of fruit pulp, which is 10 times higher than conventional commercial banana varieties.
- ii. "Cauvery Naadan" is a high-yielding variety of the green banana class designed to provide double the average crop yield, reaching up to 75 tons per hectare.
- iii. (iii) These new varieties have already been piloted by 35 farmers in Tamil Nadu and 112 farmers across India, with a plan for nationwide commercial distribution by April 2027.

9. A severe environmental hazard occurred in Chennai's Ennore estuary, where large quantities of dead fish were found floating across five locations, including the railway bridge.

- i. An investigation by Environment Minister Rajesh and scientific teams revealed that the mortality was not caused by industrial effluents, but rather by domestic sewage contamination.
- ii. The mixing of untreated sewage led to a severe drop in dissolved oxygen levels in the water, resulting in the rapid asphyxiation and death of the fish.
- iii. A cleanup team cleared 2,150 kg of dead fish from the estuary, and a special committee was formed to submit a detailed report within 10 days.

10. A Madras High Court division bench comprising Justices N. Sathish Kumar and K. Rajasekar criticized the state department for delaying the eradication of invasive *Prosopis juliflora* (Seemai Karuvelam) trees.

- i. The court rejected the state's proposal of conducting detailed field studies before allocating funds, labeling it a bureaucratic tactic to delay ecological restoration.
- ii. The bench directed all District Collectors in the state to directly allocate ₹5 crore from the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) to clear the invasive trees on a war footing.
- iii. Retired High Court Judge V. Bharathidasan was appointed as the nodal officer to monitor and report on eradication works in water bodies.