

September 11, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1.The Election Commission has granted state-party recognition to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), led by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay, and has also allotted the party the Whistle symbol.

(i) Vijay founded the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam on February 2, 2024. In the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections held in April this year, the party contested independently in 233 constituencies, won 108 seats, emerged as the single largest party, and formed the government.

(ii) In this context, the Election Commission sent a letter on Wednesday (September 9) to the party headquarters in Panaiyur, stating that TVK has been recognised as a State Party in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. After examining the party's performance in the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Assembly elections, the Commission found that TVK had fulfilled the criteria specified under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. Therefore, State-Party recognition has been granted to TVK in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The Whistle symbol has also been allotted to the party.

2.For the first time in 20 years, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has complained to the UN Security Council against Iran for refusing to cooperate with an investigation into traces of uranium detected at undeclared locations.

(i) As a next step following this complaint, measures such as economic sanctions and asset freezes could potentially be imposed on Iran. However, since Iran's allies Russia and China possess veto powers in the Security Council, it would be difficult for such punitive measures to be adopted.

(ii) According to the IAEA, Iran possesses approximately 440.9 kg of uranium enriched to 60%. Following attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran's nuclear facilities last year, Iran has continued to deny international inspectors access to those sites.

3.The Iran-backed Houthi rebels have completely captured Mocha, a strategically important Red Sea port city in Yemen.

(i) Through this, they have advanced significantly towards their objective of controlling the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial maritime trade route connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

(ii) Following an attack by the Saudi-led coalition on the runway of Sana'a Airport, which is under Houthi control in Yemen, last July, the ceasefire situation that had continued since 2022 collapsed, leading to renewed conflict.

(iii) In this situation, the rebels have blocked the roads in Mocha, which had been under the control of Yemeni Government forces for several years, and brought the city under their control.

(iv) If the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, one of the world's most important routes for oil and fuel transportation, comes under the complete control of the rebels, it could have a major impact on the global economy. Amid concerns over disruptions to this second major maritime route after the Strait of Hormuz, the international price of Brent crude oil has reached \$105 per barrel.

(v) Pakistan has stated that it has not immediately taken military action under the Mecca Collective

Security Agreement in response to the continuing attacks by the Houthis on Saudi Arabia.

- According to the Mecca Collective Security Agreement recently signed between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, an attack on any one of these three countries would be considered an attack on the entire alliance.

4. Indian para-shooting athlete Mona Agarwal won a silver medal at the World Para Shooting Championships held in South Korea, thereby qualifying for the 2028 Paralympic Games.

5. BRICS Summit

(i) Summit Overview & Hosting Details

- New Delhi is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit on Saturday and Sunday, September 12–13, 2026, at the Bharat Mandapam.
- India is serving as the chair of the BRICS Summit for the fourth time, having previously hosted in 2012, 2016, and 2021.
- Under India's 2026 chairmanship, over 350 high-level meetings were held across 25 Indian cities starting in January 2026, organized around three pillars: Political & Security, Economic & Financial, and Cultural & People-to-People exchanges.

(ii) Member Nations, Partner States & Global Weight

- 11 Core Member States: The expanded BRICS grouping comprises 11 member nations – India, China, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia.
- 10 Partner / Guest Countries: Attending partner nations include Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.
- The 11 core BRICS countries represent 49.5% of the global population, generate 40% of global GDP, and account for 26% of total global trade.

(iii) Key Objectives & Strategic Focus

- The theme of the summit is "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability" along with "Strengthening Multilateralism for Inclusive Global Governance".
- Pushing cross-border trade settlements in national local currencies (such as the Indian Rupee) and integrating digital payment networks (like UPI) across member nations to reduce dependence on the US Dollar.
- Functioning as a representative body for developing nations to advocate for structural reforms in global institutions such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank.
- Mobilizing the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) to secure financing for green energy, digital infrastructure, and sustainable growth.
- Deepening partnership across critical areas, including food security, energy supplies, healthcare, disaster risk reduction, and supply chain resilience.

(iv) Leader Attendance Facts

- Chinese President Xi Jinping is attending the summit at PM Modi's invitation, marking his first visit to India in 7 years (since the 2019 informal summit in Mamallapuram).
- Prominent participating leaders include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Tariq Rahman is not attending; Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry clarified that the invitation was extended under the BIMSTEC framework rather than direct head-of-state protocol.

6. 1st International Space Conference held in Paris, France

(i) Conference Overview & Event Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 1st International Space Conference held in Paris, France, via video conferencing.
- The Prime Minister officially announced India's target to send an Indian astronaut to space by 2040.

(ii) Guiding Philosophy & Global Space Governance

- Space technology has transitioned from inspiring human imagination to actively shaping terrestrial life—including climate tracking, agricultural planning, ocean management, and societal infrastructure.
- India's space endeavors are guided by the principle of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam), advocating that the benefits of space must extend to all of humanity.
- India supports a safe, sustainable, and peaceful space environment governed by international law, transparent scientific data sharing, and multilateral cooperation rather than conflict or short-term gains.

(iii) ISRO's Operational Capabilities & Civilian Applications

- Indian launch vehicles have successfully deployed 430 satellites belonging to 34 foreign countries into orbit.
- Space data in India is deployed directly to support farmers, fishermen, weather forecasting, disaster mitigation, and maritime vessel navigation.
- Global trust in ISRO is backed by generations of continuous dedication and hard work by Indian scientists, engineers, and technical experts.

(iv) Key Exploration Milestones & Future Roadmap (2035 & 2040)

- Chandrayaan-3: India created global history by becoming the first country to land a spacecraft on the Moon's South Pole.
- Aditya-L1: India successfully deployed its dedicated solar observatory mission, Aditya-L1, to study the Sun.
- ISS Human Spaceflight: An Indian astronaut successfully visited the International Space Station (ISS) last year.
- Bharatiya Antariksha Station (2035): India has set a firm deadline to establish its own operational space station in orbit by 2035.
- Lunar & Manned Target (2040): India plans to send an Indian astronaut to space and land on the

lunar surface by 2040.

(v) Indo-French Strategic Partnership

- France has served as a trusted strategic partner in India's space research journey since the 1960s.
- PM Modi invited France and other nations to join India as co-travelers in developing next-generation space technologies.

7. Nuclear bombs in India

(i) The U.S.-based non-profit policy research organization Federation of American Scientists (FAS) released a research report titled "Indian Nuclear Weapons – 2026".

- Based on public domain data regarding nuclear capacities and infrastructure, the report estimates India has produced sufficient plutonium to manufacture 140 to 225 nuclear warheads.
- Using these estimates, the FAS assesses that India has produced approximately 190 nuclear bombs.
- This estimate is calculated on the technical benchmark that manufacturing one nuclear bomb requires approximately 4 kg of plutonium.
- The report suggests India has not used all its available plutonium for warheads and holds a portion as a strategic reserve stock.

(ii) Warhead Allocation & Deployment

- Out of the estimated 190 nuclear warheads, 160 bombs are designed for deployment on India's current existing missile systems.
- The remaining 30 nuclear bombs are intended for integration with newly manufactured or upcoming missile systems.

(iii) Modernisation & Delivery Triad

- India continues to continuously modernize its nuclear arsenal, inducting several new weapon systems over the past few years.
- New delivery systems are being developed to complement or replace existing air-based platforms, land-based missile systems, and sea-based systems.
- The report notes that India's 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests reliably validated its fission weapon designs, though its progress regarding advanced boosted fission and thermonuclear designs remains uncertain.

(iv) Nuclear Doctrine

- Following the Pokhran-II tests in 1998, India officially adopted a "No First Use" (NFU) nuclear policy.
- India strictly continues to adhere to this "No First Use" doctrine in its defense posture.