

September 12, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has arrived in India to participate in the BRICS Summit, held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

(i) During the meeting, both leaders pledged to achieve the target of increasing bilateral trade to \$100 billion (₹9.56 lakh crore) by 2030. They also held detailed discussions on strategies to achieve this target.

(ii) Amid the current turbulent global situation, both sides decided to further strengthen cooperation in areas including trade, investment, defence, energy, critical minerals and fertiliser supplies.

(iii) Visit of the Russian President:

- The BRICS Summit, comprising 11 member countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia — will begin in New Delhi under India's Chairmanship and will be held for two days.
- Russian President Putin arrived in India on a three-day state visit to participate in the summit. This is the first time Putin has travelled to another country to attend a BRICS summit since the Ukraine war began in 2022.

(iv) During his meeting with President Putin, Prime Minister Modi presented him with a Russian-language translation of the Thirukkural as a gift.

2. The BRICS Summit begins in New Delhi on Saturday, September 12. The two-day summit will be attended by several prominent world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

(i) Members and partner countries of BRICS:

The BRICS grouping consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

The partner countries of the grouping are Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

(ii) Powerful countries:

- BRICS comprises 11 major economic powers of the world. The BRICS countries account for around 40% of global economic output.
- Their share of global trade is around 26%.
- India currently holds the Chairmanship of the grouping. India has already held the Chairmanship three times.
- The BRICS Summit, hosted by India, will be held in New Delhi on Saturday and Sunday (September 12 and 13).

(iii) Leaders participating in the summit:

- The summit will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi; Russian President Vladimir Putin; Chinese President Xi Jinping; Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian; South African President Cyril Ramaphosa; Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto; Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi; Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali; Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim; Saudi Arabian Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud; UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, among others.
- In addition, the President of Kazakhstan; Vice Presidents of Uganda and Nigeria; the Prime Minister of Vietnam; and the Foreign Ministers of Cuba and Belarus will also participate.

(iv) Will a joint declaration be issued?

- A war is currently taking place between the United States and Iran in the Middle East. Iran has been targeting US positions in the UAE. As a result, differences exist between the UAE and Iran. Therefore, there are doubts over whether consensus can be reached among BRICS countries on issuing a joint declaration.
- India had invited Tarique Rahman, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, a partner country currently chairing BIMSTEC, to participate in the BRICS Summit. However, he did not attend the summit, reportedly because of his dissatisfaction with India for providing refuge to former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

3. Veteran Tamil scholar Solomon Pappaiya (90) passed away in Madurai on Friday, September 11, due to ill health.

(i) It is noteworthy that Solomon Pappaiya passed away on the memorial day of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati (September 11).

4. A new bill seeking to allow assisted dying/euthanasia for people suffering from incurable illnesses was defeated in the British Parliament due to insufficient support.

5. Speaking at a meeting of the BRICS trade grouping, Russian Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov said that negotiations on a trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) are progressing intensively.

(i) The EAEU comprises Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

Reshetnikov further said:

- Three years ago, the US dollar and euro accounted for 85% of transactions related to Russian exports. This has now fallen to 11%.
- Russia has established connections with thousands of banks in various countries.
- This alternative international financial system has become a strength for Russia.
- BRICS countries should focus on establishing a grain-trading marketplace among member countries and creating special economic zones.

6. BRICS Summit :-

(i) Meeting Context and Primary Resolution

- A high-level meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was convened in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The delegates reached a collective decision to demand greater representation and voting power for developing countries in major global financial institutions, specifically the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.
- The meeting expressed strong opposition to unilaterally imposed trade taxes, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers that fall outside World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

(ii) Governance and Quota Reforms in the World Bank & IMF

- The joint statement demanded that top leadership positions in the World Bank and IMF be filled through an open, transparent, and merit-based selection process, allowing leaders from developing nations to assume head roles and ensure regional diversity.
- The conference called for the immediate, delay-free implementation of the 16th General Review of Quotas, which approved an average 50% increase in IMF quota allocations.
- The meeting urged an expedited realignment of quota shares under the upcoming 17th General Review to ensure fair distribution without harming poor or developing economies.
- The declaration stipulated that voluntary financial contributions made to the IMF must not be used to establish dominance over quota allocations, governance representation, or voting rights.

(iii) Trade Practices and Local Currency Financial Settlements

- The conference emphasized encouraging the use of national local currencies in cross-border trade and investment settlements among member countries.
- BRICS finance leaders agreed to advance and streamline cross-border payment and transaction processing mechanisms.
- The grouping reaffirmed its support for an open, transparent, inclusive, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading framework governed by WTO rules.
- The joint statement highlighted that the global economy is currently facing severe disruptions due to geopolitical tensions, financial pressures, and inflationary risks, which disproportionately impact emerging markets and developing countries.

(iv) Institutional Mechanisms & NDB Initiatives

- High priority was assigned to the New Development Bank (NDB) to fund critical infrastructure and sustainable development projects across BRICS and Global South nations.
- Members welcomed the creation of this initiative aimed at mobilizing private sector capital and investments.
- The meeting endorsed the BRICS Work Programme for Growth and Development alongside the NDB Knowledge Platform to share developmental expertise.
- BRICS finance leaders welcomed the plan to establish a dedicated "BRICS Risk Research Lab" at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat, to strengthen risk assessment and the insurance sector.

7. New rule to cancel 60-day grace period for foreigners who lost their job in USA

(i) Proposed Policy and Regulatory Overview

- The US Department of Homeland Security released a draft regulation titled "Elimination of Voluntary 60-day Grace Period".
- The proposal aims to completely eliminate the 60-day grace period currently granted to foreign workers who lose their jobs to search for new employment in the US.
- The department has opened a 60-day window for the general public to submit feedback and comments on the draft rule before it is finalized.

(ii) Immediate Departure and Impact on Indian Professionals

- If finalized, foreign workers who lose their job will be required to leave the United States immediately unless they hold separate, independent legal authorization to remain.
- The policy change is expected to severely impact foreign employees, particularly Indian nationals who form a substantial segment of the US technology workforce.
- US tech corporations rely heavily on H-1B non-immigrant visas to recruit high-skilled foreign talent, offering top performers a pathway toward permanent residency (Green Card).

(iii) Covered Visa Categories and Historical Background

- The proposed rule applies to foreign non-immigrant visa holders and their dependents across categories including E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, L-1, O-1, and TN.
- The 60-day grace period was originally introduced in 2016 to afford high-skilled foreign workers job-transition flexibility and help US companies retain specialized talent.

(iv) Context of US Visa Reforms and Judicial Interventions

- The move forms part of administrative policies focused on prioritizing employment opportunities for domestic US workers over foreign personnel.
- Prior executive measures sought to drastically raise H-1B visa fees from \$2,000–\$5,000 up to \$100,000 (approx. ₹96 lakh) annually.
- The US High Court subsequently struck down the steep fee hike, dealing a major legal setback to the administration's immigration restrictions.

8. A successful hot firing test for the flight acceptance of a cryogenic engine was conducted at ISRO's Mahendragiri facility in Tirunelveli district. ISRO sources said::

- Various tests of the cryogenic engine that can be fitted onto the LVM3-M7 rocket are continuously being conducted at the ISRO High Altitude Test Facility in Mahendragiri.
- As part of this, a hot test for the flight acceptance of the cryogenic engine was successfully conducted at the Main Engine and Stage Test Facility of the Propulsion Complex.
- The upper-stage engine is equipped with a nozzle designed to operate at high altitudes. To conduct a hot test under sea-level conditions, a nozzle protection system was developed and installed, and the system was previously validated through various qualification tests. At the High Altitude Test Facility, the nozzle protection system operates by simulating the vacuum conditions experienced during spaceflight, thereby reducing the time and effort required for the flight acceptance testing of cryogenic engines.
- This flight acceptance test was conducted at a thrust level of 22 tonnes.
- Accordingly, the engine operation met all the test objectives and confirmed the satisfactory



functioning of the engine systems.

- The performance of the liquid oxygen tank pressurisation module developed for the C32 stages of the rocket under the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme was also successfully demonstrated.
- The ISRO sources said that this cryogenic engine will be integrated with the C32 rocket stage of the LVM3-M7 rocket in the fourth quarter of the current year.

