

September 15, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

I. MoUs worth 12,300 crore for investment

(i) Overview & Key Highlights of the Visit

- Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay embarked on his maiden foreign tour as Chief Minister starting September 10, traveling to London, UK, to attract foreign investments to Tamil Nadu.
- Four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) totaling ₹12,300 crore in investment were officially signed in London in the presence of the Chief Minister. These projects are expected to generate 10,000 jobs across Tamil Nadu.
- During the trip, CM Joseph Vijay also flagged off an international car racing event at Silverstone in London, which featured actor Ajith Kumar.

(ii) Breakdown of the Four Major MoUs

A. Samvardhana Motherson International Limited

- Investment: ₹11,000 crore.
- Employment Creation: Projected to generate 7,000 jobs.
- Sectors Covered: Investments will span product design, engineering, manufacturing, assembly, and equipment/supply chain facilities.
- Signatories: Pari Pointing (Head of Global Marketing) and Deepak Jacob (Managing Director of Guidance Tamil Nadu) exchanged the MoU in the presence of CM Vijay and Indian High Commissioner Kumar Periyasamy.

B. Global Capability Centers (₹1,000 Crore Total)

- Ernst & Young (EY) Partnership: Guidance Tamil Nadu signed an MoU with global consultancy firm Ernst & Young (EY) to establish a Global Capability Center (GCC).
 - Location: Situated in the newly announced GCC Corridor on Mount-Poonamallee Road, Chennai.
 - Impact: Involves an investment of approximately ₹1,000 crore and will create over 2,000 high-value jobs.
- Sigma Technology Group (Sweden): Sweden-based Sigma Technology Group committed to expanding its Global Capability Centers in Trichy and Chennai through its Indian subsidiary, Zyria Solutions.
 - Focus Areas: Embedded systems, power digitalization, and industrial digital transformation.
 - Impact: Will create 600 high-value specialized jobs.
 - Signatories: Signed by Niklas Carlson (Founder & CEO of Sigma Technology Group), Krishna Radhakrishnan (CEO of Zyria Solutions), and Deepak Jacob (MD of Guidance TN).

C. Wilson Power Solutions

- Investment: ₹300 crore.
- Location: To be set up in Tiruvallur district.

- Employment Creation: Expected to generate 400 jobs.
- Sector: Manufacturing of electrical equipment, driving next-stage growth in the power sector.
- Signatories: Signed by Hari Krishnan Malepati (Group Tech Director), Dennis Sorbie (Group Finance Director), and Deepak Jacob (MD of Guidance TN).

(iii) Additional Investment Commitments & Business Meetings

- European Auto Components Investment: A leading European auto parts manufacturer handed over an intent letter to MD Deepak Jacob in the presence of CM Vijay, expressing intent to invest ₹3,000 crore in Tamil Nadu. The State Government assured complete operational support.
- Ashok Leyland / Hinduja Group Expansion: Dheeraj Hinduja, Executive Chairman of Ashok Leyland, met CM Vijay in London and expressed interest in expanding investments in Tamil Nadu's wind power / renewable energy sector. He also reviewed progress on the ₹2,500 crore MoU signed during the August Investors Conclave.
- Finolex Industries Meeting: Prakash P. Chhabria (Executive Chairman of Finolex Industries) and Director Reeta Hinduja Chhabria also held discussions with the Chief Minister.

2. Sir M. Visvesvaraya: Life, Legacy, and National Recognition

(i) Sir M. Visvesvaraya was born on September 15, 1861, at Muddenahalli in the former Mysore Kingdom.

- He joined the Public Works Department (PWD) of the Bombay Presidency in 1885 before serving in the Mysore administration.
- His birth anniversary on September 15 is commemorated every year as National Engineers' Day across India and is observed as a public holiday in Karnataka.
- He passed away on April 14, 1962. He was knighted by the British Crown in 1915, conferred India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, in 1955, served as the Diwan of Mysore, and was awarded honorary doctorates by multiple universities.

(ii) Engineering Marvels and Industrial Contributions

- Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam: Designed and built the iconic KRS Dam across the Cauvery River, turning arid lands into fertile agricultural belts while securing drinking water and industrial supplies for Mysore and Bengaluru.
- Automatic Sluice Gates (1903): Invented and patented automatic weir sluice gates at the Khadakwasla Reservoir near Pune in 1903 to manage floodwaters and increase storage capacity without risking dam safety—a design later implemented across various national reservoirs.
- Shivanasamudra Hydroelectric Plant (1894): Spearheaded the construction of Asia's first major hydroelectric power plant at Shivanasamudra near Mysore.
- Flood Defense & Coastal Engineering: Developed comprehensive flood management systems for Hyderabad following severe Musi River flooding, and designed protection systems against sea erosion for Visakhapatnam Port.

(iii) Industrial & Institutional Legacy:

- Founded major industrial enterprises including the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works and the Mysore Soap Factory.

- Played a foundational role in expanding roads, railways, banking (State Bank of Mysore), and technical institutions, creating the framework for Bengaluru's evolution into a global technology hub.

3. Historic Parliamentary Election in Southern Philippines

- (i) Voting was conducted for the historic first Parliamentary election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, a Muslim-majority region in the southern Philippines.
- (ii) Bangsamoro is the only region in the Philippines that operates under a Parliamentary system of Government.
- (iii) Approximately 24 lakh (2.4 million) voters were eligible to vote across 80 parliamentary seats.
- (iv) On Sunday, a violent clash at a polling station in Cotabato City escalated into a shooting, leaving 3 people dead and 15 injured.
- (v) Under a final peace accord reached with the Government in 2014, the region's largest Muslim rebel group—the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)—renounced its demand for a separate state and transitioned into mainstream democratic politics.
- (vi) The election features intense contests between former rebel fighters, rival breakaway groups, and traditional political families.
- (vii) The newly elected Members of Parliament will convene in their first session to formally elect the region's new Chief Minister. Chief Election Commissioner Erwin Garcia announced that vote-counting results would begin emerging from Tuesday onward.

4. Swedish Parliamentary election

- (i) In the Swedish Parliamentary election, the left-wing opposition coalition led by former Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson holds a narrow lead.
- (ii) Despite the slight lead, significant political uncertainty remains regarding which bloc will be able to form the new Government.
- (iii) Voting was conducted for 349 seats in the Swedish Parliament, with over 94% of the votes counted.
 - The left-wing opposition coalition is leading in 176 seats.
 - The ruling coalition, led by incumbent Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, is leading in 173 seats.
 - Official final results will be declared on Wednesday following the complete counting of postal ballots and votes cast from abroad.

(iv) Challenges in Government Formation

- Even if the left-wing coalition secures a majority, Magdalena Andersson faces complex challenges in assembling a stable Government.
- A key centrist party within the opposition alliance is hesitating to join a Government alongside the Left Party.

- Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson pointed out that non-left parties sharing similar economic policies hold an overall majority in Parliament, and he announced plans to explore forming a new Coalition Government.

5. In the men's singles event of the US Open, the final Grand Slam tournament of the year, Germany's Alexander Zverev became the champion. He defeated young American player Ben Shelton.

6. The ninth round of negotiations to finalise the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Canada began in New Delhi.

(i) The negotiations, which will continue until the 18th of this month, will cover issues including goods, services, rules, and technical barriers to trade.

(ii) The talks assume significance as both countries have set a target of increasing bilateral trade to ₹48 lakh crore (\$50 billion) by 2030.

(iii) India exports pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, marine products, cotton, ready-made garments, electronic goods, chemicals, and other products to Canada. India also exports various trade services to Canada, including telecommunications, computer, and information and communication technology (ICT) services.

(iv) India imports pulses, pearls, precious stones, coal, fertilisers, paper, and crude oil from Canada.

(v) More than 4.25 lakh Indian students are currently pursuing higher education in Canada, according to a press release issued by the Union Ministry of Commerce.

7. The Anti-Corruption movement

(i) Definition and Scope of Corruption

- True national progress lies not merely in sky-high infrastructure or economic metrics, but in whether an ordinary citizen can obtain basic needs without threat, bias, or discrimination.
- Bribery and corruption stand as the greatest obstacles to national growth and citizens' livelihoods.
- Giving, receiving, or soliciting money, material goods, or undue favors to perform, omit, or act in a specific manner regarding official duties.
- Corruption is a broader concept that encompasses the misuse of public power, authority, or trust for private gain—including bribery, fraud, embezzlement, abuse of official position, showing improper favoritism, and dishonest practices.

(ii) Three Core Levels of Corruption

- Administrative Corruption: Occurs in everyday governance at every stage of a citizen's life, ranging from obtaining a birth certificate to securing a burial or cremation certificate.
- Policy-Level Corruption: Involves bending laws, policies, and regulations to provide unlawful benefits to large corporations, thereby destabilizing the broader economic system.
- Political Corruption: Involves bribing voters with money or gifts during elections to capture political power.

(iii) Socio-Economic Impacts of Corruption

- Foreign investors hesitate to invest in corrupt nations, reducing new industries and job creation. A significant portion of public funds allocated for roads, bridges, and public buildings leaks as bribes, resulting in low-quality construction that wastes taxpayer money.
- Honest small and medium entrepreneurs who refuse or cannot afford to pay bribes are pushed out of market competition, strengthening corporate monopolies.
- Government subsidies, free education, and healthcare schemes fail to reach deserving poor citizens due to middleman exploitation. Corruption in police, medical, and judicial services directly compromises basic human rights and public safety.
- Brain Drain & Social Inequality: Bribes, political recommendations, and nepotism replace merit in recruitment and promotions, forcing talented youth to migrate abroad and widening the gap between rich and poor.
- Corruption inflates Government project costs, leading to price rises and higher tax burdens on citizens. It also indirectly aids illegal money laundering, drug trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism.

(iv) Erosion of Democracy and Rule of Law

- Corruption erodes public moral trust in key democratic pillars, including courts, the Election Commission, and investigative agencies.
- Criminals and lawbreakers utilize bribery to escape punishment, weakening the rule of law and spreading crime and public frustration.

(v) Existing Institutional and Legal Frameworks

- National Level Bodies: Key bodies include the Lokpal, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- State Level Bodies: Mechanisms include the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC), Lok Ayukta, and state judiciaries.
- Existing anti-corruption laws and investigative agencies alone cannot completely eliminate corruption without active public awareness and moral consciousness.

(vi) Electoral Corruption as the Root Cause

- Corruption in a democracy originates during elections when candidates distribute cash, gifts, or illegal inducements to buy votes.
- Corrupt leaders spend illicit money to win elections and subsequently misuse public office during their tenure to recover those costs, fueling administrative and policy corruption.
- Voter ignorance, corruption, and dictatorship constitute the three fundamental threats to democracy.
- The genuine fight against corruption begins on the day voters firmly reject cash, gifts, and improper favors in exchange for their votes.

(vii) Two-Front Strategy and Moral Struggle for Eradication

- Eradicating corruption requires a legal battle (investigating and punishing offenders through laws



and courts) alongside a social battle (building strong public sentiment and village-level anti-corruption movements).

- Effective eradication requires combining prevention, detection/legal action, and reducing opportunities for corrupt practices.
- Society must treat corruption as a "social murder" that destroys collective welfare, rather than maintaining a passive attitude. Moral education should be made mandatory starting from school level.
- The anti-corruption movement is not directed against any specific Government or leader; it is a collective moral struggle by citizens to restore ethical governance and good governance.

