

August 19, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Shukla, one of the astronauts selected for India's Gaganyaan mission to send humans into space, traveled for experiential training purposes.
 - i. Under the 'Axiom Space' of the United States of America, Commander and NASA scientist Peggy Whitson, Polish astronaut Sławos Usnanski Wisniewski, and Hungarian astronaut Tibor Kapu traveled to the International Space Station along with Subhanshu Shukla.
 - ii. With this, Shukla became the first Indian to travel to the International Space Station.
2. In the women's singles final of the 1,000-points Cincinnati Open Tennis tournament, world No. 3 Iga Świątek of Poland and Italy's Jasmine Paolini, ranked 9th, will face off.
3. The Union Election Commission, established by the Myanmar's Military rulers, has announced that elections will be held in Myanmar starting on December 28th.
 - i. The military overthrew the democratically elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, claiming that the 2020 election was rigged.
 - ii. Aung San Suu Kyi is serving a 27-year prison sentence in the cases brought against her.
4. Korean electronics giant Samsung has started laptop production at its Greater Noida factory in India.
 - i. India is home to Samsung's second largest manufacturing facility globally.
 - ii. This unit is the second largest in terms of production and is the second largest exporter of smartphones after Apple.
5. The two-day consultative meeting of 3 Groups of Ministers (GoMs) comprising Finance Ministers and other ministers of various states begins on Wednesday (Aug. 20) to make recommendations on Goods and Service Tax (GST) Rate rationalisation, Compensation Cess, Medical and Life Insurance premiums.
 - i. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will participate and speak on the next generation GST reform (GST 2.0).
 - ii. The Finance Ministry recommended to the GoM to reduce the current 4-tier GST rates of 5%, 12%, 18%, 28% to two tier structure of 5%, 18% and to maintain a tax rate of 40% on only 7 items.
6. The Central Government launched a new scheme called Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana with a budget outlay of Rs.1 lakh crore and also launched a dedicated website for it.
 - i. Under the new scheme, a one-time incentive is provided to employees joining the job for the first time.



- ii. An incentive of up to a maximum of Rs. 15,000, equivalent to one month's average salary (basic salary and dearness allowance), will be provided. Moreover, this amount will be available in two installments. Employees with a total salary of up to Rs. 1 lakh are eligible for this scheme.
7. A bill to establish an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Guwahati, Assam, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.
 - i. The bill, titled 'Indian Management Institutions Amendment Bill 2025', was introduced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan amidst strong opposition from the opposition parties.
8. Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar urged Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that differences between India and China should not turn into disputes or confrontations.
 - i. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in India on a 2-day visit. He is in India to hold talks on the India-China border issue and met Minister Jaishankar in New Delhi.
 - ii. The 24th round of India-China special representatives' talks on the border issue between the two countries will be held in New Delhi on Tuesday. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Wang Yi will participate in it.
9. Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the phone. At that time, he briefed Modi on the issues discussed during his recent meeting with US President Donald Trump.
 - i. Putin met with Trump in Alaska. The Ukraine-Russia ceasefire was a key reason for the meeting.
 - ii. However, no decision was reached on a ceasefire. This was seen as a setback for US President Trump.
10. **Personalities in news :-**
 - i. C.P.Radhakrishnan – Governor of Maharashtra and Candidate for Vice-President elections