

## August 24, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked for more private sector participation in space exploration, with the aim of launching 50 rockets a year. In his online address on the occasion of National Space Day (Aug. 23), Prime Minister Modi said:
  - i. Steps are being taken to form a team of astronauts for the country's future space programs. The youth of the country should participate enthusiastically in this team.
  - ii. India is soon going to launch the Gaganyaan program to send humans into space. Following this, we are also going to set up our own space station.
  - iii. Private companies should participate more enthusiastically in space exploration. Only then can we achieve the capacity to launch 50 rockets per year.
  - iv. Satellite-based surveying in crop insurance, satellite-based information sharing and safety program for fishermen, disaster management programs, the Prime Minister's initiative for integrated planning and implementation, bringing together various ministries, including Railways, The Prime Minister said that Science and Technology are playing a key role in Government administration, such as the use of geographic data in the National Master Plan.
2. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar stated categorically said that India has specific 'red lines' in its bilateral trade deal negotiations with the US. That is, there can be no compromise on protecting the interests of farmers and small producers.
  - i. Furthermore, it is amusing that US Government Officials claim that India is profiting by purchasing cheap crude oil from Russia, refining it, and selling it at a higher price to other countries, including Europe. He said that no one is going to force them to buy oil from India. If they do not want to, countries can avoid buying oil from India.
3. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said that the rocket will be launched into space from Kulasekarapattinam in one and a half years.
  - i. The Central Government allocated Rs.4,000 crore in January to set up a 3<sup>rd</sup> launch pad at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, and work is underway for it. Meanwhile, work on setting up a launch pad at Kulasekarapattinam is also progressing rapidly. A rocket will be launched from there in a year and a half.
  - ii. The name of the first rocket we made is SLV 3. It was created by the late President Abdul Kalam. The first rocket we made could only carry satellites weighing 40 kg.
  - iii. The Mark-3 rocket we have now is capable of launching and positioning satellites weighing up to 10,000 kg."
  - iv. The rocket we are currently designing for the future is capable of carrying 80,000 kg of cargo and satellites. The rocket has not been named yet.
  - v. A space station for India will be established by 2035.

- vi. The Aditya satellite, which was sent to image the Sun, is doing its job well. Chandrayaan has proven the presence of water on the moon. However, the exact amount of water will be confirmed by future missions. Similarly, he said the plan to send humans to space and bring them back safely will be completed by 2027.
4. The Central Government is planning to set up a mineral trading market soon, similar to the London Metal Exchange, said Union Minister for Coal and Mines G.K. Shan Reddy.
  - i. He also said that this mineral market will be created in accordance with the procedures of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
  - ii. The London Metal Exchange, one of the world's leading metal trading centers, trades non-ferrous metals including copper, nickel, aluminum, lead, and zinc. The prices of metals determined in this market serve as a key indicator for the global metals industry and are the basis for determining the price of refined metal.
5. India has temporarily suspended postal services to the US after the US Government withdrew a tax exemption for items worth up to \$800 sent through the postal service. The US Government had announced that duty-free shipping on international mail items worth up to \$800 would be withdrawn from August 29.
6. President Donald Trump has appointed his close aide, Sir Geo Core, as the new US ambassador to India.
7. For the first time in the country, a hydrogen powered train engine and 8 coaches manufactured by the Integrated Coach Manufacturing Company (ICF), Chennai were transported to the state of Haryana.
  - i. The Northern Railway Zone planned to manufacture hydrogen powered train engines and coaches to transform rail transport in line with environmental protection. Accordingly, the work to manufacture a hydrogen engine at a cost of Rs. 80 crore was entrusted to ICF in Chennai.
8. The Tamil Nadu Government has stated that Tamil Nadu has ranked first in the country in terms of production capacity of Ragi. Furthermore, it ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in maize, total oilseeds and sugarcane production capacity, Tamil Nadu also ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the production capacity of small grains and groundnuts.
9. The Tamil Nadu government is taking various steps to simplify the process of obtaining crop loans for farmers and to ensure that loans are available quickly. Among them, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently launched a new scheme in Dharmapuri that provides crop loans on the same day of application online. The Chief Minister also announced that this scheme will be expanded to all districts. This scheme is very beneficial for farmers and is receiving a good response.
10. Personalities in news :-
  - i. Ranil Wickremesinghe - Former President of Sri Lanka
  - ii. Marco Rubio - USA Secretary of State