

August 25, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Finance and Environment Minister Thangam Thennarasu has confirmed that no hydrocarbon project will be permitted in any part of Tamil Nadu.
 - i. In 2011, the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas began an effort to explore methane, a hydrocarbon that could be used as an alternative fuel to petroleum, in the Cauvery Delta region of Tamil Nadu.
 - ii. There was strong opposition to the methane and hydrocarbon gas project as it would affect agriculture and marine resources. The study effort was abandoned following opposition from farmers, social activists, and all political parties. However, fears persisted among Delta farmers about these plans.
 - iii. In this context, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation decided to develop hydrocarbon oil wells in Ramanathapuram district. Accordingly, it has been decided to drill holes at 20 locations to a depth of 2,000 to 3,000 meters. In particular, it has been decided to focus on the villages of Kavanur, Kaman Kottai, Siruvayal, A. Manakudi, Seenankudi, and Peikulam.
 - iv. For this, it sought the approval of the State Government. The State Environmental Assessment Authority has granted permission for this. This caused great discontent and fear among the public and environmental activists in Ramanathapuram district. They fear that this will pollute groundwater and affect agriculture. They also say that it will affect health.
 - v. In this situation, Thiru Thangam Thennarasu, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Environment of the Government of Tamil Nadu, has said that they will not give permission for hydrocarbon projects in anywhere in Tamil Nadu.
2. ISRO announced that the first phase of the test of the parachute system (IADT-01), which is crucial for slowing down the spacecraft returning to Earth and safely landing astronauts in the Gaganyaan mission, has been successfully completed.
 - i. The Gaganyaan mission, which will take humans into space, is the dream project of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). As part of this program, four Group Captains of the Indian Air Force – Subhanshu Shukla, Prashant Nair, Ajit Krishnan, and Angad Pratap – have been selected as astronauts.
 - ii. Three of them will be sent to low Earth orbit at an altitude of 400 km. They will stay there for three days, conduct various research tasks, and then return safely to Earth.

- iii. With this, India will become the 4th country in the world to send humans into space on its own spacecraft, after the United States, Russia, and China.
 - iv. Gaganyaan astronauts have been undergoing rigorous training for the past few years. It is noteworthy that Subhanshu Shukla, one of the Gaganyaan astronauts, recently successfully returned to the International Space Station under the 'Axis-4' program for experimental training.
 - v. The first unmanned test flight of the Gaganyaan project is planned for the end of this year.
3. In a new milestone in India's defence sector, the indigenously developed Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) was successfully test-fired off the Odisha coast.
- i. According to a press release from the Ministry of Defense, IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system comprising all indigenous Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missiles (QRSAM), Advanced Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles and a high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW).
 - ii. All these modern weapons are managed by a centralized command and control center developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). This center allows all weapons systems to be coordinated and operate simultaneously.
 - iii. The test was conducted at the Chandipur test site in Odisha.
 - iv. During the test, three different targets, two high-speed unmanned aerial vehicles and a multi-copter drone, were simultaneously attacked and destroyed.
 - v. The targets flew at different distances and altitudes. The Ministry of Defense said that all components functioned flawlessly in the test and hit the targets accurately.
4. North Korea has tested a new type of air defense missile while the United States and South Korea are engaged in joint military exercises.
- i. The missiles are capable of effectively countering air attacks such as small unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and cruise missiles, North Korean state news agency KCNA said.
 - ii. South Korea's new president, Lee Jae-myung, meets with Japan's prime minister in Tokyo, discusses with the US how to counter North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions.

5. The 16th Asian Shooting Championship is underway in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. Aishwary Pratap won gold in the men's 50m rifle category by finishing first with 462.5 points.
6. Nepal, with landscape of tigers, snow leopards and leopards, is joining International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), will strengthen international cooperation for the conservation of big cats, the IBCA said.
 - i. While there were just 121 tigers in Nepal in 2009, their number has increased to 355 according to the last census conducted in 2022.
 - ii. IBCA is a coalition of over 90 countries and multilateral organizations committed to the conservation of the seven big cat species: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, jaguar, leopard gecko, and puma.
 - iii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched this alliance on April 9, 2023, in Mysore, Karnataka.
7. China has given in-principle approval to resume cross-border trade between India and China via the Shipkila Pass in Himachal Pradesh, which was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.
8. The Central Government has appointed Anish Dayal Singh, former director of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), as the Deputy National Security Advisor.
9. Norway announced that it would allocate 7 billion kroner (\$695 million) for Ukraine's air defense systems.
 - i. Norway and Germany will jointly fund two air defense systems, including missiles, and Norway is helping Ukraine purchase an air defense radar, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoeher said.
10. **Personalities in news :-**
 - i. Márton Fucsovics- Hungary Tennis Player
 - ii. Diana Shnaider - Russian Tennis Player