

August 16, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech, assured that high priority will be given to domestic production in all sectors including defence, energy, modern technology, pharmaceuticals and fertilizer production.
 - i. In an environment of global economic self-interest, ensuring self-reliance is the imperative of the hour.
 - ii. Called for everything from fighter jet engines to social media to be made in India.
 - iii. The Prime Minister's comments have assumed significance as US President Trump has taken a tough stance against India on trade.
2. The following are the key announcements made by Prime Minister Modi in his speech to achieve the goal of a developed India by 2047 :-
 - i. **Population Survey Project** – A high-level population survey project will be launched to address the challenge of demographic imbalance caused by illegal immigration.
 - ii. **National Deep Sea Exploration Program** – A large portion of the budget is spent on importing petrol, diesel and LPG. Therefore, a National Deep Sea Exploration Program will be launched to discover oil and gas resources in the seabed.
 - iii. **Indian manufactured 'chip'** – While other countries have flourished in the Semiconductor industry, no efforts have been made to set up this industry in India for many years. Now that we are in full swing, the first 'chip' made in India will be released by the end of this year.
 - iv. **10 times nuclear power** – With 10 new nuclear reactors under construction, the country's nuclear power capacity will increase tenfold by 2047.
 - v. **Reform Task Force** – A dedicated Reform Task Force will be formed to advance the next generation of reforms in the country, with a view to accelerating economic growth.
 - vi. **Incentives to Youths** – A massive employment promotion scheme worth Rs.1 lakh crore will be launched to provide Rs.15,000 as a stipend to young people joining private companies. This will benefit 3 crore youth.
3. The Finance Ministry said that it has recommended to the Group of State Finance Ministers (GoM) to reduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate to two-tier rates of 5% and 18% and to impose a 40% tax on only 7 high-value items.
 - i. Once the GST Council approves this revised GST rate, 99 percent of the items

taxed under 12% will be brought under 5%.

- ii. Similarly, 90 percent of the items taxed under 28% will be brought under 18% tax regime.

4. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has approved a consortium led by Pixel Space India to launch India's first Earth Observation Satellite Constellation.

- i. For the first time in the history of Indian Space, Commercial Earth Observation Satellite Constellation has been planned.
- ii. After carefully examining the three consortiums that participated in the auction, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) on August 12 approved the consortium led by Bangalore-based Pixel Space India.
- iii. The consortium led by Bangalore-based Pixel Space India comprises Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India, and Dhruva Space.
- iv. The project, which will be implemented in a public-private partnership, an investment of Rs.1,200 crore has been planned over the next 5 years. The Earth Observation Satellite Constellation consists of 12 satellites.
- v. The Earth observation satellite constellation will be equipped with panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral, and microwave synthetic aperture radar sensors. It will provide analytically-enabled data and value-added services that can be used for climate change monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, infrastructure, marine surveillance, national security, urban planning, etc. In addition, it will also provide on-demand geographic intelligence data on a global scale.
- vi. Pawan Goenka, Chairman of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACE), said, that with this, the era of Indian private companies in the space sector is about to begin. A collaborative effort between government and private companies will build an environment conducive to growth, innovation, and self-reliance.

5. The death toll in the flash flood-landfall caused by a cloudburst in Chositi village in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 60. The search for 69 missing people continued for the second day.

6. India's crude oil imports from Russia increased to 2 million barrels per day in August.

- i. The United States recently imposed an additional 25 percent tariff on Indian goods, in addition to the already imposed 25 percent tariff, accusing India of importing crude oil from Russia, which is engaged in a war with Ukraine.

7. The National Highways Authority of India, a Central Government agency,

implemented the FASTag travel card facility, which private vehicles can obtain by paying a fee of Rs.3,000.

- i. Under the FASTag Annual Travel Card facility, private vehicles can cross toll plazas for one year or 200 times by paying a one-time fee of Rs. 3,000.
 - ii. Under this facility, the FASTag annual travel card will be activated within 2 hours, after payment of Rs.3,000 through the Rajmark Yatra app or the National Highways Authority of India website.
 - iii. The FASTag annual travel card facility was successfully implemented at approximately 1,150 toll plazas on national highways and expressways in the country.
8. The city corporation of the US capital, Washington, has filed a lawsuit against Donald Trump's takeover of the city's metropolitan police department by declaring a 'crime emergency' in the city.
- i. The Trump administration has appointed federal official Terry Cole as the chief of the Washington Police Department, saying it will help control crime.
 - ii. City Attorney Brian Schwalb has alleged in his petition that this is illegal and deprives the city of its 700,000 residents of their rights.
9. Talks in Geneva to create an international treaty to tackle the plastic pollution crisis ended without reaching any agreement.
- i. During the 11-day talks at the UN office in the city, representatives from 184 countries discussed ways to control plastic production and impose global, legal restrictions on toxic chemicals.
 - ii. However, no consensus was reached on these issues. So, what was supposed to be the last round of talks ended without an agreement, just like the previous meeting in South Korea.
 - iii. The meeting discussed the reduction of chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment and the reduction of single-use plastic items.
 - iv. The world produces 400 million tons of plastic annually, and it is feared that this could increase by 70 percent by 2040.