

September 21, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The US President Donald Trump has signed a bill to increase the H-1B visa (entry permit) fee to Rs.88 lakh (one hundred thousand dollars) per year. This fee, which is currently Rs.1.49 lakh, has been drastically increased and will be effective from Sept. 21. This is expected to have a major impact on Indians working in the US, especially IT workers.
 - i. The Companies in the country are using the H-1B visa system to select talented workers from around the world and offer them jobs in the United States at high wages.
 - ii. India ranks first, with 71 percent of workers admitted under the H-1B visa program over the past few years, followed by China in second place.
 - iii. Trump, who took office as US president in January, has been advising major technology companies in the country to provide domestic jobs to Americans in line with his "America First" policy.
 - iv. Speaking about the H-1B visa fee hike and the launch of the Golden Card program, Trump said: "America needs only the best workers. That's why I approved the increase in the H-1B visa fee."
 - v. The H-1B visa fee and the Golden Card program will generate billions of dollars for the Government. This money will be used to reduce US taxes and the debt.
 - vi. From now on, companies will only pay visa fees for highly skilled workers. He said that the current initiatives have made everyone happy, both the Government and the companies.

H-1B Visa

- i. Selection of skilled workers from abroad, temporary training and employment in the United States.
- ii. These visas are valid for 3 years. They can be renewed for another 3 years.
- iii. Currently, the minimum fee for H-1B visa is Rs. 1.49 lakh and the maximum fee is Rs. 3.96 lakh (per year). The new fee is Rs. 88 lakh (per year).

The Gold Card Program

- i. Encouraging billions in investment to improve America.
- ii. The selected individuals are required to provide funds to the country's Finance Department first.
- iii. It is mandatory to provide Rs.8.8 crore for an individual or Rs.16 crore, if a person is proposed by a company.
- iv. The Government proposes to provide various concessions in the visa process and also issue green cards to financiers.'
- v. A US White House official said: The H1-B visa fee increase will only apply to new applicants for that visa. Those who already hold this visa will not be charged the increased fee.

2. The Ministry of External Affairs has said that both countries have agreed to start a new chapter in India-Canada relations.
 - i. The National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Canadian National Security Advisor Nathalie G.Drouin held talks in Delhi recently. During that time, several important decisions were taken to enhance bilateral relations.
 - ii. Economist Mark Carney took office as Prime Minister of Canada in March, following the resignation of Justin Trudeau. He took steps to improve relations with India. The Prime Minister Modi also attended the G7 summit in Canada, where he held bilateral talks with Carney.
 - iii. Both sides have agreed to increase mutual trust and continue talks. It is reported that the National Security Advisers of the two countries held detailed discussions on counter-terrorism and the exchange of information on criminal activities between the two countries.
3. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, considered the highest recognition in the Indian Cinema, has been announced for leading Malayalam film actor, Mohanlal.
 - i. The Actor-director-producer Mohanlal will be honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023 for his outstanding contribution to the Indian film industry, as recommended by the award selection committee.
4. Train services were severely affected by the blockade by the 'Kurmi' tribal community in Jharkhand demanding tribal status.
 - i. To grant Scheduled Tribe status to the Kurmi community and to include the Kurmal language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, the Adivasi Kurmi Samaj (AKS) organized rail blockade protests in several districts including Ranchi, Ramgarh, Giridih, Hazaribagh, and Dhanbad.
5. The Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal, laid the foundation stones for coastal protection works including sea walls and barriers at Chennai Port, fire-fighting facilities and a modern road connectivity at the Kamarajar Port in Ennore, a multi-purpose cargo terminal at Gujarat's Kandla Port, and ship-repair yard projects at Patna and Varanasi.
6. The Prime Minister Modi conducted an aerial survey of the Special Investment Zone (Green Industrial City) being constructed by the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation in Dholera, Gujarat.
 - i. He also inaugurated a 280 MW solar power project in Surendranagar district, built by the Avaada Group at a cost of Rs. 1,600 crore.
7. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated a project to provide an additional 265 million liters of drinking water to Chennai city every day from the Chembarambakkam water treatment plant next to Poonamalli at a cost of Rs. 66.78 crore.
 - i. To meet the drinking water needs of the public arising from the rapid growth of Greater Chennai, work has been undertaken to lay a second main drinking-water pipeline from the Semmencherry water treatment plant to the Poonthamalli Outer

Ring Road junction, at a cost of Rs. 66.78 crore, to convey the full capacity of 530 million liters of treated water.

8. The Industries Minister T.R.P. Raja said that two world-class shipyards are to be set up in Thoothukudi with an investment of Rs. 30,000 crore. The Minister T.R.P. Raja gave an interview to reporters at the Secretariat regarding this : Memorandums of Understanding have been signed to establish shipyards in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. A special agency was announced to promote shipbuilding in the state. The MoU for this was signed by the SIPCOT management and the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Corporation a few weeks ago.
 - i. Accordingly, world-class green resource-based commercial shipyards are to be established. These agreements mark a historic milestone in the industry. This will involve an investment of Rs.30,000 crore and create employment opportunities for 55,000 people.
 - ii. Kochi Shipyard will invest Rs. 15,000 crore to set up a world-class commercial shipyard. In the first phase, over 10,000 jobs (4,000 direct and 6,000 indirect) will be created.
 - iii. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders is setting up another global commercial shipyard with an investment of Rs. 15,000 crore. This will generate employment for over 45,000 people (5,000 direct and 40,000 indirect).
 - iv. These MoUs will be a major step in enhancing India's maritime infrastructure and technological capabilities.
9. The Finance and Archaeology Minister Thangam Thennarasu said that excavations are underway at more than 40 locations on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department.
 - i. The 'Indus Valley Day' was jointly organized by the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department, Roja Muthiah Research Library, and the Sindhuveli Research Centre at Keezhadi Museum, Sivaganga District.
 - ii. He said that the Keezhadi excavation is a great blessing for this land. Currently, the 10th phase of excavation and research work has begun and is underway.
 - iii. 101 years ago, on September 20, 1924, Sir John Marshall was the first to reveal the ancient history of the Indian subcontinent to the world.
 - iv. To mark the 101st year since the announcement about the Indus Valley Civilization and to celebrate the centenary of that civilization, the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology and the Roja Muthiah Research Library's Sindhuveli Research Centre jointly celebrated the Indus Valley Day in Keezhadi.
10. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has praised the underwater archaeological research being carried out in Poompuhar.
 - i. Earlier, the announcement regarding this was made by Finance and Archaeology Minister Thangam Thennarasu. His post on the X site: Poompuhar is a major sea trading port, mentioned in the Muvendra period, Sangam literature, and post-Sangam epics. At Poompuhar in today's Mayiladuthurai district — once known as Kaveripoompattinam — archaeological investigations have begun to explore the

antiquity of the ancient Tamil civilization. The Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology, with assistance from the Indian Maritime University, has commenced these excavation and research works.

- ii. He said that a team of experts led by Professor K. Rajan and including Sivanandham, Associate Director of the Department of Archaeology, has begun this work of conducting underwater research.

