

## September 1, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping decided to expand trade and investment relations between India and China and reduce the trade deficit with a view to stabilizing global trade.
  - i. The above consensus was reached during the meeting between Modi and Jinping, amid concerns over global trade disruptions caused by US President Trump's tariffs on various countries, including a 50 percent tariff on Indian goods.
  - ii. "India-China cooperation is intertwined with the interests of 2.8 billion people (the combined population of the two countries). It will also benefit the entire human race", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.
  - iii. Xi Jinping said that "As good neighbors, being friends is our right choice", and the elephant (India) and the dragon (China) should dance together for mutual success.
  - iv. Prime Minister Modi expressed support for China's leadership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and invited Xi Jinping to participate in the BRICS summit to be held in India in 2026. President Xi Jinping thanked the Prime Minister for his Chinese visit and support, the press release said.
2. Due to the 50 percent import tariff imposed by the United States, exported seafood is being returned, which is putting workers and exporters at risk of being affected.
  - i. Since Trump took office as US President again, he has been imposing additional tariffs on goods imported into the US from other countries.
  - ii. Accordingly, a 50 percent tax on Indian goods came into effect last (Aug. 27). As a result, the 8.5 percent tax on shrimp has been increased to 58.5 percent. Seafood such as squid, crab, and octopus have been taxed at 50 percent instead of being tax-free.
  - iii. This has affected production in various sectors, including seafood, textiles, ready-made garments, and machinery manufacturing, which are exported to the United States.
  - iv. India is the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest seafood exporter and India exports 70 percent of its total shrimp production.
  - v. 3,29,192 tons of seafood (40% of total exports) worth Rs.23,000 crores have been exported to the US alone.
  - vi. In 2023-24, processed shrimp and other products worth about Rs. 64,000 crore were exported to the US, Japan, China, European countries, Southeast Asian countries, and the Middle East.

3. With a view to improving the submarine capability of the Indian Navy, India is aiming to finalize contracts for two new submarine-class projects worth over Rs.1 lakh crore by the middle of next year, informed sources said.
  - i. Under the first project, it is planned to purchase three Scorpene-class submarines.
  - ii. The submarines will be built jointly by the state-owned Mazagon Shipyard and France's Naval Groups. The Rs.36,000 crore contract for this was approved by the Ministry of Defence two years ago.
  - iii. The second project, to procure six diesel-electric submarines at a cost of around Rs.65,000 crore, has been launched under the newly launched 'Project 75 India'. The submarines will be manufactured by Mazagon in collaboration with a German shipbuilding company.
  - iv. Although the Scorpene submarine project is pending, it is worth noting that India and France finalized a deal last April to purchase 26 Rafale fighter jets for Rs.64,000 crore for use on the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier 'INS Vikrant'.
4. Thousands of people attended an anti-immigration rally in Australia.
  - i. The rally, held in cities including Sydney under the slogan "Rally for Australia," featured protesters holding banners with slogans about people of Indian origin. Immigration to Australia goes against the very fabric of our communities. The website for this rally states that we want to end mass immigration.
  - ii. The Australian Government has opposed the rally. Senior minister Murray Watt said, "The Government will not support protests like this that spread hatred and divide society." This rally has been organized by neo-Nazi groups," he said.
  - iii. There are 8.5 lakh people of Indian origin in Australia, which is 3 percent of the country's population.
5. Israel and the United States have been dismayed and angered by French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to recognize Palestine as a separate state.
  - i. The UN has declared a state of famine in Gaza as fighting continues between Israel and Gaza's Hamas militants.
  - ii. Meanwhile, France, which has said that a two-state solution is the only solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has announced that it will recognize Palestine as a separate state in September.
  - iii. Following France, Britain, Canada, Australia Malta have also announced that they will recognize Palestine as a separate state at the UN General Assembly meeting starting on September 23.
  - iv. In this situation, Israel and the United States have expressed dissatisfaction with France's decision. Both countries have said that recognizing Palestine as a separate state would only embolden terrorists.

6. The Athletics Federation of India announced the 19-member Indian team to participate in the World Athletics Championships to be held in Japan in September (13–21).
  - i. For the first time in the history of the competition, 4 Indians will be competing in the men's javelin throw. Neeraj Chopra, who won gold in the last edition (2023), is expected to win a medal this time too.
7. Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia and China oppose the America's discriminatory economic sanctions and tariffs against the BRICS countries.
  - i. Putin's condemnation came after US President Donald Trump said he would impose an additional 10 percent tariff on BRICS countries.
8. It has been announced that an Indian NGO, Educate Girls, has been selected for the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
  - i. With this, an Indian NGO has created history by winning this award for the first time.
  - ii. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is considered Asia's equivalent to the Nobel Prize. This award is presented annually to individuals and organizations that provide selfless public service to the people living in the Asian continent.
  - iii. The Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation has announced the list of awardees for the 67th Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony to be held in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, on November 7th of this year.
  - iv. Educate Girls is an organization that provides education to girls who have dropped out of school and girls who are out of school. Shahina Ali from the Maldives (environmental development) and Flavino Antonio from the Philippines (improvement of the lives of the poor and the needy) have also been selected for this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award, it was announced.
  - v. Shafeena Hussain, founder of Educate Girls, said that this award is historic not only for the organization but also for India.
9. The toll hike at 38 toll booths on national highways in Tamil Nadu came into effect from midnight. There are 892 toll booths operating on the 1,44,634 km long national highways across the country.
  - i. In Tamil Nadu, 82 toll booths are operational on the 6,606 km long national highways and 7 toll booths on the state highways. Of these, tolls are being collected at 78 toll booths. The Central Government announced that the fees at these toll plazas will be increased in two phases. Accordingly, toll fees were increased by up to Rs.25 at 40 toll booths last April.
  - ii. The National Highways Authority of India has approved the increase in toll fees for the remaining toll plazas in September and the continued annual increase in toll fees.