

## October 16, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Games' Governing body recommended Ahmedabad to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games.
2. The military has seized power in the southeastern African country of Madagascar, overthrowing the Government of President Andry Rajoelina.
  - i. The general who led the coup, Michel Randrianirina, announced that he would take over as the new President.
  - ii. Randrianjanirina, who ousted Andry Rajoelina from the Presidency following intense youth protests, is expected to take office in the next few days. Rajoelina has fled the country.
  - iii. It is worth recalling that Madagascar has experienced several coups since gaining independence from France in 1960.
3. Syrian Interim President al-Sharaa met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow for talks.
  - i. With Russian support, al-Assad had ruled Syria for a long time, but last year he was suddenly ousted in a surprise attack by the rebel army led by al-Shara. Although al-Shara had fought against him during the civil war, he now wishes to cultivate a good relationship with Russia.
  - ii. Russia also wants to maintain its military presence in Syria. The two leaders are said to have held consultations on these issues.
4. The level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached a new high in 2024, the UN's meteorological agency, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), said. The statement issued by the organization regarding this stated as follows:
  - i. The amount of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere in 2024 reached its highest level since measurements began in 1957.
  - ii. The sun's heat, absorbed by the Green House Gas, further heated the Earth, causing climate change and increasing natural disasters.
  - iii. The rate of increase in Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere has now tripled compared to the 1960s. Not only human activities, but also wildfires that spread more than usual in various parts of the world worsened the situation.
  - iv. Therefore, it is essential for countries around the world to reduce Carbon Emissions not only for the climate, but also for economic security and social well-being.
  - v. The report noted that not only Carbon Dioxide but also other Green House Gases such as Methane and Nitrous Oxide reached peak levels in 2024.
5. The Pakistan has announced a 48-hour ceasefire with the Afghan Taliban. A statement issued by the country's Foreign Office said:
  - i. The Pakistani Government and the Taliban Government of Afghanistan have decided to observe a temporary ceasefire along the border.
  - ii. The ceasefire will begin at 6pm on Wednesday and will last for 48 hours. The decision was taken following a request from the Taliban, the statement said.
6. Under the National Sports Governance Act 2025, the Central Government has drafted

rules for the newly to-be-established National Sports Board (NSB), National Sports Tribunal (NST), and National Sports Election Panel (NSEP).

- i. The rules have been published on the ministry's website seeking public comments. The details are as follows:
  - ii. National Sports Board: This board will consist of 3 persons, a chairman and two members, who will have sufficient knowledge or experience in public and sports administration. They will also be experts in sports laws and other matters related to the sector.
  - iii. The age limit for these is 65. The term of office is 3 years. Their term of office will end on the date of their appointment, whichever comes first. Once appointed, a person can be given an extension of another 3 years. Members of the Board may not hold any other departmental position during that period.
  - iv. The Board's income and expenditure accounts must be sent to the Central Auditor General or a person designated by him within 3 months of the end of the financial year.
  - v. Appointments to this council are made by a search-selection committee. That committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, includes the Secretary of the Department of Sports, an experienced administrative officer from the department and two recipients of national sports awards.
  - vi. National Sports Tribunal: The term of office for the members of this tribunal is 4 years. The maximum age limit is 67. His term of office will end on the date of his retirement, whichever comes first. This tribunal will resolve disputes between players and federations.
  - vii. National Sports Election Committee: This committee, which conducts elections for National Sports Federations, always has at least 20 members.
  - viii. Players in the administration: The general committee of each federation must consist of 4 or more former players. They can be selected through elections or appointments.
  - ix. The relevant players can apply for administrative positions only after one year of retirement from their respective sports.
  - x. Only someone who has won an Olympic medal or who has at least participated in an Olympic competition may be admitted to the National Olympic Committee. A person who has won a national sports award or a medal at a world championship may be admitted to the assembly.
7. India has been elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR) for the seventh time.
- i. India has been re-elected as its member for a three-year term, effective January 1, 2026.
  - ii. The UNHRC, which operates as an organization to protect human rights worldwide, has 47 member states. Its members are elected by the UN General Assembly. The 47 seats are distributed among 5 regional groups

according to the rules of equitable geographical distribution. Accordingly, 13 seats have been allocated to African countries, 13 seats to Asia-Pacific countries, 6 seats to Eastern European countries, 8 seats to Latin American and Caribbean countries, and 7 seats to Western Europe and other countries.

- iii. India has been a member of the UNHRC since its inception in 2006. India was not a member for three consecutive terms, in 2011, 2018, and 2025, as per the rule of not being a member for three consecutive terms. On the contrary, India was a member of the UNHRC for six terms: 2006-07, 2008-10, 2012-14, 2015-17, 2019-21, and 2022-24. In the 2006 elections that established the UNHRC, India was elected with the highest number of votes, 173 out of 190 members.
  - iv. Now, India has again been re-elected for the seventh time. In this regard, Indian Ambassador to the UN Parvatha Neni Harish posted on his social media page, 'India has been elected as a member of the UNHRC for the three years 2026-28. This reflects India's unwavering commitment to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.
  - v. Angola, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Iraq, Italy, Mauritius, Pakistan, Slovenia, South Africa, Britain, and Vietnam have also been elected as members of the UNHRC for a three-year term starting January 1, 2026.
8. China has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) over India's subsidies for electric vehicles and batteries.
- i. The Central Government has implemented schemes such as tax incentives and subsidies for manufacturing companies to promote the production and use of domestic electric vehicles. Due to this complaint has been filed as Chinese companies have been severely affected.
  - ii. In this regard, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said, "The import reduction subsidy program announced by the Indian Government for domestic electric vehicle manufacturers is prohibited under multilateral trade rules." "This action is likely to benefit domestic companies and harm Chinese companies. A complaint has been filed on that basis," it said.
  - iii. Confirming that China has filed a complaint, a senior official from the Union Commerce Ministry said, "China has also filed a similar complaint at the WTO against Turkey, Canada and the European Union." "The WTO has invited India to consult on this complaint," he said.
  - iv. China is India's second largest trading partner. India's exports to China stood at Rs 1.46 lakh crore (\$16.66 billion) in 2023-24, compared to Rs 1.25 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year. That is, it fell by 14.5 percent. At the same time, the value of imports from China increased by 11.52 percent.
9. India reduced its crude oil purchases from Russia by 14 percent in September compared to August, according to figures released by the European Energy Research Center.
- i. However, India continues to be the second largest buyer of crude oil from Russia, after China.

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- ii. After the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022, many European countries stopped purchasing crude oil from Russia. As a result, India's crude oil purchases from Russia increased as it offered to sell crude oil at a discounted price.
- iii. Subsequently, Russia is using the funds provided by India to purchase crude oil from Russia in the war in Ukraine. Therefore, US President Trump announced an additional tax of 25 percent on India.

