

October 24, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. A bill supporting the annexation of the West Bank of Palestine to Israel passed the country's Parliament by a narrow margin in the first round of voting.
 - i. The U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance Sharply condemned the move to end the Israel– Hamas conflict in Gaza as an atrocity and as being contrary to peace-brokering efforts, even as the United States is trying to bring the clashes there to a complete conclusion.
 - ii. Only one member from Netanyahu's Likud party supported the bill. It is said that the bill is unlikely to pass the subsequent votes required to become law, as Netanyahu himself has opposed it.
 - iii. Palestinians demand that the West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, become part of a future independent Palestinian state. Political observers warn that if Israel annexes this territory, international support for a 'two-state solution' will be completely destroyed.
2. A Central team is coming to Tamil Nadu to confirm the request to increase the moisture level for paddy through field surveys.
 - i. The Central Government has set a moisture content limit of 17% for paddy procurement. Due to the heavy rains in Tamil Nadu, the paddy bales are soaked in the rain. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Government has requested that the maximum moisture content set for procurement be increased from 17 % to 22%.
 - ii. The Central Government has decided to confirm and fulfill the state's request through a field study. For this, the Central Department of Cooperatives, Food and Consumer Protection has formed three teams to collect and inspect paddy in the rain-affected districts.
3. The ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said that the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave will be held in New Delhi from November 3rd. He told reporters in Bengaluru:
 - i. The Central Government has planned to jointly organize a Conclave on Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation from November 3 to 5 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, jointly by 13 Departments, including the Department of Space.
 - ii. This Conclave will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Modi. The conference discusses Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, Bio-Manufacturing, the Blue (marine) Economy, Digital Communications, Electronics and Semiconductor Manufacturing, Emerging Agricultural Technologies, Energy, Environment and Climate, Health and Medical Technologies, Quantum Science and Technology, and Space Technologies.
 - iii. The Gaganyaan project, which will take humans into space for the first time, is being implemented well. Many technologies need to be developed for the Gaganyaan project. The rocket must be suitable for carrying humans.
 - iv. An orbital module to orbit the Earth must be created. Environmental control systems must be developed. The escape route for the passengers in the box must

- be designed. Parachutes must be designed. Furthermore, objects used by humans must be created.
- v. 90 percent of the work on this project has been completed. Before carrying humans, the unmanned orbital capsule needs to be tested. Vyommitra (a humanoid robot) is going to go on the unmanned mission.
 - vi. After that, astronauts will be sent into space. This will be possible in 2027. On August 24, the first integrated air-drop test was conducted for the Gaganyaan project; this included a parachute deployment and flight test.
4. The Nigerian military said it had killed 50 terrorists who had attacked military positions in northeastern Nigeria using drones.
- i. Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, has been plagued by violence from Boko Haram and other sectarian groups for 16 years.
 - ii. Statistics show that more than 40,000 people have died in northeastern Nigeria.
5. China's ruling Communist Party on Thursday reaffirmed the "core" leadership of President Xi Jinping as the head of the party and the powerful military, while backing a major purge of top military officials and endorsing a new 5-year plan for a more resilient domestic market.
- i. The announcement was made after a conference held from Monday to Thursday by the 370-member Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the top body.
 - ii. Xi Jinping, who takes a firm stance on military and economic matters, is the only leader after Mao Zedong, the founder of the Chinese Communist Party, to have served three terms as President. The four-day meeting called for the unity of the party and the country, centered on Xi Jinping.
6. The European Union has imposed additional economic sanctions on Russia over its war against Ukraine.
- i. Earlier, the US President had announced new economic sanctions on Russian oil companies. Now, the European Union has also taken this action. At the same time, Russian state media have dismissed these measures as largely ineffective.
 - ii. These sanctions are seen as part of Western efforts to force Russian President Putin to halt Russia's oil revenues that fund the war in Ukraine and bring the fighting to an end through diplomatic pressure.
 - iii. The European Union's new measures target hundreds of older vessels operated indirectly by Russia in the names of fictitious owners, the Russian oil and gas sector, and the Russian financial sector.
 - iv. Furthermore, a new action plan is to be introduced to curb the growth of Russian influence within the 27-nation European Union.
 - v. International crude oil prices rose by up to \$2 per barrel following the announcement of additional sanctions by the European Union on Russia.
7. The two countries held high-level consultations on issues including security cooperation and border management between India and Bhutan.

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- i. The 14th India-Bhutan High-Level Meeting on Security and Border Management was held in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, on October 16 and 17.
 - ii. It has been decided to further strengthen the friendly relations between India and Bhutan and enhance cooperation in traditional as well as developing sectors.
 - iii. The India-Bhutan partnership, rooted in geographical, cultural and people-to-people links, will continue to serve as a model for regional cooperation, the statement said.
 - iv. It is noteworthy that the previous high-level meeting between the two countries was held in 2019.
8. The Ministry of Defence has approved the procurement of weapons, warships and advanced surveillance equipment worth Rs.79,000 crore to enhance the combat capabilities of the army.
- i. The approval was given at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) held in Delhi, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
 - ii. This is the second major purchase of weapons and defense equipment after India's Operation Sindoor against terrorist camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
 - iii. Earlier, the DAC had approved the procurement of arms and security equipment worth Rs.67,000 crore on August 5. Now, a further procurement worth Rs. 79,000 crore is to be made.
 - iv. For the Indian Navy, approval was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPDs), 30-mm Naval Surface Guns (NSGs), Advanced LightWeight Torpedoes (ALWTs), the Electro Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for 76-mm Super Rapid Gun Mount.
 - v. For the Indian Army, approval was accorded for the procurement of the Nag missile system (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), the ground-based mobile ELINT (electronic intelligence system) and high-mobility vehicles (HMTVs).
 - vi. The Defence Ministry has approved the procurement of additional equipment for the Indian Air Force (IAF), including the Collaborative Long Range Target Saturation/Destruction System (CLRTS/DS).
9. Officials said that the Kerala Government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Government to join the PM SHRI Schools project.
- i. The State Government signed this agreement despite opposition from the Communist Party of India, while the Left Coalition Government led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was in power in Kerala.
 - ii. The main objective of this project is to select 2 schools in a block and improve their infrastructure facilities. The selected schools will be provided with an average financial assistance of Rs.1 crore per year. The State Government initially opposed the scheme, but has now agreed.