

October 25, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned of a severe response if the United States supplies Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine. He told reporters:
 - i. The United States should not provide Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine. If such missiles are sent and used to attack Russian territory, the response will be very severe. Therefore, he said, the United States should think and act on this issue.
 - ii. Ukraine has long requested the Tomahawk, a long-range, guided cruise missile that can hit targets at a distance of 1,500 km, from the United States.
2. The Booker Prize Foundation announced a new Booker Prize for children's fiction.
 - i. The foundation said a jury of children's and senior writers will select the book for the prize of 50,000 pounds (approximately Rs.58.49 lakh in Indian currency).
 - ii. The Booker Prize, considered as the highest award in English literature, has been awarded since 1969. Following this, the International Booker Prize has been awarded since 2005. In this context, the Booker Prize Foundation has announced a new prize in the children's books category.
 - iii. Applications for the first Booker Prize for Children's Books will open next year, with the winner from the shortlisted authors to be announced in 2027.
 - iv. This year's International Booker Prize was awarded to the book 'Heart Lamp', written by Kannada author Banu Mushtaq and translated by Deepa Bhasthi.
3. The Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan will leave for Seychelles on Sunday (October 26) on a two-day visit to represent India at the inauguration of the new President of Seychelles, Patrick Herminie.
 - i. He is undertaking this visit at the invitation of the Government of Seychelles, according to a press release issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.
 - ii. Seychelles, an island nation located in the Indian Ocean, is a key partner in the Union Government's 'Mahasagar' vision and commitment to the Global South. India is committed to further strengthening its partnership with the country.
4. Piyush Pandey (70), a legend in the Indian advertising industry, passed away in Mumbai due to ill health.
5. On the eve of Diwali – More than 100 people are receiving treatment in hospitals after being injured in the use of carbide pipe guns in Bhopal and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh. Officials said most of them were children between the ages of 8 and 14.
 - i. This type of gun is made by filling plastic (PVC) tubes with calcium carbide chemical. It is used during Diwali as it produces a loud explosion sound.
 - ii. When calcium carbide reacts with water, it produces a gas called acetylene. This gas explodes with a loud noise when it comes into contact with a spark.
 - iii. At that time, small plastic fragments that come out of the pipe when it bursts cause serious injury to the eyes, face, and skin of the person using it.
6. A country's gold reserves play a key role in driving the economic cycle of a country on a global scale and determining the strength of its financial structure. That is why, when a

country is facing economic difficulties and its debt burden is increasing, it sells Gold to cope with the pressure. Gold serves as a cornerstone and a protective shield for global economic stability.

- i. Gold coins were first introduced in Lydia, then part of Turkey, during the reign of King Croesus (561 BC). Now, centuries later, gold is the most traded commodity in the world, surpassing all other assets. Gold is the most traded asset in the US after the stock market, because no other investment offers the security that Gold does.
 - ii. According to a list released last August by the London-based World Gold Council, the United States, as usual, ranks first among the countries with the most gold reserves in the world, with 8,133 tons of gold in its reserves. It is this large gold reserve that creates greater confidence in its currency (the dollar) in the international market
 - iii. The next seven countries on the list are Germany (3,351 tons), Italy (2,451 tons), France (2,436 tons), Russia (2,333 tons), China (2,292 tons), and Switzerland (1,040 tons), respectively. India is ranked eighth with 880 tonnes of gold. This gold reserve helps protect India's foreign exchange. According to data from the World Gold Council, India accounts for 26 percent of the world's total gold demand.
 - iv. If a country's economy suddenly suffers, it can be sold to deal with the crisis. Chandrashekhar served as the Prime Minister of India for only 223 days, from 10.11.1990 to 21.06.1991. During his tenure, in May 1991, the country was forced to seek a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to overcome the country's foreign exchange crisis, pay off its debts abroad, manage imports, and secure a loan. The country's economy was restored by pledging 47 tons of gold to the Bank of England and the remaining 20 tons to the Bank of Switzerland.
 - v. Later, in the same year, when Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister of India, 47 tons of gold were pledged to the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, and 20 tons of gold to the Union Bank of Switzerland, thus preventing the Indian economy from going bankrupt.
 - vi. Gold helps people's cash flow immediately in times of emergency, need, and danger.
 - vii. India is the second largest buyer of gold in the world.
 - viii. The Reserve Bank of India's gold reserves have crossed \$100 billion for the first time. According to RBI data, the country currently holds gold reserves of Rs 8,97,000 crore (\$102.3 billion). Furthermore, it accounts for 14.7 percent of the Reserve Bank of India's foreign exchange reserves.
7. The issue of the Kerala Government signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Government to join the "PM Shri Schools" scheme has caused a rift within the ruling Marxist Communist-led Left alliance in the state.
- i. The Communist Party of India, which is part of the ruling coalition, has strongly criticized the Kerala Government for entering into this agreement with the Central Government without informing its partners, calling it a violation of the Coalition's

Collective Framework.

- ii. The Communist Party of India has also warned that this will lead to the implementation of the National Education Policy in Kerala.
 - iii. What is PM Shri Scheme ? The main objective of this scheme, introduced by the Central Government in 2022, is to improve the infrastructure of schools and improve the quality of education. This scheme is being introduced in selected schools as a model for the implementation of the National Education Policy. The Central Government is allocating a large amount of funds for this. It is noteworthy that Tamil Nadu has not joined this scheme, and the Central Government does not allocate funds to states that have not joined.
 - iv. Kerala Education Minister Sivankutty said that this is a strategic decision taken by the Kerala Government to obtain Central Government funds. He added, "The Central Government has withheld a total of about Rs.3,500 crore to Kerala in the last few years due to its non-participation in the PM Shri scheme." This directly affected 40 lakh students studying in Government schools, including over 5 lakh students from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and over 1 lakh students with disabilities.
8. The Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated the renovated Tolkappiyam Park. The Tamil Nadu Government has also released the fee details for the park.
- i. Through the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT), the 58-acre Adyar backwater was restored and the Tholkappiyam Park was established. The foundation stone of this park was laid in 2008 and was inaugurated in 2011 by the then Chief Minister Karunanidhi.
 - ii. The Tolkappiyam Park, which was not properly maintained in the past, has been renovated at a cost of Rs.42.45 crore and was inaugurated by the Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.
9. On the occasion of the 224th death anniversary of the great king Maruthu Pandyas, Ministers, Political party members, and various organizations paid tribute by garlanding their statues in Tirupattur, Sivaganga district.
- i. The Maruthu Pandyas, who declared the first war against British imperialism and sparked the freedom struggle, were hanged by the British in Tirupattur on October 24, 1801. This day is observed as a memorial day.
10. An election was held in Ireland to choose the next president.
- i. Opinion polls suggest that independent candidate Catherine Connolly, who is supported by left-wing parties, will win a landslide victory in this election.
 - ii. Connolly, who has a strong pro-Palestinian stance, a commitment to social justice, and a policy of not militarizing the European Union, has been the Member of Parliament for the Galway West constituency since 2016.