

October 28, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1.The Central Government has constituted the Eighth Pay Commission headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai and approved its Terms of Reference (ToR).

- i. The recommendations regarding pay hikes submitted by the Eighth Pay Commission are likely to be implemented from January 1, 2026. The Pay Commission recommendations will benefit 50 lakh central government employees and 69 lakh pensioners.
- ii. The central government has been implementing the basic pay, dearness allowance, pension and other monetary benefits of central government employees on the basis of price rise and inflation. Accordingly, the Eighth Pay Commission has now been constituted.
- iii. The Eighth Pay Commission is headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, Prof. Pulak Ghosh of IIM Bangalore has been appointed as a part-time member, and Pankaj Jain, Secretary of the Central Petroleum Department, has been appointed as Member-Secretary.
- iv. The Pay Commission will have to submit its recommendations to the Central Government within 18 months of its establishment.

2.The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) released Rs.55 lakh to 18 farmers growing Red Sanders in Tamil Nadu.

- i. The NBA has undertaken this initiative under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism, which promotes the sustainable use of the country's biological resources.
- ii. The NBA released Rs. 55 lakhs through the Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board to 18 farmers from 8 villages in Tiruvallur district.
- iii. Red Sanders, an endemic tree species native to the Eastern Ghats, is currently found only in Andhra Pradesh.
- iv. Due to its cultural and economic importance, Red Sanders is grown not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in other states including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Odisha. It is noteworthy that the livelihood of farmers is improved by promoting Red Sanders production.

3.India's Sujeet Kalkal won the gold medal at the Under-23 World Wrestling Championships held in Serbia, the only gold medal won by India in the competition.

4.A horse worth Rs 15 crore, a Rs 23-crore buffalo and a cow just 16 inches tall are the star attractions of the Pushkar Cattle Fair in Rajasthan, one of India's most prominent livestock fairs known for showcasing elite breeds and record-breaking valuation of animals.

5.The Central Government has approved a subsidy of Rs. 37,952 crore for phosphorus and potash fertilizers to distribute fertilizers to farmers at subsidized rates during the current 2025-26 Rabi season.

- i. The subsidy rate for fertilizers under the 'Nutrient Based Subsidy (NPS) Scheme' is

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determined based on factors including import price, nutrient requirement, subsidy burden, maximum retail price, etc.

- ii. Sowing operations have already begun in various parts of the country under the Rabi (winter) season. Wheat, mustard, pulses, etc. are the major crops cultivated during the Rabi season.

6.Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a government-owned company, has signed a contract to manufacture Russia's SJ-100 passenger aircraft in India.

- i. The Russian SJ-100 passenger jet is a twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft. More than 200 of these aircraft have been produced and are operated by more than 16 airlines.
- ii. In this context, an agreement has been signed between Heal and United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), a company operating under the Russian government, to manufacture the SJ-100 passenger aircraft in India.
- iii. The agreement was signed in the Russian capital Moscow in the presence of HAL Chairman and Managing Director D.K. Sunil and UAC director general Vadim Badekha.
- iv. Under the 'UDAN' project, which aims to ensure India's regional air connectivity, the SJ-100 could be a game-changer in short-haul aviation.
- v. Under the current agreement, HAL will have the rights to manufacture the SJ-100 aircraft for domestic passenger use in India. This agreement will also mark the first time that a passenger aircraft will be manufactured entirely in India.

7.An experimental attempt to produce artificial rain to reduce the increasing air pollution problem in Delhi was carried out after 53 years.