

October 4, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Voting for the Presidential election in the South American country of Brazil is being held on Sunday (October 4).

(i) Although 12 candidates are contesting the Presidential election, the main contest is between incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, the son of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

(ii) At the same time, if no candidate secures more than 50% of the votes, a second-round election will be held on October 25 between the candidates who finish in the first and second positions.

(iii) 80-year-old Lula da Silva is contesting his seventh Presidential election. He was previously imprisoned on corruption charges but was later released and returned to the Presidency in 2022. On the other hand, 45-year-old Flávio Bolsonaro is contesting his first Presidential election.

(iv) In this election, apart from the President, federal and state representatives, Governors, and some senators will also be elected. More than 160 million voters are expected to cast their votes.

(v) Voting is compulsory in Brazil, and the election is conducted using electronic voting machines. Introduced in the 1990s to prevent electoral fraud, these machines enable election results to be announced within a few hours.

2. Amid threats of indirect attacks from Russia, voting was held in Latvia, a member of NATO, to elect a new 100-member Parliament.

(ii) Following the political turmoil that occurred last May, interim Prime Minister Andris Kulbergs, a supporter of Ukraine, is contesting the election seeking public support to retain his government.

3. India won the gold medal in men's hockey at the Asian Games, defeating Malaysia 5–1 in a convincing victory. With this, India also secured direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

4. India's Pranavi Urs created history by winning her first-ever individual gold medal in Golf at the Asian Games. She also helped India win a silver medal in the team event.

(i) 23-year-old Pranavi Urs performed impressively in the individual stroke-play event, finishing with 15-under par after 72 holes. Along with Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar, she also helped India win the silver medal in the team event with a score of 14-under par. China won the gold medal. India achieved a remarkable performance in women's golf.

(ii) In the men's 57 kg wrestling category, Aman Sehrawat defeated reigning world champion Han Jong-sang of North Korea by 11–7 points in the final to win the gold medal.

5. India defeated Pakistan by 19 runs in the men's T20 cricket final at the Asian Games to win the gold medal. India had already won the gold medal in the women's category.

6. The Union Ministry of Education has approved the establishment of Centres of Excellence for studies related to five classical languages: Assamese, Bengali, Pali, Marathi, and Prakrit.

(i) According to the official order issued in this regard, Centres of Excellence will be established at the following higher educational institutions:

- Tezpur University – Assamese
- Visva-Bharati University – Bengali
- Central University of Odisha – Pali
- Central University of Gujarat – Prakrit
- Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune – Marathi

The order states that these five centres will strengthen academic research, digitisation, preservation, and promotion of heritage related to the respective classical languages.

7. Tejas fighter jet project delays affect aircraft production

(i) Air Force Chief's Warning and Induction Targets

- Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh stated that persistent delays in inducting Tejas fighter aircraft are severely affecting India's ability to face security challenges.
- To maintain operational capability, the Indian Air Force (IAF) needs to induct 36 to 40 fighter jets annually over the next few years.
- Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh made these statements during a press conference held ahead of Indian Air Force Day on October 8.

(ii) Decline in Fighter Squadrons and Procurement Contracts

- The IAF's operational fighter force has dropped significantly from 42 to 29 squadrons / strength.
- In February 2021, the Central Government signed a ₹48,000 crore contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure 83 Tejas Mk-1A fighter jets.
- Deliveries were scheduled to begin in March 2024, but not a single aircraft has been delivered to the IAF to date.
- The Government signed an additional agreement worth ₹62,370 crore with HAL to procure 97 light Tejas Mk-1A aircraft.

(iii) Foreign Procurement, Rafale Deal, and Foreign Offers

- In February this year, the Central Government approved a deal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets from France.
- Air Chief Marshal Singh expressed hope that the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) agreement with France will be signed within the current financial year.
- Russia has offered to supply its Su-57 fighter jets, though a final decision has not been taken.
- If delays in domestic aircraft production persist, India will be forced to rely on foreign imports.

(iv) Future Aircraft Projects and Defense Integration

- Tejas Mk-2 fighter jets are planned for procurement under the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program.
- The Government announced a unified theater command bringing the Army, Navy, and Air Force under a single joint structure in 2019 with final decisions resting with the Government.

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