

## September 2, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Tamil Nadu Government has declared Elathur Lake in Erode district as the state's 3<sup>rd</sup> biodiversity heritage site.
  - i. Under the Biological Diversity Act, Aritapatti in Madurai district was declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site in 2022 and Kasampatti in Dindigul district in March last year. Following this, Elathur Lake in Erode district has been declared as the state's 3<sup>rd</sup> Biodiversity Heritage Site.
  - ii. By declaring Elathur Lake as a biodiversity heritage site, the richness of its species and habitats can be preserved.
  - iii. Elathur Lake covers an area of more than 37 hectares. It is an important habitat for a variety of birds, aquatic life, and a variety of wetland systems. More than 5,000 different species of birds are found here during the migratory season. So far, 187 species of birds have been sighted here.
  - iv. It is a sanctuary for endangered species such as the river hawk, the great spotted eagle, the carpet-necked stork, the painted stork, and the eastern waterfowl.
  - v. The lake is also home to 38 plant species, 35 butterfly species, 12 reptile species, and 7 mammal species.
2. Officials said the GPS signal of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's plane was jammed in Bulgaria, and Russia is suspected of being responsible.
  - i. Ursula took off on a four-day tour of European Union countries bordering Russia and Belarus. The plane's GPS signal was suddenly disabled near Plovdiv Airport in Bulgaria. However, the plane landed safely at Plovdiv airport, from where Ursula will continue her tour as planned, said commission spokeswoman Ariana Podesta.
  - ii. In this context, Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement, 'This incident confirms that Russia and its allies pose a threat to European countries.' Thus, the European Union will continue to invest in increasing defense spending and improving preparedness.
3. India imported goods worth over Rs 8.81 lakh crore from China in the last financial year 2024-25. This trade continues to increase even though the border dispute between the two countries has not been completely resolved.
  - i. India is almost 100 percent dependent on China for imports of silicon wafers used in semiconductor manufacturing and embroidery machines.
  - ii. India imports smartphone accessories, laptops/tablets mostly from China.
  - iii. India's major sectors, including telecommunications and pharmaceuticals, are dependent on China.
  - iv. The trade deficit between India and China is Rs 8.72 lakh crore, which is much higher than the trade deficit between India and the US.
  - v. China also accounts for a large share of India's imports of leather goods and furniture.

4. This years Women's One Day World Cup champion will receive a cash prize of Rs.39.55 crore. The total prize money for the tournament is estimated at Rs.122.5 crore.
  - i. The 13th Women's Cricket World Cup will be held in India and Sri Lanka from the 30th of this month to the 2nd of November. A total of 8 teams, including India, are participating in it.
5. The Indian Army constructed a 110-foot-long 'Bailey' bridge across the Tawi River in Jammu in 12 hours.
  - i. The 4th bridge across the Tawi River was damaged by heavy rains on the 26th. The army quickly rebuilt the bridge to speed up rescue operations and rescues more than 1,000 people.
6. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Development Bank, a new bank that will provide loans for countries' development projects, was approved at the summit held in Tianjin, China. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made the announcement on Monday.
  - i. After 10 years of consultations with SCO member states, the SCO has approved China's proposal to establish this development bank.
  - ii. "This new bank will enhance social development and capacity in the Euro-Asian region. This is a good thing not only for the member states but also for the entire region," he said.
  - iii. Earlier, in his opening speech at the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on member states to "intensify the establishment of the SCO Development Bank." He also stressed the need to create an SCO Development Bank, similar to the BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB) and the Asian Investment Infrastructure Bank (AIIB).
7. India has refused to ratify a resolution on China's ambitious 'BRI' industrial corridor project brought at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.
  - i. "While eight member states - Russia, Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan - reaffirmed their support for this resolution, only India, which is a member of the organization, refused to support it."
  - ii. India had also taken a similar stance in previous SCO meetings and summits. China is pursuing the 'BRI' corridor project to establish transport connectivity with various countries. India has been continuously protesting the fact that part of this route is planned to pass through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.