

## September 4, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Border Security Force (BSF), which guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, has started a training school for drone warfare to prepare soldiers to face future challenges effectively.
  - i. BSF Director General Diljit Singh Chaudhary inaugurated the School of Drone Warfare, set up at the BSF Officers Training Academy in Tekanpur, Madhya Pradesh.
  - ii. A BSF spokesperson said, "This School of Drone Warfare will train border security force to effectively deal with modern technological challenges that arise during warfare."
  - iii. The School will introduce 5 special training programmes in operating drones, attacking and destroying drones, and surveillance and intelligence gathering through drones.
2. A US appeals court has ruled that President Donald Trump's administration cannot deport people suspected of belonging to illegal gangs in Venezuela under the 18th-century war-time law known as the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.
  - i. A three-judge bench of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the 1798 law was not appropriate to be used against gangs like the Tren de Aragua.
  - ii. Previously, the Trump administration deported a large number of Venezuelans to a prison in El Salvador on charges of belonging to the Tren de Aragua gang. More than 250 people were then returned to Venezuela in July. The Government is expected to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court.
3. The two-rate Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5% and 18% will be implemented across the country from the 22nd.
  - i. This was approved at the GST Council meeting held in Delhi, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
  - ii. Due to this, the prices of common goods including chapatis, parotta, hair oil, ice cream, and television sets are likely to decrease significantly. Similarly, individual life insurance and health insurance will be fully exempted from GST.
  - iii. GST was introduced on July 1, 2017, by integrating 17 taxes and 13 additional taxes in the country, apart from a few state taxes. Under it, tax is levied at four rates: 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
  - iv. To compensate for the revenue loss to the states due to this tax, a tax of 1 to 290 percent was imposed on luxury and harmful goods. This procedure was initially implemented for 5 years until June 2022. It was then extended until March 1, 2026.
  - v. Meanwhile, on the occasion of the completion of 8 years since the

introduction of GST and need to further simplify it and reduce GST on items used by people on a daily basis, the Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day speech said that the next generation reform (GST) will be implemented during the Diwali festival to reduce the GST on goods and services.

- vi. Accordingly, a proposal to remove the four-tier GST rates of 12% and 28% and the adoption of a two-tier system of 5% and 18%, imposition of 40% tax on certain items such as tobacco, gutka and pan masala, was submitted to the Group of State Finance Ministers (GoM). The GoM approved this proposal during its consultative meeting held on August 20 and 21.
4. The Members of minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan – Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- who came to India till December 31, 2024, to escape religious persecution will be allowed to stay in the country without passport or other travel documents, according to the Union Home Ministry.
- i. The Citizenship Amendment Act, which was implemented last year, provides for granting citizenship to minorities such as Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians who have faced religious persecution in the above countries and have taken refuge in India.
  - ii. Under this law, Citizenship is granted to these categories of people who have taken refuge in India until December 31, 2014. At the same time, there was a question mark over the status of those who came to India after 2014.
  - iii. The Union Home Ministry has issued an order under the recently enacted Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 to address their concerns.
  - iv. Accordingly, minorities (Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Christian) who have come to India till December 31, 2024 due to religious persecution or fear of persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh are exempted from holding a valid passport or any other travel document.
  - v. This order has provided them with a way to stay without documents and has brought relief to a large number of religious minorities who came to India from neighboring countries during 2014-24.
5. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that there is immense potential to strengthen cooperation between India and Germany. The Prime Minister made this comment after meeting German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful, who is in India.
- i. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have reached their 25th anniversary.
  - ii. India and Germany, are not only vibrant democracies but also leading economies, have immense potential to strengthen bilateral cooperation in

various sectors including trade, technology, innovation, and manufacturing.

6. The Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for new investments by British companies in the transformer manufacturing and textile sectors were signed in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who completed his trip to Germany to attract industrial investments, has gone to London. There, too, MoUs were signed with various companies.
  - i. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin held a meeting with top officials of Rolls-Royce, one of the world's leading aerospace and defense technology companies. During this meeting, research and development and a training center were discussed.
  - ii. Lloyd's List Intelligence signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin to expand its global capabilities in Chennai.
  - iii. Wilson Power and Distribution Technologies is to establish a new electrical transformer manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu.
7. Switzerland has announced that the Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) will come into effect on October 1.
  - i. The European Free Trade Association includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.
  - ii. A comprehensive, barrier-free agreement called the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed between the bloc and India in March last year. Under this agreement, the countries of the bloc have pledged to invest \$100 billion (about Rs. 8.80 lakh crore) in India over 15 years.
  - iii. The agreement also allows Swiss watches, chocolate, diamonds, etc. to be imported into India at reduced or no duty. Switzerland said the agreement will come into effect on October 1.
8. The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote the recycling of critical minerals in the country.
  - i. The scheme was approved at a Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi.
  - ii. This scheme is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM).
  - iii. This scheme will be implemented for 6 years from the current financial year to the financial year 2030-31.
  - iv. The incentive scheme is expected to increase recycling capacity to at least 270 kilotonnes per year, resulting in an annual production of 40 kilotonnes of critical minerals.
  - v. This will attract an investment of Rs.8,000 crore and create about 70,000

direct and indirect jobs, according to a press release issued by the Union Cabinet.

9. The World Boxing Championships begin in Liverpool, England (Sept. 4).
- This competition, which is being held for the first time under the new World Boxing Organization, will feature both men's and women's competitions.
  - From India, In the women's category, two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen and Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain are notable, while in the men's category, Sumit Kundu and Sachin Sivach are notable.

