

September 18, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Under the Prime Minister's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park scheme, the country's first textile park will be set up in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.
 - i. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for this park, which will be spread over 2,158 acres and will have world-class facilities. This will attract investments worth Rs 23,146 crore and create 3 lakh jobs, according to a Government press release.
2. India's Antim Panghal advanced to the bronze medal round at the World Wrestling Championships in Croatia.
3. Indian athletes made history by winning gold in two events at the Speed Skating World Championships held in China.
 - i. In the senior men's 1,000-meter sprint, India's V. Anand Kumar won the gold medal with a time of 1 minute, 24.924 seconds, becoming India's first gold medalist in the event.
 - ii. Meanwhile, in the junior men's 1,000m sprint, India's Krish Sharma broke the race mark of 1 minute, 29.296 seconds to take the top spot, while China's Lu Tengbo won silver (1:30.243). Chile's Gabriel Reyes won bronze (2:30.453).
4. With winter approaching, the Supreme Court has ordered the Central and State Pollution Control Boards to formulate and submit an action plan to control air pollution within three weeks.
 - i. The Supreme Court issued this order during the hearing of a suo motu case regarding the long-term vacancy of positions in the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the State Pollution Control Boards.
 - ii. In this, the Air Quality Management Authority is a statutory body set up by the Central Government with the objective of improving the quality of air in the National Capital Region and the surrounding states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
 - iii. The order issued by the bench headed by Chief Justice P.R. Kawai, which heard the case, stated as follows:
The Commission for Air Quality Management is given three months to fill the vacancies in the Central Pollution Control Boards. Similarly, six months' time is given to fill the vacancies on a promotion basis in the Commission for Air Quality Management, the Central Pollution Control Board, and the State Pollution Control Boards.
5. A deadline has been set for finalizing the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement by the end of this year.
 - i. In the context of changing geopolitical circumstances, the importance of the European Union's close partnership with India continues to grow.
 - ii. Russia as a cross-cutting issue: India's participation in Russian military exercises

and India's purchase of crude oil from Russia pose a cross-cutting issue for India-European Union relations. Because the India-European Union relationship is not just about trade; it is also about supporting a rules-based global order.

- iii. A new strategic action plan has been prepared to enhance India-European Union cooperation in key areas including security, trade, and technology. It was reported that this project will be a major milestone in the relationship between the two sides.
 - iv. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, 'Europe is already India's largest trading partner. In this context, the European Commission is "very committed" to finalizing the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement by this year.
 - v. The new action plan that has just been released will enhance bilateral trade, investment, etc. It will strengthen joint economic security and deepen industrial cooperation in the defense sector, he said.
 - vi. All 27 countries in the European Union must approve the new action plan. After that, it will be adopted at the India-European Union summit, which is expected to be held in the first quarter of next year.
6. The Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal expressed confidence that the country's exports will grow by 6 percent this year compared to last year.
- i. The Indian economy is moving from \$4 trillion (Rs. 350 lakh crore) to a target of \$30 trillion (Rs. 2,633 lakh crore).
 - ii. Compared to last year, the country's exports will increase by 6 percent. The unemployment rate has decreased to 5.1 percent.
 - iii. The final round of talks between India and the European Union has gone well.
 - iv. The free trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates was finalized in just 88 days of negotiations. This is the fastest-ever free trade agreement reached globally.
 - v. The UAE, a gateway to the African region, the Gulf and Eastern Europe, is a major trading partner of India; home to over 2.5 million Indians.
 - vi. Bilateral trade with the country is growing rapidly and investments are increasing. Free trade agreement negotiations are also underway with Peru, Chile, New Zealand, and Oman, he said.
7. IIMs Bangalore, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata have featured in the list of top 100 business education institutions globally.
- i. In a ranking list released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global higher education analysis firm based in London, UK, 14 Indian educational institutions have been featured among the world's top 100 business schools.
 - ii. The list was released after analyzing 390 educational institutions in a total of 80 countries and territories.
8. The Government Order and Guidelines issued regarding flagpoles must be strictly followed. The Madras High Court has warned that in case of default, contempt of court action will be taken against the concerned officer on its own initiative.

- i. Justice G.K.Ilanthiraiyan, Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on January 27, ordered the removal of all unauthorized flagpoles of political parties, caste and religious organizations, and associations by April 28 located in public places throughout Tamil Nadu, state and national highways, and places belonging to local bodies. He also ordered the filing of a report on the action taken on this order.
9. Tenders have been invited for the preparation of a master plan for an international city on 2,000 acres in Madhurantakam, Chengalpattu district.
 - i. Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu presented the budget statement for the current year (2025-26) in the Legislative Assembly last March. It was announced that integrated new cities would be created to meet all the needs of the public.
 - ii. In that regard, it was reported that a new world-class city with schools, colleges, private institutions, housing facilities and parks will be built on 2,000 acres near Chennai.
 - iii. Accordingly, five locations were identified in Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Ranipet districts to develop an international city on 2,000 acres, including all facilities. The research report was sent to the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation.
 - iv. Based on this study, the Tamil Nadu Government decided to build a new international city on 2,000 acres in Madhurantakam, Chengalpattu district.
 - v. Under these circumstances, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has sought a memorandum of understanding to prepare a master plan for the establishment of an international city.
 - vi. It is noteworthy that once the new international city is established in Madurai, various international investments will come there and a large number of jobs will be created.