

October 8, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Indian-British naval ships conducted a joint exercise called 'Exercise Konkan' in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday.
2. The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that military equipment worth Rs.1.20 lakh crore has been procured from domestic companies this year.
 - i. Speaking at a defense event held in New Delhi, he said, "The central government is taking steps to keep in mind the changing battlefield environment." The use of drones has become increasingly important in this context of non-contact attacks.
 - ii. Therefore, domestic military equipment manufacturing companies have been instructed to meet security challenges.
 - iii. In 2021-22, military equipment purchases from domestic companies were worth Rs. 74 thousand crore. This increased to Rs.1.20 lakh crore in 2024-25.
3. The British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is arriving in India on Wednesday (Oct. 8) for a two-day official visit.
 - i. During the visit, he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discuss ways to enhance bilateral relations in various fields, as well as regional and international affairs. This is Keir Starmer's first visit to India after taking office as British Prime Minister.
 - ii. Prime Minister Modi, who will meet Keir Starmer on Thursday, will discuss ways to enhance bilateral ties in various sectors, including trade, investment and technology, as well as regional and international affairs.
 - iii. The two will also discuss the India-Britain Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), 'Vision 2035', and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
4. The Supreme Court has directed all states and union territories to formulate safety rules within six months for pedestrian movement and the operation of non-motorized vehicles, including bicycles.
 - i. It has also been ordered to formulate quality control norms for the design, construction and maintenance of roads other than highways.
 - ii. Justices J.P. Parthiwala and K.V. Viswanathan issued the above order on a petition filed by Coimbatore-based surgeon S. Rajasekaran, citing the increasing number of road accidents in India.
 - iii. The petition urged that a single consistent, coordinated policy is essential to prevent road accidents in India; it requested that the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways be directed to take effective measures in coordination with the state governments in this matter.
 - iv. The judges who issued the order in this matter directed that if the states have not yet framed safety regulations under Section 138(1A) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, to control access and movement of non-motorized vehicles and regulate pedestrian traffic on national highways and public places, they must do so within the next six months.]

- v. Similarly, they ordered that quality control norms for the design, construction and maintenance of highways other than national highways under Section 21D should also be formulated within the same period.
5. In the assembly, in response to MLA A.Raja's question about the rules for issuing caste certificates to Tamil minorities, Pinarayi Vijayan replied that under current rules, caste certificates have been issued to Tamil-speaking minorities who migrated from other states to Kerala and settled there permanently before 1950.
 - i. The Gopalakrishnan Committee of the Central Government recommended that caste certificates be issued to Tamil-speaking minorities who came to Kerala before 1 January 1970, instead of 1950. Detailed studies need to be carried out to implement this. "In particular, since issues related to migration are included in the Union List, the Central Government can make amendments to it. Therefore, this issue will be brought to the attention of the Central Government," he said.
6. The Health Minister M. Subramanian said that 15,796 people were affected by dengue fever in Tamil Nadu this year and 8 people died.
 - i. During the rainy season, stagnant rainwater around houses breeds mosquitoes.
 - ii. To eradicate the Aedes aegypti mosquito, multidisciplinary teams are working together to go door-to-door, identifying and cleaning areas where rainwater is stagnant.
 - iii. The concerned departments are carrying out various tasks such as applying mosquito repellent and spraying pesticides.
7. The World Bank had predicted that India's economic growth would be 6.3 percent in the financial year 2025-26, but has now raised it to 6.5 percent.
 - i. India will continue to be a fast-growing economy. The fact that domestic consumption in India continues to increase steadily is a very positive feature. At the same time, the impact of the 50 percent tariff imposed by the United States is likely to impact the Indian economy in the next financial year, the World Bank report said.
 - ii. Therefore, it is predicted that India's economic growth is likely to slow to 6.3 percent in the 2026-27 financial year, instead of the previously projected 6.5 percent.
8. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a CBI inquiry into the deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh after consuming cough medicine and seeking reforms in the drug safety system.
 - i. Following the death of children in Madhya Pradesh allegedly due to the use of a poisonous chemical-laced cough syrup, several State Governments have banned the use of the drug and imposed restrictions on the supply of the drug to children. In Madhya Pradesh, some health department officials have been suspended.