

November 18, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The International Criminal Tribunal for Bangladesh has sentenced the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death for her role in the violence that erupted during student protests last year.
 - i. Protests have been taking place in the country since July 1 last year, protesting against the 30 percent reservation in Government jobs for the families of martyrs who participated in the Bangladesh Independence movement. The protests, which were mostly student-led, have resulted in violent clashes between protesters and police.
 - ii. The protests have led to 36 days of violence in 50 districts in the country. About 1,400 people were killed and 25,000 injured. Unable to pacify the students and restore peace in the country, Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister in August last year. Later, She fled Bangladesh in a military helicopter and took refuge in India. Her whereabouts in India are not known.
 - iii. The International Criminal Tribunal in the capital Dhaka was investigating the violence. After months of investigation, a three-member bench headed by Justice Ghulam Murtaza Majumdar delivered the verdict on Monday (Nov. 17).
2. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 32 people were killed after a bridge at a copper mine collapsed.
 - i. The accident occurred at the Kalando mine in the southern province of Lualaba. Provincial Interior Minister Roy Kaumba said:
 - ii. The bridge collapsed due to overloaded people crossing it. 32 people died in the accident.
 - iii. The mine was closed due to the risk of landslides due to continuous heavy rains. However, he said, a gang of illegal copper miners broke into the mine.
 - iv. However, a statement issued by the Congo's Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Support and Guidance Service (SAEMAPE) said that the security forces in the mining area opened fire, causing panicked people to run onto the bridge, causing it to collapse, causing casualties.
 - v. The deployment of security forces in mining areas has long been a contentious issue in Congo.
 - vi. Congo is the world's largest producer of cobalt, which is used to make lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles and other critical equipment.
 - vii. There has been a long-running conflict between security forces and armed groups including the Rwandan-backed M23 over control of the mineral-rich eastern part of Congo.
3. Former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has joined the ranks of world

leaders who have been sentenced to death after ruling from palaces of power.

- i. Many leaders have been sentenced to death globally for crimes including war crimes, corruption, abuse of power, and human rights violations. Most of them have been hanged or shot dead. Some of them are :-
 - a) **Musharraf** (Pakistan, 2019) - Musharraf, a former military ruler of Pakistan, seized power in 1999. In 2007, he was charged with treason for suspending the Constitution and declaring a State of Emergency. He was living in exile in Dubai and was sentenced to death in 2019 in this case.
 - b) **Saddam Hussein** (2006) - After losing power in the US invasion in 2003, he was convicted of crimes against humanity in connection with the Dujail massacre that took place during his rule and executed.
 - c) **Nicolae Ceausescu** (Romania, 1989) - The Romanian dictator was sentenced to death and executed by firing squad after a military trial for abuse of power and crimes against the people. His trial, which lasted just a few hours, brought an end to 24 years of authoritarian rule.
 - d) **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto** (Pakistan, 1979) - The former Prime Minister of Pakistan was sentenced to death and executed under the Military rule of General Zia ul-Haq. The charges against him incited him to murder.
 - e) **Francisco Macias Guevara** (Equatorial Guinea, 1979) - He was ousted by the military and executed on charges of genocide, murder, and corruption. It is said that millions were killed or exiled under his tyrannical rule.
 - f) **Adnan Menderes** (Turkey, 1961) - He was a former Turkish Prime Minister who was executed for political crimes after a military coup.
 - g) **Hideki Tojo** (Japan, 1948) - He was a wartime prime minister of Japan who was executed for crimes committed during World War II.
 - h) **Ion Antonescu** (Romania, 1946) - He was the Country's Prime Minister during World War II and was shot dead for collaborating with Nazi Germany and committing war crimes against Jews and the Romanian people.
 - i) **Ferencsállás** (Hungary, 1946) - He was the fascist leader of Hungary during World War II, and was hanged for war crimes and treason after the war.
 - j) **Benito Mussolini** (Italy, 1945) - He led a dictatorship in Italy during World War II, but was overthrown at the end of the war and shot without trial.
 - k) **Louis XVI** (France, 1793) - He was beheaded by the guillotine for high treason during the French Revolution.
 - l) **Charles I** (Britain, 1649) - He was a British king, convicted of high treason after the Civil War, and publicly beheaded.
4. Trump has warned that he will impose an additional 500 percent tariff on imports from countries including India that trade with Russia.

5. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has categorically stated that his position against the creation of a Palestinian state has not changed at all.
 - i. US President Donald Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan has been in effect in Gaza since the 10th of last month. The ceasefire provisions, such as the exchange of Israeli and Palestinian prisoners, the return of hostages and the bodies of Palestinians, are being implemented continuously.
 - ii. A key aspect of this peace plan is to pave the way for the recognition of Palestine as a separate state. In this context, the UN Security Council will meet on Monday to decide on the deployment of international forces in Gaza under the ceasefire agreement.
6. The Union Government has approved 17 new projects with an investment of Rs. 7,172 crore under the Electronic Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), which was launched with an aim to increase the production of electronic components in the country.
 - i. These 17 projects are expected to produce a total of Rs.65,111 crore worth of key components such as camera modules, connectors, multi-layer PCBs (Printed Circuit Boards), oscillators, and electrical enclosures.
 - ii. These projects, which will involve major companies including Jabil Circuit India, Aequs Consumer Products, Uno Minda, ASUX Safety Components India, Zetfab India, TE Connectivity India, and Meena Electrotech, are to be implemented in 9 states.
7. At the Shooting World Championships held in Egypt, India's Gurpreet Singh won a silver medal (in the 25m centre fire pistol category).
8. Indians win medals in shooting at the Deaflympics in Japan.
 - i. Anuya Prasad won gold in the women's 10m air pistol event with a world record score of 241.1 points. In the same event, Pranjali Prashanth Dhumal won 19 silvers with a score of 236.8 points.
9. Italy's Yannick Cinner defeated Spain's Carlos Alcaraz to retain the championship trophy at the ATP Finals men's tennis tournament.
10. The number of deer that have died due to bacterial infection in the Belagavi Zoo in Karnataka has increased to 31. The State Government has ordered an inquiry into this.
 - i. There were 38 rare deer called 'Blackbuck' in the Rani Chennamma Zoo in Belagavi, of which 8 deer died on November 13 and 20 deer on November 15.
11. The rules and Income Tax (ITR) forms based on the new Income Tax Act 2025 will be notified in January 2026, said Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman Ravi Agarwal.
12. The Tamil Nadu Government has issued a Government Order to set up a world-class sports city at a cost of Rs.301 crore on 112 acres in Chemmancherry

near Chennai.

- i. This project is the first-ever largest sports center in South India. Officials have said that the project will start in the next three months.
 - ii. This city, which will be built with world-class sports facilities, will have international sports facilities such as a football field, archery field, shooting range, roller skating, athletics, swimming, etc. Moreover, players' hostels, indoor sports stadium, grass fields, roads, and storm water drainage will be built at world-class standards.
 - iii. Most importantly, a boating facility measuring 13 m wide and one km long will be built. This will be the first time in a sports complex in the country. The water sports system is a special feature.
 - iv. The Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority and the Water Resources Department are jointly implementing this project. This project, which was announced in 2023, is now in full swing.
 - v. The modern flood control system being set up here will also be of great help in flood management. For this, the tanks in Chemmancherry and Navalur areas are being deepened and increased to 16.23 cubic feet and 96.38 feet.
 - vi. A new 42-acre tank is also being created. This will reduce the monsoon floods and create an opportunity for the groundwater level to rise. A 4.1 km long soil drainage and concrete canals are being constructed to send flood water to the Pallikaranai swamp through the Buckingham Canal. A new metro connection will be provided to this sports city in collaboration with the Chennai Metro Rail Corporation.
 - vii. Moreover, the work of building roads is also progressing rapidly. If this sports city is created, the opportunities for Tamil Nadu athletes to receive international standard training will increase. Moreover, sports experts have expressed their opinion that Chennai will emerge as a new world sports center.
13. The report of the 16th Finance Commission, which is responsible for formulating the policy for sharing taxes between the Centre and the states, was submitted to President Draupadi Murmu.
- i. The report will define new criteria for how much funds and grants should be allocated to the states from the total tax revenue of the Centre.
 - ii. The report will come into effect for the next 5 years from 2026-27. The Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, Arvind Panagariya, and other members met the President at his residence and submitted the report.
 - iii. Earlier, the 15th Finance Commission, headed by N.K. Singh, had recommended devolution of 41 per cent of the total tax revenue of the Centre to the states for the 5-year period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. This is the same

share as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

- iv. The Finance Commission is a Constitutional body that provides advice on the fiscal relations between the Centre and the States. The 16th Finance Commission was constituted on 31st December 2023. It has retired officer Annie George Mathew and economist Manoj Panda as full-time members, while SBI Group Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh and Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar are part-time members.
 - v. Before deciding on the tax sharing ratio for the states, the committee visited all the states and union territories and studied their fiscal conditions in detail.
 - vi. Generally, the tax sharing for the states is determined by the Finance Commission on the basis of a composite average of factors such as population, area, population activity, financial effort, income gap and forest cover. However, it is noteworthy that there have long been complaints that the use of population as the main criterion for evaluation has harmed the southern states that have been successful in controlling population.
14. The Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Prime Minister Modi and submitted a petition to direct the Central Water Commission to expedite the release of funds for the Mekkedatu Dam project. After meeting the Prime Minister, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters in New Delhi:
- i. As per the Supreme Court order, 177.25 TMC of water should be released to Tamil Nadu from Cauvery every year. This year, we have released a large amount of water to Tamil Nadu.
 - ii. If a dam is built across the Cauvery at Mekedatu, 86 TMC of water can be stored in it. This will be helpful to Tamil Nadu. Also, there is a need to build the Mekedatu dam to provide drinking water facility to Bangalore and generate electricity. We have requested Prime Minister Modi to give permission for this project, he said.