

November 19, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Supreme Court has ruled that there is no bar on granting retrospective environmental clearances in the event of exceptional circumstances arising after the commencement of a project.
 - i. The Supreme Court withdrew its judgment it had delivered last May prohibiting the Union Government from issuing retrospective environmental clearances.
 - ii. The Union Environment Ministry's notification in 2017 had allowed for granting retrospective environmental clearances for public projects after they were commenced. Following that notification, the Union Environment Ministry had also issued an office memorandum in 2021. The Notification and the Memorandum had allowed for the regularisation of projects that started construction without prior environmental clearance (EC), subject to a penalty and a specific process.
 - iii. This notification was quashed by a bench of Supreme Court Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan in May.
2. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a three-day agriculture Conference at the Coimbatore from Wednesday (Nov. 19).
 - i. The Conference, Chaired by Governor R.N. Ravi, will be attended by farmers, organic farming scientists, distributors and sellers of organic farming products from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ii. It is also reported that the Prime Minister will release the 21st installment of the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, which will benefit more than 9 crore farmers in the country.
 - iii. The Conference aims to promote sustainable eco-friendly and chemical-free practices and accelerate the adoption of organic and regenerative agriculture as a viable and climate-friendly economically sustainable model for India's agricultural future.
3. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to increase the moisture content for paddy procurement to 22 percent.
 - i. Considering the northeast monsoon rains in the Cauvery Delta region and other districts, the Tamil Nadu Government had on October 19 requested the Central Food and Public Distribution Department to fix the moisture content for paddy procurement from 17 to 22 percent.
 - ii. Three teams had conducted field visits in Tamil Nadu from October 25 to 28 and collected paddy samples from farmers, but so far no relaxation in paddy moisture content has been received.
 - iii. While the short-term procurement is still ongoing, the Meteorological Department has warned that the northeast monsoon will intensify again. This will again affect the paddy being procured. Therefore, an order for relaxation in paddy moisture content should be issued quickly so that the farmers benefit.
4. The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution drafted by the US to endorse US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan and authorize the deployment of an

International Peacekeeping Force in the area.

- i. 13 members of the 15-member council voted in favour of the resolution. There were no objections. China and Russia, the permanent members with veto power, abstained from voting.
 - ii. The resolution gives the UN Security Council full approval to Trump's Gaza ceasefire plan, announced on October 29. The peace plan aims to transform Gaza into a de-escalation zone that benefits the people of the area.
5. Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google's parent company Alphabet, has advised people not to blindly believe everything Artificial Intelligence (AI) processors tell them.
6. India's Raghu Prasad has been named the International Hockey Federation's (IHF) Umpire of the Year for 2025. He has officiated 198 international matches and 33 times as a video referee.
7. Paes Jain and Swastika Ghosh became champions in the men's category and women's category respectively in the National Ranking Table Tennis Tournament.
8. The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved a 26% increase in Government advertising fees in print media. The press release issued by the Union Government in this regard is as follows:
- i. The Government advertising fees in print media have been increased by 26 percent. Accordingly, the Central Government has announced that the rate of payment per sq. cm. for black and white advertisements in newspapers with a circulation of one lakh copies will be increased by 26 percent to Rs.59.68 from Rs.47.40. In addition, a premium fee will be paid for color advertisements. The Government has also approved the recommendations of the Special Advertising Committee.
 - ii. The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), a media arm of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is carrying out advertising work on behalf of various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government in various media, including print media. The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) last revised the rates for print media advertisements on January 9, 2019, as per the recommendations of the 8th Rate Structure Committee (RSC). Accordingly, the same fee was being paid for 3 years. In this context, the 9th Rate Structure Committee (RSC) was constituted on 11 November 2021 to recommend the revision of the fee for Government advertisements in the print media.
 - i. The Committee discussed and received the requests from the Newspaper Association of India, All India Small Newspapers Association, Small Medium and Large Newspapers Association and the concerned parties during the period from November 2021 to August 2023.
 - ii. Following this, the Committee, which examined the aspects of newsprint, wages, inflation rate, trend of imported papers, printing cost etc., submitted its recommendations on 23 September, 2023.

- iii. Increasing the rates for Government advertisements in print media will yield several significant benefits, both for the government and the media landscape. Higher rates for Government advertisements will provide essential revenue support to print media, especially in an era of competition from various other media platforms and in view of the escalation in cost in the last few years. This can help sustain operations, maintain quality journalism, and support local news initiatives.

