

November 20, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Speaking in the Japanese Parliament on Nov. 7, Japanese Prime Minister Sane Takaichi said that if China attacks Taiwan, it will threaten Japan's existence; therefore, Japan can exercise its right to self-defense in cooperation with Taiwan. This was strongly condemned by China, which considers Taiwan an inalienable part of its territory.
 - i. China has strongly warned that it will take severe counter measures if Japanese Prime Minister Sane Takaichi does not immediately withdraw her comments on Taiwan.
 - ii. This issue has further increased tensions between the two countries.
2. The authorities raised alert to its highest level for the Semeru volcano on Indonesia's most populous island of Java after several eruptions on Wednesday (Nov. 19). The Indonesian Geological Survey said in a statement:
 - i. The Semeru volcano in East Java province erupted several times from noon to evening on Wednesday (Nov. 19). The volcano spewed hot ash and a mixture of rock, lava and gas flying up to 7 km away. The hot ash plume rose 2 km into the air, covering several villages. The alert level has been raised from level three to the highest level, the statement said.
 - ii. There were no reports of casualties as a result of the eruption.
 - iii. Semeru, also known as Mahameru, has erupted several times in the past 200 years. However, like many of Indonesia's 129 volcanoes, tens of thousands of people live on its slopes.
 - iv. Indonesia, with a population of more than 270 million, is located on the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire," a region where tectonic plates collide, making it prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
3. The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the Central Government to set up the National Tribunals Commission within 4 months.
 - i. Various petitions were filed in the Supreme Court against the Tribunals Amendment Act, 2021. The Supreme Court had reserved its verdict on November 11 after the hearing on these petitions was completed.
 - ii. In this context, a bench comprising Chief Justice B.R.Gawai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran on Wednesday ruled that it is not the responsibility of the judiciary alone to deal with the backlog of cases. Other Government Departments should also share that responsibility.
 - iii. In this context, the Central Government has reintroduced some sections of the Tribunals Amendment Act, 2021 with minor changes. Those sections undermine the independence and separation of powers of the Judiciary. This is tantamount to enacting a law without following the court's judgment and without addressing the grievances. Therefore, the sections such as the minimum age of 50 years for appointment as a chairman or member of a tribunal and the tenure of the chairman and members for 4 years are repealed.
 - iv. Further, the Central Government is given 4 months to constitute a

National Tribunals Commission. The Commission should be constituted to ensure that the functioning, administration and appointments of various tribunals across the country are uniform, independent and transparent, they ordered.

4. India's medal hunt in shooting continues at the Deaflympics in Japan.
 - i. In the final of the 10m air pistol mixed team event, India's Abhinav Deshwali and Pranjali Prashant Dhumal defeated Chinese Taipei's Ya Zhu Gao and Ming Jui Su by a score of 16-6 to win the gold medal.
5. The Swiss Tennis star Roger Federer has been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
 - i. The Rhode Island-based organization honors those who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of Tennis. Federer has been selected for the year 2026.
 - ii. He will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame at a ceremony in August next year.
 - iii. Federer, who retired from tennis in 2022, is the second-highest player in the history of the sport to win the most tour-level titles (103) after Jimmy Connors (106).
 - iv. Federer, the first player to win 20 Grand Slam titles, has also won 28 Masters titles. In addition, he holds the record of remaining the world's No. 1 player in the ATP rankings for 237 consecutive weeks (February 2004 – August 2008) when he was at his peak.
6. The External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar inaugurated two new Indian consulates in Russia on Wednesday (Nov. 19).
 - i. He said that these consulates will further strengthen bilateral trade, tourism, economic, technological, educational and cultural ties.
 - ii. With a view to expanding India's diplomatic presence in Russia, new Indian consulates have been opened in Yekaterinburg and Kazan.
 - iii. The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko and Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar were also present at the event.
 - iv. S. Jaishankar, who arrived in Russia on a three-day official visit last Monday, participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit on Tuesday. He also met Russian President Vladimir Putin.
 - v. The meeting assumes significance as President Putin is scheduled to visit India for the India-Russia Summit to be held in Delhi later this year.
 - vi. Inauguration of two consulates – A ceremony marking the inauguration of new Indian consulates in Yekaterinburg and Kazan was held at the Indian Embassy in Moscow on Wednesday (Nov. 19).
 - vii. Yekaterinburg is the third capital of Russia. It is an industrial city and the gateway to Siberia. The consulate will enhance trade, scientific and technological cooperation between the industrial sectors of the two sides.
 - viii. Kazan, a hub of diverse cultures and societies, is a bridge between Russia and the rest of Asia. The consulate opened there will help strengthen cultural ties between the people of both sides.

- ix. Kazan is known for its oil refining, fertilizers, automobiles, defense manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and electrical equipment.
 - x. The two embassies will further strengthen India-Russia relations and give them a new dimension; and will contribute significantly to the joint efforts to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030.
 - xi. There are 7,000 Indians living within the jurisdiction of the Kazan Consulate and 3,000 Indians living within the jurisdiction of the Yekaterinburg Consulate.
 - xii. Earlier in Moscow, S.Jaishankar, who paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, also interacted with the Indian community.
 - xiii. An Indian embassy is already operational in the Russian capital, Moscow, and consulates are also operating in the cities of St. Petersburg and Vladivostok.
7. The National Security Advisors -level meeting of the member countries of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) is being held in Delhi.
- i. The conclave, chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, will be attended by the National Security Advisors of the CSC member countries, namely Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
 - ii. Seychelles has been invited as an observer country and Malaysia as a guest country to participate in the conclave.
 - iii. In this regard, a press release issued by the Union Ministry of External Affairs said, 'The 7th Conclave of the CSC will be held in Delhi. In this, maritime security, terrorism, transnational organized crime, cyber security, critical infrastructure security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, etc. will be discussed. In addition, the formulation of the action plan of this organization for the year 2026 will also be discussed.'
 - iv. The CSC was established with the aim of enhancing cooperation among member states to enhance security in the Indian Ocean region.
 - v. The 6th National Security Advisers level Meeting of the organization was held in Mauritius in December 2023. The member states met again in Sri Lanka in August 2024 to sign the founding documents of the CSC.
 - vi. Similarly, the Deputy National Security Advisers level Meeting of the CSC member states is also being held regularly. The last meeting was held via video conference in July 2024.
8. On the occasion of the Centenary of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Prime Minister Modi released a commemorative coin of Rs.100 and special postage stamps commemorating his life, teachings and legacy. He also offered prayers at the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Temple and Maha Samadhi.
9. The Supreme Court directed the Central Government to formulate a National Policy and uniform rules in consultation with all the States to ensure transparency and proper procedure in organ donation and provision of those organs to those in need.
- i. The Supreme Court also directed that the States including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Manipur should immediately adopt and implement the

'Human Organs and Tissues Transplantation Rules 2014' framed by the Central Government. Many states including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have not adopted and implemented the rules framed by the Central Government in 2014 to regulate organ donation and organ transplantation. These States follow their own laws in this regard. Due to this, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court on behalf of the 'Indian Society for Organ Transplantation', complaining that there is an uneven situation in this regard.

- ii. When this petition came up for hearing on April 21, the Supreme Court directed that the Central Government should convene a meeting of all the Chief Secretaries and Health Secretaries of all the States and issue instructions on the proper implementation of the rules framed by the Central Government in 2014 under the Organ Transplant Act.
- iii. This petition came up for hearing in a bench comprising Chief Justice B.R.Gavai and Justice K.Vinodh Chandran. At that time, senior advocate K.P. Rameshwar, appearing for the petitioner, said, "The absence of national-level integrated data on organ donors and recipients is very dangerous. This will also delay the organ transplant procedures. Moreover, due to the continued discrimination on the basis of social class and gender in organ transplants, only a certain section of people are eligible for the transplant even today. He said that 90 percent of organ transplants are carried out in private hospitals." The order issued by the judges after hearing this was:
- iv. The Central Government should advise the State of Andhra Pradesh to adopt and implement the amendment made in 2011 to the Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994.
- v. Considering its importance, the rules framed by the Central Government in 2014 under this Act should be implemented by the States including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Manipur at the earliest.
- vi. The Central Government should formulate a National Policy with proper allocation criteria to ensure that donated organs are allocated to eligible persons in need.
- vii. Uniform procedures should be formulated throughout the country to eliminate gender and social class discrimination in organ transplantation.
- viii. States and Union Territories including Manipur, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands, which do not have State Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisations (SOTOs), should be formed under the National Organ Transplantation Scheme after due consultation. The Central Government should formulate guidelines to prevent the continued commercial exploitation of living organ donors and to ensure their well-being and safety. The judges ordered that the Central Government, in consultation with the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), should make necessary amendments in the Birth and Death Registration Forms, Form-4 and 4A, to specify the details of the donation of organs from a brain-dead person and whether the opportunity to donate the organs of the brain-dead person has been given to his family.