

November 21, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Titbits

1. A delegation of senior US military officials led by US Secretary of Defense Dan Driscoll has arrived in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, to discuss a 28-point ceasefire plan that the US and Russia have drawn up to end the war in Ukraine.
 - i. The delegation met with Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko and Ukrainian Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal. They are expected to meet with President Volodymyr Zelensky later in the day.
 - ii. This is said to be the highest-level US military delegation to visit Ukraine since Donald Trump took office for a second term.
 - iii. Earlier, it was reported that Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and Russian special envoy Kirill Dmitriev had jointly prepared a 28-point plan for a ceasefire in Ukraine.
 - iv. The main features of this plan are said to include the ceding of the Donbass regions still under Ukrainian control to Russia, the significant reduction in the size of its military, the abandonment of various types of weapons, and the declaration of Ukraine as a neutral country that does not join NATO.
2. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has urged Iran to provide full information on its stockpile of highly enriched uranium. The resolution, adopted by the 35-member IAEA board at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, states:
 - i. Iran should provide full and immediate cooperation to the IAEA in its investigation of its nuclear programs.
 - ii. The IAEA has been unable to obtain information on the stockpile of highly enriched uranium at nuclear sites hit during the 12-day war in June. This issue must be resolved immediately.
 - iii. Iran should submit a full report on its stockpile of uranium enriched to levels close to nuclear weapons-grade. The resolution emphasizes that such a report is essential for the IAEA to ensure that Iran's nuclear programs are for the production of nuclear weapons.
3. The Australian footballer Ryan Williams has recently renounced his citizenship and acquired Indian citizenship, and FIFA has recognized the change. He can now be selected for the Indian national team.
4. India's Mahit Sandhu won her third medal in shooting at the Deaflympics in Japan. She finished second in the women's 50m rifle prone event with a score of 246.1 to win a silver.
5. The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) began in Goa's capital Panaji.
 - i. The Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan, Governor Ashok Gajapathi Raju and others participated in the inaugural ceremony.
 - ii. The International Film Festival of India is celebrated every year in Goa. It is one of the most important film festivals held in India and is seen as an event that showcases global films as well as local talent.
 - iii. The festival, which will be jointly organized by the National Film Promotion Board of India and the Goa State Government till the 28th, will screen 240 films from 81 countries.
6. Reserve Bank Governor- Sanjay Malhotra
7. The United States has approved the sale of advanced 'Excalibur' cruise missiles and anti-tank 'Javelin' missiles to India.
 - i. The US said the missile technology, worth Rs.825 crore (US\$ 93 million), will enhance India's defence capabilities and ability to counter regional threats.
 - ii. This is the first major defence procurement from Russia since US President Trump imposed a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods in August over war in Ukraine and stalled bilateral trade talks.
8. The Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal United President Nitish Kumar is at the

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8th position in the list of 10 longest-serving Chief Ministers in the country.

10 Longest-serving Chief Ministers			
Sl. No.	Chief Ministers	State	Term
1.	Pawan Kumar Chamling	Sikkim	More than 25 years
2.	Naveen Patnaik	Odisha	More than 24 years
3.	Jyoti Basu	West Bengal	More than 23 years
4.	Kegang Abang	Arunachal Pradesh	More than 22 years
5.	Lal Thanhawla	Mizoram	More than 22 years
6.	Virbhadra Singh	Himachal Pradesh	More than 21 years
7.	Manik Sarkar	Tripura	More than 19 years
8.	Nitish Kumar	Bihar	About 19 years
9.	M. Karunanidhi	Tamil Nadu	More than 18 years
10.	Prakash Singh Badal	Punjab	More than 18 years

9. The date for the start of the India-Israel Free Trade Agreement negotiations will be finalized soon, said Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.
 - i. The Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who is on a three-day official visit to Israel, participated in the India-Israel Business Conference in Tel Aviv. The Israeli side was represented by a delegation led by the country's Minister of Economy and Industry Neer Barkat.
 - ii. Later, the terms of reference for the formal start of the bilateral Free Trade Agreement negotiations were signed. The date for the start of the negotiations will be finalized soon, said Piyush Goyal.
 - iii. A 60-member delegation led by Piyush Goyal is on this visit to Israel to engage in negotiations to strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations. This is the first time that an Indian Commerce Minister is paying an official visit to Israel.
10. 'Securing the Indian Ocean region is our collective responsibility,' said National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. He was speaking at the 7th National Security Advisors' Consultation of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) in Delhi.
 - i. The CSC comprises five member states: India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Maldives and Bangladesh. Malaysia was a guest member of the CSC and Seychelles was an observer.
 - ii. At the end of the meeting, the member states welcomed Seychelles' decision to join the CSC as a full-time member.
 - iii. The signing ceremony of the founding documents of the CSC, which was established with the aim of enhancing security in the Indian Ocean region, was held in Sri Lanka in August 2024.
11. Bhushan Ramakrishna Kavai will retire from the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on Friday (November 21). On Friday, which is a working day of the Supreme Court, he will conduct his last day of hearing cases as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
 - i. Justice B.R.Gavai took oath as the 52nd Chief Justice of India on May 14.
 - ii. He was part of the Constitution Bench that delivered the verdict on the validity of the demonetisation move, the verdict allowing internal reservation in the Scheduled Castes-Tribes reservation, and the verdict that ruled that Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, should be abrogated.
 - iii. B.R.Gavai presided over the Constitutional Bench that finally ruled that the President and the Governor cannot be imposed a deadline for taking a decision on the bills.
 - iv. Justice Suryakanth is set to take oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on November 24, following the retirement of Justice B.R. Gavai.
12. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the 'Ilakiya Mamani' awards for the year 2024 to 3 Tamil

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Scholars, T.Gnanasundaram for Traditional Tamil, R.Kamarasu for Research Tamil and K Somasundaram (Kalapriya) for Creative Tamil.

13. The Central Government has rejected the Tamil Nadu Government's request to increase the moisture content of paddy for procurement.
 - i. The Central Government has fixed the maximum moisture content for paddy procurement at 17 percent. Due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu this year, the Tamil Nadu Government had requested the Central Government to increase the moisture content to 22 percent.
14. The Supreme Court's Constitution Bench has said that it is inappropriate for the judiciary to set a deadline for State Governors and the President to take a decision on bills passed by State Legislatures. At the same time, the Constitution Bench has clarified that the Governor does not have unlimited powers to 'permanently hold' the bills in place.
 - i. The Supreme Court has clarified that the Governors cannot delay and shelve a bill passed by the Assembly without giving their assent. It further stated that if a bill is unnecessarily delayed for a long period without any decision being taken, the action can be subject to judicial review and, if necessary, the Governors can be issued limited orders on a specific matter. However, the Court will not issue such orders in all cases. It has stated that it depends on the circumstances of the case.

