

November 24, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in Johannesburg on Sunday (Nov. 23).
 - i. The two discussed in detail ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors including trade, investment, mining, rare earth minerals, artificial intelligence (AI), and food security, and pledged to work together to raise the voice of the South.
 - ii. The Prime Minister Modi, who arrived in South Africa on a three-day official visit last Friday (Nov. 21), participated in the G20 Summit in Johannesburg. On the sidelines of this summit, he held bilateral talks with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday.
 - iii. The Prime Minister Modi thanked South Africa for its plan to provide South African cheetah to India. President Ramaphosa expressed support for the Indian Chairmanship of the BRICS grouping in 2026.
 - iv. Indian companies invest \$1.3 billion: South Africa is India's largest trading partner in the African region. The bilateral trade value in 2023-24 was \$19.25 billion. It is noteworthy that Indian companies have invested more than \$1.3 billion in South Africa in various sectors including Pharmaceuticals, Information Technology, Automotive manufacturing, Banking, and Mining from 2000 to 2024.
2. The Union Home Ministry announced that the bill to bring Chandigarh into the Union Territory under Article 240 of the Constitution, will not be introduced in the upcoming winter session, amid strong opposition from the opposition parties.
 - i. Chandigarh has been the common capital for both the states since the separation of Haryana from Punjab in 1966. Considering the capital issue, Chandigarh was converted into a Union Territory and was administered by an Independent Chief Secretary.
 - ii. Chandigarh was brought under the control of the Governor of Punjab in 1984. The post of Chief Secretary was converted into an Advisor to the Governor.
 - iii. In 2016, the Central Government took steps to appoint an Independent Administrator as per the old procedure. But the move was withdrawn due to strong opposition from the opposition parties and coalition parties.
 - iv. In this context, the list of bills to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament, which begins on December 1, was released on Saturday. It included a bill (131st Constitutional Amendment) to bring Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution like other Union Territories without a council.
 - v. Opposition parties strongly oppose: The opposition parties accused the Central Government of trying to snatch Chandigarh from Punjab through this bill, which would give the President direct legislative powers in Chandigarh and also appoint an independent administrator.
3. The Kasi Tamil Sangam 4.0 event will begin on December 2 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
 - i. The Kasi Tamil Sangam event has been held annually in Varanasi since 2022. This event is held to celebrate the civilizational bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kasi. The event has

- been celebrated for the last 3 years as per the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the MP of Varanasi constituency.
- ii. This Sangam event is being organized jointly by IIT Chennai and Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi. Apart from these, the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Tourism, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, and the Government of Uttar Pradesh are coordinating this event.
 - iii. The current fourth edition aims to further deepen engagement through enhanced learning exchanges, cultural engagement, educational linkages and greater youth participation.
 - iv. The theme of this year's events is "Tamil Karkalam". It aims to promote Tamil learning across India and foster a wider appreciation for India's traditional linguistic and literary heritage.
4. The centenary of Sathya Sai Baba is being celebrated at the Prashanthi Santhiya in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. President Draupadi Murmu, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and many other important personalities participated in it.
 5. Dutchman and Red Bull driver Max Verstappen won the Las Vegas Grand Prix, the 22nd race of F1 car racing.
 6. India's Abhinav Deshwala won a gold medal at the Deaflympics in Japan.
 - i. He topped the men's 25m pistol individual event with a score of 44 points in the final round.
 7. The British Government has banned the export of 200-year-old paintings based on the Devi Mahatmya, a book about the Hindu deity Vamana Parashakti.
 8. The first anti-submarine warfare ship, the Mahe, will be commissioned into the Navy on Monday (November 24). A press release issued by the Ministry of Defence in this regard said:
 - i. The Mahe will be commissioned into the Navy at the Naval Shipyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra. This will be the first ship of the Mahe class, which will attack submarines in shallow waters. The ceremony will be held under the patronage of Army Chief Upendra Dwivedi.
 - ii. The commissioning of this ship will be the first of its kind to be built indigenously and capable of fighting in shallow waters.
 - iii. More than 80 per cent of the components of this ship are of Indian origin. This is a testament to India's excellence in ship design, construction and integration.
 - iv. Pakistan is reportedly planning to increase the strength of its submarines, with the Mahe-class frigate set to be inducted into the navy.
 9. Surya Kant will take oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on Monday (Nov. 24).
 10. India has expressed its full support and appreciation for Brazil's inclusive leadership of the Climate Change Conference.
 - i. India has also welcomed many of the decisions taken at the Conference. However, India

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has not explicitly stated that the Conference was a complete success in formulating plans to curb Climate Change.

- ii. The UN's Annual Climate Change Conference (COP30) was held in Belem, Brazil. India was represented by a delegation led by Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav in this conference, which was attended by 194 countries.
- iii. No agreement was reached at the UN Climate Change Conference to abandon the use of fossil fuels that are warming the earth.

