

December 4, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Tamil Nadu Government has announced that the traditional Thuyamalli rice and Kavindapadi naattu sakkarai (jaggery powder) of Tamil Nadu have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag. A press release issued by the Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department in this regard:
 - i. Since 2021, the Government has been taking appropriate steps to identify traditional agricultural products in Tamil Nadu and obtain GI Tag for them. In that regard, in the last 4 years, a total of 41 agricultural products have been applied for GI Tag by the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board. Out of these, GI Tag have already been obtained for Cholvandhan betel, Panruti jackfruit, Panruti Cashew, Virudhunagar samba vatthal, Ramanathapuram Chithiraikkar rice, Puliyangudi lemon, and Chettikulam small onion.
 - ii. Following this, GI Tag have now been obtained for Thuyamalli rice and Kavindapadi naattu sakkarai (jaggery powder). It is noteworthy that GI Tag have been obtained for 9 agricultural products in the last 4 years.

It has been reported that obtaining a Geographical Indication Tag for agricultural products will make them easier to market. Furthermore, their demand and export volume will increase, leading to expansion of agribusiness and improvement in economic growth.
2. The US Government has temporarily suspended immigration applications from 16 countries. This is a continuation of the travel ban announced last June. All immigration processes, including Permanent Resident (Green Card) and Citizenship applications, will be affected by this new order. The Government has said that this action has been taken due to the threat to national security and public safety.
 - i. In this regard, the order issued by the Director of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Joseph Edlow, stated that 'all applications from 16 countries including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen will be returned for a full review. In this, re-interviews may be conducted.'
3. The Thoothukudi V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority is to procure a 'state-of-the-art green tug' worth Rs. 385.76 crore to improve sustainable Port operations.
 - i. The contract for this has been awarded to Knowledge Marine & Engineering Works Ltd. (KMEW). The tug will be delivered within 2 years. The procurement is part of the Green Tugboat Conversion Programme. This initiative is part of the Green Tug Transition Programme, aimed at phasing out diesel-powered tugs at major ports and replacing them with green tugs powered by battery, Green Ammonia / Hydrogen.
 - ii. The above initiative aligns with the India's commitment to strengthen its contribution to global climate action. These include increasing India's non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, meeting 50% of the country's energy needs

through renewables by 2030, reducing projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes, as stated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement, VOC Ports Authority Chairman Sushant Kumar Purohit said in a press release.

4. Rohit Rajpal has been extended as the captain of the Indian team for the Davis Cup tennis tournament until December 31, 2026.
5. The Manchester City player Erling Haaland set a record for being the fastest to score 100 goals (111 games) in the English Premier League.
6. The Indian rupee has crossed Rs.90 against the dollar for the first time. This marks an unprecedented fall in the value of the rupee against the dollar.
 - i. With the current decline, the rupee has depreciated by 5.7 percent so far this year. This is the first time since 2022 that the rupee has depreciated by this much in percentage terms in a single year. This has made it the worst-ever fall in the value of the rupee among Asian currencies.
7. The Central Government has withdrawn the order that companies should pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on mobile phones.
 - i. The order has been withdrawn after opposition parties including the Congress strongly criticized the mandatory installation of this app on mobile phones as a violation of privacy and an act of spying.
 - ii. Earlier, Union Minister of Information and Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia clarified that people can uninstall this app if they want.
 - iii. The 'Sanchar Saathi' app was developed by the Ministry of Communications to report fraud.
 - iv. The Central Government had recently ordered that this app be pre-installed on all new mobile phones sold in India and uploaded to mobile phones already ready for sale through a software update. Opposition parties including the Congress accused the Government of showing authoritarianism and taking away the privacy of citizens.
8. The Central Government informed Parliament that steps are being taken to frame new rules to prevent the spread of fake information and fake videos created through Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology on social media and to take strict action against those who spread such information.
9. The Lok Sabha has approved a bill to levy excise duty on tobacco products including cigarettes.
 - i. Based on the decision taken in the 56th GST Council meeting, a special tax of 40 percent was imposed on certain items including cigarettes and tobacco products.
 - ii. The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced two bills in the Lok Sabha, namely the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to levy excise duty on items including tobacco and pan masala, and the National Security Cess Bill, 2025, to impose a new cess on the production of pan masala.