

December 9, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Venezuelan Government has added 5,600 new soldiers to its military in response to rising tensions with the United States.
 - i. The addition comes as US President Donald Trump has deployed troops to the sea near Venezuela, claiming it is an operation against drug trafficking gangs.
 - ii. Speaking at the induction ceremony at the Fort Tuna military base in the capital Caracas, President Nicolas Maduro said that the US naval buildup in the eastern seaboard is a plot to seize Venezuela's oil resources.
2. The Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with key European leaders in London on the US-proposed peace plan to end the war in Ukraine.
 - i. Zelensky met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz at the British Prime Minister's Office in London with the aim of strengthening European unity.
 - ii. After the event, Zelensky traveled to Brussels, the Belgian capital, where he held talks with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and European Union leaders Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen:
 - iii. The Trump administration had developed a new draft plan to end the war. The peace plan, which is said to be favorable to Russia, is being actively negotiated.
3. The Thai military has launched airstrikes on Cambodia after fresh clashes broke out along the disputed border between Thailand and Cambodia. The two countries accuse each other of violating a ceasefire agreement agreed to in October by US President Donald Trump.
 - i. Border dispute: Since the border between Thailand and Cambodia was demarcated by treaties in 1904 and 1907, the two countries have been locked in a border dispute centered around the 11th-century Hindu temple of Preah Vihear. The UN Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that the temple belongs to Cambodia. However, the border dispute continues to persist.
 - ii. International pressure: The UN, ASEAN, and countries such as China and Malaysia have urged an immediate end to the recent conflict between Thailand and Cambodia. US President Trump has also warned both countries that trade talks will be halted if they violate the ceasefire agreement.
4. Official sources said that the Bilateral Trade Agreement talks between India and the US will begin on Wednesday (December 10).
 - i. A team led by Deputy US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Rick Schweitzer will arrive in India on a three-day visit.
 - ii. The bilateral trade agreement aims to increase the current bilateral trade between the two countries from Rs.17,18,207 crore (USD 191 billion) to Rs.44,97,925 crore (USD 500 billion) by 2030.
5. A new study has revealed shocking information that in the year 2023, more than half of the world's population live in areas where income inequality has increased.
 - i. Although the Gross National Income of 94 percent of the world's population has

increased since 1990, income inequality continues to persist. The study conducted by researchers at Aalto University in Finland analyzed income inequality data for 151 countries over the past 30 years.

- ii. According to the study results, the Gross National Income of 94 percent of the world's population has increased. But income inequality has also increased for around 46–59 per cent of the global population, while it has decreased for 31–36 per cent. That is, only a third of the world's population lives in a place where income inequality is low. About 25 percent live in areas where both income and inequality have increased sharply since 1990.
 - iii. Progress in India's South: India's data was included in the study along with countries like Brazil and China. Income inequality in North India has remained unchanged. However, the Southern States have made greater progress across all sectors. The Southern part of the Country has seen sustained investments in public health, education, infrastructure and economic development. This has benefited the local population widely, the study team pointed out. The study team noted that these regional differences are very important to identify the root causes of inequality and identify inclusive growth, rather than just looking at the national average.
 - iv. Sustainable Development Goal Not Possible: The study team said that the study provides useful information for assessing Goal 10, which is part of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to reduce inequality within and among countries.
 - v. The study indicates that the UN Sustainable Development Goals are not on track to be achieved by 2030.
 - vi. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a roadmap adopted by member states in 2015 to achieve human progress and economic prosperity.
6. The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has released data showing that 5.17 lakh waqf properties have been uploaded on the United Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) website.
- i. The Union Government launched the UMEED website on June 6 to digitize information on waqf properties across the country within 6 months. The Union Government has made it mandatory to upload information on waqf properties on the website within this period.
 - ii. Kiren Rijiju said that there are more than 9 lakh waqf properties across the country.
7. An agreement has been signed between Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, through the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited and the Danish Energy Agency to set up offshore wind farms in Tamil Nadu.
- i. India is ranked 4th in the world in renewable energy production and wind power capacity. The Southern States account for 50 percent of the country's 54,000 MW wind power capacity. Meanwhile, experts have found that there is potential for setting up offshore wind farms in the Bay of Bengal in Tamil Nadu and generating electricity through them.
 - ii. However, the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited does not have the

technology to implement this project. Since the Danish Energy Agency is effectively implementing this project, The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has decided to implement the offshore wind farm project with that country and has joined hands with it.

- iii. Accordingly, an agreement for technology transfer with the Danish Energy Agency was signed at the Electricity Board headquarters on Monday.
8. A bill to impose cess on pan masala manufacturers was passed in Parliament.
 - i. The bill to levy 40 per cent tax on pan masala under GST and levy additional tax (cess) was passed in the Lok Sabha.
 - ii. Subsequently, the bill was sent to the Rajya Sabha. During the debate there on Monday, the opposition parties alleged that the bill was anti-federal and would prevent State Governments from having funds to maintain the Health Infrastructure.
9. The Cauvery Water Management Authority has ordered Karnataka to release 7.35 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu in December as per the Supreme Court order.
 - i. The meeting on water sharing was held at the Cauvery Water Management Authority office in Delhi via Video Conferencing.
 - ii. The meeting was held after the Supreme Court had ordered on November 13 that the Central Water Resources Commission would take a final decision on the Karnataka Government's detailed project report on the construction of the Mokedattu dam across the Cauvery river based on the explanations of the Cauvery Water Management Authority, the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee and the states concerned, including Tamil Nadu.
 - iii. Representatives of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry attended the Management Authority meeting.
10. In Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister M.K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for the construction of small sports stadiums to be set up in 23 Assembly Constituencies at a cost of Rs.69 crore through Video Conferencing.
 - i. It has been reported that stadiums will be set up for athletics, football, basketball, handball, kabaddi and other popular sports in the respective areas.