

December 11, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Lithuania has declared a national emergency due to a security threat posed by balloons from Belarus.
 - i. Vilnius Airport has been closed after balloons from Belarus entered Lithuania. A state of emergency has been declared as this poses a threat to national security.
 - ii. This emergency will allow the army to operate alongside the police and Border Security Force in border areas. It has been reported that the military will be given the authority to carry out operations such as searches and arrests.
 - iii. This year alone, about 600 balloons and 200 drones from Belarus have infiltrated Lithuania, causing 350 flights to be delayed or canceled.
 - iv. 51,000 passengers were affected. Vilnius Airport was closed for 60 hours. This caused a loss of 7.5 million euros.
2. The Central South American country of Bolivia, which had severed diplomatic relations with Israel due to the Gaza war, has now re-establish relations. This is seen as a sign of a major political shift in Bolivia, which had previously been highly critical of Israeli policies against the Palestinians. A statement issued by the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding this stated:
 - i. As part of the foreign policy created by the new right-wing Government, diplomatic relations with Israel have been re-established.
 - ii. Bolivian Foreign Minister Fernando Aramayo and Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar met in Washington and signed an agreement to restore diplomatic relations between the two countries.
 - iii. The statement said that this move will open up new economic opportunities and strengthen alliances that will directly benefit the country.
 - iv. Bolivia severed diplomatic relations with Israel two years ago in protest at its actions in the Gaza war.
 - v. Right-wing Rodrigo Paz was sworn in as Bolivia's new President last month, ending the dominance of the Movement for Socialism (MAS) party started by Evo Morales.
 - vi. Morales, who took office as Bolivia's President in 2006, expelled the Israeli ambassador and fostered closer ties with Iran. His Government has taken a stance against the United States and Israel. Protests erupted against Morales' re-election in a controversial 2019 election. He subsequently resigned under pressure from the military. He then resigned under pressure from the military.
 - vii. The right-wing interim Government that was formed subsequently restored full diplomatic relations with the United States. Rodrigo Paz, who later won the October 19 election and took office as president, announced that he would continue a new chapter with Israel. Accordingly, diplomatic relations have now been re-established between the two countries.
3. More than 24 countries are participating in the inaugural Commonwealth Cocoa Championships, to be held in India from March 9 to 14 next year.
4. Defending champions Germany retained the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup after

defeating Spain in a penalty shootout (3-2) in the final. The Indian team defeated Argentina to win the bronze medal.

- i. The World Cup competitions began in Chennai and Madurai on November 28th, organized by the International Hockey Federation, Hockey India, and the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority.
5. Diwali, a major festival of Indians, was officially added to UNESCO's list of cultural heritage on Wednesday (December 10).
 - i. The 20th Intergovernmental Committee meeting for the Safeguarding of UNESCO's Cultural Heritage is being held at the Red Fort in Delhi, a UNESCO site, from Monday to Saturday. This is the first time India is hosting this meeting.
 - ii. India had submitted its nomination for the inclusion of the Diwali festival in the UNESCO list in 2023. Fifteen traditional elements, including Kumbh Mela, Kolkata's Durga Puja, Gujarat's Garba dance, Yoga, Vedic chanting, and Ramlila, are already on this list. With Diwali now being recognized, it has become India's 16th cultural heritage element.
6. The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft on Wednesday regarding increasing employment opportunities in India.
 - i. The agreement was signed in Delhi in the presence of Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.
 - ii. Earlier, Satya Nadella had announced that Microsoft would invest ₹1.58 lakh crore in India, the largest investment ever made by the company in Asia. The MoU has been signed in this context.
 - iii. Through this, Microsoft will operate in India. Action will be taken to enable more than 15,000 people from India to participate in Microsoft's global initiatives, including skill development in artificial intelligence and preparing young people for modern information technologies. This is a sector with immense opportunities.
7. "India is dumping the American market with its rice; action will be taken soon regarding this," said US President Donald Trump.
 - i. India, the world's largest rice producer, produces 150 million tons, which accounts for 28 percent of global rice production. India's contribution to global rice exports is 30.3 percent.
 - ii. In 2024 alone, India exported 234,000 tons of rice to the United States. Besides this, India exports a large quantity of rice to West Asian countries. Sona Masoori variety of rice is exported extensively to the US and Australia.
8. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to veteran statesman Rajaji on his birth anniversary. The Prime Minister hailed Rajaji as one of the sharpest minds of the 20th century.
 - i. C. Rajagopalachari, also known as Rajaji, was a freedom fighter and the last Governor-General of India. A multifaceted personality—an experienced politician, lawyer, and writer—he was one of the first recipients of the Bharat Ratna award in 1954. He held various high positions.

- ii. Prime Minister Modi also shared a photograph of Rajaji from his younger days, the notification of his appointment as a cabinet minister, and an edition of the 'Young India' magazine published under Rajaji's supervision in 1922, when Mahatma Gandhi was in prison.
9. Following reports that many people in Andhra Pradesh have been affected by scrub typhus, a tick-borne fever, and that 9 people have died, the Tamil Nadu Health Department is undertaking intensive surveillance measures to prevent the spread of the disease in the state. Accordingly, guidelines have been provided to the district health department officials.
 - i. Scrub typhus fever occurs when humans are bitten by parasites, insects, or organisms infected with the Rickettsia bacteria. Fever, headache, fatigue, and rashes are considered its main symptoms.
 - ii. In Tamil Nadu, this infection is prevalent in Chennai, Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Vellore, and Tirupattur districts. Besides these areas, scrub typhus infection is also found in the Eastern and Western Ghats regions.
 - iii. With the increase in infections in Andhra Pradesh, there are fears that the disease may spread to Chennai and the surrounding areas. Following this, public health department officials have stated that they are taking preventive measures.
 - iv. They further stated: Farmers, those living near bushy and forest areas, trekkers, pregnant women, and those exposed to insect bites are more likely to be affected.
 - v. This disease can be detected through ELISA blood tests and molecular tests. Patients with scrub typhus fever should be treated with antibiotics such as Azithromycin and Doxycycline.
10. Writer Prema Nandakumar is being presented with Dinamani's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award. Since 2018, the Dinamani daily has been presenting the Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award to a Bharathi researcher. The award for 2025 goes to writer Prema Nandakumar.
 - i. Prema Nandakumar is a multifaceted personality as a writer, essayist, orator, and researcher. She translated the poems of Mahakavi Bharathiar in 1958 under the title 'Bharathi in English Verse'. His books on Bharathiyar have also been published by the Sahitya Akademi and UNESCO.
 - ii. On the occasion of Mahakavi Bharathiyar's birth anniversary (December 11), Dinamani newspaper is presenting Prema Nandakumar with the Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award.