

May 22, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1.As the Ukraine war has crossed four years, Russia, along with its neighboring ally Belarus, conducted joint nuclear weapons exercises by land, sea, and air.

(i) The three-day exercise began after recent Ukrainian drone attacks in the outskirts of Moscow killed three people.

(ii) The exercise, aimed at preparing nuclear forces to respond to aggression threats, involved 64,000 troops, more than 200 missile launch systems, 140 fighter aircraft, 73 warships, and 13 submarines.

(iii) According to Russia's revised nuclear doctrine introduced by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2024, any attack on Russia supported by a nuclear-armed nation would be considered a joint attack. Russia has also extended this nuclear protection umbrella to Belarus and stationed its advanced missiles there.

2.In war-torn Myanmar, the military has recaptured two key towns located near the Indian and Thai borders from rebel groups.

(i) The town of Tonzang in northwestern Chin State, near the Indian border, was retaken after a 10-day military operation. Similarly, the military regained control of Mawtaung town in the southern Tanintharyi region, an important trade hub with Thailand, after two weeks of fighting.

(ii) With increased military strength due to Chinese-mediated ceasefire arrangements and compulsory military recruitment, the Myanmar military has been gaining the upper hand in the civil war since the middle of last year.

3.A record 274 mountaineers, including three Indians, successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, from Nepal in a single day.

(i) The previous record was set in May 2019 when 223 climbers reached the summit in one day. This season, the Nepal Government had granted permits to 502 climbers. In the historic achievement on Wednesday, 274 climbers, including 150 Nepali Sherpas, reached the summit.

(ii) The group included three Indians — Tulasi Reddy Balpunuri and Sandeep Are from Telangana, and Ajay Pal Singh Dhaliwal. On Thursday, eight more climbers, including India's Lakshmikanta Mandal, also reached the summit.

(iii) Several other world records were also achieved this season. Nepali climber Kami Rita Sherpa climbed Everest for the 32nd time, breaking his own record. Likewise, Lhakpa Sherpa became the first woman to climb Everest 11 times.

(iv) Inspirational journey of a Telangana youth:

- Everest climber Tulasi Reddy initially began going to the gym simply to lose weight, but later developed a passion for mountaineering.
- Having already climbed peaks such as Elbrus and Kilimanjaro, he emotionally stated that "this success is the result of years of discipline, sacrifice, and continuous training."

4.Overseas investment by Indian companies doubled in April compared to the previous month, reaching \$3.369 billion.

(i) This massive growth came despite geopolitical tensions and the continued decline in the value of the Indian rupee.

(ii) According to Reserve Bank of India statistics, the major reason for the surge was the large-scale investment by the IT company Coforge. Around 86 percent of total overseas equity investments made by Indian companies in April came from the top five firms.

(iii) Coforge topped the list with two major investments worth \$1.371 billion and \$994 million respectively.

(iv) This was followed by investments abroad by Lupin Limited worth \$229 million, Wingify Software worth \$156.8 million, Kinax Global worth \$83 million, and Klar Technology worth \$54 million.

(v) Similarly, India's total financial commitments, including loans and guarantees, rose by 11 percent from \$5.085 billion in March to \$5.644 billion in April.

5.The Senior Federation Cup Athletics Championship begins in Ranchi on Friday (May 22). A new "SRY" testing procedure is being introduced to ensure that only athletes biologically born female compete in the women's category.

6.To prepare Indian compound archers for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, multiple-time world champion Dave Cousins of the United States has been appointed as coach.

7.Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India on Thursday after successfully completing a five-nation official tour. During the visit, important agreements were signed in sectors including energy, defense, and critical minerals. He also received three prestigious honors during the trip.

(i) Prime Minister Modi began his six-day tour on May 15 covering five countries — the United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy.

(ii) United Arab Emirates:

- In the first leg of the visit, he held talks with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- This was Modi's first visit to West Asia after the war between the United States-Israel alliance and Iran escalated in February. The visit gained significance as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz disrupted crude oil exports, affecting India and many other nations.
- Following the talks, major agreements were signed regarding expansion of India's strategic petroleum reserves, long-term LPG supply, defense cooperation, and maritime transport. The UAE also committed to investing \$5 billion in India.

(iii) Netherlands:

- Modi later traveled to the Netherlands and held extensive discussions with Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten. Bilateral relations were elevated to a strategic partnership status, and 17 agreements were signed in areas such as critical minerals, semiconductors, renewable energy, migration, and transport cooperation.

(iv) Sweden:

- During his Sweden visit, Modi discussed expanding cooperation in trade, technology, and defense with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

- Modi was awarded Sweden's highest civilian honor, "The Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross."

(v) Norway:

- From Sweden, Modi traveled to Norway and discussed strengthening cooperation in green energy, trade, sustainable development, blue economy, Arctic research, and digitalization with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.
- He also participated in the third India-Nordic Summit.
- Modi received Norway's prestigious "Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit."

(vi) Italy:

- In the final leg of the trip, Modi visited Italy and held talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, cultural ties, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, space, and nuclear energy.
- India-Italy relations were elevated to a special strategic partnership.
- Modi was also honored in Rome with the Agricola Medal by the Food and Agriculture Organization for his contributions to food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.

(vii) During the five-nation tour, Modi presented special gifts showcasing India's cultural heritage to foreign leaders:

- To Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni — Assam's Muga silk shawl and Manipur's Shirui Lily silk shawl.
- To Italian President Sergio Mattarella — an artistic marble box containing music recordings of legendary singers Bhimsen Joshi and M. S. Subbulakshmi.
- To Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten — a Madhubani fish painting.
- To Dutch King Willem-Alexander — Jaipur blue pottery.
- To Queen Máxima — Meenakari-Kundan earrings from Rajasthan.
- To Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson — a pure wool shawl from Ladakh.
- To UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan — Gujarat's famous Kesar mangoes and pineapples from Meghalaya.
- To Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre — artwork made with dried orchid flowers.
- To Qu Dongyu (Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)) — traditional Indian rice varieties including red rice from Palakkad, Kerala.