

## **October 2, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

### **1. Asian Games – 2026**

#### **(i) Sailing**

- In the Men's Skiff Opening Race 9, the Indian team comprising Prince Kurishungal Nobel and Manu Francis won the silver medal with 23 points. Since the team with the lower number of points wins in this event, China, with 16 points, won the gold medal. Japan won the bronze medal.
- In the Women's Skiff Opening Race 9, the Indian team comprising Harshita Tomar and Sheetal Verma won the bronze medal with 24 points. Japan and Hong Kong won the gold and silver medals, respectively.
- This is the first time India has won a silver medal in the men's Skiff event in sailing at the Asian Games. These are also the first two medals won by India in sailing at the ongoing Asian Games.

#### **(ii) Wrestling**

- In the Men's Greco-Roman 97 kg category final, India's Nitesh Shivach lost 0–4 to Japan's Yuri Nagasato and won the silver medal.

#### **(iii) Archery**

- In the Compound Men's Individual event, Tamil Nadu's Ganesh Manirathnam Thirumuru won the bronze medal.

2.The ICC's decision to use pink balls in Test matches played during the daytime, under the revised/recommended format, came into effect on Thursday, October 1.

- The pink ball will be used in matches where overs are reduced due to insufficient light.

3.For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a barrier-free automatic toll collection system has been introduced on a national highway. According to a press release issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways:

(i) The barrier-free automatic toll collection system has been introduced for the first time in Tamil Nadu at the Paranur Toll Plaza on the Tambaram–Tindivanam section of National Highway 179B.

- The system enables vehicles to pass through toll plazas without stopping.
- It uses technologies such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag to ensure seamless and efficient toll-plaza operations.

#### **(ii) Benefits**

- It significantly reduces human intervention in toll collection.
- It helps save fuel and time.
- It reduces traffic congestion and makes toll operations more transparent and cost-effective.
- It simplifies travel for people using vehicles on national highways and provides a seamless travel

experience.

(iii) Role of NHAI

- As an important step towards transforming the electronic toll collection system in the country, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced the system for the first time at the Paranur Toll Plaza on the Tambaram–Tindivanam section of NH 179B.

4. UPSC Centenary Celebrations

- The closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) was held in New Delhi.
- On the occasion of the conclusion of the UPSC centenary celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released:
  - a commemorative coin,
  - a special postage stamp, and

a book titled “100 Landmark Judgments that Shaped UPSC Principles.”

5. Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955

(i) Overview and Statutory Framework

- The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment released a total of ₹1,423.30 crore to States and Union Territories over the last three financial years to implement anti-atrocity laws.
- Funds are provided annually under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to enforce laws, strengthen investigation bodies, ensure speedy trials, and provide relief and rehabilitation to victims.

(ii) Financial Allocation Breakdown (FY 2022–25)

The year-wise release of funds over the last three financial years is as follows:

- FY 2022–2023: ₹392.71 crore.
- FY 2023–2024: ₹535.30 crore.
- FY 2024–2025: ₹495.29 crore.
- 3-Year Total: ₹1,423.30 crore.

(iii) Judicial Infrastructure and Victim Welfare

- Utilizing this central funding, 217 special courts have been set up across 15 States and Union Territories to try cases registered under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.
- Financial assistance was provided to atrocity victims as follows:
  - FY 2022–2023: 88,172 victims.
  - FY 2023–2024: 79,667 victims.
  - FY 2024–2025: 99,216 victims.
- Financial incentive grants were distributed to inter-caste couples:
  - FY 2022–2023: 14,225 beneficiaries.

- FY 2024–2025: 26,050 beneficiaries.

(iv) Case Registration and Court Pendency

- Cases registered nationwide under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act:
  - 2022: 67,633 cases.
  - 2023: 70,725 cases.
  - 2024: 65,646 cases.
- As of the end of 2024, a total of 3,92,006 cases remained pending in courts across the country.

6. US – China Relations

(i) Diplomatic Protocol and Reception

- Chinese President Xi Jinping made his first White House visit in ten years, an event heavily covered in US media for four weeks leading up to the summit.
- Breaking traditional diplomatic protocol, US President Donald Trump personally traveled to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland to receive President Xi at the airfield.
- President Trump personally toured President Xi through the White House, walked him to the helicopter pad on the South Lawn, and invited him inside his presidential helicopter to project personal rapport for media broadcasts.
- In his second term in office, Trump has increasingly utilized personal relationships and high-profile media publicity as diplomatic tools to send strategic signals to international observers.

(ii) Strategic Disparity and Diplomatic Stance

- While Trump emphasized media optics and personal warmth, President Xi recognized Trump's performative approach and turned it to China's strategic advantage.
- Historically, Chinese leadership strictly separates ceremonial hospitality or protocol from core negotiations, refusing to grant policy concessions or compromises simply in response to lavish receptions.

(iii) Specific Agreements and Temporary Measures

Despite broader stalemates, the two leaders reached several specific commercial and procedural agreements:

- Extended the bilateral trade war ceasefire for an additional two months until January 10.
- Agreed on mutual tariff cuts covering \$30 billion (3,000 crore USD) worth of goods.
- Agreed to establish a dedicated bilateral mechanism to discuss both the risks and potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.
- Formed an investment board to address commercial disputes and implement bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

(iv) Major Unresolved Conflicts and Core Stalemates

The summit failed to resolve fundamental policy differences or produce major policy shifts across several critical areas:



- No consensus on supply shortages of rare earth minerals, critical ores, or broader technology scarcity and sharing.
- Unresolved stances regarding Taiwan, peace in the Indo-Pacific region, tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, and relations with Iran.
- Continued disagreement regarding China's ongoing purchases of Russian oil.
- The meeting concluded without issuing even a routine joint declaration or addressing core structural contradictions between the two superpowers.

**(v) Future Meetings Schedule**

- Both leaders are scheduled to meet again in November in Beijing, China, and in Florida, USA.
- Analysts project that the upcoming meetings will likely follow a similar pattern—friendly handshakes and discussions without producing joint statements or resolving fundamental geopolitical divides.

