

October 10, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Political leaders, including Chief Minister Vijay and DMK president M. K. Stalin congratulated Navanethem Pillay, a South African of Tamil origin, on being announced as the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

2. Noble Peace Prize

(i) Navi Pillay, a South African judge of Tamil origin, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her contributions toward promoting international law and global peace.

(ii) She was born on September 23, 1941, in Durban, South Africa, to parents whose ancestral roots trace back to Tamil Nadu.

(iii) She served as a judge in the High Court of South Africa, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

- She served both as a judge and as the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.
- She held the position of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2014.
- She acted as a judge in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) litigation filed by The Gambia concerning Myanmar's alleged violations of the genocide convention.

(iv) Key Human Rights Contributions & Investigations

- She was instrumental in establishing international legal standards to combat genocide and sexual violence.
- Following the end of the Sri Lankan civil war, she visited the country in 2013 and traveled to Jaffna to meet with affected Tamil families and hear their grievances directly.
- In 2025, she served as the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry investigating human rights issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) and Israel.
- Under her leadership, the commission concluded that Israeli authorities and security forces engaged in genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

3. Israeli President Isaac Herzog has announced Israel's highest award for acts of bravery for Indian pilot Smith Machar, in recognition of his courageous act of saving the lives of 172 air passengers mid-air.

4. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held discussions with Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in Singapore.

- During her three-day visit to Singapore, the Finance Minister is scheduled to meet Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, and representatives of the business community.
- Singapore has been the largest source of foreign investment in India over the past six years.
- The value of investments from Singapore during this period amounts to ₹19.26 lakh crore.

5. Marking ten years since the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hold a two-day national consultation on Saturday (October 10) and Sunday (October 11). According to

a press release issued by the Supreme Court:

- In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Supreme Court's Justice Committee will organise a two-day national consultation titled "Juvenile Justice Act, 2015: A Decade of Progress, Challenges, and Priorities for the Next Decade."

6. America's Double Standard

(i) US Tariff Legislation and Supreme Court Ruling

- On September 18, 2026, US President Donald Trump signed the "Lindsey O. Graham Russia and Iran Sanctions Act, 2026," which imposes a 100% import tariff on countries continuing to purchase crude oil and fuel from Russia and Iran.
- The US Supreme Court ruled that tariff-imposing authority rests exclusively with Congress, declaring President Trump's "Independence Day" tariffs announced on April 2, 2025, illegal due to a lack of Congressional approval.
- Despite legal challenges, the effective average US import tariff rate under Trump's second administration rose from approximately 2.4% in 2024 to nearly 11%.
- Disregarding long-standing global trade rules and issuing tariff threats against allies like India has severely disrupted international trade and inflated the prices of essential commodities.

(ii) Global Trade Growth and India's Trade Dynamics

- Global trade grew by 8% in 2025—outpacing overall global economic growth by 5 percentage points and doubling the 2024 growth rate.
- Aided by the depreciation of the Indian rupee, India's merchandise exports to the US increased by 19% and service exports grew by 10% in FY 2025–2026.
- China is increasingly becoming India's primary trade hub, with bilateral trade reaching \$150 billion in FY 2025–2026.
- China currently serves as the largest trading partner for 151 countries, whereas the US maintains favorable trade relations with only 57 countries.

(iii) The US-Belarus Potash Deal and Canadian Trade Conflict

- On September 21, 2026, President Trump signed an agreement to import potash fertilizer from Belarus—a close ally of Russia—exposing policy double standards.
- With Canada supplying 85% of US agricultural potash, Washington sought cheaper supplies from Belarus amidst an escalating US-Canada trade dispute.
- Canada, Belarus, and Russia are the world's leading potash producers, with Canada alone accounting for nearly one-third of global supply.
- Over 40 nations have sanctioned Belarus for supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe condemned the US purchase as funding aggression, labeling it "blood potash".

(iv) Agricultural Role of Potash and Threats to India

- Potash provides vital nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (N-P-K) nutrients that regulate water absorption, photosynthesis, and disease resistance—making it essential for commercial crops like sugarcane, potatoes, and bananas.



- India requires 25 lakh to 40 lakh (2.5 to 4.0 million) metric tons of potash annually, sourcing it from Canada, Russia, Israel, Jordan, and Belarus.
- New Delhi worries that major US procurement from Belarus will drive up global fertilizer prices, severely burdening farmers in agriculture-dependent nations.

(v) Foreign Policy Criticisms and Supply Bottlenecks

- Former US State Department official Evan Feigenbaum noted that pressuring India over Russian energy while procuring Belarusian potash severely damages US international credibility.
- Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko stated that Trump acted prematurely, as Belarus's current potash production is already fully contracted with no surplus available for Western markets.
- India views the policy as inherently selfish—prohibiting other countries from trading with Russia for public welfare while allowing the US to trade with Russian allies for domestic gain.

