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November 6, 2026 - Dinamani Newspaper - Tit bits

1. More Than 600,000 People Participate in Nationwide Protests in France

(i) Nationwide Strikes and Protests Over Wages and Education Funding

- More than 600,000 people participated in nationwide strikes and protests across France, demanding higher wages and increased financial allocations for schools.
- Such large-scale protests have been continuing in France for more than a month.
- According to preliminary information released by the French Ministry of the Interior, Thursday's protests were largely peaceful.
- However, incidents of violence were reported in a few cities, including Lyon, Nantes, Pau, Orléans, Rennes, Toulouse and Brittany.

2. Cristiano Ronaldo Announces Retirement from International Football

i. Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo (41) announced his retirement from international football on Thursday (November 5). However, he will continue playing in club-level competitions.

ii. International Records Achieved Exclusively by Cristiano Ronaldo

- 234 – The only player to have made the highest number of appearances (234 matches) for his national team in international football.
- 146 – The only player to have scored the highest number of international goals (146) for his national team.
- 6 – The only player to have scored goals in six different editions of the FIFA World Cup (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022 and 2026).
- 10 – The only player to have scored the highest number of hat-tricks (10) in international football.
- 48 – The only player to have scored against 48 different national teams in international football.

- 14 – The only player to have scored the highest number of goals (14) in the UEFA European Championship.
- 11 – The Portuguese player with the highest number of goals (11) in FIFA World Cup tournaments.

3. India Relaxes Passport and Visa Rules for Certain Categories of Foreign Nationals

The Central Government has relaxed passport and visa regulations under various categories for foreign nationals residing in India, including Pakistani citizens, minority refugees, Sri Lankan Tamils and Tibetans. According to the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) (Amendment) Order, 2026, published in the Gazette of India on Thursday, the following exemptions have been introduced:

i. Pakistani Nationals: Under the amended rules issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, individuals who entered India from Pakistan before December 31, 2009, with the intention of settling permanently in India, are exempted from passport renewal requirements.

ii. However, they must fulfil certain conditions:

- They must not have renewed their Computerised National Identity Card issued by the Pakistani Government.
- They must not have married in Pakistan.
- They must not own property in Pakistan.
- They must provide an undertaking that they will not return to Pakistan.
- They must not have any adverse remarks or reports against them from the police or security agencies.

iii. People of Indian Origin Holding Malaysian or Singaporean Citizenship:

- People of Indian origin who hold Malaysian or Singaporean citizenship and returned to India before December 31, 2009, are exempted from passport renewal requirements, provided their passports issued by those countries have expired and have not been renewed.

iv. Minority Communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan:

Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who entered India from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan on or before December 31, 2024, are also granted exemptions.

v. These exemptions also apply to individuals who entered India without passports or adequate travel documents, as well as those whose travel documents have expired.

vi. Registered Sri Lankan Tamils:

Sri Lankan Tamils registered in India who arrived in the country on or before January 9, 2015, are also granted exemptions.

vii. Tibetan Refugees:

Individuals who entered India between 1959 and May 30, 2003, after obtaining entry permits issued by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal, are also exempted.

viii. Foreign Nationals Involved in Naval Ship Repairs:

Foreign nationals visiting India for the repair and maintenance of naval ships are exempted from passport and visa requirements.

ix. However, such individuals must possess military identity documents issued by their respective countries.

4. India Successfully Conducts Test of Indigenous 'Pralay' Missile

i. India successfully conducted a test of its indigenously developed Pralay missile at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, according to the Ministry of Defence.

ii. In a press release, the Ministry stated that:

- The Pralay ballistic missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is a short-range, surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of striking and destroying ground-based targets.

- The missile can carry conventional warheads weighing between 500 kg and 1,000 kg.
- It is capable of countering multiple types of threats simultaneously.

5. Agniveers to Become Permanent Army Personnel After Six Years of Service

(i) Background of the Agnipath Scheme

- The Central Government introduced the Agnipath Scheme in June 2022.
- Under the scheme, selected recruits serve in the armed forces as Agniveers for a period of four years.
- Initially, it was announced that 25% of Agniveers would be retained as permanent personnel based on merit after completing four years of service.
- The remaining 75% were expected to leave the armed forces after completing their four-year tenure.
- Subsequently, the Central Government announced a two-year extension of service for the remaining 75% of Agniveers.
- This announcement came when approximately 18,000 Agniveers were approaching the end of their original service period.

(ii) New Policy Regarding Permanent Recruitment

According to defence officials:

- All Agniveers will eventually be absorbed as permanent personnel in the Army.
- Initially, 25% of the Agniveers will be retained, while the remaining 75% will become eligible for permanent recruitment after completing an additional two years of training and service.
- They must demonstrate good physical fitness and discipline to qualify for permanent recruitment.

(iii) Deployment and Service Status

- Agniveers recruited as permanent personnel will be immediately assigned to their respective postings.

- They will be treated on par with other regular Army personnel.

(iv) Continuation of the Agnipath Scheme

- The Agnipath Scheme has not been withdrawn.
- Instead, an additional two-year service extension has been introduced.
- Consequently, Agniveers completing six years of service will be made permanent Army personnel, according to the defence officials quoted in the report.

(v) More than 3 lakh Agniveers are currently serving under the Agnipath Scheme. They are expected to benefit from this announcement.

6. India Announces $500 Million Credit Assistance to Guyana

(i) Meeting Between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Guyanese President Mohamed Irfaan Ali

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Guyanese President Mohamed Irfaan Ali.
- Following the meeting, India announced $500 million (approximately ₹473 crore) in credit assistance for Guyana's national development projects.

(ii) Background of the Meeting

- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is being held in Antigua and Barbuda.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is representing India at the meeting.
- On the sidelines of the summit, he met Guyanese President Mohamed Irfaan Ali in St. John's, the capital of Antigua and Barbuda.

(iii) Areas of Bilateral Cooperation

The two leaders discussed strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation in several important sectors, including:

- Trade and investment.
- Energy.
- Agriculture.
- Infrastructure development.

- Digital Technology.

7. Social change is the permanent solution!

(i) Prevalence of Sexual Violence & Underlying Factors

- Despite numerous laws enacted worldwide to curb sexual violence against women, Governments and citizens continue to struggle to eliminate the issue completely.
- Offenders are often psychologically disturbed individuals or those who have been addicted to harmful habits from an early age.
- Perpetrators target economically backward women in a planned manner and exploit women's soft-hearted nature by making false promises regarding aid for children's education or marriage.

(ii) Role of Family, Schools, and Educational Institutions

- Awareness must begin at home; parents who educate girls from an early age empower them to protect themselves once they turn 18.
- Families and schools must grant equal rights, equal speaking opportunities, and equal responsibilities to male and female children, teaching boys to respect girls from an early age.
- Spreading awareness in schools and colleges—where future generations study—is essential for preventing sexual offenses and fostering social change.

(iii) Legal Framework & POCSO Act Provisions

- In India, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was enacted in 2012 and amended in 2019 to safeguard minors under 18 years of age.
- The law strictly protects victim confidentiality by keeping names and identities secret, holding trials in special courts, and conducting proceedings in closed rooms.
- Penalties for offenders range from 10 to 20 years of imprisonment, up to the death penalty for severe offenses.

- Intensive rural awareness campaigns on laws like POCSO, alongside disseminating landmark verdicts like the Nirbhaya case, build self-confidence among women and deter offenders.

(iv) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Statistics

- Annual Registered Cases in India:
    - 2020: 28,046 cases.
    - 2021: 31,677 cases.
    - 2022: 31,516 cases.
    - 2023: 29,670 cases.
    - 2024: 27,721 cases.
- Following the initiation of awareness campaigns across schools and colleges, registered cases of sexual violence have shown a slight decline.

(v) Media Responsibility, Victim Support, and Social Mindset

- Media and cinema should refrain from depicting victims as culprits; instead, scenes should highlight self-defense strategies and inform the public about strong legal remedies.
- Spreading awareness that sexual violence harms not only the offender but also their family, relatives, and society helps guide youth and instills respect for women.
- Society must stop blaming victims and instead offer them safety, support, and protection.
- True masculinity is defined by respecting women and protecting their rights and freedom, which serves as the foundation for a permanent solution to sexual violence.

8. Guiding Satellites

(i) Principles of Satellite Navigation Technology

- Satellite navigation allows smartphones to determine user locations, destinations, routes, and estimated travel times within seconds.

- Satellites orbiting Earth continuously send signals, which smartphones or dedicated receivers process to compute exact positioning and timing.

(ii) Global Evolution of Navigation Systems

- Sputnik-1 (Soviet Union): Launched on October 4, 1957, as the first human-made satellite to orbit Earth, establishing the technical foundation for space navigation.
- Transit System (USA): Development began in 1958; Transit 1-B launched on April 13, 1960. Introduced to the US Navy in 1964 and later released for public use, becoming history's first operational satellite navigation system.
- GPS (USA): Started in 1973; the first GPS satellite was launched in 1978. The core 24-satellite constellation was completed in 1993, opening for global public use in 1994.
- GLONASS (Russia): Initiated in 1982, reaching full global coverage with 24 satellites in 1995.
- BeiDou (China): Initially built for the Asia-Pacific region; completed its third-generation global system on June 23, 2020.
- Galileo (EU / ESA): Jointly created by the European Union and European Space Agency; began initial operations on December 15, 2016.
- QZSS (Japan): Developed by Japan as a regional navigation and timing service system.

(iii) Development & Architecture of India's NaVIC System

- Initially launched as IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System), it was later named NaVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) upon recommendation by the Prime Minister of India.
- Developed by ISRO, NaVIC provides regional coverage across the Indian mainland and extends up to 1,500 km beyond national borders.
- Designed with 7 initial satellites—3 in geostationary orbit (GEO) and 4 in inclined Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO).
- Service Tiers & Frequencies:
    - Standard Positioning Service (SPS): Available for general public use.

- Restricted Service (RS): Encrypted service for authorized defense and strategic applications.
- Both services operate across L-5 (1176.45 MHz) and S-band (2498.028 MHz) frequency bands.

(iv) NVS-03 Launch Details & Specifications

- On October 30, 2026, at 11:51 PM, ISRO launched the 2,232 kg NVS-03 satellite aboard a GSLV-F18 rocket from Sriharikota.
- NVS-03 is the 3rd satellite in ISRO's second-generation navigation series. (IRNSS is the project name, NaVIC is the system, and NVS-01, 02, and 03 are individual second-generation satellites).
- NVS-03 is currently carrying out orbit-raising maneuvers to reach its final designated orbit before undergoing testing for operational deployment.

(v) ISRO's Constellation Goals & Future Roadmap

- Position determination requires at least 3 satellites, while a 4th satellite provides accurate timing. Completing the 7-satellite constellation is essential for system backup, continuity, and public service rollout.
- ISRO plans to launch NVS-04 and NVS-05 at 5-month intervals.
- Achieving the 7-satellite threshold is mandatory to enable NaVIC service integration directly into commercial smartphones.
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan stated that once the 7-satellite regional setup is complete, ISRO will evaluate expanding NaVIC into a global service, which will require additional satellites beyond the initial seven.

(vi) Practical Applications across Sectors

- Road Transportation: Over 50 lakh (5 million) vehicles in India are fitted with satellite tracking devices.
- Railways: More than 10,400 locomotive engines utilize satellite navigation tools.
- Fisheries: Approximately 64,000 fishing boats are under live tracking, with plans to expand coverage to 1,00,000 (1 lakh) boats within the next 6 months.

- Aviation & Maritime: Used for navigating and tracking aircraft and ships at sea.
- National Security & Emergency Services: Essential for defense operations, disaster management, rescue logistics, and time synchronization across telecommunications networks.

(vii) Distinction: GPS vs. Google Maps

- GPS (or NaVIC) is the underlying satellite infrastructure that calculates raw location data, whereas Google Maps is an application that uses location data to display interactive maps and routing information.
- As smartphone integration expands, India's indigenous NaVIC system will increasingly power location-based applications for citizens' daily activities.