

August 18, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The people have requested the Tamil Nadu Government to conduct excavations as ancient artifacts and drainage systems have been found near Kamudi.
 - i. Ancient jars, pottery, bricks, and construction structures found in Keezhadi were found in areas near Kamudi, including Anaiyur, Chengamedu, Peraiyur, and Maruthangallur in Ramanathapuram district. As a result, the public demanded that the Tamil Nadu Government conduct excavations in this area.
2. The death toll from heavy rains in Pakistan has risen to 650 and the number of injured has risen to 905, the country's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said. Rescue operations have been hampered by the effects of rain, flooding, and landslides. However, 2,000 soldiers from the Pakistan Army have been deployed in the rescue operations.
3. The Supreme Court is set to take up a suo-motu inquiry into the plight of those who were removed from military training centers due to injuries and disabilities.
 - i. According to recent media reports, since 1985, about 500 people were removed from the premier military training centers such as the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy as they have become disabled after being injured during training.
 - ii. Their medical expenses are mounting, but the relief they receive of up to Rs. 40,000 per month, depending on the extent of their injuries, is not enough to meet even their basic needs.
 - iii. They are not considered ex-servicemen. If they were, it would lead to them receiving free treatment in selected hospitals, including military hospitals.
4. India's D. Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa will compete in the Sinquefield Cup chess tournament starting in the United States.
5. World No. 1 Yannick Cinner of Italy and No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain will face off in the men's singles final of the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in the United States.
6. The Finance Ministry recommended to the Group of State Finance Ministers (GoM) to reduce the four rates currently in force – 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% – to two rates of 5% and 18%, and to impose a 40% tax on only 7 high-value items.
 - i. Following the suggestions given by the GoM in this regard, a final decision will be taken at the GST Council meeting next month, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and attended by the Finance Ministers of all states and Union Territories.
 - ii. Once the GST Council approves the reduction to two rates of 5% and 18%, India will emerge as a developed country. After that, these two rates will be converted into a single rate and a simplified tax regime will be implemented. This is the beginning of GST 2.0 reform.



7. Under the 'Axiom-4' project of the American company 'Axiom Space', Shubhanshu Shukla travelled to the International Space Station along with Commander and NASA female scientist Peggy Whitson, Polish astronaut Sławos Usnanski Wisniewski and Hungarian astronaut Tibor Kapu.
 - i. The crew went into space aboard the 'Dragon Grace' spacecraft aboard a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Space Center in Florida, USA.
 - ii. It is noteworthy that around Rs.550 crore has been spent on Shukla's trip to the International Space Station to empirically support ISRO's human spaceflight project 'Gaganyaan', which is scheduled to be launched in 2027.
8. Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Nepalese Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in Kathmandu and discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations in various fields.
 - i. The Ministry of External Affairs said that connectivity and cooperation in development were among the main topics discussed.
 - ii. It is noteworthy that Nepalese Prime Minister Sharma Oli will be visiting India next month on a state visit.
9. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the first online crop loan scheme for farmers in Tamil Nadu in Dharmapuri, which is the first time in the country.
 - i. In the interest of farmers, to avoid delays, farmers can apply for crop loans online from home, without having to visit cooperative banks. The process of disbursing crop loans directly to farmers' bank accounts on the same day they apply was also started in Dharmapuri.
10. **Personalities in news :-**
 - i. Chief Election Commissioner – Gyanesh Kumar
 - ii. President of Nepal – Ramachandra Paudel