

## August 23, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Ukraine has attacked the Druzhba pipeline, which is used to supply oil from Russia to European countries. As a result, oil supplies to European Union member states such as Hungary and Slovakia, which still buy Russian oil, have been disrupted.
  - i. After Russia's invasion in February 2022, the other 25 European Union member states stopped buying oil from Russia. But Hungary and Slovakia are exceptions. The European Union plans to completely stop buying oil and gas from Russia by 2027. But these countries are resisting this.
  - ii. Hungary and Slovakia have taken this stance because Russian energy plays a key role in their economies. In this context, Ukraine's attack on the pipeline system that supplies oil to those two countries has caused tension.
2. The UN's Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has declared a famine in Gaza City, the largest city in the Gaza Strip.
  - i. Since the IPC was launched in 2004, only four famines have been declared. Previously, the organization declared a famine in Sudan last year.
  - ii. Currently, famine is confirmed in Gaza City and the surrounding areas, where between 500,000 and 800,000 people live.
  - iii. In addition, the IPC report warns of the possibility of famine in the cities of Deir al-Bala and Khan Younis soon.
3. Police have arrested former Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe (76) on charges of misappropriating Government funds during his term in office.
4. The champion team of the Durant Cup football tournament will be awarded a prize money of Rs. 1.21 crore. The runner-up team will be awarded Rs. 60 lakh. The prize money has been increased by 250 percent compared to last year.
  - i. The Durant Cup, one of the country's oldest football tournaments, is in its 134<sup>th</sup> year.
5. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that Tamil Nadu is doing injustice to farmers by opposing the Mokedatu Dam project.
  - i. In a year of regular rainfall, only 177.25 TMC of water should be released to Tamil Nadu from the Cauvery. However, they have released more water (surplus water) than the allotted amount. That is why they continue to insist on the construction of the Mokedatu balancing dam. Karnataka needs the Mokedatu Dam project as it is necessary to release surplus water like this year. It is not known why Tamil Nadu is opposing this project.
  - ii. The amount of water that Tamil Nadu needs to receive from Cauvery is 177.25 TMC. This is what the Supreme Court has said in its verdict. If the Mokedatu dam is built, 67 TMC of water can be stored in it. This will help meet the drinking water demand and release it (to Tamil Nadu) during the drought period.

- iii. If the Mekedatu Dam is built, there will be no harm. Therefore, Karnataka Chief Minister has requested the Tamil Nadu Government not to oppose the Mekedatu Dam project.
  - iv. Due to heavy rainfall this year, all the dams are full. Excess water is being released from the Cauvery, Tungabhadra, and Krishna rivers. Tamil Nadu has always opposed the Mekedatu Dam project. He said that through this, the Tamil Nadu Government is doing injustice to the farmers.
6. A model of India's planned space station in space was displayed at an event held at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi on the occasion of National Space Day.
- i. India plans to launch a part of this space station, named 'Bharatiya Space Station', in 2028. India plans to establish a complete space station weighing 52,000 kg by 2035.
  - ii. The first space station, 'Salyut-7', was launched by the Soviet Union (Russia) in 1982. It remained operational until 1991.
  - iii. Secondly, the United States, Russia, Europe, Japan, and Canada jointly established the International Space Station in 1998. It is reported that it will be operational until 2030.
  - iv. Thirdly, the 'Tiangong' space station was launched into space by China in 2021 and is operational.
7. Prominent expatriate Indian businessman Lord Swarajpal (94) has passed away.
- i. Swaraj Paul - founder of the UK-based Caparo Group.
8. China announced that 20 world leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, will participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit to be held in China.
- i. The annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be held in Tianjin, China, on August 31 and September 1.
  - ii. China is showing closeness to India as the US has taken aggressive tariff measures against India.
  - iii. The 10 countries that make up the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are Russia, India, Iran, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. China is the rotating chairman of the organization this year.
9. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting is scheduled to be held in Delhi on September 3 and 4 under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- i. In the meeting, the proposal to reduce the existing four-rate GST system of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% to a two-rate system of 5% and 18% is to be discussed and decided.

## 10. Personalities in news :-

- i. Hungary Prime Minister - Viktor Orban
- ii. Jai Prakash Singh - Indian Shooter (10m Air Rifle)

