

August 15, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Central Government officials said that India is in talks with China regarding restrictions imposed on the export of rare earth elements-magnets.
 - i. Strict restrictions were imposed last April, making special export licenses mandatory for the export of 7 rare earth elements and related magnets from China.
 - ii. India depends on Chinese imports for these geomagnetic elements, which are used in various sectors, including the manufacture of passenger vehicles.
 - iii. The Indian automobile industry has requested the Central Government to take steps to expedite the import of these items from China. They are mainly used in the production of electric motors, braking systems, intelligent speakers, and missiles.
 - iv. DAP (Diammonium Phosphate), one of the most demanded fertilizers in India, is also imported in large quantities from China. China has also imposed restrictions on the export of this fertilizer. These actions by China are seen as a strategy against India.
2. The Athletics Federation of India has made it mandatory for female athletes participating in the World Athletics Championships to undergo a genetic test called 'SRY'. This 'SRY' test helps determine a person's biological sex.
 - i. The World Athletics Association has banned athletes, who have reached puberty as males and then transitioned to females, from participating in international competitions. It is said that when people who were born male and later transitioned to female participate in the women's division, they have a natural physical advantage.
 - ii. The Athletics Federation of India and the World Athletics Federation announced last month that it is mandatory for those wishing to participate in the women's category at the World Championships to be held in Tokyo in September to undergo the 'SRY' test.
 - iii. Under the circumstances, the Athletics Federation of India has sent instructions to the state associations in this regard.
 - iv. Currently, Parul Chaudhary (3,000m steeplechase) has qualified to participate in the World Championships, while Annu Rani (javelin) is in a position to get that opportunity based on rankings.

3. Ves Paes (80), a member of the Indian hockey team that won a medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics, passed away on Thursday due to age-related ailments.
4. Israel has announced plans to build new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.
 - i. As a result, the West Bank and East Jerusalem will be divided into two territories. Human rights groups fear that this will further complicate the achievement of a 'two-state' solution in which Israel and Palestine operate as separate independent states.
5. President Donald Trump's order to send homeless people living on sidewalks and public spaces to shelters or prisons has caused controversy in the US capital, Washington. Trump has been accusing Washington of increasing crime rates day by day, where Muriel Bowser, a member of the opposition Republican Party, is the mayor.
6. It has been reported that 96 patients have died in Argentina since last May after using the drug for treatment after it was contaminated with bacteria.
7. The US government has approved the sale of arms worth \$346 million (Rs. 3,190 crore) to Nigeria.
8. India's edible oil imports fell by 16 percent to 1.548 million tonnes in July. A statement issued by the Indian Oil Producers Association (SEA) stated as below:
 - i. More than 50 percent of India's cooking oil demand is met through imports. The report mentioned that Palm oil from Indonesia, Malaysia, Soybean oil from Argentina, Brazil and Sunflower oil is imported to India from Russia, Ukraine, and Argentina.
9. China says it is in talks to resume direct flights with India.
 - i. Prime Minister Modi is visiting China later this month to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, and an announcement is expected to be made at that time to resume direct flights between the two countries.