

August 17, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The talks between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, USA, regarding ending the war in Ukraine, concluded without any agreement being reached.
 - i. Earlier, Russia set strict conditions that if a ceasefire agreement is to be reached, Ukraine must cede the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia, and Kherson, which have a Russian-speaking majority and a permanent ban on Ukraine joining NATO.
 - ii. However, Ukrainian President Zelensky had firmly stated that they would not give up their land.
2. China delivers one more Hangor-class submarine to Pakistan. China has signed a deal to supply eight Hangor-class submarines to enhance the strength of Pakistan's navy.
 - i. This is the third submarine to be delivered under the deal. The ship was handed over to Pakistan at a ceremony in Wuhan, China.
3. Reports have emerged that Prime Minister Netanyahu's Israeli Government is holding talks with the northeastern African country of South Sudan regarding the resettlement of war-torn Gazans to that country.
 - i. Already, hundreds of Palestinians were driven from their homes during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The Palestinians call that event the 'Nakba' (catastrophe).
 - ii. They now believe that their expulsion to foreign countries like South Sudan would be another Nakba.
4. The Health Department has reported that 3.67 lakh people have been bitten by dogs in Tamil Nadu in the last seven and a half months, and 20 of them have died from rabies.
 - i. It also said that an investigation is underway to determine whether improper vaccinations are a factor in their deaths.
 - ii. Incidents of injuries caused by stray dogs and pets are on the rise in Tamil Nadu.
 - iii. Generally, vaccination is the only way to protect pets and humans from rabies. However, sometimes, despite receiving the rabies vaccine, cases of infection and death continue to occur.
 - iv. The Health Department recently stated that the main reason for this is the failure to properly follow post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) procedures.
 - v. When bitten by animals such as dogs, cats, and monkeys, the size and depth of the wounds should be assessed. Based on that, they should be classified as Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 and treated.
5. Domestic per capita steel consumption has touched the 100 kg milestone.
 - i. While global steel production has declined, India's steel production has grown by over 12 %. Per capita steel consumption has crossed 100 kg.

- ii. When the National Steel Policy was introduced in 2017, per capita steel consumption was 60 kg.
 - iii. The policy aims to increase per capita consumption to 160 kg, crude steel production capacity to 30 million tonnes and finished steel production to 255 million tonnes by 2030-31, the report said.
6. The External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar held discussions with South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, who is in India, on strengthening bilateral relations.
- i. He held constructive talks on further strengthening cooperation between the two countries in various sectors, including trade, manufacturing, and maritime cooperation.
 - ii. The two leaders also discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation in new areas including artificial intelligence, low-voltage power generation, clean energy, and security.
7. The revenue of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation has increased fivefold. The revenue of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation has increased from Rs.49.11 crore in 2020-21 to Rs.243.31 crore in 2023-24. This is five times more. It has achieved a huge record by generating Rs. 28.69 crore more revenue in 2024 than in previous years.
8. US Republican Senator Josh Hawley has announced the launch of an investigation into whether Meta's artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots were allowed to engage in harmful conversations with children.
9. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has urged that steps be taken to restore the production and employment losses in Tamil Nadu due to the US tariff hike. In his letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said:
- i. India's total export value in the last financial year was \$433.6 billion. Of this, 20% of the goods were exported to the US.
 - ii. The total value of Tamil Nadu's exports was \$52.1 billion, of which 31 percent was exported to the United States.
 - iii. Tamil Nadu contributed 28% of India's textile exports in the last financial year, which is much higher than any other state in India.
 - iv. In particular, the textile sector in Tamil Nadu employs nearly 75 lakh people. The US tariff hike threatens to lose 30 lakh jobs in the textile sector alone.