

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

1. The Russian President Putin has announced that the new nuclear arms control treaty signed with the United States in 2010 will be extended for another year, even though its implementation is set to expire.
  - i. Repealing the new Nuclear Arms Control Act of 2010 would destabilize international stability. That would lead to nuclear proliferation. Therefore, even though the treaty expires on February 5, 2026, Russia will enforce it for another year. The United States should also adopt the same position.
  - ii. Under the treaty, both countries agreed to limit their nuclear arsenals to fewer than 1,550 and the number of nuclear-capable aircraft and missiles to fewer than 700.
2. A report released by the Auditor General (CAG) said that out of the total 28 states in the country, 16 achieved a revenue surplus in the last financial year 2023, while 12 states experienced a revenue deficit.
  - i. Uttar Pradesh tops the list with a revenue surplus of Rs. 37,263 crore.
  - ii. The 15th Finance Commission recommended that states achieve zero revenue deficit or revenue surplus in the financial year 2022-23 – in line with fiscal responsibility and fiscal consolidation.
  - iii. As of March 31, 2023, 16 out of the total 28 states in the country have achieved revenue surplus. 12 states have registered revenue deficit.
  - iv. Uttar Pradesh tops the list with revenue of Rs. 37,263 crore. Following it are Gujarat (Rs. 19,865 crore), Odisha (Rs. 19,456 crore), Jharkhand (Rs. 13,564 crore), Karnataka (Rs. 13,496 crore), Chhattisgarh (Rs. 8,592 crore), Telangana (Rs. 5,994 crore), Uttarakhand (Rs. 5,310 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 4,091 crore), and Goa (Rs. 2,399 crore).
  - v. Revenue deficit: The total revenue deficit of the 12 states that incurred more expenditure than revenue receipts is Rs. 2,22,648 crore. To compensate for this, the Finance Commission provided a subsidy of Rs. 86,201 crore. This is 39 percent of the overall revenue deficit.
  - vi. There is a revenue deficit in 12 states: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Of these, the revenue to expenditure ratio of 6 states – Tamil Nadu, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal – is 80-90 percent.
3. The contract to supply Russia's S-400 air defense system to India will be completed next year.
  - i. On October 5, 2018, the Central Government signed a deal worth Rs 40,000 crore to purchase Russia's S-400s, which can intercept and destroy enemy missiles in mid-air.
  - ii. The Central Government had stated that the S-400 had effectively handled India's air defense during the military conflict between India and Pakistan last May.
  - iii. In this context, under the agreement with India, the handover of five S-400 air defense systems will be completed next year. According to regional defense sources, four systems have been handed over so far, the Russian state news agency TASS reported.

- iv. The United States had warned India in March 2021 that it would face economic sanctions if it purchased the S-400 from Russia. India bought the S-400 from Russia without considering this. However, the US is expected to impose economic sanctions on India if the entire deal with Russia is completed next year.
  - v. The Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, who participated as a special guest on behalf of Prime Minister Modi at the recent Russian Independence Day celebrations in Moscow, said, "The S-400 air defence system performed well during Operation Sindhu." "India is also looking to purchase the advanced state-of-the-art S-500," he said.
4. Sela Tunnel – Arunachal Pradesh. Two large-scale hydroelectric projects in Shi Yomi district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- i. Tato-I Hydropower Project – 186 MW
  - ii. Heo Hydropower Project – 240 MW
5. China will implement a new system called the K-visa, similar to the US's H-1B visa, from October 1st.
- i. American companies use the H-1B visa to recruit, train, and employ talented workers from around the world. China will launch a new K-Visa program from October 1st to attract skilled workers to its country, as the US government has increased the fee for that visa several times.
  - ii. The K-Visa process does not require an invitation from any company in China to travel to China to seek employment. The country is introducing this visa to encourage young researchers who excel in science and technology to come to China.
  - iii. The K-visa will be added to the 12 types of visas that China already offers to scientific and technical workers. Many more benefits will be provided under this.
  - iv. It is noteworthy that India ranks first with 71 percent (2.8 lakh) of the workers admitted under the H-1B visa program in the last few years, followed by China with 11.7 percent (46,600).
6. The sales of Air Conditioners (ACs) and Television Sets (TVs) increased on the first day of the GST reforms.
- i. The GST levied at 12 and 28 percent has been abolished, the GST on many items that were taxed at 12 percent has been reduced to 5 percent, and the GST levied on many items that were taxed at 28 percent has been reduced to 18 percent. This procedure has now come into effect.
  - ii. The prices of daily essentials and food items like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, razors have also come down. Companies involved in the business of these items have revised their maximum retail prices (MRPs).
7. Tamil Nadu's Kishore Kumar and Kamali Murthy won the title at the National Surfing Championship (2025) held in Kovalam, near Chennai. The National Championship was held on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Surfing Association.