

November 2, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, has been officially included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (CCN) for its renowned culinary heritage.

- i. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay announced 58 new cities to be added to the list of globally recognized Creative Cities, bringing the total number of cities on the list to 408 – from over 100 countries.

2. Indian tennis doubles legend and veteran player Rohan Bopanna has announced his retirement.

- i. He won two Grand Slam titles, the French Open in 2017 and the Australian Open in 2024.
- ii. Rohan Bopanna attained the oldest world number 1 status in doubles at the age of 43.

3. Egypt has opened the world's largest museum. The Egyptian government has opened the museum, which has been in development for 20 years near the Giza Pyramids, located near the capital Cairo, after a long delay.

- i. The museum houses over 50,000 artifacts showcasing the ancient civilization of Egypt.
- ii. The museum was also opened with the aim of promoting Egypt's Tourism sector.

4. The Maldives has begun implementing a law banning the use of tobacco products by anyone born on or after January 1, 2007.

- i. This makes the Maldives the only country in the world to ban tobacco on a generational basis.
- ii. This ban also applies to tourists visiting the Maldives.
- iii. There is a complete ban on the import, sale, distribution, possession and use of electronic cigarettes and vaping products. This applies to people of all ages.
- iv. A similar generational fundamental ban is being enacted in the UK. It has not yet come into force.
- v. New Zealand was the first to introduce such a law. But in November 2023, the law that came into force was repealed within a year.

5. The President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been declared the winner of a controversial election in the East African country of Tanzania.

- i. In a statement issued by the Election Commission, it was reported that 97 percent of the votes were in favor of Samia.
- ii. This is said to confirm allegations of electoral fraud, as it is believed that no one in the East African region could win with such a high percentage of votes.
- iii. Following the death of then President John Pompeo Magufuli in 2021, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan took over as President.
- iv. Hundreds of people are feared dead in the ongoing protests against this election. However, full details regarding this have not been released due to a complete internet blackout in Tanzania.

6. The President of India and the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi have greeted the

people of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Puducherry on their Statehood Day.

- i. Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Lakshadweep were formed in 1956, Punjab and Haryana in 1966, and Chhattisgarh was formed in 2000, separated from Madhya Pradesh. The formation day of these states and the Union Territory of Puducherry is celebrated on November 1.

7.The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that India's desire is for the Asia-Pacific region to be a free and inclusive region, free from any coercion.

- i. He made this comment at a time when the world is concerned about China's increasing dominance in the South China Sea. Rajnath Singh also stressed that 'a collective security approach is essential to ensure the sovereignty of every country in this region'.
- ii. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who participated in the ASEAN-Plus Defence Ministers' Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, said: India's support for the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and freedom of navigation and overflight, and its active adherence to those procedures, is not against any country. Rather, it is to protect the interests of all countries in the region.
- iii. The United States has urged ASEAN countries to be determined and strengthen their maritime forces to counter China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea.
- iv. China continues to increase its dominance in the disputed South China Sea, with aggressive actions such as ship collisions and the use of water cannons increasing in the past few months. While ASEAN member states such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei are claiming their coastal areas, China is claiming the entire South China Sea region. The Philippines, a key US ally, is constantly at odds with the Chinese navy.
- v. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) includes Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Timor as member states, while eight countries — India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States — participate as dialogue partners.

8.India has suspended its operations at Tajikistan's Ayni Air Force Base.

- i. The bilateral agreement for joint development and operation between the governments of India and Tajikistan expired about four years ago.
- ii. Following this, all Indian personnel and military equipment from the base were to be completely withdrawn by 2022. This withdrawal has recently been fully confirmed.

9.The Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China will host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit next year. This will be the third time China will host the summit.

- i. He made the announcement while addressing the closing ceremony of the 32nd

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APEC Summit held in Gyeongju, South Korea.

- ii. Next year's APEC Economic Leaders' Summit will be held in Shenzhen, on China's Pacific coast, in November 2026. Shenzhen, which was a small, backward fishing village for many years, has today developed into a surprisingly modern international metropolis.
- iii. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum includes 21 member economies: Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, the United States, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Chile, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, and Vietnam.

