

December 18, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin alleged that while the State Government requested Rs.24,679 crore as relief funds for the disasters that occurred in Tamil Nadu, the Central Government has provided only Rs.4,136 crore (17 percent). His address at the third Governing Council meeting on Climate Change held at the Chennai Secretariat:
 - i. In the last budget session, an announcement was made regarding a climate literacy initiative at a cost of Rs.24 crore. Accordingly, 4,000 skilled school teachers have been selected across Tamil Nadu. They will soon be provided with training on climate literacy.
 - ii. The mangrove forests in Tamil Nadu, which covered an area of 4,500 hectares, have now increased to 9,000 hectares.
 - iii. 600 more electric buses: A study has revealed that the transport sector's contribution to Tamil Nadu's total greenhouse gas emissions has increased from 12 percent to 19 percent. This has tripled between 2005 and 2019. This can only be reduced if people use public transport more. As a first step, we have introduced 120 electric buses. Since they have been well-received by the public, another 600 electric buses will be introduced soon.
 - iv. In the ranking released by NITI Aayog, Tamil Nadu is in first place in the targets of 'Climate Action' and 'Climate Energy'.
 - v. With regard to global warming, Tamil Nadu should achieve the 'Net Zero' target before 2070. For the past four years, we have been working extensively on climate policy and actions.
2. The doctors have warned that meningitis could spread through snails found near homes during the rainy and winter seasons. They have also advised against touching snail secretions with bare hands or feet.
 - i. African giant snails are found in abundance in humid areas and places with dense vegetation throughout Tamil Nadu, including Chennai. While they do not cause any direct harm, doctors say they can indirectly cause various health problems.
 - ii. The African giant snail, scientifically known as 'Lissachatina fulica', feeds on 500 types of plants and waste. Its body contains reproductive organs for both sexes. This snail, which can lay up to 200 eggs at a time, has a lifespan of 3 to 5 years. These creatures, which multiply rapidly during the rainy season, are believed to have entered India from East African countries via merchant ships.
 - iii. Initially found in forests, the African giant snail has now adapted to living among humans in urban areas. The Angiostrongylus parasite is present in this species. "It causes infection in rats and multiplies inside their bodies."
 - iv. The parasite is expelled through the faeces of infected rats. This waste is the main food source for African giant snails. Through this, the infected snails transmit the disease to us without its virulence diminishing, says Dr. A.P. Farooq Abdullah, a public health expert.
 - v. This can cause fever, neck pain, stiffness in the neck, dizziness, nausea, and fainting. Subsequently, eosinophilic meningoencephalitis, a type of brain fever, can develop.
 - vi. Although it is a very rare disease, there is a higher chance of it spreading during the rainy season. The

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chances of death from this are very low. However, it can lead to chronic health problems. If the symptoms are not ignored and a medical examination is sought, this infection can be detected at an early stage.

- vii. A study conducted at the end of last year revealed that these snails were found in large numbers in the Parangimalai, Trisulam, and Perungalathur areas of Chennai. Besides this, African giant snails have also multiplied in districts including Coimbatore, Chidambaram, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, and Madurai.
3. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will inaugurate 3 new sub-divisions and 10 police stations in the Tamil Nadu Police Department on December 22.
 - i. The Tamil Nadu Police, the fifth largest police force in the country, has 1,902 police stations, including 1,321 law and order police stations, 244 all-women police stations, 290 traffic enforcement and traffic investigation police stations, and 47 railway police stations, along with 270 sub-divisions.
 - ii. The Tamil Nadu Police Department operates under 19 divisions, including the Law and Order division. Approximately 1.33 lakh personnel, from the DGP to constables, are employed.
 - iii. According to statistics, there is one police officer for every 632 people based on the current population of Tamil Nadu.
4. The US President has ordered a blockade to prevent all oil tankers sanctioned by them from travelling to and from Venezuela. Regarding this, Trump posted on his Truth Social social media platform:
 - i. A complete blockade is being imposed on all sanctioned oil tankers going to and from Venezuela. To facilitate this, the largest naval force ever seen in South American history has been deployed around Venezuela.
 - ii. Venezuela, a country with the world's largest oil reserves, produces 1 million barrels of crude oil daily. Due to the sanctions imposed by the US since 2017, the state-owned oil company PDVSA has been crippled in the global market. Most of its exports go to China through the black market.
 - iii. In this context, the US recently carried out a massive naval deployment in the region, including 11 warships and an aircraft carrier.
 - iv. It was suspected that Trump undertook this troop deployment to attack Venezuela in order to remove President Maduro from power.
5. President Donald Trump has announced that he will extend the ban on immigration to the United States to 20 more countries.
 - i. Citing national security concerns, he has already suspended the processing of immigration applications from 46 countries, including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. He has now instructed the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to extend this ban to 20 more countries.
 - ii. Following a shooting incident last month near the White House in Washington, D.C., carried out by an immigrant from Afghanistan, which resulted in one death, the Trump administration has intensified its efforts to control immigration from foreign countries. This order by Trump is part of those efforts.
 - iii. In addition to the 20 countries, the travel ban has now also been extended to Palestinian Authority

6. The Pakistani Government has decided to sell 100 percent of its shares in Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the loss-making state-owned airline.
7. India's Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) – V. Ananda Nageswaran
8. The Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan stated that the sacrifice of Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur is one of the greatest symbols of religious freedom in Indian history. C.P. Radhakrishnan participated in the event commemorating the 350th death anniversary of the 9th Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur.
9. In the National Shooting Championship, the pair of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Darshana Rathore won the gold medal in the Skeet Senior Mixed Teams event.
10. The Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Lok Sabha that 'Kavach' technology has been installed and brought into use on 2,000 km of railway tracks in the country.
 - i. This 'Kavach' system provides safety to prevent accidents caused by trains colliding while traveling in opposite directions on the same track, and also when trains pass signals.
 - ii. This indigenously developed technology was fitted for testing on a passenger train in February 2016. Subsequently, in July 2020, the 'Kavach' technology was fully implemented as the National Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. It is installed in various locations including train coaches, railway stations, telecommunication towers, and along the railway tracks.
11. The bill to repeal 71 outdated laws was passed in the Rajya Sabha. The bill, which had already been passed in the Lok Sabha, has now been passed by both houses of Parliament. The bill introduced by the Central Government to repeal 71 laws that have been out of use for a long time and to amend 4 laws, including the Indian Succession Act 1925 and the Disaster Management Act 2005, was passed in the Lok Sabha. Responding to the debate on this bill, which was subsequently tabled in the Rajya Sabha, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal stated:
 - i. If laws become obsolete, the Central Government must enact legislation to repeal them. Under the Indian Succession Act 1925, if a person belonging to the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, or Parsi religions in the then Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta provinces wrote a will, the court had to determine whether that will was valid. However, this did not apply to Muslims. The Constitution prohibits such caste, religious, and gender discrimination.
 - ii. He stated that such reforms are steps towards moving away from a colonial mindset. Following this, the bill was passed by a voice vote.
12. The bill to allow private companies to generate nuclear power was passed in the Lok Sabha.
13. The Insurance Amendment Bill, which paves the way to increase the Foreign Direct Investment limit in the Insurance Sector to 100 percent, was passed in the Rajya Sabha.
 - i. With this, the bill, having been passed in both houses of Parliament, will now be sent for the President's assent.
 - ii. The Central Government has introduced a bill titled 'Insurance Amendment Act 2025 (Sabka Bima

Sabki Raksha)' to amend the Insurance Act 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999.

14. The Prime Minister Modi began his four-day official visit to three countries: Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman.
- i. Following his visit to Jordan, Prime Minister Modi arrived in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and held bilateral talks with the country's Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed Ali.
 - ii. While discussing the ancient civilizations of India and Ethiopia, Prime Minister Modi mentioned the rock-cut temples of Tamil Nadu and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia.
 - iii. He said, 'Ethiopia is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. Ethiopia stands tall because of its deep roots. Its rich history and culture are worthy of respect and admiration. Both India's national song, Vande Mataram, and Ethiopia's national anthem treat the motherland as a 'mother'.
 - iv. Four agreements were signed regarding UN peacekeeping operations training, mutual administrative assistance in customs matters, the establishment of a data center at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and debt restructuring under the G20 framework.