

December 30, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. North Korea announced that it had tested a long-range cruise missile.
 - i. The UN Security Council has banned North Korea from testing ballistic missiles. However, cruise missile tests are not prohibited.
 - ii. Nevertheless, experts warn that because these types of missiles can be launched with greater precision and can fly at low altitudes, they can evade radar detection. Experts have also warned that North Korea could use cruise missiles to attack and destroy US and South Korean warships and aircraft in the event of a conflict.
2. Tarique Rahman (60), the son of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who returned to the country after 17 years, filed his nomination papers to contest the general election scheduled for February.
 - i. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) sources stated that Tarique Rahman will contest from the Dhaka-17 constituency in the election to elect the country's 13th Parliament, which is scheduled for February 12th.
 - ii. Tarique Rahman, who had been sentenced to prison during the tenure of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on charges including money laundering and conspiracy to assassinate Sheikh Hasina, had been living in London since 2008 after leaving the country.
 - iii. After Sheikh Hasina was removed from power through intense student protests last year, both Khaleda and Tarique were acquitted of the criminal charges. Tarique Rahman returned to the country while Khaleda Zia's health is in a critical condition.
 - iv. Having now filed his nomination papers, he is expected to contest as the BNP's Prime Ministerial Candidate.
 - v. With Sheikh Hasina's Awami League barred from contesting the election, opinion polls suggest that the BNP is likely to win easily. Therefore, it appears that Tarique Rahman will be elected as the country's next Prime Minister.
3. The Pinaka extended-range missile was launched from the test range in Chandipur, Odisha. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) stated that the test conducted on Monday, was successful. During the test, the Pinaka missile accurately struck a target located 120 km away.
4. The President Droupadi Murmu participated in the Santhali Language Day celebration in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. (Centenary celebrations of Ol Chiki script)
5. The Public Health Department has stated that dengue cases in Tamil Nadu have decreased by 50 percent this year compared to last year.
 - i. It is common for fever cases to increase in Tamil Nadu during the rainy and cold seasons. In particular, Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which spread dengue fever, can breed in large numbers and spread diseases. Considering this, disease prevention and mosquito control efforts have been intensified across the state.
 - ii. Dengue cases were severe from July to October last year. At that time, more than 500 people were

affected daily in districts including Chennai, Coimbatore, and Erode.

- iii. However, due to the continuous measures taken jointly by the Public Health Department and local bodies, the infection rate has now decreased, with fewer than 100 cases being reported daily.
6. The Ministry of Defence approved the procurement of military equipment worth Rs.79,000 crore, including long-range rockets, missiles, and radar systems.
 - i. This decision was taken at a Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
 - ii. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Defence: Approval was given for the procurement of loiter munitions, lightweight radars, and ammunition for the Pinaka rocket system for the Indian Army's artillery division.
 - iii. It was also decided to procure High Frequency Software Defined Radios (HF SDR) for the Indian Navy and it was also decided to lease drones that can fly at very high altitudes for several days continuously and engage in tasks such as reconnaissance and surveillance.
 - iv. For the Indian Air Force, systems for automatically guiding aircraft during landing and take-off using sensors such as radars, cameras, and lasers, as well as Astra Mk-II missiles, will be procured.
7. According to the recently released 6th round of the National Family Health Survey, Tamil Nadu's total fertility rate has stabilized between 1.4 and 1.7 percent. This is lower than the replacement level of 2.1 percent. At the same time, the birth sex ratio has increased. While this is a welcome improvement, there is still a long way to go to achieve biological balance.
 - i. In 2023, 9,02,306 births were registered in Tamil Nadu. The birth rate was 11.7 percent. However, in 2024, the number of births decreased to 8,42,412, a 6.6 percent decline compared to 2023. Similarly, the female birth ratio in Tamil Nadu was 941 per 1,000 male children in 2023-24. As of February 2024-25, it stands at 940. On average, data from the Ministry of Family Welfare indicates that the female sex ratio in Tamil Nadu has decreased by approximately 11 percent over the past 6 years.
 - ii. The decline in the female sex ratio will have serious social consequences in the future, ranging from a shortage of women for marriage to an increase in violence against women. To prevent this, the Government of India has strengthened the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu, it is mandatory for every pregnant woman to obtain a Pregnancy Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME)- 'PICME' number. A birth certificate cannot be obtained without this number. This is an improved 3.0 software, linked to the Aadhaar number, which enables tracking of pregnant women even if they migrate.
 - iii. If a woman is registered as pregnant but the child's birth is not registered, the Health Department inquires about how the pregnancy was terminated. This initiative by the Tamil Nadu Health Department has earned praise as it plays a crucial role in reducing illegal abortions.
 - iv. Similarly, by installing devices like 'Silent Observer' in ultrasound machines, it must be ensured that every scan is recorded. Lessons on gender equality should be made mandatory in schools and colleges.

- v. Every girl child has the fundamental right to life. Destroying a female fetus is tantamount to destroying the future of humanity. Only when the hands of the law tighten around the necks of the culprits, and the hands of society reach out to embrace the girl children, these buds will blossom and spread their fragrance without withering.

