

January 7, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will launch the new scheme 'Tell Us Your Dream' on January 9th, 2026.

(i) The School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi stated that this decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat in Chennai.

(ii) He further added: The 'Tell Us Your Dream' scheme is being introduced to allow every family in Tamil Nadu to express their dreams and aspirations related to the State's development. 91 lakh families will benefit from this scheme.

(iii) Approximately 50,000 volunteers will be involved in this project. They will meet each family directly, inquire about the benefits the family receives from Government schemes, and record their future aspirations.

(iv) The application will be registered in an app, and a unique identification number will be created for each family, and a 'Dream Card' will be issued.

(v) A separate website will be created to fulfill the dreams of the youth. The opinions of Tamils living abroad will also be collected. This information, collected district-wise over a month, will be compiled, and efforts will be made to fulfill the requests with a target of 2030.

(vi) He said that the Chief Minister Stalin will launch this scheme, which has been approved by the Tamil Nadu Cabinet, on January 9th in Ponneri, Thiruvallur district.

2. The Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, stated that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) should soon develop new standards and modernize the laboratories that test the quality of products.

(i) Speaking at the 79th Foundation Day event of BIS, he said: The BIS mark serves as a symbol of trust in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. Since 1947, BIS has been an unparalleled organization in evaluating the quality of products.

(ii) A new BIS Act was introduced in 2016. This Act transformed BIS into the National Standards Body of India. Significant reforms were undertaken, incorporating various additional sectors.

(iii) He added that BIS should soon develop new standards and modernize the laboratories that test the quality of products.

(iv) Currently, 23,700 Indian Standards are in effect. It is noteworthy that 94 percent of these are equivalent to international standards (ISO/IEC).

3. The Cauvery Water Management Authority has ordered Karnataka to release 2.76 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu in January, as per the Supreme Court's judgment.

(i) The 47th meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority was held in Delhi. Representatives from the Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Puducherry participated in the meeting via video conference.

(ii) After hearing the views of the states, the Authority ordered Karnataka to release 2.76 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu in January, in accordance with the Supreme Court's judgment.

4. The Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for Government

employees and teachers who joined service after 1.4.2003.

5. The United Cup tournament, in which teams from 18 countries are participating, is being held in Australia. This tournament is being held as a preparation for the Australian Open.

6. A European research center has reported that since the start of the Ukraine war, India has imported Russian crude oil at discounted prices worth approximately 14.388 billion euros (approximately ₹15.17 lakh crore in Indian currency).

(i) According to a research report published by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), India has emerged as the second largest buyer of Russian oil globally, after China.

(ii) Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. From then until January 3rd of this year, China purchased a total of 293.7 billion euros worth of fuel from Russia. Of this, the value of crude oil purchases alone amounts to 210.3 billion euros.

(iii) India purchased a total of 162.5 billion euros worth of fuel. Of this, crude oil accounted for 143.88 billion euros and coal for 18.18 billion euros.

(iv) Despite various sanctions, the European Union spent 218.1 billion euros on Russian fuel. CREA stated that 106.3 billion euros were spent on crude oil, 3.5 billion euros on coal, and 108.2 billion euros on natural gas.

(v) During this period, Russia earned 1 trillion euros (approximately ₹105 lakh crore) in revenue from fuel sales. The center expressed concern that a large portion of this is being used to finance the ongoing war in Ukraine.

(vi) Falling Imports: Following the Ukraine war, Russia offered discounted prices on crude oil due to economic sanctions imposed by Western countries. Consequently, Russia's share of India's total crude oil imports increased from 1 percent to 40 percent.

(vii) However, due to the recent implementation of new sanctions imposed by the United States on two leading Russian oil companies, India's imports began to decline.

(viii) As a result, with private companies like Reliance avoiding Russian oil, the current share has fallen to below 25 percent. Specifically, Reliance has announced that it has stopped exporting refined fuel produced using Russian oil to European countries.

(ix) Meanwhile, public sector companies like Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum continue to purchase oil from Russian companies that are not subject to US sanctions.

7. The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated that despite various attempts made at different times to destroy Indian languages, our languages have stood the test of time and continue to thrive majestically.

(i) At an event held in Delhi, Dharmendra Pradhan released 55 literary works in Indian classical languages, including Tamil, and a 45-part commentary on the Thirukkural in sign language.

(ii) Of these, 41 books were created by special institutions for the Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Odia languages. The Thirukkural commentary and 13 books were compiled by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.

8. The Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi (81) passed away on Tuesday.

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- (i) Born in Chennai in 1944, Suresh Kalmadi studied at Fergusson College in Pune. He trained at the National Defence Academy and served as an Indian Air Force pilot, participating in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.
- (ii) He became a Member of Parliament in 1982 and served as a Lok Sabha MP three times and a Rajya Sabha MP four times.
- (iii) During Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's tenure, he served as the Minister of State for Railways from 1995 to 1996. He was the only Minister of State for Railways to present the Railway Budget. He played a key role in transforming Pune into a major IT, industrial, and sports hub.
- (iv) He served as the President of the Indian Olympic Association from 1996 to 2011.

