

January 18, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that Government job in the Animal Husbandry Department would be given on a priority basis to the tamers who excel by taming the highest number of bulls in the traditional Tamil Nadu sport of Jallikattu.

(i) Participating as a special guest at the world-famous Jallikattu competition held in Alanganallur, Madurai, on the occasion of the Tamil festival, the Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said: In Madurai, the city that fostered Tamil language and literature, the Government has built the Kalaignar Centenary Library for intellectual development and the Kalaignar Centenary Bull Taming Arena for the valiant sport of Jallikattu. To encourage the traditional Tamil Nadu sport of Jallikattu, provisions will be made to provide Government job in the Animal Husbandry Department on a priority basis to the tamers who excel by taming the highest number of bulls in this competition.

(ii) Similarly, a special high-quality treatment center and training center for Jallikattu bulls will be established in the world-famous Alanganallur area at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

2. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the newly constructed Martyr Immanuel Sekaran Memorial Hall and his statue in Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram district, built at a cost of Rs. 3 crore.

(i) The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had previously announced that a memorial hall would be built for freedom fighter Immanuel Sekaran in Paramakudi. A site was selected in the Paramakudi municipal weekly market complex for this purpose, and Rs.3 crore was allocated.

3. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a fine of

Rs.10 lakh each on e-commerce companies including Facebook marketplace Meta, Amazon, Flipkart and Meesho for violating rules, including listing unauthorized walkie-talkies for sale.

(i) Similarly, the CCPA has imposed a fine of Rs.1 lakh each on e-commerce companies including Sinmia, JioMart, TalkPro and Massman Toys for violating consumer rights, publishing misleading advertisements and following unfair trade practices.

(ii) No one can intercept and listen to information exchanged through walkie-talkies. Those involved in terrorist activities often use such devices for communication.

(ii) Selling such communication devices without proper frequency details and licensing information is a violation of the Consumer Protection Act 2019.

(iii) Meanwhile, the CCPA also notified guidelines in 2025 regarding the prevention and regulation of the sale of radio equipment including walkie-talkies by online businesses.

(iv) The CCPA recently issued notices to 13 online businesses including Amazon and Flipkart, seeking explanations for listing walkie-talkies and other devices for sale in violation of these rules.

(v) However, even after that, it was revealed that walkie-talkies and other devices were listed for sale on these online businesses and that the rights of the consumers were violated. Based on this, the CCPA has also imposed fines on these companies.

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(vi) Furthermore, the CCBA has issued notices to 13 e-commerce companies including Sinmia, JioMart, TalkPro, Meesho, Maskman Toys, Trade India, Antrix Technologies, VardhanMart, IndiaMart, Meta, Flipkart, KrishnaMart, and Amazon, seeking explanations for listing 16,970 items and devices for sale that did not meet the required quality and guidelines.

4. In the Presidential election held in the East African nation of Uganda, incumbent President Yoweri Museveni secured a resounding victory, retaining his position for a seventh term.

(i) Voting for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections took place in Uganda. According to the announced election results, 81-year-old President Museveni received 71.65 percent of the votes. His opponent, the popular musician and young political leader Bobi Wine, secured 24.72 percent of the votes, finishing in second place.

(ii) 40 years of rule: Museveni has been the President of Uganda since 1986. This time, he faced strong opposition after nearly 40 years in power. Bobi Wine, who campaigned with a message of change, enjoyed significant support among the country's youth.

(iii) However, Bobi Wine has refused to accept these election results, which he considers unfavorable.

(iv) Technical malfunction: During the voting process, the biometric devices used to identify voters malfunctioned in many places. In particular, voting was delayed due to this malfunction in cities like Kampala, the capital, where the opposition has strong support. "Due to the malfunctioning machines, voting was eventually completed using manual methods. The opposition parties plan to file a case in court challenging the election results. They are likely to present the technical malfunctions and how they affected the integrity of the election as a key argument."

5. More than 200 people have died so far in the heavy rains and subsequent flooding that have been lashing Southern African countries for the past few days. The army is actively involved in rescuing people trapped in the flood-affected areas.

(i) South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe have suffered extensive damage due to these rains. Mozambique has been the most severely affected.

(ii) Kruger National Park Closure:

The Kruger National Park, one of the world's largest wildlife sanctuaries located in South Africa and spanning 22,000 square kilometers, has been severely affected by the floods.

(iii) President of South Africa - Cyril Ramaphosa

6. A high-level committee called the 'Board of Peace' has been established under the leadership of US President Donald Trump to reconstruct the Gaza Strip, which has been severely affected by the Israel-Hamas conflict, and to restore peace there.

(i) The committee includes World Bank President Ajay Banga, who is of Indian origin. He is expected to have the crucial responsibility of reviving Gaza's economy and mobilizing investments for infrastructure projects.

(ii) The committee also includes US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, National Security Advisor Robert Gabriel, the President's Special Representative Steve Witkoff, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, former

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and representatives from Turkey, Qatar, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.

(iii) This committee will operate with two main objectives: transforming the Gaza Strip into a completely demilitarized zone and compelling Hamas to lay down its arms. In addition, individuals like Jared Kushner are showing interest in utilizing Gaza's coastal areas to foster commercial development.

(iv) It is noteworthy that no women or Palestinian representatives are included in this committee. However, the White House has stated that additional members will be added in the coming weeks.

(v) Under the supervision of this Board of Peace, a National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) comprising Palestinians has been formed to oversee the daily affairs of Gaza.

(vi) This committee, which met for the first time in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, under the leadership of Ali Shad, discussed plans to restore normalcy in Gaza over the next three years. In particular, it has been decided to prioritize emergency tasks such as providing shelter to those who have lost their homes.

7. Tennis Players

Mirra Andreeva – Russia,

Tomas Machac – Czech Republic

8. India has stated that it did not participate in the naval exercise led by South Africa because it was not officially conducted under the BRICS framework.

(i) The naval exercise, conducted in South African waters, saw the participation of the navies of China, Russia, Iran, Egypt, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. This week-long naval exercise in South Africa took place amidst heightened tensions due to the possibility of a US attack on Iran, where anti-government protests are intensifying.

(ii) While several BRICS member nations, including South Africa, participated in this exercise, India, also a member of the same bloc, did not. The Central Government has provided an explanation regarding this. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "The naval exercise in question was entirely led by South Africa. Some member countries of the BRICS bloc participated in it. Since this exercise was not an official BRICS activity, India did not participate. India has not participated in such exercises in the past either. India only participates in the IBSAMAR naval exercise, which integrates the navies of India, Brazil, and South Africa. This exercise was last held in October 2024."

(iii) It is noteworthy that India currently holds the Chairmanship of the BRICS bloc. While the bloc initially comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, it was expanded in 2024. At that time, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates were added, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

(iv) It is noteworthy that the BRICS alliance comprises countries that account for 49.5 percent of the world's population, 40 percent of the global GDP, and a 26 percent share in world trade.

9. It has been revealed that 19 bills introduced by the Central Government in the Rajya Sabha have been pending for many years.

(i) The oldest among these is the 79th Constitutional Amendment Bill relating to population control,

(ii) Of the two houses of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha is never dissolved. Therefore, the bills introduced in it never lapse. However, since the Lok Sabha is dissolved every 5 years, the bills introduced in it lapse. In this context, it has been revealed that 19 bills introduced in the Rajya Sabha continue to remain pending.

(iii) The Rajya Sabha report further stated the following:

Among the pending bills, the 'Constitution (79th Amendment) Bill, 1992' relating to population control is the oldest.

This bill proposed to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy to encourage population control and the small family norm, and to include the promotion and acceptance of the small family norm among the Fundamental Duties.

Furthermore, the bill proposed that an MP or MLA should be disqualified if they have more than two children.

(iv) The 'Delhi Rent Amendment Bill, 1997', introduced to modernize the house rent law in Delhi, and the 'Seeds Bill, 2004', introduced to regulate the sale, import, and export of quality seeds to farmers, have also been pending for many years. (

(v) The 'The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011', introduced when Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge was the Union Labour Minister during the Congress regime to ensure the work and life security of migrant workers, continues to remain pending.

(vi) Similarly, The Building and Other Construction Workers Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013, The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Amendment Bill, 2013 which mandates the notification of vacant positions, and the Bill to reorganize the representation of SC and ST communities in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies, among others, introduced during the Congress rule, also remain pending.

(vi) It has been reported that the 'Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill 2019', aimed at strengthening tribal autonomy in the Northeast by enhancing the financial and administrative powers of Autonomous Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, introducing elected village and municipal councils, and the 'Overseas Indians Marriage Registration Bill 2019', as well as the 'Agricultural Pesticide Management Bill 2020', introduced during the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance Government, are also pending.

10. Indigo's Airlines Chief Executive Officer – Peter Elbers

11. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Oman on maritime heritage and museums was signed in Muscat, Oman.

(i) To commemorate the shared maritime heritage between India and Oman, the Indian Navy sailing vessel INS Kaundinya, which began its journey from Porbandar in Gujarat, recently arrived at Sultan Qaboos Port in Muscat.

(ii) The vessel was jointly welcomed by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Oman's Minister of



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Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Saeed bin Hamoud bin Saeed Al Maawali.

(iii) Following this, during bilateral talks, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Oman regarding maritime heritage, the establishment of museums, and increasing cooperation in these areas.

(iv) Minister Sonowal stated that: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is designed to promote and create awareness about the shipbuilding industry in India. India and Oman are continuously strengthening their maritime relations through enhanced connectivity, sustainable shipping initiatives, and growing cooperation in ports, shipbuilding, and maritime sectors. He mentioned that projects such as the Vadhavan Port, with an investment of approximately \$9 billion and a capacity to handle around 23 million TEUs annually, and the Tuticorin Outer Harbour project in Tamil Nadu, valued at \$1.3 billion with a capacity to handle approximately 4 million TEUs, are being implemented under a public-private partnership framework.

