

January 21, 2026 - Dinamani Newspaper - Tit bits

1. Dr. Soosan Jacob, a senior medical specialist at Dr. Agarwal's Hospital, has been elected as the President of the International Society of Refractive Surgery (ISRS).

2. Bulgaria's pro-leftist President Rumen Radev has resigned from his post.

(i) Massive anti-corruption protests broke out last month against the current centre-right Government in Bulgaria. President Radev, who had expressed his support for these protests, has now formally resigned from his post.

(ii) This is the first time that a President has stepped down before the end of his term in Bulgaria since the fall of communism and the rise of democracy. He will be replaced by Vice President Iliana Iotova on an interim basis.

(iii) Bulgaria, which is a member of the European Union and NATO, has been holding Parliamentary elections eight times since 2021.

3. The Governor's address stated that Tamil Nadu has emerged as the leading state in the country in terms of economic growth for the first time in the last 14 years.

(i) Governor R.N. Ravi walked out of the assembly without reading the address prepared by the Tamil Nadu Government. Subsequently, a resolution was passed stating that his address had been read in the assembly. The 108-page address was read in Tamil by the Speaker of the Assembly, Appavu. The key highlights of the address are:

(ii) Tamil Nadu has achieved a high economic growth rate of 11.19 percent in the 2024-2025 financial year, the highest in the last 14 years. For the first time, Tamil Nadu stands as the leading State in the country in terms of economic growth.

(iii) On the occasion of the Pongal festival, gift packages worth Rs.6,936 crore, including a cash amount of Rs. 3,000 each, were distributed to 2.23 crore families.

(iv) Through the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam (Kalaingar Women's Rights Scheme), introduced with the noble objective of uplifting the status of women in society and upholding their rights, 1.30 crore women receive a monthly allowance of Rs.1,000. It is noteworthy that this scheme is now being introduced in various states across the country. So far, Rs. 33,464 crore has been released for this scheme.

(v) In fulfillment of a 22-year-old demand of Government employees, the Assured Pension Scheme has been implemented. The Tamil Nadu Government will provide a one-time contribution of Rs.13,000 crore and an additional annual contribution of Rs.11,000 crore towards this scheme.

(vi) Through the 'Magalir Vidiyal Payanam' scheme (free bus travel for women scheme) in Government buses, women are saving up to Rs.888 per month.

(vii) In the last 5 years, bank loans worth Rs.1.34 lakh crore have been provided to

4.9 lakh rural and urban self-help groups in Tamil Nadu, ensuring the economic independence of women. Furthermore, to ensure the nutrition and attendance of school students, 19.34 lakh children are benefiting from the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.

(viii) In the last 5 years, investments exceeding Rs.12.16 lakh crore have been made in the industrial sector,

along with 1,176 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs). This has created 36 lakh jobs.

(ix) It is a matter of concern that the Central Government is approaching the Tamil Nadu Government with a negative attitude, resulting in the continuous rejection of approvals and financial allocations for essential state projects. This is a major obstacle to Tamil Nadu's development.

(x) Various resolutions have been passed against the imposition of Hindi. Currently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued a circular stating that a third language should be taught in all higher education institutions. This is an indirect imposition of Hindi. The Central Government should abandon this.

(xi) When Tamil Nadu suffered extensive damage due to natural disasters like cyclones Michaung and Fengal, the Central Government released only a meager amount.

(xii) Since the Central Government has not released Rs.3,548 crore for the Integrated Education Scheme, the Tamil Nadu Government has borne the entire cost of these projects itself.

(xiii) While states are facing significant revenue losses due to the rationalization of GST rates, the Central Government should avoid levying surcharges and additional fees that divert divisible tax revenue away from the states.

(xiv) The Central Government has recently announced a new scheme that undermines the fundamental objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This new scheme must be considered as part of a malicious attempt to create difficulties and prevent the proper implementation of Tamil Nadu Government schemes. Therefore, the new scheme should be withdrawn.

(xv) The funds due for the Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2 project should be released. By rejecting the Coimbatore and Madurai Metro Rail projects, it is evident that the Central Government is approaching Tamil Nadu with a harsh attitude even in the Metro Rail project.

(xvi) A permanent solution must be found to the problem of Tamil Nadu fishermen being arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.

(xvii) Under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Pudhumai Penn Scheme, a monthly stipend of Rs.1,000 is being provided to female students pursuing higher education. 19 'Thozhi' hostels have been established to provide safe accommodation with modern amenities at reasonable rates for women coming to cities. Through this, Tamil Nadu has become the state with the highest number of female employees working in factories in India (40.3%).

(xviii) The Ambedkar Overseas Education Scheme fund has been increased to Rs.36 lakh, and 385 students are studying abroad.

(xix) In the last 4 years, renovation works have been carried out in 352 temples at a cost of Rs.425 crore while preserving their ancient character, and consecration ceremonies have been held in 76 temples. Renovation works worth Rs.8,057 crore are underway in 28,229 temples. 8,037 acres of temple lands worth Rs.8,262 crore have been recovered.

(xx) Under the 'Ungaludan Stalin' (With You, Stalin) scheme, 38.53 lakh petitions have been received, and so far, 36.62 lakh petitions have been resolved.

(xxi) In the next 5 years, Tamil Nadu will travel fast on the path of development through the 'ungal kanavai sollunga' program, which will meet 1.91 crore families in rural and urban areas to find out the needs and dreams of the people regarding the development and lofty goals that Tamil Nadu has to achieve.

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

4. The Israeli Government bulldozed the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Palestine Refugees (UNHCR) in East Jerusalem.

(i) It is noteworthy that the country has recently withdrawn from some international organizations, including the main bodies of the UN, accusing it of acting in a hostile manner against Israel.

5. The Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the current season, is being held in Melbourne.

(i) In the Australian Open Tennis Tournament, top players Jannik Sinner of Italy, Stefanos Tsitsipas, and Japanese player Naomi Osaka, and Rybakina advanced to the second round. Veteran French player Gael Monfils was eliminated after a defeat.

6. At the first phase of the 6th Khelo India Winter Games, the ice skating and ice hockey competitions have begun in Leh, Ladakh Union Territory, and will continue until January 26th. The opening ceremony for these competitions was held at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium.

(i) Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta inaugurated the competitions.

