

February 10, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The opposition parties have initiated a move to remove the Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla.

(i) The opposition has cited several reasons for seeking the Speaker's removal:

- Refusal to allow Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi to speak during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.
- Blocking discussions regarding the book written by former Army Chief General M.M. Naravane.
- The suspension of eight opposition MPs from the House.
- Failure to take action against a BJP MP who made critical remarks about Congress women MPs.

(ii) The resolution is being brought under Article 94 of the Indian Constitution, which outlines the procedure for the removal of the Speaker.

(iii) As of February 9, more than 100 MPs from various opposition parties had already signed the resolution, with further signature collection ongoing.

(iv) If filed, this will be the fourth time in the history of the Lok Sabha that a resolution to remove the Speaker has been introduced. Previous resolutions were brought against G.V. Mavalankar, Hukam Singh, and Balram Jakhar, though none were successful in removing the incumbent.

2. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) car manufacturing plant of Tata Motors, set up on 570 acres at a cost of Rs.9,000 crore, in the Panapakkam SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Nemili Taluk, next to Arakkonam, Ranipet district.

Tata Group Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran.

3. A new species of crab has been discovered in Lakshadweep. The crab has been named after a former professor of Annamalai University, Chidambaram.

(i) Agatti Island is one of the 10 inhabited islands in Lakshadweep. The island is home to coral reefs and is a haven for various marine life.

(ii) Scientists have discovered a new species of crab, about 3 mm in size, from the coral reef environment of the island. This small crab belongs to the genus 'Galathea'. Crabs of this genus are commonly known as 'squat lobsters'.

(iii) This new species has been named 'Galathea Balasubramanian' in honour of the former Director of the Department of Marine Science, Annamalai, and Field Chief, T. Balasubramanian, who made significant contributions to the field of marine biology.

(iv) This effort was undertaken by researchers at the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, a unit of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Under the guidance of the regional head of the institute, Dr. Ajith Kumar, research student Surendran undertook the task.

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(v) Regarding this, Dr. Ajith Kumar said, 'They examined the body structure of this crab and compared it with its closely related species in the Indo-Pacific region and confirmed this new species through DNA analysis. The results of this study have been approved by international scientists and published in the world's global taxonomy journal 'Jutaxa'.

(vi) This newly discovered crab has been safely kept in the National Aquatic Organisms Repository maintained by the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources in Lucknow.

4. Israel President Isaac Herzog, who is on a state visit to Australia, paid tribute to the victims of the terrorist attack that took place during Jewish holiday celebrations on Sydney's Bondi Beach.

(i) On December 14, a large number of people had gathered at Bondi Beach to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. At that time, a father and son armed with a gun suddenly opened fire on the crowd. 15 people were killed and about 40 were injured.

5. A Hong Kong court has sentenced Hong Kong media mogul and pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai (78) to 20 years in prison in a case brought under the controversial national security law.

(i) The court said that in the years-long legal battle, Jimmy Lai had been found guilty of conspiring with foreign entities to threaten national security.

(ii) Hong Kong, located in southeastern China, is one of the world's most important financial and commercial centers. After more than 150 years of British colonial rule, the territory was handed over to China in 1997.

(iii) In 2019, large-scale protests erupted over China's interference in Hong Kong's autonomy. Following this, Jimmy Lai was arrested under China's new national security law.

(iv) The owner of the now-defunct Apple Daily, the three-judge bench said in its ruling that he had spread anti-government views through his newspaper and conspired with foreign countries.

(v) Jimmy Lai is already in prison for some cases. His lawyers argued that the sentence should be reduced considering his age and health. But the court rejected the request, saying that the law is duty-bound to give a proper punishment to the leader of the conspiracy.

6. The Bhumibol Adulyadej Party, led by the Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, won 193 seats in the general election in Thailand.

(i) However, it is preparing to begin coalition talks as it falls short of the 251 seats needed to form a Government.

(ii) The election was held for a total of 500 seats in the House of Representatives, the lower house of the Thai Parliament.

(iii) While Bhumibol Adulyadej Party won the most seats, the People's Party, which came out on top with reformist policies, was relegated to second place with 118 seats.

(iv) The Pheu Thai Party of the influential Shinawatra family won only 74 seats. Other smaller parties combined won about 115 seats.

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(v) The People's Party, which has the support of the youth, was ahead in pre-election opinion polls. However, political observers say that the reason for the ruling party's victory was that the people felt that strong leadership was necessary for the country's security in a critical environment, such as the border war and conflicts with Cambodia.

(vi) New Constitution

- Along with the Parliamentary elections, a referendum was held on changing the country's current Constitution, which was created after the 2014 military coup.
- In this, about two-thirds of the voters supported changing the current law. With this, it is expected that the work of drafting a new constitution will begin soon.

7. The status of the Syed Modi International Badminton Tournament in India has been downgraded from 'Super 300' to 'Super 100'.

8. India announced a development fund of Rs.1,587 crore (\$175 million) for Seychelles.

(i) The announcement was made after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminey, who is on a 6-day visit to India.

(ii) In a press release issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 'The friendship between India and Seychelles is not only geographical; it is also historical, based on trust and a vision for the future. Development cooperation is a strong foundation in the bilateral relationship.

(iii) India has always been attentive to the development and needs of Seychelles. In line with this, an allocation of Rs.1,587 crore is now being made as Seychelles Development Fund.

(iv) The fund will help in various sectors such as social housing, transport, skill training, health, security and maritime security.

9. According to the new draft income tax rules, the limit for quoting PAN number has been increased for depositing, withdrawing cash, purchasing motor vehicles, and property.

(i) The new Income Tax Act, 1961, will be implemented from April 1, 2025.

(ii) Under this new law, the Central Government has sought comments from the public on simplified income tax rules and income tax forms. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has said that the comments will be considered before issuing the final notification on the draft rules and forms.

(iii) In this situation, according to the draft income tax rules, if a person wants to deposit or withdraw cash totaling Rs.10 lakh or more in one or more bank accounts in a financial year, it is mandatory for him to quote his PAN number. Currently, PAN number is mandatory for depositing cash of more than Rs. 50,000 in a day in a bank or cooperative bank account.

(iv) As per the new draft rules, a person buying motor vehicles (including motorcycles) worth more than Rs.5 lakh must mention his PAN number. As per the current rules, PAN number is not required for purchasing two-wheelers. However, PAN number is mandatory for purchasing other motor vehicles.

(v) As per the new draft rules, PAN number must be submitted if the hotel and restaurant charges exceed Rs.1 lakh in halls or banquet halls where events including marriages, exhibitions are held. As per the existing

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rules, PAN number must be submitted if these charges exceed Rs.50,000.

(vi) As per the new draft rules, PAN number must be submitted while purchasing, selling, gifting or entering into a joint development agreement in respect of any immovable property if the total cost of the property exceeds Rs.20 lakh. Currently, PAN number has to be mentioned if the cost is Rs.10 lakh, but this limit has been increased.

