

February 11, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The French President Emmanuel Macron is on a three-day state visit to India on February 17.

(i) The highlight of the visit will be his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he will also participate in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit to be held in Delhi.

(ii) Macron, who will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi, is expected to discuss a range of issues including strengthening bilateral relations, bilateral trade, economy and security cooperation. Apart from this, the two leaders are also expected to discuss issues of mutual interest in regional and international affairs and Indo-Pacific cooperation.

(iii) It is reported that Prime Minister Modi and French President Macron will also participate in the 'India-France Year of Innovation-2026' event to be held in Mumbai.

(iv) Earlier, in February last year, Prime Minister Modi visited France. He participated in the AI conference held in Paris along with Macron. This year, the conference will be held in India.

2. In view of the threat of bird flu, the Health Minister M. Subramanian has advised the general public not to eat uncooked chicken meat.

(i) The Central Veterinary Research Institute recently found that dead crows in Adyar, Chennai were infected with bird flu known as H5N1. Following this, the Central Government had instructed the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu to intensify surveillance.

(ii) Based on this, the State Health Department is taking various precautionary measures. Chickens infected with bird flu are likely to spread the infection to humans from other birds. Humans can also be easily infected from their droppings. Moreover, since mosquitoes can transmit the 'West Nile Virus' infection from infected birds or humans to others, there is a high chance of spreading the disease.

(iii) The Health Department had advised people to seek medical attention immediately if they experience fever, headache, muscle cramps, cough, shortness of breath, etc.

3. Due to the fuel shortage in Cuba caused by the US sanctions, foreign aircraft have been banned from refueling at the country's airports.

(i) The US has stopped oil tankers from Venezuela to Cuba. As a result, Cuba's energy sector has suffered a major decline.

(ii) Cuba is forced to use its existing reserves for its domestic needs. Therefore, officials have said that foreign aircraft are no longer allowed to refuel in Cuba.

(iii) This sudden announcement has led to a situation where foreign planes arriving in Cuba are refueling at the point of departure with all the fuel needed to return to their countries. This has increased costs, and some major international airlines, including Air Canada, have temporarily suspended flights to Cuba.

(iv) Economic impact

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- The Cuban people are already struggling with lack of electricity and essential goods. The country's main source of income is Tourism. With air services currently affected, there is a risk of a decrease in Tourist arrivals and further disruption to the economy.

(v) China's support:

In this critical situation, China has announced its readiness to provide all necessary assistance to Cuba.

4. The Central Government has issued new rules imposing strict restrictions on Social Media posts created using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and modern technologies, including deepfakes. For this, the amendments made in the Information Technology Rules, 2021 will come into effect on February 20.

(i) In a Press Release issued by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, a suitable explanation has been given for posts created or depicted using AI, including audio, video or audio-video information.

(ii) Posts generated by AI must include information that AI technology has been used. This must be confirmed by the relevant social media platforms (Ex, Instagram).

(iii) Social Media should ban illegal posts such as posts depicting sexual harassment and child pornography, fake documents, deepfakes.

(iv) If the posts are declared illegal by the court, the social media should remove those posts within 3 hours. Previously, the time limit for this was 36 hours.

(v) Social Media should not remove or hide a post after it is stated to have been created by AI.

5. A private bill to completely abolish the H-1B visa program has been introduced in the US Congress.

(i) Republican Florida Rep. Greg Stubb introduced this bill. The bill calls for an amendment to the Immigration and Naturalization Act to completely abolish the H-1B visa program.

(ii) In a statement issued by Greg Stubb, he said that the H-1B visa program prioritizes foreign workers and their welfare. The welfare of American citizens and the welfare of the nation are being ignored.

(iii) American workers and the younger generation continue to be unable to get jobs. The American dream for our children is also to be protected. Therefore, I have introduced this bill to give priority to Americans in employment. This bill has been introduced after the administration led by US President Donald Trump has already increased the H-1B visa fee manifold.

(iv) Trump has been taking several aggressive steps since taking office for the second time as the US President.

(v) He has taken aggressive tax measures against many countries, including India, in the name of reciprocal taxation measures.

(vi) Next, he is taking several steps on the basis of 'Americans being given priority in US jobs'. As part of this, Trump signed an order on September 19 last year to increase the H-1B entry permit fee from Rs.1.47 lakh to Rs.90 lakh.

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(vii) This decision of the Trump administration has been strongly opposed in the US. 19 states have filed a lawsuit against the US administration led by US President Donald Trump, which is increasing the new H-1B entry permit (visa) fee to Rs.90 lakh (one hundred thousand dollars).

(viii) US companies are using H-1B entry permits to select, train and provide jobs to skilled workers in various sectors from all over the world.

(ix) It is noteworthy that Indians are the largest beneficiaries of employment opportunities in the United States through this H-1B entry permit.

6. India has moved up 5 places to 91st place in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025.

(i) India has improved its ranking from 96th last year to 91st this year.

(ii) Transparency International, a Berlin-based organization that studies countries that govern according to law and fight corruption, publishes a corruption ranking list every year. Countries participating in the study are given points based on their corruption-free governance and anti-corruption measures.

(iii) Countries that score 100 points are considered to be free of corruption, while countries with a score of 0 are considered to be highly corrupt.

(iv) The organization released the 2025 ranking list, which included a total of 182 countries.

(v) India scored 39 points and ranked 91st. Last year, it was ranked 96th with 38 points.

(vi) Denmark tops the list as the least corrupt country with 89 points. Finland (88) and Singapore (84) are next.

(vii) Somalia and South Sudan are ranked 181st with 9 points each. Venezuela is ranked 180th with 10 points. Pakistan is ranked 136th with 28 points.

(viii) The United States is ranked 29th with 64 points, China is ranked 76th with 43 points, and Russia is ranked 157th with 22 points.

(ix) India is also included in the list of countries where journalists covering corruption are threatened. It is also noted that 90 percent of journalist murders took place in countries with a Corruption Perceptions Index score of less than 50, including Brazil (35), India (39), Mexico (27), Pakistan (28), and Iraq (28).

7. The Supreme Court has directed the Central Government to respond to the petitions filed by the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) seeking cancellation of the reservation benefits for them by classifying them as the Creamy Layer.

(i) As per the Indira Sahani judgment, the economically advanced members of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) were classified as the Creamy Layer and their benefits were cancelled.

(ii) Similarly, petitions were filed in the Supreme Court on behalf of O.P. Shukla and Samta Andolan Samiti seeking cancellation of the reservation benefits for them by classifying them as the Creamy Layer in the SC and ST categories.

(iii) In those petitions, 'On August 1, 2024, a 7-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled by a

majority of 6:1 that the states have the power to make sub-Classification of the SC and ST communities to provide reservation in public employment and education. The judgment also stated that the creamy layer should be classified in the SC and ST category and that the reservation benefits should reach the most backward among them.

(iv) It was stated that the Central and State Governments should be directed to start the work of collecting data and define the criteria for the Creamy Layer classification.'

(v) A bench of the Supreme Court comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N.V. Anjaria, which heard these petitions, ordered the Central Government to respond in this regard.

8. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the banking sector have declined to Rs.1,041 crore (\$115 million) in the financial year 2025, the Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary told the Rajya Sabha.

(i) He also said that it had declined from Rs.8,129 crore (\$898 million) in the previous financial year 2023.

(ii) In his written reply to the Rajya Sabha, he said: Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) includes investment in shares, equity capital of foreign investors, reinvested earnings and other capital.

(iii) FDI is an important source of non-debt finance for economic growth. FDI has been increasing in India after the liberalization policy.

(iv) FDI, which is a major contributor to foreign capital, fuels the growth of various sectors including technology transfer, innovation and employment generation.

(v) In the financial year 2024-25, the foreign shareholding in State Bank of India is 11.07%, in Canara Bank 10.55 %, in Bank of Baroda 9.43 %, in Union Bank of India 7.48%, and in Punjab National Bank 5.85%. This includes FDI, Foreign Institutional Investment (FII), Investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI), Investment by Overseas Indians (OCI).

(vi) Overall, FDI inflows in the banking sector were reported to have decreased to Rs.1,041 crore in the financial year 2025 from Rs.8,129 crore in the financial year 2023.

(vii) In a written reply to another question, Pankaj Chaudhary stated that, 'As on January 2, 2026, 56.31 crore accounts have been disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Loan Scheme, amounting to Rs.37.31 lakh crore.'

(viii) Unclaimed bank deposits Rs.72,454 crore

- The balance in savings and current bank accounts which have been dormant for 10 years or which have not been claimed within 10 years from the date of maturity will be treated as unclaimed deposits. Such deposits will be credited by the banks to the Depositors' Education and Awareness Fund. This fund is maintained by the Reserve Bank.
- In this situation, as of January 28, a total of Rs.72,454 crore has been added to this fund, including Rs.60,571.02 crore unclaimed deposits in public sector banks, Rs.9,607.76 crore unclaimed deposits in private banks, and Rs.2,275.01 crore unclaimed deposits in foreign banks operating in India.

9. The White House has announced that the India-US interim trade agreement will allow the US to export agricultural and food products, including pulses, to India.

- (i) The statement states that India will not impose any duties on certain pulses.
- (ii) India will import certain pulses from the US duty-free.
- (iii) India will eliminate or reduce duties on certain US agricultural and food products, as well as industrial goods and certain grains. These include red corn, processed fruits, soybean oil and wine.
- (iv) Earlier, the Union Commerce Ministry said that the agreement had allowed the import of pulses at a reduced rate. While farm groups criticized the move as having a negative impact on Indian farmers over time, the US has now said that India will also import some pulses.
- (v) While the agreement envisages the export of goods worth \$500 billion (about Rs.45 lakh crore) from the US to India over the next 5 years, a new US report has revealed that agricultural and food products are also included in those exports.
- (vi) It is noteworthy that in the earlier joint statement, India is to import only \$500 billion worth of energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, base metals, and technical goods from the US.

10. The Health Minister M. Subramanian launched a scheme to provide deworming tablets to 2.56 crore children and women up to 30 years of age across Tamil Nadu.

- (i) At a function held at the Manthope Girls Government Higher Secondary School, Saidapet, Chennai on the occasion of National Deworming Day, the Minister M. Subramanian released awareness banners, took a pledge with the students and distributed deworming tablets to them.
- (ii) National Deworming Day is observed every year in the months of February and August. Accordingly, a scheme to distribute Albendazole deworming tablets has been launched to benefit a total of 2.56 crore children and adolescents up to 19 years of age and women between the ages of 20-30.
- (iii) Deworming tablets were distributed in all primary health centers, sub-health centers, anganwadi centers, Government and Government-aided schools, private schools and all colleges. They will also be provided to those who have been left behind. 1,30,000 Government officials have been engaged in this work.
- (iv) Worms are parasites. They live by sucking blood from the human intestines. Children infected with worms for a long time suffer from anemia, impaired physical development, and impaired performance.
- (v) To avoid the development of worms, one should avoid defecating in the open and use toilets. The environment should be kept clean to prevent flies from breeding. Vegetables and fruits should be consumed only after washing them. Clean drinking water should be used. One should inculcate the habit of washing hands before eating and after using the toilet, he said.

11. AI Technology in Criminal Investigation

- (i) Historical Foundation of Investigation
 - In early human history, physical defense and societal norms were the primary means of dealing with "crimes," though these actions were not legally defined as they are today.
 - The 19th century introduced established scientific methods such as fingerprint analysis, DNA testing, and autopsies, which formed the basis for modern criminal investigation.

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- New Digital Threats: The modern age has brought sophisticated threats including cybercrime, identity theft, financial fraud, and "Deepfake" technology, requiring tools more advanced than traditional methods.

(ii) Key Applications of AI in Law Enforcement

- Predictive Policing: By analyzing historical data regarding crime locations, times, and patterns, AI can predict where future crimes are likely to occur and issue early warnings to police.
- Facial Recognition: AI systems can scan crowds in public spaces to identify wanted criminals or repeat offenders by matching faces against existing databases.
- Financial Fraud Detection: AI can immediately identify suspicious patterns in banking, online transactions, and e-mails, alerting authorities to potential fraud before major losses occur.
- Social Media Monitoring: AI analyzes social media posts to detect signs of hate speech, threats, or organized riots, helping to prevent violence.
- Traffic Management: AI tracks real-time data on accidents, speeding, and drunk driving to provide actionable information to traffic authorities.
- Rapid Video Analysis: AI can process hours of CCTV footage in just a few minutes, identifying suspicious individuals or vehicles that would take humans days to find.

(iii) Significant Risks and Human Oversight

While AI is a powerful tool, it is prone to errors and cannot replace human judgment:

- False Identifications: Incorrect data or technical flaws in AI can lead to the wrongful arrest of innocent citizens. Case Study (Detroit, 2020): A man named Robert Williams was wrongly arrested for a watch theft based on a false AI facial recognition match. After his innocence was proven, he sued the police and was awarded \$300,000 (approx. ₹2.5 crore) in damages.

AI should be treated as a supportive technology rather than a final decision-maker. It is essential for Human Intelligence (Manitha Nunnarivu) to verify AI-generated results to prevent miscarriages of justice and protect individual rights.