

February 14, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Baby care kits for Low-Birth weight Children and the 'Thaimai App' project to reduce Maternal Mortality Rate were launched by the Health Minister, M.Subramanian. At that time, the Minister M.Subramanian said that :

- (i) Every year 8 lakh children are born in Tamil Nadu. Out of these, 4.5 lakh deliveries take place in Government hospitals.
- (ii) 20 percent of children born in Government hospitals weigh less than two kilograms. Accordingly, 52,000 children are being cared for in a low-birth weight condition.
- (iii) It was announced that those children will be provided with a 'Baby care kits' containing iron, vitamin B3 and multi-vitamin drops to strengthen their nutrition and immunity, and for continuous care. Accordingly, this project has been launched at a cost of Rs.8.07 crore.
- (iv) A new app called 'Thaimai App' has been launched. This app is a major initiative to strengthen Maternal and Child Health services in Tamil Nadu. Pregnancy registration, antenatal check-ups, delivery, post-natal care, child development, vaccination schedules, etc. will be monitored through this app.
- (v) Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate are decreasing. However, the Government is taking various steps to bring them to zero. Keeping this in mind, the Baby care kits and 'Thaimai App' projects have been launched, he said.

2. The first solar eclipse of this year will occur on Feb. 17 (Tuesday).

- (i) The solar eclipse will begin at 3.26 P.M on that day. It will continue to end at 7.57 P.M. This ring of fire solar eclipse will not be visible in India.
- (ii) It will be visible only from remote parts of Antarctica and some parts of South Africa and South America. This solar eclipse will be clearly visible only from places like Concordia and Mirny in Antarctica, partially in countries like South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and from some parts of Argentina and Chile in South America. However, this event can be seen on the NASA website, <https://www.timeanddate.com> YouTube channel and websites.
- (iii) Another solar eclipse of this year is the total solar eclipse on Aug. 12. This is visible in some parts of Europe and North America, said P.Sri Kumar, state coordinator of the Science Board.

3. Following the recent general election in Thailand, the Bhumjaithai Party, led by Prime Minister Anutin Sarnwirakul, and the Pheu Thai Party, supported by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, have officially announced that they will form a Coalition Government..

- (i) At the end of the election, the Bhumjaithai Party emerged as the single largest party, winning 193 seats. However, it failed to secure the majority (251 seats) needed to form a Government. In this situation, Anutin has decided to form a coalition with Pheu Thai Party, which came in third place with 74 seats in the election.
- (ii) In June last year, Anutin left the Pheu Thai coalition due to the Cambodian border dispute. Now, his re-joining with the same party is considered a major turning point in the country's politics. Leaders of both

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parties have said that this strong alliance is essential to address Thailand's current economic challenges and strengthen the country's security.

4. The US President Donald Trump is set to make major announcements next week on a multi-billion dollar reconstruction plan for Gaza and the creation of a UN-authorized international security force to maintain peace there.

(i) The announcements will be made at the first official meeting of the Board of Peace to be held in Washington on Thursday (Feb. 19), US officials said.

(ii) The first meeting of the Board of Peace to be chaired by President Trump will be attended by leaders and representatives of more than 20 countries.

(iii) Trump will announce the details of the financial assistance that the member states of the Board of Peace will provide for the reconstruction of Gaza at this meeting. Officials said that many countries have voluntarily agreed to provide funds even though the US has not made any request.

(iv) Security force:

As part of the Trump post-Gaza plan announced last September, a UN-authorized security force will be stationed there. Various countries are ready to send troops for this. In particular, Indonesia has agreed to send 8,000 soldiers.

(v) Management Committee:

The meeting will also discuss in detail the activities of the new management committee formed to take over the administration of Gaza from Hamas.

(vi) Background:

- President Trump announced this Board of Peace during the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, last month.
- Countries such as Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Indonesia have joined this Board. While America's Western allies have been reluctant to join, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that he has also joined this Board.
- India has also been invited to join this Board. However, India has not yet announced its final decision.

5. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won a landslide victory in the Bangladesh Parliamentary elections. The Party leader Tariq Rahman is set to take office as the next Prime Minister.

(i) In 2024, the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's rule ended due to student-led protests in Bangladesh. Hasina, who left Bangladesh due to the protests, took refuge in India. Following this, an Interim Government was formed under the leadership of Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus.

(ii) The 13th Parliamentary elections were held in Bangladesh. This election, which was the first to be held after the student protests, was peaceful, except for minor incidents.

(iii) 59.44% voter turnout: Out of a total of 300 constituencies, the election was cancelled in one constituency due to the death of a candidate from the Jamaat-e-Islami party. The election was held for

299 seats with 59.44 percent of the votes. The counting of votes took place after the completion of the voting.

(iv) The BNP, led by Tariq Rahman, son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, won 209 seats with a single majority, exceeding the 151 seats required for a majority. The fundamentalist party Jamaat-e-Islami, known as a party close to Pakistan, won 68 seats. Independents and other parties won the remaining seats.

(v) Government after 20 years:

- Tariq contested from two seats, Dhaka-17 and Pokhara-6, and won both of them. With this, it was reported in the local media that the BNP is going to form a Government in Bangladesh after about 20 years. Tariq Rahman will be sworn in as the Prime Minister.
- After two female prime ministers, Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, this will be the first time in 35 years that a male will become the Prime Minister.

(vi) Son succeeds father:-

- Tariq Rahman's father and military ruler Ziaur Rahman founded the BNP. He was the President of Bangladesh and was assassinated in 1981. After his assassination, Tariq's mother Khaleda Zia led the BNP for about 40 years. Tariq, who joined the BNP in 2001, became the party's senior vice president in 2009.
- Tariq was arrested on corruption charges during the military-backed Caretaker Government led by President Ijazuddin Ahmed, appointed by the BNP in 2007. He spent 18 months in prison and later sought refuge in London. He returned to Bangladesh last year after 17 years. Following Khaleda's death, Tariq officially became the BNP leader.

(vii) 48 million people support the July Charter:

- The July Charter was introduced with the aim of reforming the country's administration, including a limit of 10 years for a Prime Minister in Bangladesh, a state of emergency cannot be declared arbitrarily by the Prime Minister, and the approval of the Cabinet and the opposition leader is required to implement the emergency. In the referendum held during the election, 48 million people voted in favor of the Charter and 22.5 million voted against it.

6. Reliance has been granted a license by the US to directly purchase crude oil from Venezuela.

(i) Following the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, the US is easing energy sanctions on the country. Previously, oil was only allowed to be purchased through intermediaries, but now licensed companies can purchase directly. Since Reliance's Jamnagar plant is designed to process Venezuelan crude, this direct purchase license is expected to significantly increase the company's profitability.

7. A target has been set to build 50 more airports in the next 5 years. This will create huge opportunities for the country's real estate sector, said Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu. The Union Minister Rammohan Naidu, who participated in the National Urban and Real Estate Development Conference held in Delhi, said:

(i) Airports also play an important role in the development of the real estate sector. India, which is the fastest growing country in the world in the aviation market, currently has 165 airports in operation. A new

airport or terminal is being built in the country every 33 days.

(ii) A target has been set to build 50 more new airports in the next 5 years. This will create huge opportunities for the country's real estate sector.

(iii) Serious steps are being taken to find a suitable solution to the issue of restrictions on tall buildings near airports in a way that does not compromise air traffic safety, he said.

(iv) Further, the Union Minister, referring to the growth potential of the country's real estate sector, said, "The value of this sector is estimated to increase to a value of one trillion dollars (Rs. 91 lakh crore) by 2030 and to a value of 5 to 7 trillion dollars (Rs. 453 lakh crore to Rs. 634 lakh crore) by 2047. In such a context, it is important to focus on the quality of life of the people in real estate development.

(v) It is necessary for the real estate sector to improve rental housing schemes, especially for the youth.

8. According to the data released by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) till 2023, the all-India number of dowry atrocities cases registered in India in 2023 is 15,444, including 144 in Tamil Nadu. Out of these, the number of convictions is 1,668, including 8 in Tamil Nadu. A total of 6,027 cases have been registered regarding dowry deaths, including 11 in Tamil Nadu. Out of these, convictions have been given in 3,202 cases.

9. The Central Government has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court along with the report of the expert committee that fishing using the purse seines can be continued.

(i) The report was filed by the Central Fisheries Department on Thursday (February 12) along with the affidavit.

(ii) The Central Government has stated in it that: The Central Fisheries Department constituted an expert committee on August 2, 2022, to study the use of purse seines.

(iii) The committee was tasked to study the purse seines fishing activities of fishermen from various coastal states and union territories and to provide recommendations for a national consensus on the use of purse seines.

(iv) The committee held consultations with the relevant parties in Chennai on January 9 and 10, 2024. Further, consultations were held with the Fisheries Commissioners of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra on January 11 and 19.

(v) Finally, the committee decided and submitted a report that the method of fishing using the purse seines can be continued like other fishing methods.

(vi) Background:

- The Tamil Nadu Government issued an order on February 17, 2020, banning the use of purse seines. Cases were filed in the Supreme Court on behalf of fishermen's organizations against this.
- The Supreme Court, which heard this case in 2022, had ordered a committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Fisheries to conduct a study on the use of purse seines and submit a report.

10. The Tamil Nadu Government has urged the Cauvery Water Management Authority to ensure that the Karnataka Government releases 10 TMC of water every month from February to May to Tamil Nadu as per



(i) The 48th meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority was held in Delhi. The members of the Authority, namely the Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry, were invited to the meeting.

(i) In the 48th meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority, Chaired by S.K. Haldar, Tamil Nadu member and Water Resources Secretary J. Jayakanthan, Cauvery Technical Group and Inter-State River Water Division Chairman I. Subramanian participated through video conferencing from the Secretariat in Chennai.

(ii) As on Friday (Feb. 13), the water reserve of Mettur Dam was 53.444 TMC. The Tamil Nadu member informed that 2,503 cubic feet of water per second was being released from the dam for drinking water, industrial use and environmental water flow.

(iii) Considering the water reserve of Karnataka dams, the Tamil Nadu member urged the Commission to ensure that Karnataka, in accordance with the Supreme Court order, ensures the environmental water level of 10 TMC to be provided to Tamil Nadu from February to May this year at the rate of 2.5 TMC per month in Bilikundulu, Karnataka, the press release said.

11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new office of the Prime Minister in Delhi, the 'Seva Teerth' complex.

(i) With this, the Prime Minister's Office shifted from the British-era South Block building near the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the Raisina Hills area to the 'Seva Teerth' complex. On the first day in the new office, he signed files related to various important projects.

(ii) New Delhi was officially established as the modern capital of India on February 13, 1931. The current major change has taken place on its 95th anniversary. The newly built Prime Minister's Office complex under the Delhi Central Vista Redevelopment Project houses the Prime Minister's Office, the National Security Council Secretariat and the Union Cabinet Secretariat. Earlier, these offices were functioning in separate buildings.

(iii) Inauguration of the new office:

- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh, Principal Secretaries to the Prime Minister P.K. Mishra, Shaktikanta Das and other senior officials signed the files related to the welfare schemes of women, farmers, youth, etc.

(iv) What are the schemes?

- In this regard, officials said, 'The Prime Minister approved the launch of the 'PM-RAHAT' scheme aimed at saving the lives of those involved in road accidents. Under the above scheme, cashless treatment of up to Rs.1.5 lakh will be ensured to those involved in road accidents. This immediate medical assistance will help prevent fatalities.
- He also signed the file to double the target of the 'Lakshpati Didi' scheme, one of the ambitious schemes of the Central Government.
- With a view to providing great support to farmers, the Prime Minister has approved an increase in the agricultural infrastructure fund by two times, i.e. Rs. 2 lakh crore.

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- The second tranche of Startup India Fund of Funds Scheme with a corpus of INR 10,000 crore has been approved,' they said.

(iv) 'Citizens are God': Earlier, Prime Minister Modi unveiled a plaque at the entrance of the 'Seva Teerth' complex. The plaque reads 'Nagarik Devobhav' (Citizens are God) in Devanagari script.

(v) Since taking office as Prime Minister in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has been emphasizing a shift in mindset away from colonial symbols; the Prime Minister's Office will now be called Seva Teerth. The new complex reflects the Prime Minister's commitment to creating a modern, efficient, accessible and people-centric structure. Officials said this is a major milestone in the Indian administrative architecture.

