

February 22, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The UN World Food Programme has warned that food and nutrition assistance to the people of Somalia, an African country, could be completely cut off by April due to severe drought and civil war.

(i) The organisation said that the reason for this dire situation is the lack of adequate funding from International countries.

(ii) About 4.4 million people in Somalia are suffering from hunger due to continuous drought and increasing conflict. Of these, about 1 million people are struggling to survive without even a single meal.

(iii) Despite the dire situation, if adequate funding is not received, the World Food Programme's Emergency Director, Ross Smith, has expressed concern that humanitarian operations will completely come to a standstill between March and August.

(iv) While 22 lakh people were provided with food last year, that number has now dropped to just 6 lakh. Special nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children has been reduced by up to 75 percent. The UN has appealed for an immediate \$95 million funding to ensure uninterrupted food supplies.

(v) In 2022, a major famine was averted in a similar situation thanks to international cooperation. However, with international assistance now dwindling, there are fears among activists that Somalia could face another major disaster.

2. The US Supreme Court has ruled that the global import tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump are invalid, and the question has arisen among global traders whether the approximately \$175 billion tax money collected so far will be recovered.

(i) The US Supreme Court has not only cancelled the tariffs, but has not provided clear guidelines on how to return the collected money. This has created many legal problems for companies that have paid the tariffs.

(ii) To recover the tax money, each company must file a separate lawsuit in the US Court of International Trade. With more than 1,000 cases already pending, thousands more new petitions will be filed. Therefore, it is expected that it may take several years for these cases to be resolved and the money to be recovered. Big companies will argue with the best lawyers. They will somehow get their money back. However, experts warn that small importing companies, which cannot afford to hire lawyers at high cost, may end up giving up the money they are rightfully entitled to.

(iii) Accordingly, President Trump's push to impose new tariffs under alternative laws has once again caused great confusion among importers.

3. Hungary and Slovakia have issued a stern warning that they will stop providing Ukraine with vital financial and electricity assistance if Ukraine does not immediately restore its crude oil supply from Russia.

(i) Most European countries have imposed economic sanctions on Russia in the wake of the war in Ukraine. However, Hungary and Slovakia still rely on Russia for their energy needs. Therefore, they maintain friendly relations with the country.



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(ii) At the end of last January, oil pipelines passing through Ukraine to these countries were damaged, disrupting oil supplies.

(iii) Ukraine claims that the oil pipelines were damaged in a Russian drone attack. However, Hungary and Slovakia, which refuse to accept this, accuse Ukraine of deliberately blocking supplies for political reasons.

(iv) Although Ukraine has proposed to bring oil through alternative routes, both countries are adamant that the supply should continue through the old route.

(v) 'We will block the loan'...

If Ukraine does not take a decision on this issue soon, Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó has announced that he will block the interest-free loan worth 9,000 billion euros that the European Union is planning to provide for the country's military and economic needs.

(vi) 'We will cut off the electricity'..

- On the same issue, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has also issued an ultimatum to Ukraine.
- He has said that if Russian oil supplies are not restored by next Monday, he will immediately cut off the emergency electricity supply to Ukraine that is being provided without interruption.
- Slovakia provides about 18 percent of Ukraine's total electricity needs. Slovakia's decision is expected to cause a major crisis for Ukraine, with its electricity infrastructure already damaged by the war.

4. Norway's Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo, who won gold in the men's 50 km mass start classic in cross-country skiing at the Winter Olympics in Italy, became the first athlete to win gold in six events at a single Olympic Games.

5. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured that Naxalism will be completely eradicated from the country by March 31, as per the set deadline.

(i) Amit Shah participated in the 87th anniversary parade of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Guwahati, Assam. This is the first time in the history of the CRPF, which has 3.25 lakh personnel, that the annual parade is being held in the North-Eastern region.

(ii) Soldiers and veterans from various CRPF units, including Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Cobra forces, from different parts of the country, participated in the parade.

6. The India-Brazil bilateral trade has been set to reach \$20 billion (Rs.1.81 lakh crore) in the next 5 years. An agreement was also signed to facilitate the purchase of rare earth minerals from Brazil.

(i) This was the signing of several agreements, including this one, after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in New Delhi. The two leaders pledged to strengthen mutual cooperation in various sectors including security and energy in the current geopolitical environment.

(ii) Brazilian President Lula da Silva, who arrived in India on a five-day official visit on February 18, participated in the International Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit held in New Delhi. He met Prime Minister Modi and held extensive talks. The two discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in various sectors including trade, investment, security, energy, technology, and regional and international issues of

mutual interest.

(iii) The Central Government has taken steps to diversify its procurement by reducing its dependence on China in the procurement of rare earth minerals. A major agreement has been signed with Brazil, which has the second largest rare earth mineral reserves in the world after China.

(iv) Target to increase trade:

- As of 2024-25, the trade value of India with Brazil was \$12 billion. Of this, exports were \$ 6.77 billion; imports were \$ 5.43 billion. Prime Minister Modi said that the target has been set to increase the bilateral trade value to \$20 billion in the next 5 years.
- In a joint press conference with the Brazilian President, the Prime Minister said: Brazil is India's largest trading partner in Latin America. Our trade is not just about numbers; it is a reflection of trust. The rare earth minerals agreement signed between India and Brazil is a major milestone towards a resilient supply chain structure.

7. Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the combined tetanus and diphtheria vaccines developed in India.

(i) He attended a program held at the Central Research Institute in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh and launched the combined tetanus and diphtheria vaccines. This has made the vaccine available under the universal Immunization Program. Speaking at the program, J.P. Nadda said:

- The Union Government led by Prime Minister Modi is working towards achieving self-reliance in the health and pharmaceutical sectors. The launch of the indigenously developed Rana Janni vaccine is a major milestone in the vision of making India self-reliant in the pharmaceutical sector.
- The Central Research Institute will provide 55 lakh doses of the vaccine by April. The company will then increase the quantity of the vaccine distributed several times in the coming years. India is one of the largest drug manufacturers in the world.
- During the COVID pandemic, India developed two indigenous vaccines in just nine months. It has distributed 2.2 billion doses worldwide. This includes booster doses.
- Our universal Immunization program is the largest Immunization program in the world. Under this, 11 vaccines are administered. Every year, 20 million to 25 million children are born. Women are monitored through the 'You-Win' platform from the time they become pregnant.
- Children are given 27 doses of vaccines until they turn 16.
- Every year, 50 million people are vaccinated in the country. Of these, 25 million are pregnant women and 25 million are children. About 99 percent of the population in India has been vaccinated, he said.

8. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that manufacturing 'chips' in India is important for the development of the country. HCL Group and Foxconn are jointly setting up a chip manufacturing plant in Jewar near Greater Noida under the name 'India Chip Private Limited'. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the plant via video conferencing.

(i) Foxconn Chairman – Bob Chen

9. The Supreme Court has issued new rules for the entire country regarding solid waste management.

(i) Two appeals challenging two orders of the National Green Tribunal against the environmental rules of

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the Bhopal Municipal Corporation came up for hearing in the Supreme Court before a bench of Justices Pankaj Mittal and S.V.N. Bhatti. The order passed by the judges was as follows:

- Negligence in the matter of solid waste affects our health. It also affects the economy of the country. Cleanliness and a clean environment are inseparable parts of the right to life. Therefore, if action is not taken now in the matter of solid waste management, it will never be possible to take action.
- It is not right for us to expect this problem to be solved without taking any action. It is the duty of all of us to create a clean India without waste. The courts have repeatedly stated that it is the duty of the State Government to protect the environment and protect the welfare of the citizens.

(ii) Review by Collectors:

- Solid Waste Management should be reviewed by District Collectors. The District Collectors should identify the problems and report to the Chief Secretary on the steps taken to resolve them periodically.
- District Collectors should also urge the local bodies to comply with the rules related to solid waste, 100 percent.
- District Collectors should be given the power to monitor how solid waste is handled by Corporations, Municipalities and Gram Panchayats and report to the relevant Department.
- Similarly, local bodies should also inform the District Collector's offices about the steps taken on the issue of solid waste and the progress made in it through e-mail.
- The Pollution Control Board should expedite the work of selecting places for solid waste disposal and constructing structures.
- The rules related to solid waste will come into force from April 1. A copy of the Supreme Court order regarding these rules should be provided to the local bodies that generate a lot of waste and they should be urged to comply with it by March 31.

(iii) Order to include in the school curriculum:

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change should ensure that a section on the rules related to solid waste is included in the school curriculum.
- These rules should be translated into local languages in the curriculum.

(iv) If anyone fails to comply with these rules, it should not be considered as a mere administrative error. Three types of action should be taken against those who violate the rule. This includes imposing a fine.

(v) Similarly, if the same mistake is committed repeatedly, it should be considered a criminal offense and criminal cases should be filed under environmental laws against all those who fail to perform their duties, including the officials who do not comply with the rules.

(vi) Awareness among the public:

- The Chief Justices of the High Courts should ensure that this rule is implemented from April 1st through the courts. Similarly, the Chairpersons of the Tribunals should ensure this through the Tribunals.
- Local Governments should create awareness among the public about solid waste. They said that local governments should create awareness among the public about generating less solid waste, segregating it at home and handing it over to waste collectors.



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10. The Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin stressed that research is very necessary to uphold the glory of the Tamil language.

(i) On the occasion of International Mother Language Day (February 21), the fourth volume of the Etymological Dictionary of Tamil-Indo-European Languages, Comparative Dictionary of Etymology project was released in Chennai.

(ii) Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin participated in this event and Norwegian Professor Claus Peter Zoller received it to release the book. The book has been compiled from 19 Tamil etymologies, words of Western Indo-European languages like Latin, Greek, German, French, English and words of Eastern Indo-European languages like Sanskrit, Pali, Sinhala, based on the history and hypothesis of their formation.

(iii) Subsequently, a seminar was held in which international linguists participated. In it, the antiquity and uniqueness of the Tamil language, as well as the uniqueness of the comparative lexicon volumes of Tamil 'Indo' European languages, were discussed.

11. The Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan said that the regional translation of the Constitution of India will increase awareness among the people.

(i) On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, the updated versions of the Constitution of India in Gujarati and Tamil languages along with the latest edition of the Legal Glossary (English-Hindi) were released by Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan at a function held at his residence in Delhi.