March 6, 2026 - Dinamani Newspaper - Tit bits

1. The Kerala High Court Judge Sushrut Aravind Dharmadhikari has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

(i) Justice M.M. Srivastava, who was the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, retired from service on Friday (March 5), and the notification of Justice Dharmadhikari's appointment was also published in the Official Gazette on Thursday.

2. The Parliamentary elections to elect a new Prime Minister in neighboring Nepal were held peacefully.

(i) This important election was held after the Coalition Government led by former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli was toppled in September last year due to intense protests by the young generation.

(ii) Election process:

- The elections were held to elect 275 members of the House of Representatives, the lower house of the Nepali Parliament.
- Of these, 165 members are to be elected through direct elections and the remaining 110 members through proportional representation. More than 3,400 candidates from 65 parties are in the fray for direct elections and 3,135 candidates for proportional representation.

3. The constitution of Somalia has been amended to extend the term of office of the President and Members of Parliament from 4 years to 5 years.

(i) 222 out of the 329 Members of Parliament voted in favor of the amendment.

(ii) With this, the general elections scheduled for next May have been postponed for one year.

(iii) The President expressed happiness that the long-pending Constitutional work has been officially completed.

4. In view of the competition with the US and the tense situation prevailing among the countries of the world, China has increased its defense budget by 7 percent this year to modernize its military.

(i) Prime Minister Li Keqiang presented the Government's annual report in the Chinese Parliament. Accordingly, about 1.91 trillion yuan (about Rs. 25.4 trillion in Indian currency) has been allocated for the defense sector.

(ii) This huge military budget allocation of China has caused great concern to neighboring countries, including India. Because China's budget is three times higher than India's defense budget.

(iii) While increasing defense spending, China has reduced its economic growth target to 4.5 - 5 percent.

(iv) This decision has been taken due to reasons such as the trade war of US President Trump's administration, the global crisis caused by the US-Iran conflict, and the real estate slump in the country. China, which had been targeting 5 percent growth for the past 3 years, has lowered this target for the first time due to current challenges.

(v) Military control:

- Amidst military modernization, President Xi Jinping is taking drastic measures to eradicate corruption in the Chinese military.
- 'The military must be under the complete control of the Communist Party. No compromise will be made on discipline,' Premier Li Keqiang has affirmed in his speech.

(vi) Strictness on the Taiwan issue:

- China has further intensified its stance on the Taiwan issue. China, which had been saying softly 'we will oppose Taiwan separatism' until last year, has used the harsh word 'we will firmly suppress' this year.
- It is feared that China's military threat and surveillance on the Taiwan border may increase further in the coming days.

5. Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurated the Olympic Academy set up at the Madurai District Stadium.

(i) The Tamil Nadu Government had already announced that an Olympic Academy would be set up in Madurai district to produce talented athletes who would participate in international competitions.

(ii) Accordingly, an Olympic Academy complex was built at the Madurai District Stadium at a cost of Rs.6 crore, including a kabaddi court, 6 table tennis courts with 200 spectator seats, changing rooms for competitors, a gym with modern facilities, a basketball court with artificial turf, and a tennis court.

6. Finland President Alexander Stubb, who is on a four-day state visit to India, held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi in Delhi.

(i) Signing of various agreements:

- The two discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields including trade and investment, security, key technologies, capacity building, clean energy, etc. They discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. The West Asian War was discussed in particular.
- Following these talks, various agreements were signed to strengthen cooperation in areas including official statistics, mutual displacement, environment, etc.

(ii) From security to key minerals:

- India-Finland relations have taken the form of a 'strategic alliance' in digitization and sustainability. This will promote mutual cooperation in areas including Artificial Intelligence technology, 6G telecommunications, clean energy, quantum computing, etc.
- It has been agreed to expand cooperation in key sectors such as defense, space, semiconductors, and key minerals

(iii) Finland supports India's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

7. Significant diplomatic shift and strengthening of ties between India and Canada following the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

(i) A New Chapter in Diplomacy

- The visit marks a major departure from the strained relations experienced during the tenure of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- Prime Minister Carney's four-day state visit to India is described as a necessity for both nations to rebuild strategic and economic trust.
- Carney's approach aims to move past the "bitterness" caused by Trudeau's previous allegations regarding the Hardeep Singh Nijjar case.

(ii) Civil Nuclear and Energy Cooperation

- A landmark agreement was reached in the field of civil nuclear energy. Canada has committed to supplying approximately 2.2 crore pounds of uranium to India between 2027 and 2035.
- This nuclear deal is valued at 2.6 billion dollars (approximately ₹23,833 crore).
- The two leaders agreed to expand cooperation in green hydrogen, hydrocarbons, and advanced energy storage technologies.

(iii) Trade and Investment Targets

- Both nations have set a target to increase bilateral trade to 50 billion dollars (approximately ₹4.58 lakh crore) by the year 2030.
- There is a renewed focus on fast-tracking the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to create a Free Trade environment.
- Highlighting Canada's confidence in the Indian market, Canadian pension funds have already invested 100 billion dollars (approximately ₹9.15 lakh crore) in India.

(iv) Strategic and Global Context

- Aggressive trade and tariff policies from the U.S. (under President Trump) are driving nations like India and Canada to strengthen independent bilateral trade blocks.
- Prime Minister Carney emphasized that "middle powers" like Canada and India should not be viewed as weak; instead, their strength lies in collective economic resilience and transparent cooperation.
- Canada has signed 12 trade and security agreements across four continents in the last six months as part of its strategy to reduce over-dependence on single markets.

Carney's visit has successfully inaugurated a "new chapter" in Indo-Canadian relations, prioritizing economic and energy security.