

March 8, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. A new social media page named 'Bharathiyar Illam' was launched. A press release issued by the Tamil Nadu Government in this regard:

(i) March 8 is celebrated as Women's Day every year to emphasize the rights, equality and freedom of women.

(ii) With the aim of ensuring that the present generation knows and benefits from the great poet Subramania Bharathiyar, who sang poems on women's rights, the Tamil Nadu Government is maintaining the house where Bharathiyar lived in Thiruvallikeni, Chennai, as the 'Bharathiyar Memorial House'.

(iii) In this situation, with the aim of bringing information about Mahakavi Bharathiyar to today's youth through social media, a new Instagram page named 'Bharathiyar Illam' was launched on Saturday (March 7). Bharathiyar's poems, rare historical notes, interesting photos and videos will be uploaded continuously. It has been stated that all segments of society, including the general public, youth, and today's generation, can benefit from following this page.

2. Balendra Shah Balen (35), the young leader of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), has created history by defeating former Prime Minister and CPN-UML party leader K.P. Sharma Oli in the Parliamentary elections held in Nepal.

(i) Balendra Shah Balen, the Prime Ministerial candidate of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), contested from the Jhapa-5 constituency against K.P. Sharma Oli, who resigned last year following a youth protest. Balendra Shah Balen, a rapper, has already won the trust of the youth as the mayor of Kathmandu.

3. In the wake of the escalating war in the Middle East, which has led to a shortage of crude oil and gas, the price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder has been increased by Rs.60.

(i) Due to this, the price of a cylinder that was being sold for Rs.868.50 in Chennai has now increased to Rs.928.50.

(ii) Similarly, the price of a 19 kg commercial gas cylinder for use in tea shops and hotels has also been increased by Rs.114.50. Due to this, a commercial gas cylinder that was sold for Rs.1,929 in Chennai is now being sold for Rs. 2,043.50.

(iii) Oil company officials said that the price of crude oil has increased sharply in the international markets due to the war in West Asia. Based on this, oil companies have increased the price of cooking gas cylinders. "Despite the increase in gas cylinder prices, cooking gas cylinder prices in India are lower compared to neighboring countries," they said.

4. Women-led start-ups in India have registered steady growth, raising around \$1.1 billion (approximately Rs.10,115 crore in Indian currency) in 2025.

(i) While these companies had raised \$1.2 billion in 2024, it is noteworthy that investor interest in women entrepreneurs has not diminished.

(ii) Although the number of investment events in these companies has decreased from 580 to 407, the

average investment amount has increased. That is, the average investment received by a company of \$2.4 million in 2024 has increased to \$3.8 million in 2025.

(iii) Funding for early-stage companies has increased from \$528 million to \$572 million. Notably, Nikita Prasad-co-founded jewellery company 'Khiva' has raised \$62 million and Namrata Asthana-co-founded Blue Tokai Coffee has raised \$25 million.

(iv) Bengaluru, Karnataka continues to be the city that attracts the most funding for women entrepreneurs. Companies in Bengaluru have raised \$447 million, Gurugram \$115 million and Mumbai \$112 million.

(v) Today's investors are not just looking at growth, but are prioritizing companies that have the potential to generate steady profits and stable returns. Accordingly, these statistics confirm that the dominance and participation of women in the Indian entrepreneurship sector is continuing to strengthen.

5. More than 67 percent of women working in various sectors in the country say that equal pay is paid to both men and women in their organizations.

(i) On the occasion of International Women's Day, a survey conducted by 'Naukri' among about 50,000 women employees from more than 50 sectors in the country has revealed various important information.

(ii) 67 percent of women say that there is no pay discrimination in the workplace. Of the 33 percent of women who feel that there is discrimination, those from the real estate sector (42 percent) are at the top. This is followed by women working in the consumer goods, automobile, retail and restaurants, IT and telecom sectors who say that discrimination exists.

(iii) The number of women requesting equal pay audits and menstrual leave in their companies have increased from 19 percent (last year) to 27 percent. In particular, 48 percent of high-paid women are making this request. "As women move closer to senior positions, they are more likely to feel the pay gap," the report points out.

(iv) Hidden personal plans:

- About 50 percent of women said they hide their marriage or maternity plans during interviews, fearing discrimination.
- This reluctance increases with increasing work experience. 40 percent of women with 10 to 15 years of experience are afraid to share such information.

(v) Interest in leadership:

- Despite various challenges, the number of women who say they are ready to take on leadership roles has increased from 66 percent to 83 percent. This interest is particularly evident among women in South Indian cities.
- 42 percent of women consider discrimination in hiring and promotion as their biggest challenge. This is reflected to a greater extent in metropolitan cities like Mumbai (44 percent) and Delhi (43 percent).