

March 9, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Israeli warplanes have launched a massive attack on five major oil storage facilities in and around the Iranian capital, Tehran.

(i) The area was engulfed in flames and smoke. Israel said it targeted the facilities because they are used by Iran for military purposes.

(ii) The attack caused Tehran to appear to be on fire. The city was engulfed in thick black smoke. Warnings have been issued for the possibility of severe acid rain.

(iii) It was not immediately clear how many people were killed in the attack. Residents of Tehran and the surrounding areas have been warned not to venture out as the attacks are expected to continue.

2. In a tense political environment, the second phase of the Budget Session of Parliament begins on Monday (March 9). The opposition parties' resolution seeking the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is set to be tabled for debate and voting on the first day.

(i) In this session, which will continue till April 2, the opposition parties are expected to raise issues including the war situation in the West, the Central Government's stance on Iran, and the purchase of Russian oil with US permission.

(ii) The Budget Session of Parliament began on Jan. 28 with the President's address. The opposition parties continued to cause chaos in the first session, which ended on Feb. 13.

(iii) The opposition parties engaged in a confrontation with the central government, raising issues such as the allegation that Rahul Gandhi was not allowed to speak on the motion of thanks to the President's address, the controversy over former Army Chief M.M. Naravane's unpublished autobiography, the Indo-US trade deal, and the Epstein documents.

(iv) In the past, the Speakers of the Lok Sabha, G.V. Mavalankar (1954), Hukum Singh (1966), and Balram Jakhar (1987), faced similar no-confidence motions. But none of them succeeded. Given the strength of the current MPs, even a motion against Om Birla is bound to fail.

3. Defending champions India retained the men's T20 Cricket World Cup by defeating New Zealand by 96 runs.

(i) With this, India created a triple feat in the history of the T20 World Cup, becoming the champion for the second consecutive time, the host nation for the tournament and the world champion for the third time.

4. The trophy awarded to the World Cup T20 Cricket Champion has been designed by Amit Babuwal from Jaipur, Rajasthan. Babuwal said that when the T20 World Cup was held for the first time in 2007, the ICC gave him the task of designing the trophy.

5. Indian refineries are in talks to buy more crude oil from the US, Russia and West African countries to ensure domestic supply of petrol and diesel.

(i) India meets 88 percent of its crude oil needs through imports. Last year, India bought 41 percent of its



crude oil from Middle Eastern countries through the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

(ii) Following the economic sanctions imposed by the US on Russian crude oil producers in October last year, Indian refineries reduced their purchases from Russia. Subsequently, crude oil purchases from Middle Eastern countries increased.

(iii) The US and Israel's attacks on Iran and Iran's retaliatory attacks on US air bases in neighboring countries including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Israel have escalated the conflict in the Middle East.

(iv) As a result, the crude oil traffic through the Strait of Hormuz in the region has been affected. In this context, a source in the Union Petroleum Ministry said that Indian companies are purchasing crude oil from the US, West Africa and South American countries.

6. The Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has said that High Court collegiums should consider recommending women lawyers to the Supreme Court. Speaking at the first National Conference of Indian Women in law in New Delhi, he said:

(i) Those in the Bar Association should accept the fact that women lawyers are not expecting concessions. They are demanding fair representation. But that has not been achieved for a long time.

(ii) Part of the reform lies in the High Court collegiums. Those collegiums need to understand that action that needs to be planned and carried out with a specific purpose should not be done in the future, but should be done in the present.

(iii) He advised that if women lawyers from a state are practicing as advocates in the Supreme Court, the High Court collegiums in the states of those lawyers should consider recommending them for the post of Supreme Court judge.

7. The Central Government has constituted a 17-member committee to recommend major reforms in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy. A Central Government official said:

(i) The 17-member committee will submit a report with a proposal for comprehensive reforms to shape the next phase of the SEZ policy.

(ii) The committee will study the coherence between various export promotion schemes, duty-free import allowances, export promotion of capital goods, etc.

(iii) The committee will also assess the performance of the SEZs in terms of attracting domestic and foreign investments, manufacturing, services, value addition, employment, etc.

(iv) The committee will include representatives from the departments of commerce, customs, Niti Aayog, Department of Industry and Internal Trade, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.