

March 12, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The resolution brought by the opposition parties seeking the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was defeated by voice vote.

2. The Supreme Court has allowed the passive euthanasia of a 32-year-old man who had been in a coma for thirteen years. This is the first time in the history of the Supreme Court that such a verdict has been given.

(i) Harish Rana, a student of Punjab University from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, fell down while playing on the 4th floor in 2013. He suffered a serious head injury. Following this, he has been undergoing treatment in a coma for the last 13 years. However, there has been no progress in his condition.

(ii) Following this, his parents filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking permission to euthanise Harish. During the hearing of this petition, the judges met his parents in person and inquired about the details. The judges also reviewed the report of the Delhi AIIMS doctors and confirmed that Harish's condition was not improving and there was no benefit in continuing the treatment.

(iii) Following this, a bench of Supreme Court Justices J.P. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan delivered its verdict on Wednesday. The judges said, "The primary and secondary boards of Delhi AIIMS have approved the discontinuation of Harish's treatment. Therefore, there is no need for the judiciary to interfere in this. Therefore, the Supreme Court allows the discontinuation of the treatment being provided to him. It is necessary to approach this matter in a humane manner. Therefore, Delhi AIIMS should ensure that the plan related to discontinuation of treatment is implemented without any harm to the dignity of the person concerned. The Central Government should consider bringing a law on euthanasia."

3. Two Indian sailors were killed in Iran's attack on a Thai merchant ship that was trying to cross the world's most important maritime trade route, the Strait of Hormuz, which was heading towards India. India has condemned the attack.

(i) Iran has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, which handles 20 percent of the world's total crude oil traffic. The country has already warned that 'any ship passing through the Strait of Hormuz will be targeted'.

(ii) In this context, the Thai cargo ship 'Mayuri Nari', which was heading towards the Kandla port in Gujarat, was attacked by an Iranian missile while trying to cross the Strait of Hormuz. In this, a major fire broke out in the engine room of the ship. While the Omani Navy rescued 20 people, 3 sailors were trapped in the engine room. It has been confirmed that 2 Indians died in this.

(iii) International Energy Agency (IEA) recommends releasing emergency reserves:

- The world is facing the biggest energy supply disruption since the 1970s due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
- To deal with the situation, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has recommended that member countries release 400 million barrels of emergency oil reserves into the market. This is twice the amount released during the Russia-Ukraine war.

4. In Panchapur, near Trichy, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth Rs.5,655 crore in the power, highways and rural connectivity sectors, foundation stone laying ceremony and the launch of 5 new train services.

(i) Natural gas for 9 lakh families:

- An investment of Rs.3,700 crore is being made by laying the foundation stone of Bharat Petroleum's city gas distribution network. This network covers the Nilgiris and Erode districts. It will provide natural gas through pipeline to 9 lakh families and hundreds of commercial establishments. The gas through pipeline will go directly to their homes and make life easier. Thousands of jobs will be created directly and indirectly.
- Natural gas is an environment-friendly fuel. It plays a major role in reducing air pollution. The positive environmental impact of this project in 8 years will be equivalent to planting four crore trees.

(ii) Lubricating oil plant:

- Indian Oil Corporation's lube blending plant in Chennai is being dedicated to the nation. It is one of the largest lubricant blending plants in the world, built at an investment of Rs.1,490 crore. The plant caters to the needs of several important industries in Tamil Nadu and abroad. It increases the production of lubricants locally, reduces the import duty and saves the nation money.

(iii) 370 km. of rural roads:

- He inaugurated the rural road connectivity project, which covers 370 km under the Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

(iv) 5 new train services:

- Last week, we inaugurated 8 modernized and redesigned railway stations from Madurai under the Amrut Bharat scheme.
- Following this, 5 new train services have now started. These connect areas including Nagercoil, Coimbatore, Rameswaram, Tirunelveli, Mayiladuthurai, Karaikudi with the rest of the country. These new train services will increase tourism. They will boost the local economy. They will create many job opportunities for the youth.

5. The Adyar Cancer Research Institute on Wednesday launched a new website called TN-CReSt, a dedicated website to monitor cancer cases in Tamil Nadu.

(i) Through this, the public and researchers will now be able to easily access Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry data online. The website has been launched to mark the centenary of Dr. V. Shantha, former chairman of the Adyar Cancer Institute. In addition to the personal details of cancer patients, they can also obtain their age at diagnosis, gender, year of diagnosis, district of residence, and type of cancer, either individually or in combination.

(ii) Additionally, you can get information about recent cancer statistics, its rate, and its impact in the coming years. It is said that this will be of great benefit to health officials, doctors, researchers, and educators.

(iii) Administrators of the Adyar Cancer Research Center have said that this platform will contribute to the development of cancer prevention measures and new treatment methods.

6. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni strongly criticized the US and Israeli attacks on Iran, calling them a



clear violation of international law.

7. It has been revealed that Indian industrialist Mukesh Ambani's Reliance is going to invest Rs.28 lakh crore in the new crude oil refinery project to be set up in Brownsville, Texas, USA. This information was shared by US President Donald Trump on his 'Truth' social media page on Wednesday. In that post, he said:

(i) The first new oil refinery in the United States in the last 50 years will be opened in Brownsville. This is a big deal in American history.

(ii) A huge win for the people of Texas, American workers, and energy. This project will further strengthen the US oil market and national security; and will also promote American energy production.

(iii) India's Reliance is going to invest in this new oil refinery project to be fully managed by the US Shell Oil Company. He said that a historic deal worth Rs.27.6 lakh crore (\$300 billion) has been signed for this.

(iv) The new refinery is expected to start operations in the second quarter of this year, starting in April. Reliance has signed an agreement to purchase the fuel refined here for the next 20 years.

(v) It has also been reported that if this refinery is fully completed, it will be the first new largest oil refinery built in the United States since 1977.

(vi) Reliance has been involved in energy trade and technology cooperation in the United States for a long time. However, no information was immediately given by Reliance about this deal. It is noteworthy that Trump has released this information at a time when the joint attack by the United States and Israel on Iran has created a situation where there is a severe shortage of crude oil and natural gas supplies in various countries, including India.

9. It has been reported that the opposition parties are planning to table a resolution in the Parliament on Thursday (March 12) or Friday (March 13) to remove Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, from office. Sources in Delhi said::

(i) The opposition parties are deeply unhappy with Gyanesh Kumar due to the SIR issue. Following this, the opposition parties decided to bring a resolution against him in Parliament seeking his removal.

(ii) In order to present a resolution in the Lok Sabha, the notice in question requires the signatures of at least 100 MPs from that House. Similarly, the signatures of 50 MPs are required to present it in the Rajya Sabha. Accordingly, the opposition parties have been engaged in the process of collecting the signatures of the MPs for the last few days. The signatures of the MPs required for presentation in the House have been obtained. 120 MPs from the Lok Sabha and 60 MPs from the Rajya Sabha have signed. All the MPs from the 'Indi' alliance have signed.

(iii) Following this, the opposition parties are planning to table the notice in both the Houses of Parliament on Thursday (March 12) or Friday (March 13), the sources said.

10. In the context of the ongoing war in West Asia, the Union Petroleum Ministry's Joint Secretary said that the Central Government is taking steps to procure crude oil and natural gas through alternative routes other than the Strait of Hormuz.

(i) Due to the situation in the West Asia, the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping route in the Persian Gulf, has



been closed and Qatar has completely stopped natural gas production.

(ii) To prevent the shortage, the Central Government has issued an emergency order to oil refineries to increase the production of cooking gas. It is also taking various measures including restricting its supply.

(iii) India's daily consumption of crude oil is 5.5 million barrels. These are procured from 40 countries through multilateral procurement schemes. Due to the alternative measures currently being taken by the Central Government, the quantity of crude oil procured has now increased compared to the amount normally procured through the Strait of Hormuz. Furthermore, due to various measures including the emergency orders issued by the Central Government, domestic LPG production has increased by 25 percent.

(iv) Therefore, consumers need not worry about booking LPG cylinders. As per the regular delivery cycle, the cylinders will be delivered within two and a half days of booking.

II. Challenges in Waste Management

(i) The Growing Crisis and Urban Expansion

- Rapid and unplanned urban expansion has resulted in old landfills, which were once on the outskirts of cities 30 years ago, now being located within densely populated city limits.
- The Vellalore landfill (Coimbatore) has been operational for 20 years, spanning 650 acres and receiving 1,200 tons of waste daily. Fires at this site cause severe bad odors and respiratory issues for residents across several kilometers.
- Due to industrial and urban growth in Tiruppur, waste has been dumped into rocky pits for the past 40 years, leading to significant public protests and legal battles.
- In New Delhi, sites like Ghazipur, Okhla, and Bhalswa have turned into massive "garbage mountains". The Government has set a target to significantly reduce the height of the Ghazipur garbage mountain by 2027-28.

(ii) Legal Directives and Penalties

- In 2023, the National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of ₹1.80 crore on the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (Madhya Pradesh) for violating waste management rules at the Adampur landfill.
- The Supreme Court has mandated that waste from homes and institutions must be segregated into four distinct categories:
 1. Degradable waste (e.g., vegetable/food waste).
 2. Non-degradable waste (e.g., plastics).
 3. Medical waste (e.g., gloves, needles, expired medicines).
 4. Hazardous waste (e.g., batteries, laptops, mobile phones and their parts).
- These solid waste management rules are to be strictly implemented nationwide starting April 1st.
- Mayors and Councilors are designated as the primary coordinators to ensure segregation. Violations by individuals or local bodies will first result in fines; continued non-compliance can lead to criminal prosecution and imprisonment under environmental laws.

(iii) Solutions and Awareness

- The Supreme Court directed that solid waste management be included in school curriculum to build early awareness.



- In Coimbatore, 33 micro-compost centers have been established to handle degradable waste, though this is insufficient compared to the total waste generated.
- Government awareness programs and court orders can only succeed if the public makes a firm determination to segregate waste at home and stop dumping in public spaces.
- Central and State Governments are urged to prioritize research into converting waste into usable resources as a long-term solution.

