

March 24, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Amidst the controversies surrounding U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to annex Greenland, general elections for the Parliament of the European nation of Denmark are being held on Tuesday (March 24).

(i) Although Trump's intervention has garnered international attention, domestic issues—such as rising living costs, wealth taxes for the affluent, and immigration policies—are playing the pivotal role in this election. While the ruling Social Democratic Party is projected to face setbacks, it appears likely that Mette Frederiksen, who has served as Prime Minister since 2019, will succeed in retaining power.

(ii) In the 179-seat Parliament, a majority requires 90 seats. Should the outcome remain deadlocked, the four seats representing Greenland and the Faroe Islands will ultimately determine the formation of the next Government.

2. In the European nation of Slovenia, a stalemate persists regarding the formation of a new Government, as no single party secured a majority in the recently held general Parliamentary elections. The Freedom Movement, led by Prime Minister Robert Golob, won 29 seats, while the Slovenian Democratic Party—led by former Prime Minister Janez Janša—secured 28 seats.

(i) Given that 46 seats are required to form a Government in the country's 90-seat Parliament, both sides have launched intense efforts to garner the support of smaller parties.

(ii) As of the current situation, the coalition backing Robert Golob holds 40 seats, while the coalition supporting Janez Janša holds 43 seats.

3. In Vietnam, a Southeast Asian nation, the ruling Communist Party achieved a resounding victory in the general election held on the 15th of this month.

(i) While the election set a record with a voter turnout exceeding 99 percent, official results revealed that the Communist Party secured 482 of the 500 seats in Parliament (96 percent). Non-partisan independents and other candidates were victorious in only the remaining 18 seats.

(ii) According to data released by the Vietnam Election Commission, the Communist Party's General Secretary, To Lam, contested the election in the Hanoi constituency and won by a wide margin.

(iii) The first session of the new Parliament is scheduled to convene on April 6th, during which formal approval will be granted for key national positions, including the country's new President and Prime Minister.

4. For the first time, the value of the Rupee crossed the 94-mark against the US Dollar, hitting a new all-time low of Rs.94.11. Subsequently, it recovered to the level of Rs.93.25. Experts attributed the weakening of the Indian Rupee to the strengthening US Dollar and a decline in domestic stock markets.

5. S. Thyagarajan (85), a veteran journalist active in the field of sports, passed away in Chennai due to age-related health complications. He had served as the President of the Sports Journalists Federation of India and Tamil Nadu.

6. For the first time in India, the National Indoor Athletics Championships commenced on Tuesday (March 24) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and is scheduled to take place over two days.



(i) Approximately 300 athletes are participating in this competition. The states of Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra have the highest representation, with up to 30 participants each. Events are being held across 11 categories for both men and women.

(ii) These events include running races, long jump, pole vault, high jump, triple jump, and shot put. National record holders in their respective disciplines—such as Animesh Kujur (running), Mohammed Afsal (running), and Praveen Chithravel (triple jump)—are participating in this event.

(iii) Star athletes have expressed that this competition will serve as a valuable preparatory platform for the upcoming Asian Games scheduled for this year.

(iv) This competition is being conducted as a trial run to assess preparedness, as India has secured—for the first time—the opportunity to host the World Indoor Athletics Championships at this very venue in March, 2028.

(v) Although some Indian athletes have participated in international indoor athletics competitions, the sport has not been particularly popular within India. The primary reason for this is the lack of facilities meeting the requisite standards for such competitions within the country.

(vi) Indoor competitions are conducted in an environment unaffected by wind speed or weather conditions. Since disciplines such as javelin throw and steeplechase are not included in this event, star athletes like Neeraj Chopra and Avinash Sable are not competing.

7. The Central Government has provided a response regarding the extent of India's crude oil reserves.

(i) In retaliation to attacks by Israel and the United States, Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz—a vital maritime route through which a large volume of crude oil tankers pass. Consequently, several nations are facing shortages of petrol and diesel, leading to a surge in fuel prices. India imports its entire supply of crude oil and natural gas from Gulf nations, exclusively routing these shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. As a result, fears currently prevail that the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the United States could trigger a shortage of petrol and diesel within India.

(ii) Against this backdrop, Suresh Gopi, the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, submitted a written response in the Rajya Sabha to a query regarding the current status of India's crude oil reserves. In his response, he stated the following:

- Facilities for storing crude oil for emergency use are established in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), and in Mangalore and Padur (Karnataka). These facilities possess a combined storage capacity of 5.3 million tonnes of crude oil. In the event of a disruption in crude oil supply or if global prices were to skyrocket, these reserves would be sufficient to meet the nation's requirements for a period of 9.5 days. Currently, these facilities hold crude oil reserves amounting to two-thirds of their total capacity.
- The ISPR (Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited)—the entity responsible for managing the nation's strategic crude oil reserves—currently holds a stock of 3 million metric tonnes of crude oil. This constitutes 64 percent of the total designated storage capacity.
- In 2021, the Government granted approval for the establishment of additional crude oil storage facilities in Chandikhol (Odisha) and Padur (Karnataka). These upcoming facilities are designed to store 4 million tonnes of crude oil in Chandikhol and 2 million tonnes in Padur. In other words, while there is already a crude oil storage capacity of 5.3 million tonnes, the newly established storage



facility will enable the storage of an additional 6 million tonnes of crude oil. Of this, approval for construction work at Padur was granted on October 1st of last year.

- Currently, our country imports crude oil from 41 nations through public sector undertakings. He noted that these include our regular crude oil suppliers—Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Qatar—as well as new supplier nations such as the United States, Nigeria, Angola, Canada, Colombia, Brazil, and Mexico.

8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tribute to freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, hailing him as an inspiration to countless Indians.

(i) On March 23, 1931, freedom fighters Bhagat Singh and his associates—Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar—were executed by the British rulers. Their martyrdom day was observed on Monday (March 23).

(ii) The birth anniversary of the late socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia was celebrated on Monday (March 23).

9. Two additional vessels, carrying 92,000 tons of LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and set sail towards India.

(i) Rajesh Kumar, Special Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping, stated that two Indian vessels—the 'Pine Gas' and the 'Jag Vasant'—are expected to reach India within a day or two.

(ii) Due to the conflict in West Asia, Iran had restricted access to the Strait of Hormuz region; consequently, cargo vessels from various nations—including 28 Indian ships—became stranded along this route, unable to proceed further. Of these, 24 vessels were stranded in the western sector of the strait, while 4 were stuck in the eastern sector. Following this situation, India engaged in continuous diplomatic dialogue with Iran.

(iii) As a result of these efforts, two vessels—the 'Shivalik' and the 'Nandadevi'—carrying a combined total of 92,712 tons of cargo, arrived in Gujarat on March 16 and March 17, respectively. Additionally, the vessel 'Jag Ladki', carrying 80,800 tons of crude oil, reached the Mundra Port in Gujarat on March 18. Furthermore, the vessel 'Jag Prakash'—which is transporting petrol from Oman to Africa—has successfully crossed the Strait of Hormuz and is currently en route to Tanzania.

(iv) Thus far, a total of four vessels—two from the western sector and two from the eastern sector—have successfully crossed the Strait of Hormuz and resumed their journeys safely. Following these movements, 22 vessels remain stranded in the western sector of the Strait of Hormuz, while 2 vessels remain in the eastern sector.

(v) In this context, Rajesh Kumar stated that two vessels—'Pine Gas' and 'Jag Vasant'—carrying 92,000 tons of LPG from the western region have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are expected to reach India within a day or two.

(vi) Furthermore, he informed that 11 of the 611 sailors who had been stranded on Indian vessels in the Strait of Hormuz have arrived in India. It is noteworthy that industry experts have stated that, overall, 500 cargo vessels from various nations remain stranded in the Strait of Hormuz.