

March 25, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Reliance Industries, the Indian conglomerate that manages the world's largest oil refining complex, has purchased 5 million barrels of crude oil from Iran.

(i) This procurement was undertaken just days after the United States announced temporary waivers regarding the economic sanctions imposed on Iran.

(ii) The U.S. 30-Day Window :-

- Citing shortages prevailing in the international market, the Trump administration temporarily lifted the sanctions imposed on Iranian crude oil last Friday.
- Specifically, a 30-day window has been granted to purchase crude oil that was loaded onto ships and already at sea by March 20th. Capitalizing on this waiver, Reliance has finalized this deal with the National Iranian Oil Company.

(iii) Trade Resumes After 5 Years:

- In 2019, following the imposition of severe sanctions on Iran by the United States, India had completely ceased purchasing crude oil from the country.
- Now, after a hiatus of approximately five years, Iranian oil is once again entering India. Reports indicate that this crude oil was purchased at a premium of approximately \$7 per barrel over the prevailing price of Brent crude.

(iv) Iran Follows Russia:

- To address market supply shortages, the United States had previously granted permission to purchase crude oil from Russia. Consequently, Indian companies imported Russian oil in significant quantities.
- Now that the doors have been opened for Iranian oil as well, other public sector oil companies in India are also actively deliberating on purchasing oil from Iran.

2. Growth in India's manufacturing and services sectors witnessed a significant decline in March. In particular, the Manufacturing PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) has plummeted to a level not seen in the last 30 months.

(i) According to data released by HSBC India, the Manufacturing PMI—which stood at 56.9 in February—declined to 53.8 in March. This marks the lowest level recorded since September 2021. Similarly, the Services PMI also slipped from 58.1 to 57.2.

(ii) Reasons for the Slowdown:

- Private sector activity, which was robust at the beginning of the current year, has now reverted to a sluggish state—levels last seen after October 2022. Key factors cited as the primary causes for this include the conflict in the Middle East, and its consequent effects such as rising prices and energy shortages.

(iii) Economic Impact:

- For India, a nation heavily reliant on energy imports, the surge in crude oil prices has become a



significant burden. Consequently, there is a heightened risk of the country's Current Account Deficit widening, while the value of the Indian Rupee is experiencing an unprecedented decline.

3. At the National Indoor Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, Tamil Nadu's Paranika Elangovan became the champion in the pole vault with a national record of 4.22 meters. In the shot put, Akshaya threw 11.89 meters in the women's category and Balaji threw 16.74 meters in the men's category to finish third.

4. Over 1,300 competitors from across the country are participating in the Khelo India Tribal Games starting in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday.

5. In the ICC Women's T20I rankings, Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur has moved up to 14th place in the batsmen's category and Deepti Sharma has moved up to 3rd place in the bowlers' category. Bowler Arundhati Reddy has slipped to 11th place.

6. The Shotgun World Cup, featuring India's Mendrisita Pounish, begins in Morocco on Wednesday.

7. The Thomas and Uber Cups are associated with Badminton.

8. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, introduced by the Central Government, was passed in the Lok Sabha.

(i) Amidst strong opposition from members of the opposition parties, the Bill was approved through a voice vote.

(ii) The Central Government introduced the 'Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026' with the objective of amending the existing 2019 Act; specifically, to provide a precise definition for the term 'Transgender Persons' (Transgender Women and Transgender Men) and to enhance the penalties for crimes committed against this community, thereby ensuring that the punishments reflect the severity of such offenses.

(iii) The Bill emphasized that a precise definition is crucial for properly and definitively identifying transgender persons—the very individuals to whom the benefits and protections of the existing law are intended to fully extend.

(iv) Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Virendra Kumar, tabled the Bill in the Lok Sabha for discussion and approval.

(v) Speaking on the occasion, he stated, "It is essential to formulate a precise definition for 'Transgender Persons' to ensure that the benefits of the law reach the intended beneficiaries. This Bill is being introduced for that very purpose. The Bill also makes provisions for the establishment of a dedicated medical board for this community. Furthermore, identity cards will be issued to them through the respective District Collectors."

(vi) Responding to the ensuing discussions, Union Minister Virendra Kumar affirmed, "This Bill will continue to ensure that transgender persons receive legal recognition and protection. Under the 2019 Act, crimes committed against this community currently attract a maximum punishment of only two years of imprisonment. However, under the provisions of this Bill, the law now provides for a maximum punishment of up to 14 years of imprisonment, in addition to a monetary fine."



(vii) Subsequently, the objections and amendments put forth by the opposition parties were rejected, and the Speaker permitted a voice vote on the Bill. Following the support of the majority during this process, the Speaker declared that the Bill had been passed.

9. Harish Rana, a 31-year-old who had been receiving treatment in a coma state for the past 13 years, passed away at AIIMS Hospital in Delhi, shortly after the Supreme Court granted permission for his euthanasia.

(i) Harish Rana, a B.Tech student at Punjab University hailing from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, accidentally fell from the fourth floor while playing in 2013.

(ii) The fall resulted in severe head injuries. Consequently, for the past 13 years, he had been receiving treatment while in a coma, sustained by life-support systems. However, there was no improvement in his physical condition.

(iii) Following this, his parents filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking permission to allow Harish to undergo euthanasia. A report was also submitted on behalf of the AIIMS doctors, stating that continuing treatment for Harish would be of no benefit. After reviewing the matter—and in a first for the country—the Supreme Court, on March 11, granted permission to discontinue Harish Rana's life-support treatment and to allow him to undergo euthanasia in a dignified manner.

(iv) Subsequently, Harish Rana—who had been receiving life-support treatment at home—was transferred on March 14 to the palliative care unit of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital, located within the AIIMS campus in Delhi.

(v) Hospital sources reported that, ultimately, his life came to an end after the administration of nutrition and medications was gradually discontinued and the life-support equipment was removed.

(vi) These sources further indicated that this procedure was carried out by a medical team comprising specialists from the hospital's Departments of Neurosurgery, Onco-Anesthesia and Palliative Medicine, and Psychiatry.

10. Findings of a recent survey by Azim Premji University regarding the critical gap between education and employment in India :-

(i) Historical and Institutional Growth (Last 35 Years)

- Over the past 35 years, the number of higher education institutions in India has grown from 1,644 to 69,534.
- In 2010, there were 29 colleges for every one lakh youth; currently, this number has increased to more than 45 colleges per lakh.
- The education sector has achieved a "great milestone" by producing lakhs of graduates annually, transcending barriers of caste, gender, and income.

(ii) Current Economic and Employment Reality (2023–2024)

- Youth Unemployment: Out of 6.3 crore youth in India, 1.1 crore are currently unemployed.
- Approximately 40% of youth aged 15–25 and 20% of those aged 25–29 are actively looking for employment.
- Graduates (degree holders) make up 67% of the total population waiting for employment.



- Research indicates that in 2023, only 7% of those who received a degree were able to secure a permanent job.
- Between 46% and 50% of graduates are found to lack the specific skills required by the manufacturing and industrial sectors.
- The current curricula and teaching methods have not evolved alongside technological advancements and remain outdated.

(iii) Sectoral Imbalance

- Agricultural Dependency: While the manufacturing sector's share of GDP has increased, it has not created a proportionate number of jobs; consequently, 42% to 45% of the working population remains dependent on agriculture.
- Every year, roughly 50 lakh people graduate, but only 28 lakh new jobs are being created in non-agricultural sectors.
- Due to a lack of options, many graduates are now forced to accept jobs with lower wages that they had previously rejected.

(iv) Future Projections and Targets (2030–2055)

- By the year 2030, India is projected to have the world's largest working-age population (ages 15–59), exceeding 100 crore people.
- This "Demographic Dividend" is expected to reach its peak in 2030 and will continue to benefit the Indian economy until 2055.
- The report warns that this population strength is a "meaningless power" unless the education system is aligned with industrial needs to ensure graduates are actually employable.

(v) Secondary Global Context

- In a related report, the World Bank and the UN have warned that global economic growth for 2026 is estimated at a disappointing and uneven 2.7%.
- There is a growing warning from the World Bank that massive investments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are currently facing doubts regarding their ability to generate actual profits.