

April 6, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Central Government has stated that 6.6 lakh 5-kg LPG cooking gas cylinders were sold across distribution centers nationwide over the past two weeks.

(i) The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas further stated that, despite disruptions affecting cargo ship movements in the Strait of Hormuz, LPG cooking gas is being distributed without any shortages. In a press release issued regarding this matter, the Ministry noted the following:

- On April 4th alone, 90,000 5-kg LPG cooking gas cylinders—known as Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders—were sold. Since March 23rd, a total of 6.6 lakh cylinders have been sold at LPG distribution centers.
- On average, 51 lakh 14.2-kg LPG cooking gas cylinders are distributed daily. Of these, 95 percent are booked online.
- Strict action is being taken against distribution centers found to be hoarding cylinders. Since last March, 50,000 cylinders have been seized; notices have been issued to 1,400 LPG distribution centers, and 36 dealers have been suspended.
- It was affirmed that LPG cooking gas for domestic use is being distributed across the country without any shortages.

2. The total death toll has risen to 9 in the state of Bihar, following the demise of three additional individuals who consumed illicit liquor.

(i) A complete prohibition on alcohol is currently in force in Bihar. Against this backdrop, the incident—in which 9 people lost their lives after consuming illicit liquor—has caused a sensation across the state. The State Police have constituted a Special Investigation Team to probe the matter.

3. Moody's, a research firm, has projected that India's economic growth will decline to 6 percent due to the conflict in West Asia. Previously, economic growth had been projected to stand at 6.8 percent.

(i) Furthermore, it has been stated that this conflict will impact the prices of various goods and services, leading to a slight increase in inflation. In a research report released on this matter, Moody's further notes the following:

- The conflict in West Asia has disrupted the maritime supply routes for cooking gas (LPG), resulting in a rise in its price. This increase will have a ripple effect on the prices of various commodities, starting with food production. Additionally, India meets a significant portion of its fertilizer requirements through imports; the conflict has had a strong impact on this sector as well.
- With the conflict having persisted for over a month and showing no signs of abating, it is poised to inflict various adverse effects on the national economy. The rise in the cost of living—driven by increased production costs—will negatively impact consumer spending. Consequently, this chain reaction is likely to adversely affect industrial production as well.
- Therefore, the report states that India's economic growth is projected to slow down to 6 percent in the 2026-27 fiscal year, a downward revision from the 6.8 percent growth rate previously forecast.
- Since February 28—when the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran—crude oil prices have surged by 50 percent. In the wake of this situation, as Indian oil marketing companies faced severe financial losses, the excise duty on diesel—amounting to ₹10—was completely removed at the end of last month.

- The excise duty on petrol was also reduced by ₹10. While various nations—including China, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—raised their petrol and diesel prices, India refrained from doing so; however, the price of cooking gas was increased during this period.
- Subsequently, on the 2nd of this month, the Central Government announced a tax exemption on the import of petrochemical products.
- Consequently, sectors dependent on petrochemicals—such as plastics manufacturing, packaging, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemical production, automotive components, and other manufacturing-related industries—have benefited by being shielded from the impact of price hikes.
- However, it was reported that this tax exemption would result in a revenue loss of up to ₹1,800 crore for the Government.

4. Increasing neglect of elderly parents in India :-

(i) Historical and Social Analysis of Parent-Child Dynamics

- **Traditional Foundation:** In South Asia, particularly India, parents traditionally spend their entire life savings on their children's education and future, viewing their children as their primary "old-age insurance".
- **The Shift to Nuclear Families:** The traditional joint family system has fragmented into small nuclear units consisting only of a husband, wife, and often a single child.
- **Consequences of Urbanization:** As children move to other cities or abroad for better career prospects, the elderly are frequently left isolated without support.
- **Rising Abuse:** There is a documented increase in complaints to District Collectors regarding children forcibly seizing parental property and then abandoning their parents.

(ii) Chronological Legislative Framework (2007–2026)

- **2007 (National Level):** Under the UPA Government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the "Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act" was enacted. This law allows neglected parents to file complaints with a tribunal headed by a Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) or Sub-Collector. Civil courts are barred from staying the orders issued by these tribunals.
- **September 2025 (Kerala):** The Kerala Government established a dedicated Commission for Senior Citizens to provide legal aid and recommendations for property disputes and neglect cases.
- **March 29, 2026 (Telangana Landmark Bill):** The Telangana Legislative Assembly passed a first-of-its-kind bill in the nation to ensure financial support for neglected parents. **Key Provisions of the 2026 Telangana Law**
- **Mandatory Salary Deduction:** The law mandates that if children neglect their parents, 15% of their monthly salary (or a maximum of ₹10,000, whichever is lower) will be deducted and credited directly to the parents' bank accounts.
- **Broad Applicability:** This law applies to all State Government and private sector employees, as well as elected representatives including MLAs, MLCs, Mayors, Municipal Councilors, and Panchayat Presidents.
- **Enforcement Mechanism:** The state will appoint a dedicated Inquiry Officer to investigate neglect complaints and order the necessary salary deductions.

(iii) Existing Government Welfare and Support Facts

- **Old Age Pension:** The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides a monthly pension

ranging from ₹200 to ₹1,000.

- Health Insurance: The Ayushman Bharat scheme offers health insurance cover of up to ₹5 lakh for eligible senior citizens across the country.
- Limited Reach: The Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, a central welfare scheme, has not yet reached the general public effectively.

(iv) Analysis of Remedies and Future Outlook

- Social Ostracism: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy suggested that society should ostracize children who abandon their parents to create a strong social deterrent.
- Western Comparison: Unlike Western nations, where the state spends billions on elderly care because family units are less stable, India's system still relies heavily on the family bond, which is currently under threat.
- While legislation is a "necessary evil" due to the decline in social values and discipline, children must rediscover their sense of duty toward their parents.
- Parents should consider planning for a degree of financial self-reliance in their old age rather than remaining entirely dependent on their children.

5. Dangers of following medical advice from the internet and social media without professional consultation :-

(i) Chronological and Case-Based Facts

- Recent Incident (Kerala): A young woman died of Anorexia Nervosa (a psychological eating disorder) after attempting self-treatment for weight loss by following YouTube videos.
- Recent Incident (Madurai): A college student died after consuming 'Venkaram' (Borax) in a misguided attempt to reduce body weight.
- Related Health Crisis (Kerala): Another young woman faced severe health complications after consuming 'Padikaram' (Alum) for weight loss based on online notes.
- Statistics reveal that in 2016, approximately 55 young women died in India due to complications arising from Anorexia Nervosa.

(ii) Statistical Analysis of Eating Disorders

- Prevalence in Youth: Medical data indicates that 37.5% of every one lakh young women (aged 15 to 19) in India suffer from Anorexia Nervosa.
- Chemical Toxicity: Substances being misused as "remedies" are actually industrial chemicals:-
 - Venkaram (Borax): Used in insecticides, porcelain production, and laundry.
 - Padikaram (Alum): Known chemically as Potassium Aluminum Sulfate.

(iii) Causes of the Crisis :-

- Unqualified Advice: Many individuals without medical degrees are providing health tips online, particularly regarding Siddha and herbal medicine.
- Ignoring Disclaimers: Internet sources often include a small note to "consult a doctor," but users frequently ignore this warning and proceed with self-treatment.
- Profit Motive: Some authors publish medical books or posts based on partial knowledge solely to generate income.
- Societal Pressure: Social media spreads negative narratives about body weight, pressuring

individuals to seek extreme weight loss.

- Misconception of Health: A common fallacy that being thin equals being healthy, whereas body weight is often a result of genetic heritage.

(iv) Scientific and Professional Analysis

- Complexity of Treatment: In Siddha medicine, the timing of consumption is critical; the same medicine can have different effects if taken in the morning versus the evening.
- Risk Areas: Beyond weight loss, people are dangerously following internet advice for childbirth, yoga, meditation, and intense physical exercises.
- Reliability Gap: Most of those spreading medical notes on social media have never actually tested or experienced the benefits of the treatments they suggest.

(v) Proposed Remedies and Solutions :-

- Seek Professional Help: Patients must personally visit and consult qualified Siddha or medical experts rather than relying on digital notes.
- Information Verification: The reliability and source of any health-related information found on social media must be strictly verified before use.
- Acceptance of Genetics: Individuals are urged to respect their biological structure as a gift from their ancestors rather than trying to destroy it through unverified treatments.
- Focus on Wellness: True health is achieved through mental peace, positive emotions, and proper exercise, not through chemical "short-cuts" found online.

While social media provides many benefits, blindly following medical notes is an act of self-deception that can lead to fatal consequences.