

May 12, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1.The Central Government issued a notification stating that the new Rural Employment Act (VB G RAM G) will come into effect from July 1.

(i) It also stated that from the same date, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (100-day employment scheme) would be discontinued.

(ii) The VB G RAM G Bill, introduced as an alternative to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act brought in during the Congress regime, was passed during the recent winter session of Parliament.

(iii) Under the new law, employment for one financial year has been increased from 100 days to 125 days. While the previous scheme was implemented entirely with Central Government funding, under the new scheme the financial burden will be shared between the Centre and the states.

(iv) In this context, the Ministry of Rural Development stated in a press release regarding the implementation of the law that the VB G RAM G Act will come into force across all states and Union Territories from July 1, 2026.

(v) Works being carried out under the 100-day employment scheme until June 30 will be transferred to the VB G RAM G scheme.

(vi) Existing job cards issued under the 100-day employment scheme will remain valid until worker cards are distributed under the VB G RAM G scheme. Workers whose e-KYC (Know Your Customer) verification is pending should not be denied work. Village Panchayats must ensure employment opportunities for all registered workers even if they do not yet possess worker cards.

(vii) It was also stated that draft rules regarding wages, grievance redressal, fund allocation, and various other aspects will be released after consultations with states and Union Territories.

2.N.Rangasamy will once again take oath as the Chief Minister of Puducherry on Wednesday (May 13). Along with him, three members from the All India N.R. Congress and two members from the Bharatiya Janata Party will also be sworn in as ministers.

(i) In the elections held on April 9 for the 30-member Puducherry Union Territory Assembly, the National Democratic Alliance led by Rangasamy retained power by winning 18 constituencies.

3.U.S. President Donald Trump will travel to China on Wednesday (May 13) on a three-day state visit.

(i) The visit is being undertaken at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping and marks the first visit by a U.S. President to China in nine years. Previously, Trump had visited China in 2017 during his first term in office.

(ii) Trump is expected to arrive in the Chinese capital Beijing on Wednesday evening and will receive an official welcome on Thursday. On the same day, the two leaders are expected to hold important bilateral talks regarding relations between the two countries.

(iii) Following that, Trump will visit the Temple of Heaven place of worship and later attend a state banquet hosted by the Chinese President.

(iv) During the meetings between the two leaders, issues such as the Taiwan matter, trade resolutions, and the conflict situation in the Middle East are expected to be discussed.

(v) The two leaders are also expected to hold important discussions regarding the global fuel crisis caused by tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, especially since China remains the largest importer of Iranian oil.

4. An impeachment resolution against Sara Duterte was passed with a majority vote in the House of Representatives of the Philippines Parliament.

(i) A severe political conflict is currently prevailing between President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte, who had contested together as alliance partners and won the 2022 elections.

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a state visit to the United Arab Emirates and four European countries starting from May 15. The Ministry of External Affairs stated the following in a press release:

(i) From May 15 to May 20, Prime Minister Modi will visit the United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy on official state visits.

(ii) He will first visit the United Arab Emirates, where he is scheduled to meet UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Following this, he will travel to the Netherlands and Sweden, where he will meet the Prime Ministers of those countries.

(iii) He will then travel to Norway to participate in the 3rd India–Nordic Summit. Notably, Modi will become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Norway in 43 years. After this, he will travel to Italy.

(iv) It was stated that Prime Minister Modi's visit would further strengthen India's cooperation with Europe across various sectors.

6. The Central Government has urged farmers not to panic and purchase fertilizers in excessive quantities, stating that sufficient stocks are available for the upcoming Kharif season.

(i) An Inter-Ministerial consultation meeting regarding developments in West Asia was held in New Delhi. At the meeting, Additional Secretary of the Department of Fertilizers, Aparna S. Sharma, stated the following:

(ii) To support domestic fertilizer production and maintain adequate stock for the upcoming Kharif season, the Central Government has been importing urea. The maximum retail prices of key fertilizers remain stable. Adequate fertilizer stocks are available for the coming Kharif season, and therefore farmers are requested not to panic and buy fertilizers in large quantities.

(iii) State Governments are taking measures to prevent hoarding of fertilizers and diversion of fertilizers for commercial use. India's fertilizer security continues to be well managed.

(iv) The Agriculture Ministry has estimated that fertilizer stock availability for the Kharif season currently stands at 51 percent, which is higher than the usual stock level of 33 percent. The Ministry has estimated that 390.54 lakh tonnes of fertilizers will be required for this year's Kharif season.

(v) Following the difficult phase of fertilizer shortages, domestic fertilizer production stood at 76.78 lakh tonnes, while imports stood at 19.94 lakh tonnes.

(vi) India has imported 7 lakh tonnes of NPK complex fertilizers from various countries. In addition, 12 lakh tonnes of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), 4 lakh tonnes of Triple Super Phosphate, and 3 lakh tonnes of Ammonium Sulphate were also imported. These quantities are considered sufficient to ensure fertilizer availability for the Kharif season, which is expected to begin within the next 15–20 days.

(vii) An empowered Committee of Secretaries has been reviewing fertilizer stock positions on a weekly basis.

(viii) The price of urea bags remains fixed. Meanwhile, the price of a 50-kg DAP fertilizer bag is ₹1,350.

(ix) The Central Government is taking steps to encourage balanced fertilizer usage across the country. Farmers had initially rushed to purchase fertilizers fearing shortages, but the Government has appealed to them not to do so, she said.

7. Mohamed Muizzu stated that the Maldives has repaid ₹476 crore (50 million US dollars) of the debt owed to India.

(i) India has been providing financial assistance to the Maldives through short-term credit arrangements via State Bank of India. In this context, the Maldives has repaid the second installment of a 50 million US dollar loan. Earlier, in January 2024, the Maldives had already repaid another 50 million US dollars under the short-term loan arrangement. Speaking to reporters regarding this matter, Mohamed Muizzu said:

- In 2019, the previous Government issued short-term treasury bonds at specific intervals to raise 50 million US dollars from the State Bank of India in order to address fiscal deficits. These bonds were issued particularly once every year. However, the previous administration made no effort to repay those loans. Since I assumed office as President, a total of 100 million US dollars (₹952 crore) has been repaid to India. The next installment of 50 million US dollars is scheduled to be repaid in September. Through this, we have relieved the public from a debt burden of 150 million US dollars, he said.
- It is noteworthy that India had provided interest-free loans to the Maldives through short-term treasury bond arrangements at a time when the country was facing a severe financial crisis.

8. The world-famous Somnath Temple in Gujarat completed 75 years since its reconstruction and reopening for worship on May 11, 1951, by India's first President, Rajendra Prasad. The occasion is being celebrated as the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav.

(i) On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Somnath Temple. He performed Maha Puja at the temple, conducted Jal Abhishekam, and offered prayers.

9. Analysis of the rising number of road accidents in India, with a specific focus on the alarming situation in Tamil Nadu based on data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2024.

(i) Road accidents in India increased from 4.91 lakh in 2023 to 4.95 lakh in 2024.

(ii) Nationwide, road accidents claimed 1.99 lakh lives in 2024, averaging approximately 546 deaths every single day.

(iii) Tamil Nadu Statistics:

- Tamil Nadu continues to be a state with a high volume of accidents, recording 69,828 road

accidents in 2024 compared to 69,491 in 2023. These accidents resulted in 71,868 injuries.

- The state saw 20,390 deaths due to road accidents in 2024, accounting for 10.2% of the national total.
- In Tamil Nadu, road accidents are responsible for 42.6% of all accidental deaths.

(iv) NCRB State-wide Fatality Rankings (2024)

Top three states contributing to road accident deaths, which together account for 33.6% of all such fatalities in India:

1. Uttar Pradesh: 27,071 deaths.
2. Tamil Nadu: 20,390 deaths.
3. Maharashtra: 19,475 deaths.

(v) Vulnerable Groups and Vehicles

- Two-Wheelers: Nationally, 84,599 people died in two-wheeler accidents. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of such deaths in the country at 11,786.
- Pedestrians: Out of 25,769 pedestrian deaths nationally, Tamil Nadu accounted for 4,176 deaths (16.2%).
- Cars: 23,739 people died in car accidents nationwide.

(vi) Causes of Accidents

- Over-speeding is this leading cause of death, accounting for 58% of national fatalities. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest over-speeding deaths at 13,765.
- Dangerous and Careless Driving: Responsible for 26.3% of deaths.
- Driver Fatigue: Many accidents occur at night or early morning because drivers fall asleep at the wheel.
- Reckless Behavior: Increasing trends of "bike racing" and "auto racing" among youth in cities.
- Substance Abuse: Drinking and driving or drug use contributed to 1.9% of accident deaths.
- Inadequate Training: Driver's licenses are often obtained easily through RTOs without demonstrating true driving proficiency.
- Infrastructure Issues: While National Highways make up only 2.1% of India's road network, they are where 29.8% of accidents occur. In Tamil Nadu, State Highways saw 21,688 accidents leading to 6,099 deaths.

(vii) Steps and Advice by the Government

- Rest Periods: Drivers are advised to take adequate rest during long-distance journeys rather than driving continuously.
- Vehicle Maintenance: The Department emphasizes the importance of regular vehicle maintenance, even for private vehicles, at specified intervals.
- Enforcement: A lack of strict law enforcement and poor road infrastructure contribute to the crisis and suggests that stricter implementation of traffic rules is necessary.

While the Government provides advice, the lack of public compliance and discipline remains a major hurdle. Reducing accidents requires a combination of individual awareness, moderate speeds, and respecting traffic rules.

