

1. Dr. Mohan Viswanathan, a leading diabetes specialist from Tamil Nadu, has been invited to attend the tea party at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) on Monday (January 26).

(i) President Droupadi Murmu had invited 11 doctors from across the country to attend the event. It is noteworthy that Dr. Mohan is the only one from Tamil Nadu among them.

(ii) Dr. Mohan, who has been involved in diabetes research for the past 50 years, has published over 1,800 medical articles. He has also conducted more than 25,000 free diabetes medical camps. He was awarded the 'Padma Shri' in 2012 for his services to the medical field. He has also received the 'Dr. B.C. Roy' award for best professor, and the 'Harold Rifkin' and 'Kelly West' awards from the United States.

2. India voted against a resolution brought before the UN Human Rights Council condemning the ongoing domestic protests in Iran.

(i) A resolution was introduced at the 39th special session of the UN Human Rights Council condemning the internal conflict in Iran, which has reportedly resulted in the deaths of over 5,000 people since December 28 of last year.

(ii) 25 countries, including the European Union member states, the United Kingdom, and Iceland, supported the resolution. Seven countries, including India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Iraq, voted against it. Fourteen countries abstained from the vote. As more countries voted in favor of the resolution, it was adopted.

3. Transferring judges is an internal matter of the Judiciary; the Central Government cannot interfere in this process,' said Supreme Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan.

(i) The independence of the Judiciary is one of the fundamental tenets of the Constitution. In India, the Constitution is supreme; not Parliament.

(ii) He added that for the rule of law to be protected, it is essential for the Judiciary, which is a crucial pillar of democracy, to function independently.

4. The European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen arrived in New Delhi.

(i) Upon her arrival, she was officially welcomed by the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasad and was accorded a traditional military guard of honor as part of her reception in the capital.

5. The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), based in Britain, reported that Indian seafarers were abandoned in large numbers globally for the second consecutive year.

(i) A press release issued by the ITF stated that in 2025, 6,223 seafarers were abandoned on 410 ships operating in various parts of the world without basic facilities and wages, and that 1,125 of them were from India. It further stated: "The incidents of seafarers and ships being abandoned are increasing in the Middle East and European regions. 61 ships were abandoned in Turkey and 54 in the United Arab Emirates."

(ii) The total outstanding amount owed to the abandoned seafarers by their respective companies in 2025 was ₹238 crore.

(iii) It was reported that the ITF recovered ₹151 crore from the companies and disbursed it to the seafarers.

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6. 9 bills were passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Saturday.

- (i) The assembly session started on Jan. 20 last and lasted for 5 days till Saturday (Jan. 24).
- (ii) On the last day, on Saturday, 9 Bills including Tamil Nadu Water Resources Bill, Tamil Nadu Panchayats Amendment Bill, Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing Bill, Prevention of Begging Bill, Tamil Nadu Special Area Development Authority Bill, Tamil Nadu Appointment on Preferential Basis in the Services under the State of Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (Amendment and Validation) Bill were passed in the Assembly.

7. The Tamil Nadu Water Resources Bill, which provides for the establishment of a Groundwater Management Authority and the regulation and charging of fees for the sale of groundwater, was passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

(i) This bill lays down regulations for the extraction and sale of groundwater. Due to rapid population growth and the impact of climate change, water scarcity is increasing on both surface and groundwater resources in Tamil Nadu. This bill has been introduced to address this issue.

(ii) The bill provides for the formation of a District Water Resources Committee headed by the District Collector, the creation of a Water Resources Management Authority, the formulation of state and district water resources management plans, the regulation of commercial water users, levy of water tariff for abstraction of water, and measures for flood management

(iii) Furthermore, the bill states that permission must be obtained from the Government within 6 months of the bill becoming law. Those who operate without permission or in violation of the regulations will be fined ₹10,000 for the first offense and ₹20,000 for the second offense.

(iv) Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act Amendment Bill – This amendment bill, which extends the term of office of the special officers appointed to administer the panchayats in 28 districts where elections have not been held, beyond July 5, 2026, until the relevant law is published in the Government Gazette, was passed in the Assembly.

8. A report has revealed that 149 million account data from internet companies have been leaked into the public domain. The report, published by cybersecurity researcher Jeremiah Fowler, states the following:

(i) A total of 149 million accounts from internet companies, including 48 million Gmail accounts, 4 million Yahoo accounts, 17 million Facebook accounts, 6.5 million Instagram accounts, and 3.4 million Netflix accounts, have had their account data leaked into the public domain. The leaked data includes the names of the users of these accounts, passwords, email addresses, financial services accounts, trading accounts, and banking and credit card details.

(ii) This could potentially compromise the online security of numerous individuals who are unaware that their information has been stolen or leaked into the public domain. Criminals may exploit this to engage in fraudulent activities. This will increase identity theft and financial crimes.

(iii) The database containing this data has been exposed to the public, making it accessible to anyone. Government websites on the internet have not been spared either. Credentials from Government websites in numerous countries have also been leaked. This poses risks to national security and public safety.

(iv) While it may not be possible to access the details of all accounts linked to Government websites, even a small leak of such details could have serious consequences. These consequences will depend on the permissions granted by the account users, the report states.

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9. The Chief Minister MK Stalin announced the construction of one lakh new houses at a cost of Rs 3,500 crore under the Kalaingar Kanavu Illam housing scheme, stating that two lakh houses have already been completed.

(i) Under the Chief Minister's Rural Road Infrastructure Scheme, 2,200 km of roads will be renovated at a cost of Rs 1,088 crore. So far, 20,484 km of roads have been upgraded at Rs 8,911 crore.

(ii) On social security, Stalin said 33.60 lakh beneficiaries currently receive old-age pensions. An additional 1.80 lakh beneficiaries will be included from next month, with the inauguration scheduled for February 4.

10. Novak Djokovic achieved a historic 400th Grand Slam match win during the Australian Open, becoming the first player to reach this figure.

