

May 11, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1.TVK leader C. Joseph Vijay (51) was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Governor R. V. Arlekar administered the oath of office and oath of secrecy to him. Along with Vijay, nine members of his party were sworn in as Ministers.

(i) Immediately after the swearing-in ceremony, Chief Minister Vijay signed files on the stage itself to implement three promises mentioned in the TVK election manifesto. These included:

- A scheme to provide 200 units of free electricity to consumers using up to 500 units in two months.
- Formation of a “Singappen” special commando force for women’s safety.
- Establishment of 65 anti-narcotics units in districts and cities to prevent drug-related crimes.

(ii) At functions attended by the President, Vice President, and Governors, it is customary for the national song “Vande Mataram” to be played first, followed by the national anthem at both the beginning and the end of the event.

- Recently, the Union Government had directed that “Vande Mataram” should be played at the beginning and end of Government functions. Accordingly, at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly formed Vijay-led Government in Tamil Nadu, “Vande Mataram” was sung first.
- This was followed by the national anthem, and finally “Tamil Thai Vazhthu.” At the conclusion of the ceremony too, “Vande Mataram” was sung first, followed by the national anthem.

2.As the 17th Legislative Assembly convenes on Monday (May 11), M. V. Karuppaiah, MLA from Sholavandan (SC reserved constituency), was sworn in as the Pro-tem Speaker.

(i) After Chief Minister Vijay approved the appointment of M. V. Karuppaiah as Pro-tem Speaker, the swearing-in ceremony was held on Sunday evening (May 10) at Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister Vijay, newly sworn-in ministers, Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar, Governor’s Secretary Kirlosh Kumar, and others attended the event.

(ii) Governor Arlekar administered the oath of office to M. V. Karuppaiah, who took the oath in the name of God. Governor Arlekar and Chief Minister Vijay later congratulated him with bouquets.

(iii) Generally, in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, the senior-most member is appointed as Pro-tem Speaker irrespective of party affiliation. The Pro-tem Speaker administers the oath to newly elected MLAs.

3.Q. Manivannan, an Indian-origin transgender person, was elected as a member of the Scottish Parliament.

(i) Contesting from the Scottish Greens party in the Edinburgh and Lothians region, Manivannan secured victory.

(ii) Following the removal of restrictions preventing people with short-term visas and indefinite leave to remain from contesting Scottish Parliamentary elections, Manivannan, who was born in Tamil Nadu, contested and won the election.

4.At the Shotgun World Cup held in Kazakhstan, India’s Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor won the bronze

medal.

(i) In the Trap Mixed Team event, the Neeru–Vivaan pair secured third place with 24 points. Out of 30 targets, they accurately hit 24, with Vivaan scoring 14 points and Neeru 10.

(ii) The Taipei team comprising Yang Kun–pi and Liu Wan–yu won gold with a world record score of 36 points.

5. During External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit, eight Memorandums of Understanding were signed between India and Trinidad and Tobago.

(i) Jaishankar undertook a nine-day visit to the Caribbean nations of Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. According to a statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding his visit to Trinidad and Tobago:

- During his two-day visit, Jaishankar met Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. They discussed ongoing cooperation between the two nations and explored opportunities for collaboration in new sectors.
- Eight MoUs were signed between the two countries, including cooperation in tourism and the development of infrastructure on Nelson Island, where Indian indentured laborers from India had first stayed after arriving in the country.
- Both sides also discussed expanding cooperation in infrastructure, security, forensics, healthcare, and identifying descendants of Indian indentured laborers sent by the British during the 19th and early 20th centuries to colonies such as Fiji, South Africa, Mauritius, and the Caribbean islands.

6. Due to tensions in West Asia, Indian oil companies are suffering losses ranging from ₹1,600 crore to ₹1,700 crore per day. Over the last 10 weeks alone, Indian oil companies have reportedly incurred losses amounting to ₹1 lakh crore.

(i) Due to the conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel, Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz. As a result, commercial vessels transporting crude oil and other fuels through the route were disrupted. However, petrol, diesel, and LPG cylinders continued to be supplied in India without interruption.

(ii) The tense situation in West Asia caused global crude oil prices to rise sharply. However, petrol and diesel prices were not increased in India. Instead, the Union Government reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel to prevent losses for Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum.

(iii) As a result, the combined revenue loss from petrol, diesel, and LPG has increased to between ₹1,600 crore and ₹1,700 crore per day, reaching ₹1 lakh crore over the past 10 weeks.

(iv) For the past two years in India, petrol has been sold at ₹94.77 per litre and diesel at ₹87.67 per litre. The price of domestic LPG cylinders was increased by ₹60 last March.

(v) In more than 30 countries, including Japan and United Kingdom, petrol and diesel prices have multiplied over the last three months.

(vi) Therefore, informed sources stated that the Union Government may consider increasing petrol and diesel prices in India as oil companies continue to face severe financial pressure.

7. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal stated that India held discussions with the European Union to

open its market in order to increase marine food exports.

(i) Elaborating further, he said that the decision of the United States to impose a 50 percent tariff on Indian seafood had severely affected fishermen. To offset this impact, India immediately initiated talks with the European Union to open its market for Indian seafood exports.

(ii) As a result, the European Union relaxed certain conditions imposed on seafood exports. The EU granted approval to 125 seafood companies that had previously been barred from trade after India restructured their quality control and certification standards.

(iii) Consequently, despite unstable global conditions last year, marine food exports recorded a growth of 12 to 14 percent internationally. India is also strengthening free trade agreements and global cooperation to secure long-term trade opportunities.

(iv) He further stated that if India is to emerge as a developed nation, it must create the necessary infrastructure foundation for the next 20–25 years. Increased exports and manufacturing, employment generation, and access to international markets would help achieve this goal.

8. Following the severe destruction caused in Sri Lanka by Cyclone Dithva, India and Sri Lanka decided to expedite reconstruction and rehabilitation works at a cost of 450 million dollars (approximately ₹4,500 crore).

(i) More than 3 million people in Sri Lanka were affected by Cyclone Dithva in November last year. Heavy rains, floods, and landslides caused by the cyclone claimed the lives of more than 640 people in the country.

(ii) To assist the people of Sri Lanka, the Indian Government launched “Operation Sagar Bandhu” and announced financial assistance of 450 million dollars for reconstruction and rehabilitation works in the country. In this context, Anil Jayantha Fernando, who also serves as Sri Lanka’s Labour Minister, met Santosh Jha in Colombo for discussions.

9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country’s first textile park built under the Union Government’s MITRA scheme at Warangal in Telangana at a cost of ₹1,695 crore.

(i) Textile park projects had been approved in seven states including Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka. The textile park in Warangal has now been inaugurated after being developed over 1,327 acres.

(ii) According to a statement issued by the Union Textiles Ministry, the park is expected to boost the growth of India’s textile sector, attract investments worth ₹6,000 crore, and generate more than 24,400 jobs.

10. Analysis of India’s scientific journey, focusing on National Technology Day and the country’s major technological milestones.

(i) National Technology Day (May 11): Since 1999, India has observed May 11 as National Technology Day to celebrate the successful nuclear tests in Pokhran and to encourage scientific research among the public.

(ii) The Significance of Pokhran-II (1998):

- On May 11, 1998, under the leadership of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Dr. R. Chidambaram, India successfully conducted three nuclear tests titled “Operation Shakti” in the Rajasthan desert.

- This achievement made India the 6th nation in the world to join the elite club of nuclear-weapon states.
- Simultaneously, the indigenous Trishul missile and the Hansa-3 aircraft were also successfully tested on the same day.

(iii) Secrecy and Strategy:

- To avoid detection by US CIA surveillance satellites, the scientists and engineers worked primarily at night or during specific windows when satellite coverage was low.
- The then CIA Director George Tenet admitted that despite monitoring India's nuclear program for years, they missed this specific operation due to India's strategic planning.

(iv) Space Exploration Milestones:

- Chandrayaan-3 (2023): India became the first country to land a spacecraft on the Moon's South Pole and only the 4th country to successfully land on the Moon.
- Mangalyaan (2014): India became the first nation to reach Mars' orbit on its very first attempt, doing so at a significantly lower cost than other global space agencies.
- ISRO Record (2017): India set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single rocket mission.
- Future Missions: Upcoming projects like Gaganyaan (human spaceflight) and the establishment of the Bharatiya Antariksha Station.

(v) Defense and Missile Technology:

- The DRDO has achieved self-reliance by developing the Agni and Prithvi ballistic missiles and the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, which is a joint venture with Russia.
- Indigenous production includes the Tejas combat aircraft and various armored vehicles.

(vi) Digital and Telecommunication Progress:

- India has established itself as a leader in indigenous 5G technology through the efforts of companies like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.
- India is currently one of the world's most favorable environments for innovation and startups.

(vii) Future Technological Frontier:

- Future progress depends on mastering Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Biotechnology, Quantum Computing, and Clean Energy.

No progress is possible in the modern world without technology, and it is the duty of every citizen to use it correctly to contribute to the nation's growth.