

## September 5, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper Titbits

1. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has reported in a research report that 302 ministers (47%) across the country have cases registered against them for murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women.
  - i. The Central Government recently introduced three bills that would remove the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers of their positions if they are arrested in serious criminal cases and in jail for 30 days, and sent them to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for consideration.
  - ii. In this context, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) examined the affidavits filed by a total of 643 ministers, including ministers from 27 States and 3 Union Territories, during the elections held in 2020 and 2025.
  - iii. It has been revealed that 302 ministers from various parties have criminal cases against them and 174 are facing serious criminal cases.
  - iv. As far as Union Ministers are concerned, it has been reported that out of a total of 72 Union Ministers, 29 have criminal cases against them.
  - v. 11 Legislative Assemblies, over 60% of their Ministers facing criminal cases – Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Puducherry.
  - vi. Legislative Assemblies without Ministers with Criminal Cases – Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Uttarakhand.
2. The current Prime Minister Andrew Holness won a third term in the elections held in Jamaica.
3. The death toll from a powerful earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan this week has surpassed 2,200.
  - i. The earthquake, which measured 6.0 on the Richter scale, severely affected mountainous areas and remote villages.
4. Two Kuki-Jo tribal groups signed a tripartite agreement with the Central and Manipur Governments, agreeing to renounce violence in Manipur, work for a peaceful settlement, and maintain territorial integrity.
  - i. The two groups, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United People's Front (UPF), have agreed to shift their camps from the sensitive areas in the state. There are 16 groups operating under the Kuki National Organization and 7 groups operating under the United People's Front.
  - ii. In Manipur, in 2023, there was a major riot between the Meitei community and the Kuki tribe, and violence continued. More than 260 people have died, and millions of displaced people continue to stay in relief camps.
  - iii. The Kuki-Jo Council agreed to open the National Highway (NH) 02 between Imphal and Dimapur after the Union Home Ministry assured that adequate security would

- be provided on it.
- iv. The main demand of the Kuki-Jo Council is that the camps of the Kuki-Jo groups should be relocated from the areas where they are mostly settled.
  - v. The Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh resigned in February. Following this, the assembly was suspended and President's rule is in effect. Ajay Kumar Bhalla is serving as the Governor of the State.
5. Tamil Nadu has topped the overall ranking of the best higher education institutions at the national level.
- i. Tamil Nadu has the distinction of being the state with the highest number (17) of higher educational institutions in the top 100. This is followed by Maharashtra in second place with 11 higher educational institutions, and Uttar Pradesh in third place with 9 higher educational institutions.
  - ii. IIT Madras has topped the national ranking of the best higher education institutions for the seventh consecutive year.
  - iii. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, came in second place and IIT Delhi came in third place.
  - iv. The Union Ministry of Education is publishing the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for the best higher education institutions in order to create healthy competition among higher education institutions in the country.
6. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa said that a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union will be concluded soon.
- i. They discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations in various sectors including trade, technology, investment, innovation, and security. They also expressed hope that the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement would be finalized soon.
  - ii. The possibility of holding the India-EU Summit in India next year was also discussed. The Prime Minister Modi invited both Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa to participate in this conference.
7. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister Lawrence Wang decided to strengthen India-Singapore trade relations and market access, considering the unstable global geopolitical environment.
- i. They also released an action plan to elevate bilateral relations to the status of a comprehensive strategic partnership.
  - ii. The Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, who was on a state visit to India, met and held talks with Prime Minister Modi in Delhi.
  - iii. Later, 5 agreements were signed in the sectors of aviation, capacity building, green-digital maritime transport, space, and digital data innovation for next-generation financial infrastructure.
  - iv. Earlier, the two leaders jointly inaugurated the 2nd cargo terminal of Mumbai's Jawaharlal Nehru Port, built by Singapore's SPA International, via video

conferencing. It is noteworthy that Singapore is India's largest foreign investor.

8. The Tamil Nadu Government has ordered the allocation of funds for Muslim students to pursue higher education abroad.
  - i. It was announced in the Legislative Assembly that a new scheme will be formulated for 10 Muslim students to pursue higher education abroad.
  - ii. In order to implement this announcement, a letter was sent to the Government by the Commissioner of Minority Welfare Department requesting that Rs. 3.60 crore be allocated for the benefit of 10 Muslim students in the current financial year.
  - iii. The Tamil Nadu Government, having considered this, has allocated Rs. 3.60 crore. That is, Rs. 36 lakhs is allocated for each student.
9. The Karnataka Cabinet has recommended to the State Election Commission to use ballot papers instead of Electronic Voting Machines in local body elections.
  - i. Karnataka Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was held at Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
  - ii. The Cabinet passed a resolution recommending to the State Election Commission to use Paper Ballots instead of Electronic Voting Machines in the upcoming elections to Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.
  - iii. The credibility and trust in electronic voting machines is declining among the public.
  - iv. Similarly, the Cabinet has asked the State Election Commission to prepare the voters' list and make appropriate amendments necessary for conducting the local body elections.
  - v. The Cabinet has also decided to introduce legal amendments to allow the use of paper ballots in local government elections. He said the Cabinet has decided to conduct all future local government elections using paper ballots.