

January 2, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Chinese President Xi Jinping stated that the reunification of Taiwan with China is an 'unstoppable historical process'.

(i) China considers Taiwan to be its territory. China consistently maintains that it has the right to annex the island, even using military force, if necessary.

(ii) Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te has been stating that they will withstand China's pressures and protect Taiwan's sovereignty.

(iii) The United States sells weapons to Taiwan and has also provided security guarantees.

2. Zoran Mamdani, Indian descent, was sworn in as the 112th mayor of New York, America's largest city.

(i) He took the oath of office on the Holy Quran at a ceremony held at the city's old City Hall subway station, just minutes after the new year began.

(ii) New York State Attorney General Letitia James administered the oath of office to him.

(iii) With this, he has achieved the distinction of being the first South Asian and Muslim to govern New York City.

3. A powerful earthquake struck off the northeastern coast of Japan in the early morning.

(i) The earthquake, which was centered in the sea near the city of Sumiogo in that prefecture, registered 6.0 on the Richter scale, the center reported.

(ii) Earthquakes occur frequently in Japan because it is located in the area known as the 'Pacific Ring of Fire,' where tectonic plates collide.

4. India's broadband subscriber base crossed 100 crore in November 2025. The following has been stated in a report released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI):

(i) In November 2025, the country's broadband subscriber base crossed 100 crore.

(ii) In the previous month of October, this number was 99.98 crore. Of this, wireless subscribers accounted for 95.49 crore, and fixed-line subscribers for 4.48 crore.

(iii) In October, Reliance Jio was in the leading position with 49.49 crore wireless subscribers and 1.34 crore fixed broadband subscribers.

(iv) Following this, Bharti Airtel was in second place with 30.26 crore wireless and 99.1 lakh fixed broadband subscribers. The country's broadband subscriber base has increased more than sixfold in the last 10 years.

(v) In November 2015, there were 13.15 crore broadband subscribers. This number increased to 100.37 crore in November 2025, the report stated.

5. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced that certain provisions of the National Sports Governance Act have come into effect.

(i) The Ministry's statement said that the provisions of this Act, which was passed by Parliament and notified on August 18 last year, relating to the establishment of the National Sports Board and the National

Sports Tribunal, have come into force.

(ii) In addition, the rules pertaining to National Sports Federations, the National Olympic Committee, the National Paralympic Committee, and state associations have also come into effect.

(iii) Accordingly, after the elections for these organizations, their executive committees must have a maximum of 15 members. At least two of these members must have experience in the sports sector.

(iv) The Ministry stated that these new legal provisions will be implemented gradually to improve the administration of the Indian sports sector.

(v) To facilitate this smooth transition, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has allowed associations and federations that are scheduled to hold elections in the next few months to postpone them until December.

(vi) The establishment of the National Sports Board, the National Sports Tribunal, and the National Sports Election Committee is a key feature of this new National Sports Governance Act.

(vii) The National Sports Board will be responsible for formulating rules for the proper functioning of national sports associations and federations, and for granting them recognition to receive Central Government funding. This board will consist of a Chairman and two members.

(viii) The National Sports Tribunal will be the body that provides appropriate solutions to all disputes arising among all stakeholders in the sports sector, from federations to competitors, covering everything from competitor selection to election matters.

(ix) The National Sports Election Committee will be responsible for conducting the elections of the National Sports Federations. It will always have a minimum of 20 members.

6. Reports indicate that a total of 166 tigers died in India last year (2025).

(i) According to information released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, 166 tigers died in India last year. This is 40 more than the number of tiger deaths in the previous year. Various reasons are cited for the tiger deaths.

(ii) Madhya Pradesh, known as the 'Tiger State' of the country, recorded the highest number of tiger deaths last year, with 55. Following Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, and Assam recorded 38, 13, and 12 tiger deaths respectively. The 166 tigers that died last year included 31 cubs.

(iii) Regarding this, wildlife expert Jairam Shukla said, "The main reason for tiger deaths in the country is conflict among tigers. Tigers face problems in establishing their territorial boundaries. The tiger population in Madhya Pradesh has increased by 60 percent since 2014. This is unprecedented growth."

(iv) According to information released on International Tiger Day in 2023, the tiger population in India increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022. This represents a 6 percent annual growth. India is home to approximately 75 percent of the world's tiger population.

7. The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stated that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will play a crucial role in the development of the country's new indigenous air defence system, 'Sudarshan Chakra'.

(i) The 'Sudarshan Chakra' project, aimed at enhancing the country's air defence, was announced by

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech last year. This is a multi-layered air defence system similar to Israel's 'Iron Dome'. It will integrate satellite surveillance, missile interception, and laser-based weapons.

(ii) On this occasion, Minister Rajnath Singh visited the DRDO headquarters in Delhi on the occasion of its 68th foundation day.

(iii) DRDO Chairman – Samir V. Kamath

8. Kalpataru festival held at the Dakshineswar Kali Temple in Howrah, West Bengal.

9. In accordance with a practice that has continued for over thirty years, India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities.

(i) This list was simultaneously provided through the embassies in the two countries' capitals, Delhi and Islamabad. This practice has continued uninterrupted for the 35th consecutive year.

(ii) A bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan on December 31, 1988, came into effect in January 1991.

(iii) According to this agreement, it is mandatory for both countries to inform each other of the details of the nuclear facilities under their control on every New Year's Day.

(iv) Subsequently, it has been reported that this list was exchanged for the first time on January 1, 1992.

(v) According to another agreement between India and Pakistan, concluded in 2008, both countries customarily exchange lists of prisoners of each other's nationality in their custody on January 1 and July 1 of every year.

10. The Tamil Nadu Anti-Terrorism Squad is providing psychological counseling to young people who post terrorist ideologies on social media.

(i) In India, 112 crore people own mobile phones. Of these, 80.6 crore people use internet services via mobile phones for various purposes. One data source states that 67.6 crore people use social media. This number represents 71 percent of the country's total population. Of these, 49.7 crore are active social media users, which is 33.7 percent of the total population.

(ii) Statistics indicate that 41 crore people use WhatsApp, 30 crore people use YouTube, and 28 crore people use Instagram, which are the social media platforms most widely used by young people.

(iii) Studies show that the number of social media users in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average. A report states that Indians spend an average of 2 hours and 36 minutes per day on social media. This is higher than the global average of 2 hours and 23 minutes.

(iv) As a result, any information shared on social media has a significant impact and creates widespread repercussions. Social media has long since become a platform not only for communication, information exchange, and intellectual pursuits but also for entertainment.

(v) Young people going astray: While social media offers many benefits and advantages, it is also fraught with dangers. Most importantly, terrorist organizations are using social media to brainwash young people and recruit them. To prevent this, the Tamil Nadu Police are monitoring the activities of suspicious social media accounts. In Tamil Nadu, police officials state that many of those arrested in recent years for having

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links with terrorist organizations used social media platforms as a bridge to connect with these groups. In extreme cases, some young people have even contacted and joined terrorist organizations solely through social media.

(vi) The Tamil Nadu Police's social media monitoring unit and the anti-terrorism squad are closely monitoring those who post hateful comments on social media, as well as those who post comments against the country's unity and sovereignty, against a particular community, and in support of terrorist organizations.

11. Pakistan has stated that under the Indus Waters Treaty, India is not permitted to misuse the waters of the rivers located in the western part of the river basin.

(i) The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, mediated by the World Bank. This agreement stipulated that India would share the waters of the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers in the eastern part of the Indus basin, while Pakistan would share the waters of the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers in the western part.

(ii) Following a terrorist attack in April last year in the Pahalgam area of Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 people, the Indian Government, accusing Pakistan of being behind the attack, suspended the Indus Waters Treaty.

(iii) In this context, India recently approved the 260 MW Dulhasti Stage II hydroelectric project on the Chenab River, which flows through Kashmir.

(iv) Regarding this, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Tahir Hussain Andrabi, told reporters: Under the Indus Waters Treaty, India's use of the waters of the rivers in the western part of the river basin is restricted. India is not permitted to misuse those waters.

(v) India is required to share information with Pakistan regarding projects undertaken on the western rivers. However, India did not share information about the Dulhasti Stage II hydroelectric project on the Chenab River with Pakistan. Pakistan has requested this information from India. He stated that Pakistan would not compromise on its water rights.

(vi) India-Bangladesh Ganges River Water Sharing Agreement: Water Measurement Begins: The Ganges River water sharing agreement between India and Bangladesh was signed in 1996. This 30-year agreement was signed with the objective of sharing the water around the Farakka Barrage, built on the Ganges River flowing through West Bengal, during the dry season. As this agreement is set to expire in December of this year, both countries have begun consultations to renew it.

(vii) In this context, India and Bangladesh have jointly commenced water measurement activities on the Padma River (the main tributary of the Ganges), where the Hardinge Bridge is located in Bangladesh, and in the Farakka Barrage area. For this purpose, Saurabh Kumar, Director of India's Central Water Commission, and Sunny Arora, Assistant Director of the same commission, have traveled to Bangladesh. A four-member team led by Arifin Subait, Executive Engineer of the Bangladesh Water Development Board, has arrived in India, according to reports in the Bangladeshi media.