

January 9, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. A bill that would impose a 500 percent tax on countries that continue to buy crude oil from Russia, which is still attacking Ukraine, was introduced in the US Congress on Wednesday (Jan. 7).

(i) If this bill is passed and becomes law, it will have a significant impact on India and China.

(ii) This bill, titled the 'Russia Sanctions Act of 2025', was introduced by US Senators Lindsey Graham and Blumenthal. It has been revealed that a vote on the bill is expected to be held in Congress early next week. US President Donald Trump has approved this bill.

(iii) Citing India's large-scale purchase of crude oil from Russia and the stalled India-US bilateral trade agreement negotiations, President Trump had already imposed a 50 percent tax on goods imported from India to the US. As a result, various sectors in India, including the textile industry, have been severely affected. Similarly, the US also imposed additional taxes on other countries, including China, that buy crude oil from Russia.

(iv) In this context, two US Members of Parliament have now introduced a bill that would impose a 500 percent tax on countries that continue to buy oil from Russia.

(v) Regarding this, US Senator Lindsey Graham stated in his X post: A bill has been introduced that would allow the US to impose a 500 percent tax on countries that purchase crude oil from Russia, refine it, and then resell it.

(vi) This bill will help to severely punish countries like China, India, and Brazil, which are buying crude oil at discounted prices from Russia and thereby assisting in the war against Ukraine.

(vii) Almost all the MPs on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have supported this bill. He said that the bill would be put to a vote at the beginning of next week.

(viii) The United States has withdrawn from 66 international organizations, including the India-France-led International Solar Alliance and UN agencies. President Trump signed the withdrawal resolution related to this. This includes 31 United Nations (UN) organizations and 35 other international organizations.

(ix) A White House press release stated, "These 66 organizations are acting against American national interests, security, economic growth, and sovereignty. The President has clarified that the US withdrawal from these organizations means either withdrawing from membership or halting legally permitted financial assistance to these organizations."

2. The Bangladeshi interim government announced the temporary suspension of visa services at its main embassies in India, including Delhi, citing security concerns.

(i) The Bangladesh Consulate in Kolkata has already restricted visa services. However, these restrictions do not apply to business and employment-related visas. Visa services at the consulates in Mumbai and Chennai will operate as usual.

(ii) It is noteworthy that India imposed visa restrictions on Bangladeshi citizens in 2024, citing security reasons, after Sheikh Hasina took power in Bangladesh.

(iii) Bangladesh has taken this step amidst the resulting strain on bilateral relations.

3. The US Government, led by President Donald Trump, plans to indefinitely control Venezuelan oil exports

and deposit the resulting revenue into US accounts.

(i) Regarding this, the country's Energy Secretary, Chris Wright, stated at the Goldman Sachs conference in Miami:

"We plan to completely control Venezuelan oil exports. First, we will sell the oil currently stored in Venezuela. After that, the US will continuously export the oil produced in Venezuela to other countries. The revenue generated from this will be deposited into US accounts in Venezuela's name. This will be used for the welfare of the Venezuelan people," he said.

(ii) Meanwhile, White House spokesperson Carolyn Leavitt stated that the US has already begun selling Venezuelan oil.

(iii) Earlier, President Trump announced that Venezuela would supply the US with 30 to 50 million barrels of oil. Its value is approximately \$2.8 billion (approximately ₹25,172 crore). Trump said that the revenue from this would be under his control.

(iv) However, there is no clear information on whether Venezuelan Interim President Delcy Rodríguez agreed to this. She has not issued any statement regarding this.

(v) Despite this, the Trump administration has stated that US companies will restructure the Venezuelan oil sector. Reports indicate that negotiations are underway with companies such as Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and Exxon.

(vi) The White House stated that Trump would meet with energy company executives to discuss this matter.

(vii) In Venezuela, one of the countries with the world's largest oil reserves, daily oil production has not exceeded 1 million barrels due to corruption and lack of investment. Therefore, the US Department of Energy estimates that production could be increased by several hundred thousand barrels in the short and medium term by reforming the sector. However, experts say that a complete restructuring would require \$10 billion annually for the next 10 years.

4. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) announced that a logo named 'Uday' has been introduced to help the public easily understand Aadhaar services.

(i) UIDAI Chairman Neelkanth Mishra introduced the 'Uday' logo at an event held in Thiruvananthapuram. Following this, he presented prizes to the winners of a competition.

5. The renowned environmentalist Madhav Gadgil (83), who worked for the protection of the Western Ghats, passed away due to illness.

(i) Madhav Gadgil played a key role in shaping India's ecological research and conservation policy. He founded the Centre for Ecological Sciences and the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru. He served as the chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, which came to be known as the Gadgil Commission.

(ii) In 2024, the United Nations awarded him the annual 'Champions of the Earth' award. This is the UN's highest environmental award.

(iii) Madhav Gadgil headed the Western Ghats Expert Panel constituted by the Central Government. This committee studied population pressure, climate change, and development activities in the Western Ghats

region.

6. The Memorandum of Understanding agreements for industrial investments worth ₹9,820 crore in Tamil Nadu were signed in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Information Technology Summit that began in Chennai. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that this would create 4,250 jobs.

(i) The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the 2026 Information Technology Summit at the Chennai Trade Centre, organized by the Department of Information Technology and Digital Services.

7. The Public Health Department is taking steps to launch a cervical cancer vaccination program for adolescent girls in four districts by the end of this month.

(i) Accordingly, the vaccines have been safely delivered to the districts of Tiruvannamalai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, and Dharmapuri. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will soon inaugurate the vaccination program for girls aged 9 to 14 in these districts.

(ii) Cervical cancer is caused by an infection of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). In those affected by this disease, cancer cells spread in the cells of the cervix, damaging its tissues. If not detected and treated in time, it can spread to other organs, including the lungs, liver, bladder, and rectum.

(iii) According to data from the Adyar Cancer Institute, cervical cancer is most prevalent in Dharmapuri and Perambalur districts of Tamil Nadu. That is, 36 women per lakh are affected in these districts. The next highest rate is in Ariyalur, at 29.9 per lakh. In Chennai, the rate is 13 per lakh, and the overall cervical cancer prevalence rate in Tamil Nadu is 14 per lakh, according to the statistics.

(iv) Following this, the Tamil Nadu Government allocated Rs.38 crore for administering the HPV vaccine to girls aged 9 to 14. Under this scheme, for the first time in India, the cervical cancer vaccine will be administered free of charge to adolescent girls in Tamil Nadu.