

January 10, 2026 - Dinamani Newspaper - Tit bits

1. The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the 'Unga Kanava Solunga' (Tell us your dream) scheme, which was announced during the Tamil Nadu Cabinet meeting on January 6th, in Padiyanallur, Thiruvallur district.

(i) Under the 'Unga Kanava Solunga' (Tell us your dream)' scheme, 50,000 volunteers have been selected and trained through the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) to personally meet and understand the dreams of 1.91 crore families across Tamil Nadu. These volunteers will meet the public and upload the information they provide onto a mobile application. Subsequently, the public will also be provided with a 'Dream Card' bearing a unique identification number.

2. On the recommendation of the Central Government, the President Droupadi Murmu has given her approval to convene the Parliament for the Budget Session. Accordingly, the Budget Session will be held from January 28 to April 2. The first phase of the session will be until February 13, and the second phase will be from March 9 to April 2,' he stated.

(i) However, he did not mention the date on which the budget will be presented. Since 2017, the practice of presenting the budget on February 1st has been followed. This year, February 1st falls on a Sunday.

(ii) As it is the first session of the year, it will begin with the President's address to a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

(iii) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget for the ninth consecutive time.

3. The Denmark has warned that if American soldiers enter Greenland, their troops will immediately open fire without waiting for orders from their commanders; only after that, negotiations will take place regarding the incident. This was stated in a statement issued by the country's Ministry of Defence:

(i) According to an order issued in 1952, if foreign forces attack Danish territory, the troops must immediately open fire without waiting for orders from their commanders.

(ii) This order was issued to prevent a recurrence of the situation that arose when Nazi forces attacked Denmark in April 1940, when communication was disrupted and the soldiers on the ground were unable to contact their commanders. This order remains in effect to this day.

(iii) The Arctic Joint Command, the Danish military organization in Greenland, will decide whether any action constitutes an attack against them. If it determines that it is an attack, the command itself will decide on retaliatory action. It will not seek permission from the military high command, the statement said.

(iv) The Greenland, the world's largest island and a territory of Denmark, operates as an autonomous region. Discussions are underway in Greenland regarding whether to remain part of Denmark or to seek independence. The island is rich in uranium, iron, gold, rare earth elements, and numerous other mineral resources. Furthermore, the island's location is considered to be of strategic military importance.

4. India's first 5150 Triathlon is scheduled to be held in Chennai on Sunday (Jan. 11).

(i) India earns the distinction of being the 3rd country in Asia and the 6th in the world to host this race, organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) in collaboration with the world-renowned 'Ironman' group.

(ii) The 5150 Triathlon – a challenging goal:

5150 Triathlon is one of the world's most popular Olympic distance (51.50 km) triathlon formats, featuring a 1.5 km swim, 40 km cycling leg, and a 10 km run. Designed as a stepping stone for emerging athletes, the format enables them to progress towards IRONMAN 70.3 and full-distance IRONMAN races.

5. The German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is scheduled to arrive in India on January 12th for a two-day official visit.

(i) According to a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office, he will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

(ii) This will be Chancellor Friedrich's first official visit to India.

(iii) During this visit, the Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Friedrich will visit the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. They will then participate in the International Kite Festival being held on the banks of the Sabarmati River. Following this, bilateral talks will be held at the Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Gandhinagar.

(iv) With the strategic partnership between India and Germany recently completing 25 years, the two leaders will discuss the progress of bilateral relations.

6. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has stated that it is closely monitoring the developments related to the US 500 percent tariff bill.

(i) Countries including India, China, and Brazil continue to import Russian crude oil. The US alleges that this oil sale provides Russia with funding to wage war against Ukraine.

(ii) With the aim of preventing this funding from reaching Russia, a bill has been introduced in the US Parliament proposing a minimum 500 percent tariff on goods exported to the US by countries that purchase Russian crude oil.

(iii) While US President Trump has approved this bill, its passage in Parliament would have a significant impact on India.

(iv) In this regard, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters in New Delhi: India is closely monitoring the developments related to the US 500 percent tariff bill. India's position on crude oil procurement has already been clearly stated.

(v) India is acting considering the prevailing international market conditions and the necessity to obtain energy at affordable prices from various sources to meet the energy security needs of the country's 1.4 billion people.

(vi) Shaksgam Valley...: In 1963, Pakistan ceded 5,180 square kilometers of land in the Shaksgam Valley in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to China. Although China is currently undertaking infrastructure projects there, the Shaksgam Valley belongs to India. India does not recognize the border agreement between China and Pakistan concerning this valley.

7. The Government of Tamil Nadu has declared 100 new reserve forest areas across Tamil Nadu from 2021 to 2025. A press release issued by the Forest Department regarding this states:

(i) The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing various schemes with the goal of increasing the forest

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cover to 33 percent of the state's geographical area. As a result, 24.47 percent of the land area in Tamil Nadu has now been converted into forest areas.

(ii) Selected forest areas are being declared as reserve forests to protect wildlife habitats and water bodies, and to ensure ecological corridors.

(iii) Accordingly, 100 new reserve forest areas have been declared across Tamil Nadu in the four years from 2021 to 2025. Through this, the area of protected forests in Tamil Nadu has expanded by approximately 135 square kilometers.

(iv) These newly declared reserve forests are spread across 13,494.95 hectares in 10 districts: Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Kallakurichi, Theni, Sivaganga, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Salem, and Tenkasi. It is noteworthy that the Highways forest area in Theni district, with an area of 2,836.33 hectares, is the largest among the newly declared forest areas.

8. Data from the Union Ministry of Commerce reveals that China is becoming a significant destination among the countries to which India exports.

(i) According to the data, India's exports to China stood at \$10.28 billion during the April-November period of the 2022-23 financial year. While this figure declined to \$9.2 billion in the 2024-25 financial year, it has increased by 33 percent to \$12.22 billion during the April-November period of the current year. This is the first time in the last four years that exports to China have increased to this extent.

(ii) The increase is attributed to the export of oil products, marine products, telecommunication equipment, and spices. This data highlights a structural change in the bilateral trade relations between India and China.

9. In recent times, dowry-related crimes constitute a significant number of crimes against women. According to the National Crime Records Bureau data, approximately 15,489 cases of harassment of women for dowry were registered across the country in 2023. Of the 27,154 individuals accused in these registered cases, 4,838 were women. It is distressing that women also play a role in dowry-related crimes committed against women.

(i) Women are more affected by dowry-related violence in North Indian states than in South Indian states. Confirming this, of the 6,100 dowry-related deaths that occurred nationwide in 2023, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number with 2,122 deaths, followed by Bihar with 1,143 deaths.

(ii) It is noteworthy that a large number of divorce cases filed in our country are related to harassment for dowry.

(iii) According to Section 3 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, both demanding and giving dowry are crimes, and if the crime is proven, the accused may face a prison sentence of 5 years or a fine of Rs. 15,000 or the amount of the dowry, whichever is higher. However, in practice, most marriages are based on the giving of dowry.