

January 11, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Forest Department, in order to monitor migration routes of Olive Ridley sea turtles, has begun the process of attaching satellite trackers to it that come ashore to lay eggs.

(i) Every year, from December to April, Olive Ridley sea turtles typically lay their eggs along the Tamil Nadu coast, from Chennai to Kanyakumari. The Tamil Nadu Government planned to attach satellite trackers to these sea turtles to study their oceanic journeys and migration patterns.

2. The Greenlandic political leaders have strongly opposed US President Donald Trump's renewed insistence on annexing their territory to the United States. They have emphasized that they should determine the future of their island themselves.

(i) 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.

(ii) The island, which possesses abundant mineral resources including uranium, iron, gold, and rare earth minerals, is said to have significant strategic military importance due to its location.

3. The Grok website and its application, an artificial intelligence conversational platform created by businessman Elon Musk's xAI company, have been banned in Indonesia.

(i) The Government stated that the ban was imposed because Grok's content, of manipulation of women's images into obscene depictions, is contrary to Indonesian laws and cultural values and offends religious sentiments.

(ii) All internet service providers have been ordered to implement this ban, which came into effect on Friday (January 9).

4. On Saturday, the final day of the Khelo India Beach Games, the Tamil Nadu team impressed by winning the gold medal in the Sepak Takraw event.

(i) With a total of 8 medals – 3 gold, 2 silver, and 3 bronze – the Tamil Nadu team secured second place in this year's Khelo India Beach Games.

(ii) The 2nd edition of the Khelo India Beach Games was held for six days, starting on the 5th of this month, in the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Union Territory. Six medal events were featured: beach volleyball, beach football, beach kabaddi, pencak silat, sepak takraw, and open water swimming.

5. The Telangana Drugs Control Administration issued an order immediately banning the use of the 'Almond', children's medicine.

(i) This order was issued after the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation warned that the Almond medicine, prescribed for illnesses affecting children such as fever and asthma, contains highly toxic ethylene glycol.

6. National Security Advisor (NSA) – Ajit Doval

7. On the occasion of National Youth Day, the 'Developed India Young Leaders Conference' will be held in Delhi on Monday (January 12), with the participation of over 3,000 young people. Prime Minister Modi will participate in the event and interact with the youth.

(i) January 12th, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, is celebrated as National Youth Day. This year, on this occasion, the 'Developed India Young Leaders Conference' will be held at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. The Prime Minister Modi will interact with more than 3,000 young people participating from across the country.

8. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has stated that the Aditya L-1 spacecraft has provided new data regarding the impact of a powerful solar storm on the Earth's magnetic field.

(i) A solar storm struck the Earth in October 2024. A study conducted by ISRO scientists and research students on this event was published in an astrophysics journal last December.

(ii) This study was conducted using the findings of India's first solar mission, the Aditya L-1 spacecraft, and data from international space agencies.

(iii) In a press release issued by ISRO, it was stated that 'Temporary changes occurring on the Sun are called space weather. Powerful solar flares emanating from the Sun's atmosphere severely affect satellites, telecommunication and navigation services, and energy infrastructure.

(iv) The turbulent region of the solar storm severely compresses the Earth's magnetic field, pushing it closer to the Earth. As a result, satellites in geostationary orbit face disruptions due to severe space weather.

(v) The solar storm intensifies currents in the high-latitude regions. This causes the upper atmosphere to heat up, leading to the escape of Earth's gases. This study has reaffirmed the necessity of carefully monitoring space weather and solar activity to protect space assets,' the statement concluded.

9. Both sides have decided to quickly resolve the pending issues in the establishment of a free trade agreement between India and the European Union.

(i) In this regard, India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and the European Union's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Maroš Šefčovič, have issued instructions to their respective negotiating teams, according to a press release issued by the Central Government.

(ii) The Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal undertook an official visit to Brussels, the capital of Belgium and headquarters of the European Union, which comprises 27 countries including France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Belgium, on January 8th and 9th.

(iii) During this visit, he held high-level talks with the European Union's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Maroš Šefčovič, regarding the Free Trade Agreement.

(iv) Both reviewed the progress made in the Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

(v) Later, in a post on social media, Piyush Goyal stated that a commitment has been made to a modern economic partnership and a rules-based trading framework that protects the interests of farmers and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. So far, 16 rounds of negotiations have been held to finalize the comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union.

(vi) Bilateral demands: India's demand is for tariff exemptions on labor-intensive sector products, including textiles and leather goods, exported from India. At the same time, the European Union is demanding that India reduce tariffs on products such as automobiles, medical equipment, wine, alcohol, and meat. 17 percent of India's exports go to European Union countries. As far as the European Union is concerned, exports to India account for 9 percent.

(vii) In 2024-25, the bilateral trade value was \$136.53 billion (exports \$75.85 billion, imports \$60.68 billion).

(viii) What are the exports? Ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery are among India's major export items to the European Union countries.

(ix) Last year, India signed Free Trade Agreements with the United Kingdom and Oman. Free Trade Agreements were also concluded with Australia in 2022 and with Mauritius in 2021.

10. The Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army has launched a new pilot project to deliver essential medicines to the doorsteps of ex-servicemen living in remote areas of Sikkim.

(i) The Trishakti Corps, responsible for the security of the strategically important state of Sikkim and the Siliguri Corridor region in the Eastern Himalayas, is implementing this new project in collaboration with the India Post and the Common Service Centres (CSC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

(ii) In the first phase, 58 beneficiaries residing in remote areas of South, North, and West Sikkim have been identified. These individuals faced considerable difficulties in obtaining their essential medicines, often having to travel long distances over challenging terrain. Now, the medicines will be delivered directly to their homes, according to a press release issued by the Trishakti Corps.

(iii) The objective of the new project is to ensure medical facilities for elderly and disabled ex-servicemen and to alleviate their travel difficulties. The press release states that this pilot project has been launched as part of a nationwide initiative.

11. Pakistan has commenced a joint counter-terrorism military exercise with the United States.

(i) The two countries are conducting this joint military exercise at the National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Pabbi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

(ii) A press release issued by the Pakistani Interior Ministry stated: The 13th 'Inspired Combat 2026' joint military exercise with the United States has begun. This two-week exercise will involve training in counter-terrorism military operations.

(iii) The Pakistan Navy conducted a surface-to-air missile test in the northern Arabian Sea. A press release from the Pakistan Army stated that the test of the upgraded 'LY-80' surface-to-air missile was successful.