

January 13, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. 19 key agreements were signed between India and Germany to strengthen cooperation in various sectors, including defense, trade, and technology.

(i) These announcements were made at a joint press conference attended by the Prime Ministers of both countries after talks held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. A significant announcement was also made regarding visa-free travel for Indians transiting through Germany to other countries.

(ii) The German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arrived in India for a two-day state visit. This is his first official visit to Asian countries.

(iii) Trade and Economy: Prime Minister Modi highlighted that bilateral trade has crossed a record \$50 billion and that more than 2,000 German companies are operating in India. A joint declaration was also signed to further boost economic growth. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to finalizing the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement soon.

(iv) Green Energy and Technology: The two countries have jointly launched a special center for the renewable energy sector. It has also been decided to intensify cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) and green ammonia production. The Prime Minister Modi stated that India-Germany cooperation in green energy and advanced technology sectors is future-oriented.

(v) Employment and Skill Development: Discussions on employment, skill development, and immigration also featured prominently in the meeting. A new framework has been created to facilitate employment opportunities for skilled Indian workers and healthcare professionals to meet the demand in the information technology and engineering sectors in Germany.

(vi) Furthermore, the comprehensive action plan for higher education signed between India and Germany will create a new direction in the education sector of both countries. He requested that Germany's world-class universities should establish their campuses in India, providing new opportunities for Indian students.

(vii) Culture and Other Matters:

An agreement was signed to develop the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Gujarat in collaboration with a German maritime museum.

(viii) New projects have been announced in three African countries—Ghana, Cameroon, and Malawi—under the India-Germany trilateral development cooperation to assist developing nations.

(ix) In commemoration of this meeting, a German consulate is also to be opened in Ahmedabad.

(x) Additionally, a joint declaration was signed to strengthen cooperation between India and Germany in the semiconductor sector, rare earth minerals, sports and postal services, telecommunications, and research and development in the bioeconomy.

2. The Greenland's security and defense belong to the NATO alliance, as clarified by the region's Prime Minister, Jens-Frederik Nielsen.

(i) In his Facebook post on the matter, he stated: "Greenland is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark and a

member of the NATO alliance. Therefore, our security and defense belong to NATO. This is a fundamental and firm position."

(ii) This statement comes after US President Donald Trump has repeatedly insisted on annexing Greenland to the United States. He argues that it would be a threat to the US if Greenland fell into the hands of Russia or China. The Prime Minister of Greenland made this statement while also mentioning that there are plans to seize Greenland through military action.

3. In the case filed alleging genocide against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, the trial began at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands against the country's Government. The court's official announcement stated the following:

(i) The trial has commenced in the case filed by Gambia in 2019 alleging genocide against the Rohingyas.

(ii) The announcement stated that the case seeks to declare the attacks carried out by the Myanmar military against the Rohingya people in 2017 as genocide. Myanmar denies these allegations. The Myanmar Government argues that it was a legitimate operation against terrorists.

(iii) In this case, a report published in 2017 by an international advisory group headed by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is considered a key piece of evidence. That report accuses the Myanmar military of acting with the intent of "genocide" against the Rohingya people.

(iv) During that operation, more than 700,000 Rohingya people fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh as refugees. The UN estimates that thousands were killed in the attacks against them.

(v) This case was initiated in 2019, and in 2022, the International Court of Justice ordered measures to prevent violence against the Rohingya people and to preserve evidence.

(vi) This trial is considered one of the most important cases before the International Criminal Court. The final verdict is expected to take several years.

4. The IOC announced that the National Olympic Academy has been relaunched in Ahmedabad, and that Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president P.T. Usha has been appointed as its head.

5. VJD Method - Just as the target score for rain-affected matches in international cricket is calculated using the 'DLS' (Duckworth-Lewis) method, the target for rain-affected matches in domestic cricket is calculated using the 'VJD' (V. Jayadevan) method. This calculation method was devised by V. Jayadevan, an engineer from Kerala.

6. The Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the International Kite Festival.

(i) The International Kite Festival was held on the banks of the Sabarmati River.

(ii) The International Kite Festival is held annually in Gujarat in conjunction with the Makar Sankranti festival. This year, the festival will be held until January 14th.

(iii) It is noteworthy that 3.83 lakh tourists visited the festival last year.

7. While India strongly objected to China's construction activities in the Shaksgam Valley located in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, China has responded that the area belongs to them and that the

infrastructure work undertaken there is legitimate.

(i) In 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded approximately 5,180 square kilometers of Indian territory (the Shaksgam Valley), located in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, to China.

(ii) Recently commenting on this issue, the spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, stated, "The Shaksgam Valley is a part of India. India has never recognized the border agreement signed between Pakistan and China in 1963. This agreement is illegal.

We also do not recognize the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project that passes through Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal occupation." "India has repeatedly clarified to Chinese and Pakistani authorities that Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are integral and inseparable parts of India," he said.

(iii) Responding to India's objection, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said: The Shaksgam Valley is a territory under Chinese jurisdiction. No one has the right to question the infrastructure projects undertaken on our own soil. China and Pakistan, as sovereign nations, concluded a border agreement on this matter as early as the 1960s. Furthermore, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project is merely an economic initiative aimed at promoting social development and improving people's livelihoods. There is no change in China's position that the Kashmir issue should be resolved peacefully in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, she added.

8. The PSLV C-62 rocket, launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on Monday (Jan. 12), failed to reach its intended target due to a technical malfunction. ISRO Chairman Narayanan stated that a problem was detected in the third stage of the rocket and that an investigation is underway.

(i) The advanced satellite EOS-NI (Anvesha), intended for defense applications, was manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It was designed to provide real-time data for earth observation and military security.

(ii) ISRO scientists had planned to place it in a 505 km sun-synchronous orbit using the PSLV C-62 rocket.

(iii) Arrangements were also made to send 15 other satellites along with it, including the AyushSat satellite manufactured by Chennai-based OrbitAid startup and the KIT re-entry spacecraft developed by a Spanish startup.

(iv) The PSLV C-62 rocket is 44.4 meters tall. It has four stages in total, consisting of two liquid fuel engines and two solid-state engines.

(v) After the final preparations and a 22.30-hour countdown, the PSLV C-62 rocket was launched at 10:18 AM on Monday (Jan. 12) from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

(vi) The first two stages were successfully released 8 minutes after the rocket lifted off from the ground. Then, the third stage, the PS3 system, was activated. At that moment, a sudden technical malfunction appears to have occurred in it.

(vii) Subsequently, the rocket deviated from its planned trajectory and lost communication with the control center a few minutes later. Following this, ISRO announced that the mission could not be successfully completed.

(viii) Regarding this, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan stated:

"The operations of the third stage of the PSLV C-62 rocket proceeded as planned until the end. However, after that, the rocket deviated from its designated path. A thorough investigation will be conducted, and further information will be provided later."

(ix) It is noteworthy that previously, in May of last year, the PSLV C-61 rocket, which was launched to place the advanced EOS-09 RISAT 1B satellite for earth observation purposes, also failed to reach its target. A problem occurred in the third stage of that rocket as well.

9. The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1st (Sunday).

(i) The Parliament's Budget Session begins on January 28th. On that day, President Droupadi Murmu will address a joint sitting of Parliament. Following the President's address, Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Economic Survey in both Houses of Parliament.

(ii) The Union Budget is presented annually on February 1st. While there was uncertainty regarding whether the budget would be presented on February 1st this year, as it falls on a Sunday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla confirmed in Delhi that the Union Budget will indeed be presented on February 1st.

10. Sergio Gor, the newly appointed US Ambassador to India, stated that no other country is more important to the United States than India.

(i) Upon arriving at the US Embassy in Delhi, he formally assumed charge as the ambassador. Earlier, while speaking to reporters, he said: "India and the United States are set to become strategic partners in the 'Pax Silica' initiative, which will increase cooperation in fields including rare earth elements and artificial intelligence. The United States launched the 'Pax Silica' initiative last month. Countries including Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and Israel have already joined it. I am pleased to announce that India will soon be invited to join as a full-fledged member. He added that it is essential for India and the United States to work together as the world enters the era of new technologies."