

January 19, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs.6,957 crore Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project in Assam.

(i) This project, aimed at ensuring the safe movement of wildlife in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, the habitat of the one-horned rhinoceros, will help reduce accidents on National Highway 715. It will also promote eco-tourism and create employment opportunities for the local people. It includes elevated corridors spanning approximately 34 km to facilitate wildlife movement. The Prime Minister also viewed the project's model design.

(ii) He also flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express train services from Dibrugarh and Kamakhya in Assam to Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Rohtak (Haryana), respectively.

2. The US President Trump has warned that a 25 percent tariff will be imposed on eight European countries that oppose the US acquisition of Greenland.

(i) Greenland, the world's largest island, is located between the Arctic and North Atlantic Oceans. The island, which belongs to Denmark, operates as a partially autonomous territory.

(ii) Greenland ranks 8th:

According to the US Geological Survey, Greenland has oil, natural gas, nickel, cobalt, and rare earth minerals. Greenland ranks 8th among the countries with the largest reserves of these minerals in the world.

(iii) Rare earth minerals are essential for manufacturing superconductor chips, electric vehicles, green energy technologies, and military technologies. Currently, a large portion of these minerals worldwide is under China's control, and the US is seeking alternative sources to obtain these minerals.

(iv) Deployment of NATO forces:

Amidst increasing threats from Trump to forcibly annex Greenland to the United States, eight European countries in the NATO military alliance—Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, Britain, the Netherlands, and Finland—have deployed their forces to Greenland.

(v) The US President Trump stated that this has created a very dangerous situation for global security.

(vi) 25 percent tariff from June 1st:

In this situation, because these eight countries oppose the US acquisition of Greenland, President Trump announced that he would impose a 10 percent tariff on them. In a post he published on social media regarding this matter, he warned, 'A 10 percent tariff will be imposed from February on goods imported into the United States from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, Britain, the Netherlands, and Finland; this tariff will be increased to 25 percent from June 1 and will remain in effect until an agreement is reached for the complete purchase of Greenland by the United States.'

(vii) Joint Statement by 8 Countries: In a joint statement issued by eight countries, they stated, 'The eight countries stand in solidarity with the people of Denmark and Greenland. The eight countries are firmly committed to the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty. Based on these principles, we are ready to negotiate on the Greenland issue. Threats made through the imposition of tariffs will weaken relations with countries across the Atlantic Ocean and dangerously worsen the situation. The eight countries will stand united and respond collectively on this matter.'

## Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

(viii) Agreement Suspended: Due to this tariff imposition, the European Union has formally suspended the ratification of the trade agreement concluded between the United States and the European Union in July of last year.

3. A full-size bronze statue of Kalingarayan was unveiled in Vellode, Erode district.

(i) The Chief Minister M.K.Stalin unveiled the statue through Video Conference from Chennai. Farmers participated in large numbers at the ceremony held in Vellode, Erode district.

(ii) Kalingarayan, hailed as a pioneer of river interlinking, began constructing the Kalingarayan Canal in Erode district in 1270 at his own expense.

(iii) The canal construction was completed after approximately 12 years. The work, which began in Kalingarayanpalayam in Bhavani, Erode district, concluded at the Noyyal River in Kodumudi, passing through Erode.

(iv) The Kalingarayan Canal was completed over a total distance of 90 kilometers. More than 15,000 acres of land in Erode district receive irrigation facilities through the Kalingarayan Canal.

(v) In this context, a 7-foot-tall full-size bronze statue of Kalingarayan was erected near Rasakovil in Vellode, Chennimalai Union, Erode district.

(vi) An allocation of Rs.86 crore has been made for the renovation of the Kalingarayan Canal. The renovation work will be undertaken when the water supply is stopped in March.

4. The invitation package for the tea party to be hosted by President Droupadi Murmu at her residence on January 26th, marking India's 77th Republic Day, has been designed to reflect the traditional art and craftsmanship of the Northeastern states.

(i) The National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, designed this invitation. The invitation was created by combining the handicrafts, culture, and vibrant traditions of the eight Northeastern states, known as the 'Ashtalakshmi States'.

(ii) Explaining the significance of this invitation design project, Ashok Mondal, the director of NID Ahmedabad, stated that the President's House had entrusted them with this task for the third consecutive time.

(iii) A collaborative effort of 350 people: He further added, "The creations in this package are designed to integrate the traditional handicrafts and cultural identities of the eight Northeastern states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura."

(iv) This invitation package is the result of a collaborative effort of over 350 people, with the assistance of the President's House, artisans, and experts from the eight states. The materials used in the invitation were carefully selected, considering their seasonal availability, while ensuring that the unique handicraft traditions of each state were prominently featured. The project was led by NID Ahmedabad professors Andrea Noronha and Dr. C.S. Sushant. The centerpiece of the package is the invitation box, which is crafted from bamboo mats woven using traditional techniques from Tripura. (v) Bamboo is the backbone of the economic and cultural life of Northeast India. Dyed cotton yarns and thin bamboo strips have been used in this. The outer cover is made of handmade paper and decorated with smoked bamboo. This cover is the Meghalaya contribution. The visual motifs on the invitation box reflect inspiration from Assamese traditional paintings and the rich flora and fauna of the region.

## Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

- (vi) Natural materials such as bamboo, handloom fabric, fiber, cane, and clay dominate this collection. This reflects their deep connection with the daily life, livelihoods, and cultural traditions of Northeast India.
- (vii) Special emphasis has been given to handloom products, which are a major source of employment for women across the region.
- (viii) Inside the invitation....: The wall-hanging bamboo woven invitation displays selected motifs from all eight Northeastern states.
- (ix) It symbolizes the ancient connection with the Kanchenjunga mountain range, which has been declared a UNESCO 'Mixed Heritage Site'. This includes the Sikkim Sisnu weaving and embroidery created in the Lepcha 'Tara' weaving tradition.
- (x) This includes green bamboo weaving from the East Khasi Hills and Mawsynram in Meghalaya, one of the world's highest rainfall regions; the Kokona bamboo jaw harp from Assam; cane and bamboo bark decorative items from Tripura; rare textiles from Nagaland; the iconic handwoven Puanchei fabric from Mizoram; and the Manipuri Longpi black pottery designs of the Tangkhul Naga community, a craft tradition rooted in the pre-Neolithic period.
- (xi) Since Droupadi Murmu assumed office as President, steps have been taken each year to design the Republic Day tea party invitation in a way that promotes the traditional crafts of various states.
- (xii) As a special feature, artisans from every state of India, unsung achievers, and recipients of gallantry awards are invited to New Delhi and hosted as guests of the President.
5. The spread of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), an autoimmune neurological disorder, in Manasa town of Neemuch district in Madhya Pradesh state has emerged as a new problem in the state.
- (i) With more than 12 people affected in the area and two deaths reported, the State Government has intensified measures to identify and treat those affected by this disease.
- (ii) Doctors say that this condition can be caused by factors such as drinking contaminated water, consuming undercooked chicken, and consuming unpasteurized dairy products.
- (iii) In individuals affected by GBS, the immune system begins to attack the Peripheral Nervous System. This can cause sudden numbness in some parts of the body.
- (iv) Doctors also stated that it can lead to muscle weakness and difficulty in swallowing and breathing.
- (v) This outbreak of GBS syndrome has caused further alarm, coming shortly after the recent incident in Bhagirathpura area of Indore, where 21 people died after drinking water contaminated with sewage.
6. To promote exports, the Central Government has formulated guidelines that Indian missions abroad must follow.
- (i) A senior official from the Union Ministry of Commerce stated the following regarding this: India has set a target of increasing its revenue from goods and services exports to 2 trillion US dollars by 2030. Currently, there is global economic uncertainty.
- (ii) In this situation, to increase Indian exports through market diversification, guidelines for Indian missions abroad have been formulated by the Union Ministry of Commerce.
- (iii) These guidelines include non-tariff trade measures, market engagement activities, planning, resource

## Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

management, trade intelligence, and market research. Similarly, trade representatives have been asked to conduct studies on the demand for Indian products in foreign markets, he added.

7. With the Nipah infection spreading in West Bengal, the Tamil Nadu Public Health Department has advised against consuming fruits bitten by birds and animals, and to avoid drinking palm sap.

(i) The spread of Nipah has been detected in the Nadia district of West Bengal. Two nurses have contracted the infection and are receiving intensive treatment. Following this, the Central Health Ministry has instructed all states to intensify surveillance and precautionary measures across the country.

(ii) Although there have been no cases in Tamil Nadu so far, the public has been urged to remain vigilant and follow disease prevention measures.

(iii) A press release issued by the Director of Public Health, Dr. Somasundaram, stated: Nipah virus is a zoonotic disease. It spreads to humans through fruit-eating bats, horses, dogs, and pigs. The infection spreads through consuming fruits contaminated with bat saliva or through close contact with an infected person. The main symptoms include fever, headache, vomiting, confusion, insomnia, shortness of breath or dizziness, and seizures. Symptoms appear within 6 to 21 days of infection.

