

February 28, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Pakistan has officially declared a direct war with its neighbor Afghanistan, causing tension in the South Asian region.

(i) More than 270 Taliban fighters were killed in an airstrike carried out by Pakistan in response to an attack by Taliban forces. As a result, the conflict in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border area has reached its peak again.

(ii) Terrorist groups operating inside the Afghan border have been continuously attacking Pakistani troops. In response, Pakistan recently carried out an airstrike.

(iii) Following this action, Taliban forces launched a heavy attack on Pakistani border posts last Thursday night. Following this, the Pakistan Army intensified its airstrikes in areas including Kabul, Kandahar, and Paktia under the name of 'Operation Kasab lil Haq'.

(iv) The main reason for this long-standing enmity is that Afghanistan has not yet recognized the 2,611 km long 'Durand Line' border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Now that the war has broken out, China and Russia have urged both sides to immediately stop fighting and engage in talks.

2. Under the new US-Venezuelan oil supply agreement, Venezuela's oil sales are expected to reach \$2 billion this month, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said.

(i) Speaking to reporters, he pointed out that demand for Venezuelan crude oil in the international market is increasing.

(ii) Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was arrested by US forces last January on charges of aiding drug trafficking gangs.

(iii) After this crackdown, the US took direct control of all Venezuelan oil exports. All sales proceeds are being stored in a special fund in Qatar under US supervision.

(iv) China, which had previously been buying oil indirectly due to US sanctions, has now started buying Venezuelan oil directly. As demand for Venezuelan crude oil in the international market has increased, sales are proceeding at a rapid pace.

3. President Draupadi Murmu flew as a co-pilot in a Light Combat Helicopter 'Prachand' along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan.

(i) President Draupadi Murmu witnessed the IAF's combat exercise 'Vayu Shakti' held in Pokhran in the evening. President Draupadi Murmu, who arrived at the air base in Jaisalmer district in the morning, was welcomed by Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh.

(ii) The captain explained the 'Prachand' helicopter to the President, who was in a pilot's uniform. Then, the helicopter rose up and flew for 25 minutes above the Pokhran weapons testing range.

(iii) By flying in the Prachand helicopter, Draupadi Murmu became the first President to fly in an attack

helicopter.

(iv) Earlier, Draupadi Murmu flew in a Rafale fighter jet from Ambala Air Force Base, Haryana in October last year.

(v) She flew in a Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet from Tezpur Air Force Base, Assam in April 2023.

(vi) The light helicopter Prachand is the first indigenously designed and manufactured helicopter. It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

(vii) Undetectable by enemy forces and capable of conducting attacks at night, this helicopter can fire air-to-ground missiles and rockets at other targets in the air. It is also equipped with a 20 mm. gun.

(viii) 'Vayu Shakti' war exercise

- The Indian Air Force's 'Vayu Shakti' war exercise held at the Pokhran War Training Centre in Rajasthan showcased the force's day and night offensive capabilities, weapon strength, integrated technology use and retaliatory capabilities, the defence ministry said.

4. 8 cheetahs are to be brought to India from the African country of Botswana. This will increase the number of cheetahs in the country to 47.

(i) Under the Central Government's ambitious plan to reintroduce cheetahs, a species that went extinct in India 70 years ago, 8 cheetahs were brought to India from the African country of Namibia in 2022 and 12 cheetahs from South Africa in 2023.

(ii) These cheetahs, which are the fastest animals in the world, were released in the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Some of the cheetahs died due to environmental and other factors.

5. In Gujarat, 322 lions have died in the last 2 years, of which 64 lions died due to unnatural causes, the state assembly was informed.

(i) In India, lions are found only in the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary and its surrounding areas in Gujarat. According to the 2025 census, there are 891 Asiatic lions there. This includes 255 males, 405 females and 231 cubs.

(ii) In a written reply to a question raised by Congress MLA Shailesh Parmar in the Gujarat assembly, the Forest Minister Arjun Motwani further stated as follows:

- A total of 322 lions have died, including 165 lions in 2024, 148 lions in 2025 and 9 lions in January. Out of this, 64 deaths were due to unnatural causes. This includes 22 cubs. There have also been deaths due to falling into wells and being hit by vehicles.
- The State Government is taking serious steps to prevent these deaths. Arrangements have been made to set up wildlife treatment centers at various places, appoint veterinarians, and provide special vehicles to quickly rescue injured lions.
- The Minister said that steps such as warning signs on roads, speed bumps, retaining walls in wells, and fencing on both sides of railway tracks are being taken.

6. National Science Day, observed on February 28, 2026 :-

(i) Historical Significance and the Raman Effect

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

- National Science Day is celebrated annually on February 28 to honor the discovery of the "Raman Effect" by the world-renowned Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman.
- On February 28, 1928, Sir C.V. Raman announced his groundbreaking research on the scattering of light, which fundamentally changed the field of physics.
- Despite limited facilities at the time, his research was proven internationally, leading to him becoming the first Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in science, bringing great pride to the nation.

(ii) Official Recognition and Theme for 2026

- The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) recommended this date be observed to foster scientific awareness. The Government of India accepted this, and it has been officially celebrated since 1987.
- The theme for this year 2006 is "Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat"
- The focus is on increasing scientific awareness among women and nurturing young scientists to transform India into a global powerhouse.

(iii) Core Objectives of the Celebration

- The primary goal is to create a "scientific temper" among the public—encouraging people to question, research based on evidence, and think logically.
- Urging students to adopt three specific approaches:
 - Research – To constantly investigate and seek new knowledge.
 - Improvement – To upgrade existing technologies to better serve human needs.
 - Popularization – To make science affordable and accessible to the common man by using low-cost materials.

(iv) India's Scientific Evolution and Leadership

- Pre-Independence Pioneers: Early giants who worked under difficult conditions, includes Sir C.V. Raman, S.N. Bose, J.C. Bose, and Meghnad Saha.
- Institutional Growth: Post-independence, leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru supported the creation of major institutions such as ISRO, DRDO, CSIR, and ICMR, which have driven progress in space, defense, and medicine.
- Modern Achievements: India is now a global leader in missile technology (e.g., Brahmos) and space research, largely influenced by the work of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- National Impact: Scientific advancement has revolutionized daily life in India, improving sectors like electricity, telecommunications, agriculture, and digital electronics, which in turn creates new employment opportunities.

(v) Future Outlook and Global Unity

- Emerging Technologies: Future of the world will be shaped by Renewable Energy, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Biotechnology.
- Universal Language: Science is described as a force that unites humanity, transcending barriers of language, culture, and religion.
- Call to Action: Investing in research and education is the only way to secure a nation's future, urging the next generation to use science responsibly to make the world safer and more prosperous.