

January 4, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The Pakistan's first air-launched Taimur missile was successfully test-fired.

(i) The Pakistan Air Force successfully test-fired the air-launched Taimur missile. This missile is capable of striking enemy land and sea targets at a range of 600 kilometers with high precision. It carries conventional, non-nuclear warheads.

(ii) The missile, which operates with a state-of-the-art guidance system, is designed to fly at very low altitudes. This allows it to effectively evade enemy air defense systems. Its precision strike capability enhances the country's overall defense posture, the statement said.

2. In the first phase of vote counting in the general election held in Myanmar, the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) is leading in majority of seats.

(i) USDP party leader Khin Yee, who is close to military ruler Min Aung Hlaing, has been declared the winner by a large margin in his constituency in the capital Naypyidaw.

(ii) Previously, in the 2020 elections, the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, won 258 seats in the House of Representatives and 138 seats in the House of Nationalities, forming the Government. The USDP party secured only 26 and 7 seats respectively.

(iii) However, the military overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's Government in 2021, alleging electoral fraud, and seized power. Her NLD party and 39 other parties were dissolved in 2023. In this context, the military-backed USDP is leading in the first election held after the 2021 military coup.

(iv) This announcement is seen as confirming the allegations by opposition parties and human rights organizations that the election is being unfairly conducted to indirectly extend the current military rule.

3. The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is planning to create a unique identification number (Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN)), similar to 'Aadhaar', for batteries used in electric vehicles to facilitate their monitoring and proper recycling.

(i) Accordingly, battery manufacturers or importers will be mandated to assign a unique 21-digit identification number to each battery. This number must be clearly marked on the battery in a way that is not easily damaged.

(ii) This number will allow for the precise tracking of all details of a battery, from the raw materials used in its manufacture to its usage, recycling, or end-of-life. If a battery is recycled or its form is altered, a new identification number will be assigned to it.

(iii) In India, 80 to 90 percent of the demand for 'lithium-ion' batteries comes from the electric vehicle sector. Therefore, this identification number scheme will be prioritized for electric vehicle batteries in the first phase. Specifically, this scheme will apply to batteries with a capacity of more than 2 kilowatt-hours.

(iv) Automotive Industry Standards Committee (AISC) will be formed to discuss the implementation of this scheme. This committee will include battery manufacturers, vehicle manufacturing companies, and recycling experts. The scheme will be formally implemented nationwide only after technical testing by this committee.

4. On the occasion of Rani Velu Nachiyar's birth anniversary, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have paid tribute to her.

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(i) Born in 1730, Rani Velu Nachiyar was the first Indian queen to fight against the East India Company and reclaim her Sivaganga kingdom.

5. The Prime Minister Modi inaugurated an international exhibition of sacred relics and ancient artifacts of Buddha at the Raipithora Cultural Complex in New Delhi. The exhibition, titled 'Light and Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One,' prominently features the sacred relics of Buddha discovered in 1898 in Piprahwa, a region of Uttar Pradesh bordering Nepal (considered to be the site of the ancient city of Kapilavastu).

6. Tamil Nadu has topped the country in dengue fever cases in 2025. According to the Union Health Ministry, 20,866 people have been affected by dengue in Tamil Nadu.

(i) Due to intermittent rainfall in various parts of Tamil Nadu since the beginning of 2025, the breeding of 'Aedes aegypti' mosquitoes, which spread dengue, increased in the stagnant rainwater on roads and streets. Consequently, dengue fever began to spread from the start of the year. Following the onset of the Northeast monsoon, the mosquito population increased further, leading to a manifold increase in the number of people receiving treatment for dengue in Government and Private hospitals.

(ii) Although the Tamil Nadu Health Department has been implementing various preventive measures to control the spread of dengue, people of all ages, from children to adults, continue to be affected.

(iii) Health Department officials state that the incidence of dengue in Tamil Nadu will gradually decrease only after January.

(iv) In this context, the Union Health Ministry has released statistics on dengue fever cases across the country from January to November 2025. According to the data, 1,13,450 people have been affected by dengue nationwide, and 95 deaths have been reported.

(v) Tamil Nadu has the highest number of cases in the country with 20,866 people affected. This is followed by Maharashtra with 13,333 cases, Kerala with 10,239 cases, Uttar Pradesh with 8,926 cases, Telangana with 8,139 cases, Karnataka with 6,756 cases, and Manipur with 5,457 cases.

(vi) Similarly, Kerala has the highest number of deaths due to dengue in the country, with 49 fatalities. This is followed by Maharashtra with 13 deaths and Tamil Nadu with 12 deaths.

7. Indian left-wing parties have expressed their strong condemnation of the US airstrike on the South American country of Venezuela and the arrest of its president, Nicolás Maduro.