

September 20, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1.U.S. President Trump has approved a bill that would allow tariffs of up to 100 per cent to be imposed on goods from countries including India and China, with the aim of preventing them from purchasing crude oil from Russia.

(i) The Russia–Ukraine war has continued for more than four years. Against this backdrop, a bill was introduced in the U.S. Congress to authorize U.S. President Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on Russia, as well as on goods from countries including India and China that import crude oil from Russia.

(ii) The bill, named after the late South Carolina Congressman Lindsey O. Graham, who actively campaigned for its passage, was passed by the Senate last month. Subsequently, the U.S. House of Representatives also approved it last Wednesday.

(iii) Following this, the bill was sent to U.S. President Trump for his approval. President Trump has now signed the bill into law.

(iv) As a result, President Trump will be able to impose sanctions on the Russian leadership (President), Russia's energy sector, and vessels used indirectly by Russia for crude oil trade. In addition, he will be able to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from India, China, and other countries that import crude oil from Russia, as well as impose additional economic sanctions on Iran.

2. US military infrastructure to be strengthened in Greenland

(i) US–Denmark Strategic Agreement on Greenland

- US President Donald Trump announced a major agreement with the Government of Denmark to strengthen US military infrastructure in Arctic Greenland.
- The agreement grants the United States permanent control over Greenland's defense operations and related security requirements.
- The agreement is considered to have successfully ended a major diplomatic crisis that had developed among Western nations.

(ii) Sovereignty, Autonomy, and Parliamentary Approval

- Territorial sovereignty over Greenland remains under NATO ally Denmark, fully recognizing and protecting the autonomy and interests of all involved parties.
- To become legally binding and operational, the agreement must first receive formal approval from the Parliaments of both Denmark and Greenland.

(iii) Strategic Background & Historical Tensions

- Situated off the northeast coast of Canada with most of its land within the Arctic Circle, Greenland has served as a critical pillar of North American defense since World War II.
- Since entering his second Presidential term, Donald Trump repeatedly urged Denmark to sell Greenland to the US and shocked European allies by threatening military force if necessary.
- Both Denmark and Greenland consistently rejected the proposals, reiterating that Greenland was

not for sale.

(iv) Restrictions on Foreign Military and Investments

- The agreement explicitly prohibits non-NATO countries from making investments or establishing military bases in Greenland.
- The treaty specifically ensures that nations such as Russia and China cannot set up military or strategic bases on the island.

3. 20th Asian Games 2026

(i) Event Overview & Host History

- Host Location: Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- Ceremonially opened on Saturday, September 19, 2026.
- Organised once every 4 years among Asian countries.
- This marks the 3rd time Japan is hosting the Asian Games, following previous editions in Tokyo (1958) and Hiroshima (1994).

(ii) Participation & Event Scale

- Athletes from 45 Asian countries are taking part in the games. Over 11,000 athletes are competing.

(iii) The ceremony was attended by Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as the chief guest, alongside senior representatives from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

(iv) To control operational costs, organizers utilized open-air and repurposed venues for the ceremony rather than building an expensive new stadium.

- To reduce infrastructure costs, organizers avoided constructing expensive temporary housing and instead accommodated athletes on luxury cruise ships and coastal facilities

4. The rules have been amended to enable the Lieutenant Governors of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu and Kashmir—the three Union Territories with legislative assemblies—to participate in meetings of the Inter-State Council held when President's Rule is imposed in the respective Union Territories.

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs announced on September 9 that President Droupadi Murmu had made the relevant amendments to the Inter-State Council Order, 1990. The Ministry issued a notification to this effect.

(ii) The notification stated: "The Inter-State Council Order, 1990, is being amended with the inclusion of new provisions. Accordingly, the Lieutenant Governors of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu and Kashmir will be permitted to participate in meetings of the Inter-State Council held when President's Rule is imposed in these three Union Territories with legislative assemblies.

(iii) The notification further stated that the respective Lieutenant Governors would be invited to such meetings during the period of President's Rule under Article 239AB of the Constitution in the case of Delhi, Section 51 of the Union Territories Act, 1963, in the case of Puducherry, and Section 73 of the Jammu and

Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, in the case of Jammu and Kashmir.

(iv) The Inter-State Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises all State Chief Ministers, six Union Ministers of Cabinet rank, and representatives of the Union Territories as members. President's Rule is imposed under Article 356 of the Constitution.

5.The White House stated that U.S. President Donald Trump has approved a one-year extension of the \$100,000 H-1B visa fee imposed on companies that hire foreign workers.

(i) According to an order issued on Friday in this regard, registrations for H-1B visas by major information technology companies had declined by 92 per cent due to the H-1B visa fee imposed in 2025.

(ii) The order has been issued at a time when Indians are among the major beneficiaries of the H-1B visa programme.

(iii) The H-1B visa fee imposed last year was due to expire this month and has now been extended for another year. It was stated that this fee would not apply to foreign nationals already staying in the United States on student visas.