

August 21, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The White House, the Presidential residence of USA, has explained that US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on India to end the Russia-Ukraine war.
 - i. America's actions pose a challenge to India. However, Russia has great confidence in its relationship with India.
 - ii. Trilateral talks between Russia-India-China (RIC) are likely to be held soon. Russia has a special plan to counter the US move. If India cannot export goods to the United States, it can export them to Russia. Russian market is always open for India, says Deputy Head of Russian Embassy Roman Babushkin
2. The Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said at a meeting in New Delhi that the Tamil Nadu Government will provide the necessary cooperation to restructure the GST rate.
 - i. A consultative meeting of three Group of Ministers (GoMs) formed by State Finance Ministers, Chief Ministers of some States and Health Ministers has begun to make recommendations for bringing changes in GST.
 - ii. Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu participated and spoke. Initiatives to adjust GST rates are welcome. At the same time, the financial resources of the states must be taken into account. While many states, including Tamil Nadu, are implementing major infrastructure projects and social welfare schemes, tax reforms should not lead to reductions in expenditure for these.
 - iii. The compensation cess will also end at the time of GST rate revision. Reducing GST rates while simultaneously withdrawing the compensation cess would severely impact the states' revenues. Therefore, the compensation cess should be extended to compensate for the revenue loss that may occur to the states due to the GST rate revision.
 - iv. The Minister said that the net borrowing ceiling of states should be increased to 4 percent of the gross state domestic product without any conditions.
3. Three bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha to remove the Prime Minister, state Chief Ministers and ministers from office who are arrested on serious charges and detained for 30 days.
 - i. Amidst strong opposition from the opposition parties, Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the three bills – the Union Territories Amendment Bill 2025, the Constitution 130th Amendment Bill 2025, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Amendment Bill 2025.
 - ii. These bills suggest that Prime Minister, Union Ministers or State Chief Ministers who are arrested for a serious offence punishable with imprisonment up to five years and are remanded in custody for 30 days, then they will lose that position on the 31st.

- iii. There is no provision in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, to remove Chief Ministers or Ministers who are found guilty of such serious crimes. Therefore, the bill also states that an amendment to Section 45 of the Union Territories Act, 1963 is required to remove Chief Ministers or Ministers who are found guilty of such serious charges.
4. V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi has achieved significant growth and achieved a record in handling wind turbine blades. The port handled 343 wind turbine blades in July, a 90.56 percent increase over the 180 wind turbine blades handled in July 2024.
5. India won 4 medals, including 2 gold and 2 bronze, at the Asian Shooting Championships being held in Kazakhstan.
 - i. In this, India's Anantjeet Singh Naruka topped the men's individual skeet shooting event with 57 points and won gold.
6. The Central Government has approved the purchase of 97 more 'Tejas' fighter jets for the Indian Air Force at a cost of Rs 67,000 crore.
 - i. The current number of fighter squadrons in the Indian Air Force is 31, which is less than the authorized number of 42. This is less than the approved number of 42. This new purchase is expected to increase the strength of fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force.
7. The Ministry of Defence announced that the Agni-5 ballistic missile, which has a range of 5,000 km, was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range in Chandigarh, Odisha.
 - i. This missile is capable of striking all of Asia and parts of Europe, including northern China.
 - ii. While Agni 1 to 4 missiles have already been put into service, the Agni-5 missile was also tested in March last year.
8. The 'Online Gaming Development and Regulation Bill, 2025', which prohibits online gambling games played for money, was passed in the Lok Sabha.

Key features :-

- i. Running an online game is punishable by up to 3 years in prison or a fine of up to Rs. 1 crore.
 - ii. Those who advertise can be imprisoned for up to 2 years or fined up to Rs. 50 lakh.
 - iii. Repeat offenders face a fine of up to Rs. 2 crore and up to 5 years in prison.
9. The country's 22nd Indian Institute of Management (IIM) is to be set up at a cost of Rs.555 crore in Guwahati, Assam
 - i. The 'IIM Act Bill 2025' for this purpose, which has already been passed in the Lok Sabha, was also passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote. The announcement is considered significant as assembly elections are coming up in Assam early next year.

10. The Central Government is planning to exempt insurance premiums from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). At the same time, State Governments have expressed their concerns that this will affect their revenue.

- i. Currently, GST is levied at 18 percent on life insurance and health insurance premiums. This contributes significantly to GST revenue for the Central and State Governments.

