



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

August 9, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. At a meeting of MPs chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay, it was decided that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly should pass a special resolution urging the Union Government to abandon the proposed Delimitation Bill.
 - i. The Members of Parliament who attended the meeting pointed out that even with the present strength of 543 members in the Lok Sabha, the time available for each member to speak is already limited. They also highlighted the difficulties members may face in expressing their views fully if the number of MPs is increased.
 - ii. They further pointed out that in countries including the United States, the number of Parliamentarians has not been increased proportionately to the population.
 - iii. Following the discussion, the meeting unanimously decided that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly should pass a special Government resolution urging the Union Government to abandon delimitation in order to permanently safeguard the rights and interests of Tamil Nadu and the southern states.
2. The US Senate approved a bill that provides for imposing a 100 per cent tariff on goods imported from countries, including India, that purchase large quantities of petroleum products from Russia.
 - i. The bipartisan bill, renamed the “Lindsey O. Graham sanctioning Russian and Iran Act of 2026,” was approved in a Senate vote by 86 members in favour and 11 against.
 - ii. The bill was introduced by Lindsey Graham, a Republican member of the Senate, and Democratic Party member Richard Blumenthal. Graham reportedly died suddenly during a recent visit to Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. Following his death, the bill was named after him.
 - iii. Following its approval by the Senate, the bill is scheduled to be introduced in the US House of Representatives, which is due to reconvene on August 31.
 - iv. If the House of Representatives approves the bill and it is subsequently signed by US

President Donald Trump, it will become law.

3. Typhoon Dolphin struck the Okinawa and Kagoshima prefectures of southern Japan with strong winds. The storm produced winds of up to 216 km per hour, and six people were injured in accidents caused by the powerful winds.
4. Amid continued Russian air strikes, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy paid an official visit to Serbia, which has maintained relatively cordial relations with Russia.
 - i. This was the first visit by a Ukrainian president to Serbia in the past eight years. In the Serbian capital, Belgrade, Zelenskyy held talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić. They discussed improving bilateral relations and measures related to Ukraine's efforts to join the European Union.
 - ii. Serbia has refused to impose economic sanctions on Russia over the war in Ukraine. At the same time, during the meeting, Serbia once again reaffirmed its recognition of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
5. The US Senate approved Todd Blanche, former personal attorney to US President Donald Trump, to take charge as the country's new Attorney General.
6. India's Ashish Yadav won the silver medal in the javelin throw at the U-20 World Athletics Championships.
 - i. Ashish won the silver medal with a throw of 74.09 metres in his third attempt. This was India's first medal at the competition. Dharanidharan finished sixth with a throw of 72.35 metres.
 - ii. At the 2016 competition held in Poland, Indian javelin star Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal with a throw of 86.48 metres.
 - iii. The world record set by Neeraj Chopra at that time has not yet been broken.

7. Davis Cup – Tennis

8. A Tribunal Reforms Bill, which proposes establishing a commission for appointing the chairpersons and members of various tribunals, is scheduled to be introduced in the Lok Sabha next week.

- i. The bill is intended to ensure that the selection and appointment of chairpersons and members of various tribunals are carried out in an independent and transparent manner.
- ii. The bill lays down provisions concerning the manner in which tribunal chairpersons and members should be selected and appointed, their remuneration, and the qualifications required for these positions. It also provides the framework for establishing a National Tribunals Commission.
- iii. The commission, which will be headquartered in New Delhi, will have a chairperson and four members comprising two judicial members and two technical members.

9. New security guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs regarding renewable energy projects near India's international borders.

(i) Core Prohibition and Overview

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has issued guidelines imposing a total ban on the implementation of new solar, wind, or hybrid renewable power projects within 1 km of India's international borders.
- These rules specifically target the borders shared with neighboring countries, such as Pakistan and China.
- Areas extending up to 50 km from the borders have been categorized as restricted zones for power project development.

(ii) Zonal Security Restrictions and Clearances Specific security requirements vary based on the project's distance from the border:

- 1 km to 50 km Zone: Any renewable energy project planned within this range must obtain security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 1 km to 20 km Zone: In addition to Home Ministry clearance, projects in this closer proximity must also obtain a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) from the Ministry of Defence.

- Exemptions: Projects that have already received security approval from the Home Ministry prior to these new guidelines do not need to re-apply.

(iii) Application and Approval Process

- All applications for security clearance must now be submitted exclusively through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will forward these proposals to the Home and Defence Ministries, provided they include the policy-level approval from the respective State Government regarding land allocation.
- If a project involves foreign participation, the owner must file a separate application with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy.

(iv) Mandatory Surveillance and Anti-Drone Systems

- It is mandatory for power plants in border areas to install anti-drone systems.
- These systems must be operated by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) or the local police.
- The entire cost of procuring and installing these security devices must be borne by the project owner.

(v) Labor and Infrastructure Restrictions

- Project owners are strictly prohibited from employing engineers, employees, or other staff from neighboring countries (specifically China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh) without prior approval from the Central Government.
- Common infrastructure for workers, such as residential quarters and canteens, must be established at a distance of at least 5 km from the international border.
- Height Restrictions for Buildings:
 - 1 km to 8 km from border: Maximum building height allowed is 3 meters.
 - 8 km to 20 km from border: Maximum height is 5 meters.
 - 20 km to 50 km from border: Maximum height is 15 meters.

(vi) Rationale and Strategic Significance

- The primary objective of these guidelines is to prioritize national security while simultaneously attempting to facilitate industrial growth through clear regulatory frameworks.

- The Ministry issued these rules in response to a significant increase in applications for renewable energy projects in sensitive border regions.

10. Transition from colonial-era banking laws to a modern digital legal framework.

(i) Legislative Context and Replacement

- The new bill replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act of 1891, a 135-year-old law established during British rule when banking was entirely paper-based.
- The Central Government passed the "Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026" in the Lok Sabha on August 5, 2026.
- The primary reason for the new law is that the previous legal framework was inadequate for the current era of digital and electronic transactions.

(ii) Key Legal Provisions

- Printouts and electronic records from banks will now be officially accepted as primary evidence in courts.
- The procedures to certify that electronic records are authentic have been simplified and will be implemented uniformly across India.
- The bill legally recognizes digital and electronic signatures for document validation, placing them on par with physical signatures.
- To prevent operational disruptions, courts will have strict restrictions on summoning bank managers to appear in person for cases where certified digital records suffice.
- The Central Government now has the authority to extend these evidence rules to other specified financial institutions beyond just traditional banks.

(iii) Direct Benefits for Consumers

- By allowing bank records to be submitted directly as primary evidence, financial legal disputes—such as cheque fraud—can be resolved much faster without years of delay.
- Avoiding the time-consuming process of bringing bank officials to court for manual verification will significantly increase the speed of trials.
- A uniform certification process across all banks and financial institutions will reduce procedural hurdles for consumers.

(iv) Identified Risks and Protective Needs

- Emphasizes the need for robust privacy protections to ensure that personal financial

data does not leak during the transfer of records to courts.

- Strict cybersecurity protocols are required to prevent the submission of tampered or fraudulent digital evidence.
- Experts note that it may remain difficult for ordinary consumers to verify computer data in instances of technical glitches or incorrect automated transactions.

(v) Strategic and Historical Significance

- The bill is described not just as a procedural change but as a historic move to strengthen public confidence in both the banking and legal systems.
- As the banking sector moves toward advanced modern technologies, this bill ensures the legal system is not left behind, effectively reducing court delays.

This legislation is a vital milestone in India's digital transformation, ensuring that the law evolves alongside technology to protect consumer interests.