

**P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY****Building Bureaucrats Since 2006****August 15, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

1. The country's 80th Independence Day will be celebrated on Saturday. On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hoist the national flag and address the nation at a grand ceremony to be held at the Red Fort in Delhi.
 - I. The Prime Minister's address is expected to include announcements of new schemes along with the achievements of the Union Government. Elaborate security arrangements have been made across the country in view of Independence Day.
 - II. This year's Independence Day celebrations are being held under the themes "150th Anniversary Celebrations of the National Song Vande Mataram" and "Youth Power for a Developed India by 2047." Moreover, for the first time, Vande Mataram will be played during the Red Fort celebrations.
2. The counting of votes in the Presidential election held in the southern African country of Zambia was temporarily suspended following incidents of violence and the theft of ballot papers.
 - I. In copper-rich Zambia, incumbent President Hakainde Hichilema is contesting for a second term. He is facing 13 candidates. Among them, Brian Mundubile, the leader of a coalition of major opposition parties, is considered a strong challenger to President Hichilema.
 - II. Elections in Zambia are generally conducted peacefully. However, this time, even before the election, President Hichilema had faced criticism for allegedly attempting to suppress the voice of opposition parties.

3. Japanese competitors have been dominating the quarter-finals and semi-finals in the QS 2000 and Pro Junior categories of the Shore Temple Classic, being held in Mamallapuram as part of the World Surf League series. Indian competitors exited the competition in disappointment.
- I. Japanese competitors have been dominating the quarter-finals and semi-finals in the QS 2000 and Pro Junior categories of the Shore Temple Classic, being held in Mamallapuram as part of the World Surf League series. Indian competitors exited the competition in disappointment.
4. On the day India celebrates its 80th Independence Day (August 15), the Indian cricket team will take the field in its 600th Test match.
- I. India is the third team to reach this milestone, after England and Australia. India played its first Test match against England in 1932, which England won.
5. At the Canadian Open tennis tournament, American Ben Shelton and Poland's Iga Swiatek emerged as champions in their respective categories.
6. The 16th FIH Men's and Women's Hockey World Cup will begin on Saturday (August 15) in the Netherlands and Belgium and will continue until August 30.
7. India's defence equipment exports increased to ₹38,424 crore in the financial year 2025–26, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said.

8. The foreign exchange inflow attracted through the swap facility amounted to ₹5.43 lakh crore (\$56.85 billion), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

- I. At a time when the Indian rupee has been declining against the US dollar in recent months, the RBI has been taking various initiatives to improve the mobilisation of foreign exchange funds from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- II. Accordingly, schemes such as the Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] scheme, under which NRIs can maintain their savings in foreign currency with Indian banks, as well as the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCB) schemes, are being implemented.
- III. In a press release, the RBI said that the swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits had received an overwhelming response beyond expectations. Under this initiative, foreign exchange inflows had increased manifold.
- IV. Therefore, the swap facility will now be available only for deposits mobilised under FCNR(B) until August 31. The initiative had earlier been extended until September 30, but it will now end on August 31.
- V. The RBI will continue its fund-mobilisation efforts under ECB and OFCB until December 31. A total of ₹5.43 lakh crore has been mobilised, comprising ₹5 lakh crore (\$52.3 billion) through FCNR(B) deposits, ₹26,600 crore (\$2.805 billion) under OFCB, and ₹16,618 crore (\$1.741 billion) under ECB.
- VI. As a result, as of the week ended August 7, India's foreign exchange reserves had increased by ₹1.34 lakh crore (\$14.136 billion) to ₹67.48 lakh crore (\$707 billion), the RBI said.