

**P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY****Building Bureaucrats Since 2006****August 31, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

1. Continuous Ukrainian drone strikes targeted at Russian oil refineries successfully disrupted and damaged up to 70% of Russia's domestic fuel refining operations.
 - i. To prevent domestic fuel shortages, the Russian Government implemented a ban on all refined gasoline exports until January 2027.
 - ii. Russia has turned to India to import refined petrol, with India exporting 125,000 barrels of petrol per day (totaling 470,000 tons in August 2026 alone) to Russia.
 - iii. These exports are supplied from Gujarat's Vadinar refinery managed by Nayara Energy, in which Russia's state oil giant Rosneft holds a significant share.
2. India and Uzbekistan signed 11 bilateral agreements to strengthen cooperation across key sectors including mining, culture, education, tourism, Ayurveda, and digital public infrastructure (UPI).
 - i. The two nations set a strategic target to expand their bilateral trade volume to \$5 billion (approx. ₹47,750 crore) by the year 2030.
 - ii. The current bilateral trade between India and Uzbekistan stands at \$1 billion (approx. ₹9,538 crore)
3. Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev conferred Uzbekistan's highest state honor, the "Highest Friendship Award" (Order of Friendship / Dostlik), on Indian PM Narendra Modi.
 - i. This award marks the 35th international honor received by PM Modi from foreign nations and global organizations.

- ii. During his visit, PM Modi paid floral tributes at the Tashkent memorial of former Indian PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, who signed the historic Tashkent Agreement on January 11, 1966.
- iii. PM Modi and President Mirziyoyev jointly planted a tree at the Shastri Memorial under India's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (A Tree for Mother) and Uzbekistan's Yashil Makon (Green Space) Green Initiative

4. The 26th annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is scheduled to be held in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, on August 31 and September 1, 2026.

- i. The summit brings together heads of state from 10 member countries, including India, Russia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus.
- ii. Geopolitical analysts highlight that the summit will serve as a crucial platform for bilateral talks, including anticipated meetings between India, Russia, and China.

5. In a public referendum/poll, the citizens of Iceland rejected a proposal to resume diplomatic negotiations to join the European Union (EU), with over 50% voting against it.

- i. While the majority of the population in the capital city of Reykjavik supported EU accession, rural and regional votes led to the proposal's defeat across the nation of 400,000 citizens.
- ii. Security anxieties have risen in Iceland (which is a NATO member) following statements by US President Donald Trump regarding the purchase of Danish-ruled Greenland, during which he mistakenly referred to Greenland as "Iceland" four times.

6. A wooden vessel transporting 268 irregular migrants capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Kyrenia in Northern Cyprus.
- i. Coordinated naval search operations successfully rescued 237 passengers, recovered 7 bodies, and continued to search for 24 missing individuals.
 - ii. The vessel had departed from Kyrenia port and was traveling towards the Tasucu port in southern Turkey.
 - iii. Kyrenia is located in Northern Cyprus, a territory whose self-declared statehood is exclusively recognized by Turkey
7. Women's T20 Asia Cup tournament was officially hosted in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
8. IIT Madras launched an innovative new ball sport called "Apitaball" on National Sports Day (August 29).
- i. Unlike standard two-team sports, Apitaball is a multi-team game played by three teams simultaneously on a circular court.
 - ii. (ii) The sport's introduction was led by IIT Madras Director Prof. V. Kamakoti and Dean Prof. Satyanarayana Gummadi.
9. Shivani Mehrotra from Uttar Pradesh reached the summit of Mount Elbrus, the highest mountain in Europe.