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- 1. US President Donald Trump announced that he would increase the previously announced 25 % tariff to 50 % as India did not offer to stop buying crude oil from Russia. The previously announced 25 percent tariff (Aug. 7) is set to come into effect. It has also been announced that the increased tariff will come into effect in the next 21 days (Aug. 27).
- 2. Prime Minister Modi will visit Japan on August 29 as the first leg of his visit, where he will participate in the India-Japan Annual Summit with the country's Prime Minister. From there, he will travel to China to attend the annual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tianjin. This conference will be held from August 31st to September 1st.
 - i. Since Pakistan is also a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, its Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is also likely to participate in this conference. If they do participate, it is likely to be the first time since Operation Sindhoor that the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan will attend the same event.
- 3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the interest rate (Repo Rate) for banks will remain unchanged at 5.5 percent. As a result, interest rates on various loans, including home, vehicle, and personal loans, as well as interest rates offered by banks on savings plans, including fixed deposits and recurring deposits, are likely to remain unchanged.
- 4. The 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, was observed in the city. Representatives from 120 countries paid their respects at the memorial at 8:15 a.m., the time the atomic bomb was dropped.
 - i. Leaders including Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Mayor Kasumi Matsui observed a moment of silence at the memorial.
 - ii. On August 6, 1945, atomic bomb attack by the America on Hiroshima killed 1.4 lakh people.
 - iii. Three days later, another atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki, killing about 70,000 people. It is worth remembering that Japan surrendered on August 15, ending World War II.
- 5. The Pakistani Government has begun work to evacuate 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees residing in their country by September 1.
- 6. The general elections in Bangladesh following the overthrow of Sheikh Hasina's Government will be held in February, announced Mohammad Yunus, the Chief Advisor to the Interim Government.
- After more than 7,000 people in China were confirmed to have chikungunya infections in the past few days alone, authorities have launched measures to prevent the spread of the disease.
- 8. The BCCI escaped the ambit of the Right to Information Act as the Union Sports Ministry had amended the National Sports Administration Bill to make only organizations that receive Central Government funding fall within the ambit of the Right to Information Act.
- 9. Personalities in news:
 - i. Steve Witkoff U.S. Special Envoy
 - ii. Nikki Haley Former US ambassador to the United Nations
 - iii. Ajit Doval National Security Advisor of India