

UPSC Current Affairs| One Liners 12-08-2026

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Geography

Lake Mead - Record Lowest Water Level (2026)

- Largest US reservoir hit 1,040.4 ft (lowest since filling 90 yrs ago).
- **Cause** - Severe drought, worst snowpack in Rockies, overuse, rising temperatures.
- **Impact** - Threatens water for 40 million people, hydropower, agriculture, wildlife across 7 US states and Mexico.

Colombia Earthquake - 2026

- **Event** - 7.4-magnitude quake struck Choco region (Aug 10, 2026).
- Quake's epicenter was in Colombia's coastal Choco region at a depth of 100 km
- **Impact** - 111 killed, 87 injured, 1,000+ buildings damaged; major destruction in Pereira, Cali, Quibdo.

Social Issues

Lebanon Ends Death Penalty - 2026

Lebanon became the first in Middle East to end capital punishment.

- **Event** - Parliament voted to abolish capital punishment (Aug 2026).
- **Status** - First Middle Eastern nation to formally end death penalty; last execution in 2004.

Environment

VOC Port - Scope-2 Emission-Free Milestone

Recently, V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Tutucorin became India's first Scope-2 emission-free major port.

- **Recognition** - Certified by **Bureau Veritas** for Energy Management.
- **Features** - 93.89% renewable power use; solar, wind, battery storage, EV infra, shore-to-ship systems.
- **Initiatives** - Green Hydrogen Hub; setting up a 3 MW green hydrogen production plant and green methanol bunkering and refuelling facility.

Science

NASA-ISRO Moon Base Programme - 2026

Recently, NASA invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme under Artemis Accords.

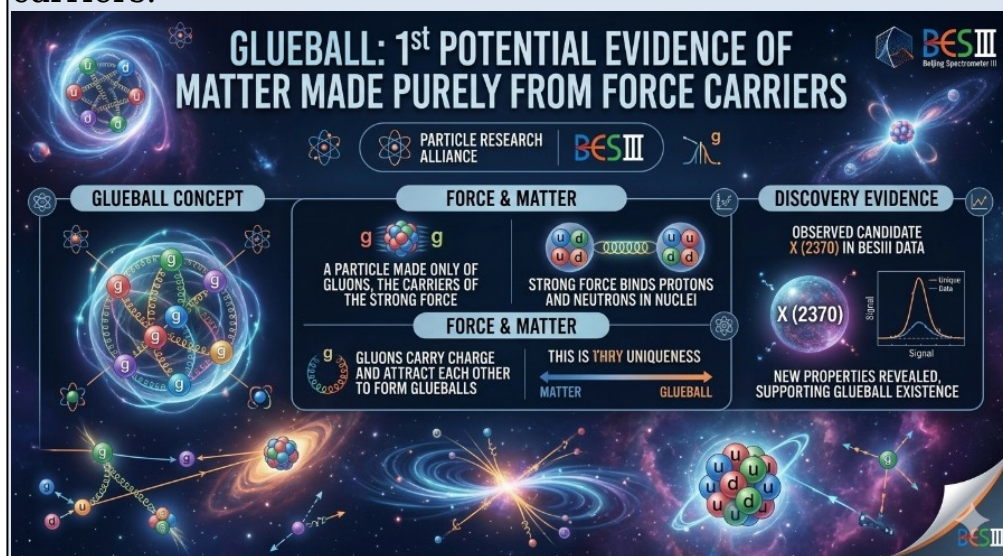
- **9th Meeting** - India-US Civil Space Joint Working Group held at Bengaluru.
- programme will be executed in three phases.
- **Aim** - To build humanity's first outpost on another celestial body near the lunar South Pole.
- **Focus** - Open scientific data sharing, civil and commercial space cooperation, human spaceflight tech.
- **Context** - Builds on **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission success**; aligns with U.S.-India **Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST) Initiative**.
- **Significance** - Strengthens bilateral space ties; supports United Nations **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) sustainability guidelines**.



Glueball

Scientists have potentially the 1st evidence for a form of matter made just from the carriers of a fundamental force.

- **Glueball** - A particle made only of gluons, carriers of the strong force.
- **Fundamental Force** - Strong force binds protons and neutrons in nuclei.
- **Concept** - Gluons carry charge, can attract each other, forming glueballs.
- **Discovery** - Candidate glueball X (2370) observed in BESIII data.
- **Evidence** - New properties revealed, supporting glueball existence.
- **Significance** - First potential evidence of matter made purely from force carriers.



Dirac Medal 2026 - Deepak Dhar

Recently, Deepak Dhar has been awarded the Dirac Medal.

- **Winner** - Indian physicist Deepak Dhar (2nd Indian after Ashoke Sen, 2012), an honour he is sharing with three other physicists, Bernard Derrida, Marc Mézard, and Haim Sompolinsky.
- **Awarded by** - International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy (on Paul Dirac's birthday).
- **Recognition for** - Pioneering contributions to statistical mechanics and the physics of complex systems.
- He developed the Abelian sandpile model, mathematically explaining how simple interactions trigger large-scale cascades.
- **Honours** - Bhatnagar Prize (1991), TWAS Prize (2002), Padma Bhushan (2023), Boltzmann Medal (2022).

Param Pragya - AI Supercomputing Facility

Recently, Prime Minister inaugurated Param Pragya at IIT Delhi Sonipat campus.

- **Param Pragya** - It is a high-performance computing facility designed for artificial intelligence, data science, advanced computing, and interdisciplinary research.

Miscellaneous

Blue Heart - Ahmedabad Man-Made Lake

India's newest man-made lake crafted with Dutch expertise.

- **Features** - Closed-loop design eliminates wastewater ingress.
- The depth profile prevents stratification [which enables phosphorus loading].
- Continuous water movement by an automated inlet system denies algal blooms the stagnant conditions.
- Prevents eutrophication, supports biodiversity, promenade, kayak trail, riparian vegetation.

India at IOL 2026 - Romania

- *Recently, 23rd International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) was held in Romania.*
- IOL unites students from 40+ countries, testing logic, reasoning, and pattern recognition to decode unfamiliar languages.
- **Medals** - 1 Gold (Shrilakshmi Venkatraman), 3 Bronze (Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan, Advay Misra), 1 Honourable Mention (Soham Amit Pednekar).
- **Significance** - India's tally now 37 medals (6 Gold, 9 Silver, 22 Bronze + honours) since 2009.
- **Support** - IIIT Hyderabad's Language Technologies Research Centre mentors Panini Linguistics Olympiad team.



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