UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 01-08-2026

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International Relations and Issues

Favara–UPI Corridor – Maldives and India

Recently, Maldives has launched real-time cross-border fund transfers to India.

• **Launch** – Real-time cross-border fund transfers via Favara (Maldives) + UPI (India).
• **Mechanism** – Transactions in Maldivian Rufiyaa will be credited in INR to UPI accounts.
• **Partners** – Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA), RBI, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), Bank of Maldives, Maldives Islamic Bank.
• **Scope** – Family maintenance and gift remittances; person-to-person transfers via mobile apps.

Environment

Varayattumudy in Kerala's Idukki

Varayattumudy (or Varayattumudi) *in Kerala's Idukki district is emerging as an important refuge for the endangered Nilgiri tahr, one of the most iconic mammals of the Western Ghats.*

• Varayattumudy lies within the Adimali forest division of Kerala's Idukki district.
• The region's steep cliffs, rocky crevices, and extensive montane grasslands provide ideal conditions for the Nilgiri tahr.
• Forest officials have reported a steady rise in the tahr population in the area owing to stronger conservation measures and reduced hunting pressure.

Nilgiri Tahr

• **Scientific name-** *Nilgiritragus hylocrius*.
• It is endemic to the southern Western Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
• **Conservation status- Endangered** according to the IUCN Red List.
• **Legal protection -** Listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
• The species inhabits high-altitude grasslands, shola forests, and rocky mountain slopes.
• Eravikulam National Park supports the ***largest surviving population of the species.***

Karnataka's Neelam and Totapuri Mangoes

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first-ever air shipment of Karnataka's Neelam and Totapuri mangoes to the Maldives.

• The shipment consisted of one metric tonne of mangoes.
• The fruits were sourced from farmers belonging to a Farmer Producer Company (FPC) in Kolar district of Karnataka.
• The export was facilitated by APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
• Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the initiative would open up new international markets for farmers and strengthen India's fruit-export ecosystem.

Security

Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition – 2026

Recently Saudi Arabia and 13 other countries have established a maritime defence coalition.

• **Launch** – Saudi Arabia + 13 nations form alliance in **Riyadh**.
• **Aim** – To enhance maritime security, protecting freedom of navigation, securing international trade routes and energy supply lines.
• **Focus** – To safe guard hared maritime interests in ***Bab El-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Gulf of Aden.***
• **Founding Members** – Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Nigeria, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia and others.
• **Headquarters** – Saudi Arabia.
• **Nature** – ***Purely defensive***, compliant with international law and sovereignty.

India's Indigenous Diving Support Vessel – Nipun

Recently, India's 2nd diving support vessel was delivered to Navy.

• **Builder** – Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., delivered at Visakhapatnam.
• **Type** – Specialised DSV for deep-sea dive operations and submarine rescue operations.
• **Features** – Advanced dynamic positioning, saturation diving systems and deployment gear for remotely operated vehicles.
• **Role** – Serves as ***mother ship for Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV).***
• **Legacy** – Second indigenously built DSV after **INS Nistar (2025)**.
• **Indigenous Content** – 75%, aligned with Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Machilipatnam – ASW Warship

Recently, Indian Navy launched Machilipatnam Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW SWC).

• **Launch** – 7th of 8 **ASW SWC**.
• **Built by –** Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
• **Named after** – Historic port city Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh) reflecting the city's rich maritime heritage.
• **Role** – Coastal/littoral operations – underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, low-intensity ops.
• **Indigenous Content** – >80%, aligned with Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

India's 1st Dedicated Department of Military

Recently, India's first-ever dedicated academic and operational department for military medicine was inaugurated.

• **Launch** – Inaugurated at **Command Hospital, Central Command, Lucknow**.
• **Under** – Directorate General of Medical Services (Army).
• **Focus** – Combat medical readiness, battlefield trauma, psychiatry, environmental medicine, medical logistics.
• The facility will first start with academic programmes, then expand into Centres of Excellence for HADR and CBRNE defence.

HADR – *Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;* ***CBRNE –*** *Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives.*

• **Future Plan** – Centres of Excellence and Global Military Medicine Centre under Raksha Strategy Vision 2026-30.
• **Significance** – Strengthens indigenous doctrines, AI-enabled health monitoring, resilience and innovation in battlefield medicine.

Cosmos Bloom Diamond – Vikram-1

Recently, for the 1st time in the world, a lab-grown diamond jewel has made it to space.

• **Jewel** – the Cosmos Bloom Diamond; Lotus-shaped, handcrafted in gold, set with 16.9 carats lab-grown diamonds.
• **Sent by –** Cosmos Diamonds, A Bengaluru start-up
• **Launch Vehicle** – Aboard Skyroot's Vikram-1, India's first private orbital rocket.

Science

Private R&D Spending in India: Crossing the 0.8% Milestone

*India's expenditure on research and development (R&D) has crossed **0.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the first time since 2010, marking an important step toward strengthening the country's innovation ecosystem.*

• India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) has risen *above 0.8% of GDP.*
• The increase has been driven largely by higher investments from the private sector.
• Government initiatives such as the National Research Foundation (NRF) and production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes have encouraged greater industrial participation in research and innovation.
• Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, information technology, semiconductors, space technology, and renewable energy have witnessed increased investment.

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Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026

Recently EPI 2026 was released.

• **EPI –** A data-driven global benchmark and serves as a vital analytical tool for evaluating national progress to achieving global sustainability targets, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement objectives
• **Developed by –** Institutes of Yale and Columbia University along with support from the McCall MacBain Foundation.
• **Coverage –** 177 nations, 47 indicators, 12 issue categories (climate change, ecosystem vitality, environmental public health).
• **Top Rank –** Estonia (1st, score 74.79); followed by Luxembourg, UK, Finland, Netherlands (Top 5 – All from Europe).
• **India –** 176th (score 22.46), second lowest; severe air quality and biodiversity loss.

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