UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 05-08-2026

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Polity & Governance

SC on live-in relationships

Supreme Court recently said the criminal offence of domestic cruelty would extend to live-in relationships between consenting adults that qualify as "relationships in the nature of marriage"

• **Court observation –**

• Domestic cruelty offence under Section 498A of the IPC (now Sections 85 and 86 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) applies to live-in relationships.

• Excluding women in marriage-like live-in setups from protection against domestic violence violates Article 14 of the Constitution (Right to Equality).

• The initial burden of proof to establish this shared domestic arrangement and the intent to marry lies with the female partner.

International Relations and Issues

BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Meeting

2nd BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Meeting is held in Hyderabad recently.

• **Organized by** – Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under India's 2026 BRICS Presidency.

• It runs alongside the 2nd Meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery.

• **Theme** – "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

• **Agenda** –

• To establish BRICS Repository on Informal Cooperation to trace fugitive offenders and streamline extradition procedures.

• Utilizing standardized information-exchange templates through the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery to rapidly reclaim stolen cross-border assets.

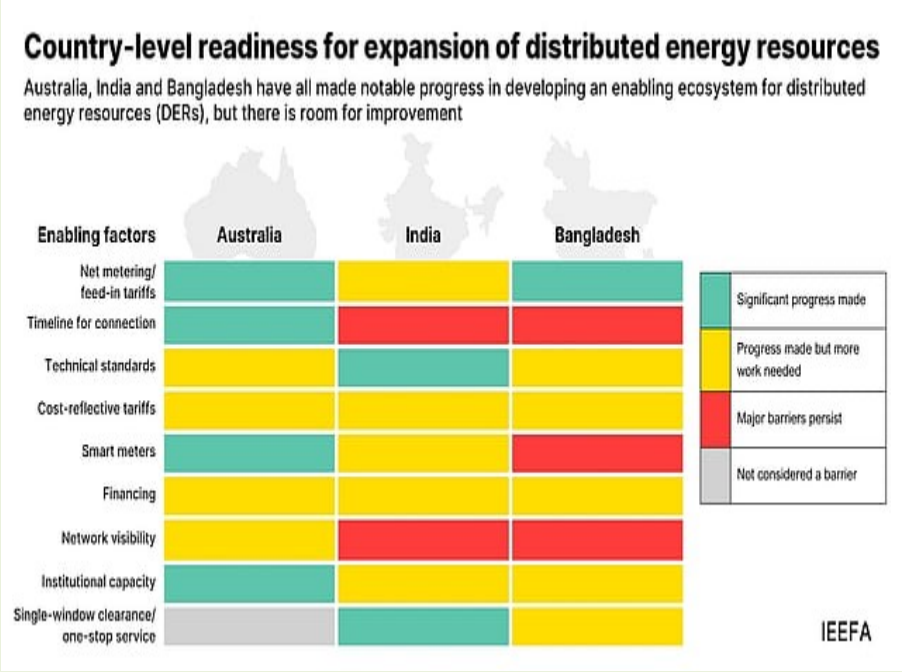
Economy

Advantages of Lab-grown diamonds

• *Lab-grown diamonds* are real diamonds produced in controlled facilities using technology that mimics earth-formation processes.
• ***Natural Diamond mining*** requires large amounts of water and energy and causes considerable damage to the surrounding ecosystems.
• **Environmental Benefits**
- **No land destruction –** Avoids open-pit excavation, topsoil erosion, and massive deforestation.
- **Lower water usage** – Uses a tiny fraction of the water volume required by large-scale commercial mines.
- **Reduced emissions potential** – Facilities can transition entirely to renewable energy inputs like solar or wind power
• **Social and ethical advantages**
- **Conflict-free guarantee** – Completely eliminates the risk of supporting unethical or violent practices associated with conflict zones.
- **Safe working conditions** – Replaces hazardous mining environments—which carry risks of chronic lung diseases—with regulated indoor laboratories.
- **Complete traceability** – Offers clear verification of origin from seed creation to the finished polished stone.

India’s Distributed Solar Capacity

• India’s distributed solar capacity reached a milestone of 31.5 GW in the financial year 2026, marking a massive 17-fold increase from just 1.8 GW in FY2018.
• A report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) reveals that distributed solar's share in India's total renewable portfolio remains stagnant at 21% to 22%.
• This stagnation occurs because utility-scale solar installations are expanding at an even faster pace across the country.
• **Key growth drivers**
  - PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
  - PM-KUSUM



PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana updates

• PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, Central Sector Scheme, to promote renewable energy adoption and providing financial relief to households across India.
• Implemented by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
• **Eligibility Criteria** – To avail of the benefits, applicants must,
  - Be Indian citizens.
  - Own a residential property with a suitable rooftop for solar panel installation.
  - Have a valid electricity connection.
• **Updates** –
• Over 50 lakh households have benefited from rooftop solar installations across the country.
• Over 19 lakh households are reporting zero electricity bills.
• Over 25000 Central Government buildings and more than 81000 State Government buildings are now powered by rooftop solar.
• The pace of installation has increased 3.2 times over the last 9 months, recording over 16000 installations a day this year.

Science

MA-104 – ASF vaccine for pigs

India has officially launched its first indigenous MA-104 cell-line-based live attenuated African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccine for pigs recently.

• **Developed by** – ***ICAR*** (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)–National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD) in Bhopal.
• India's vaccine uses the globally accessible MA-104 cell line, heavily dropping production costs.
• The formulation is engineered from an Indian field strain of the ASFV Genotype II virus featuring specific, targeted gene deletions
• It aims *to eliminate virulence while preserving strong immunity*.
• **Administration protocol**
  - **Target age** – Healthy pigs above 8 weeks of age.
  - **Primary dose** – 1 mL given via intramuscular injection.
  - **Booster shot** – Administered precisely 14 days after the initial dose.

Faster rotation in the Sun's upper atmosphere

• Scientists have discovered that the Sun's upper atmosphere spins much faster than its visible surface that challenges the traditional laws of classical physics.
• **Observations** –
  - The higher you go into the Sun's atmosphere, the faster the gases rotate.
  - The atmospheric rotation rate actually slows down slightly when solar activity increases (marked by a higher number of sunspots).
  - *In classical physics*, an object expanding outward should slow down—much like a figure skater slowing their spin by extending their arms.
• The research was conducted by –
  - Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES),
  - Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO),
  - Physical Research Laboratory (PRL),
  - Ahmednagar College, utilizing data from Japan's Nobeyama Radioheliograph.

Miscellaneous

COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026

Astrophysicist Annapurni Subramaniam has been awarded the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026 recently.

• Annapurni Subramaniam is currently the director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.
• **Milestone** – She is the first Indian woman scientist and the fourth Indian overall to receive this international distinction.
• **Contributions** –
  - She served as scientist for the Ultra-violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) aboard India's maiden multi-wavelength space telescope, AstroSat.
  - **Stellar Research** – Extensive research focus on stellar populations, star clusters etc.

About the Medal

• **Constituted in** – 1990.
• **Jointly awarded by** – the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
• **Purpose** – Honors scientists from developing countries for exceptional and driving contributions to space science and research.

Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)

• COSPAR is an international, interdisciplinary scientific body.
• **Established by** – International Council of Scientific Unions (now the International Science Council) on October 3, 1958.
• It was created shortly after the launch of Sputnik 1 (the world's first artificial Earth satellite).
• **Objective** – To promote global scientific space research by emphasizing the free, cross-border exchange of results, opinions, and information.
• It operates as a neutral forum open to all scientists to debate issues affecting scientific space exploration.

National Handloom Day

• **Observed annually on** – August 7 (Inaugural Year– 2015)
• **Coordinated by** –Ministry of Textiles
• August 7 *commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905* that took place at the Calcutta Town Hall to oppose the partition of Bengal.
- The original movement focused on reviving domestic products, especially indigenous handlooms.

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