

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.

Natural Diamonds Vs Lab Grown Which Should You Buy?

NATURAL DIAMOND

Made of Carbon

Mohs Hardness: 10

Ethical Concerns

Environmental Impact

Higher Price

VS

LAB-GROWN DIAMOND

Made of Carbon

Mohs Hardness: 10

100% Conflict-Free Ethical

Eco-Friendly

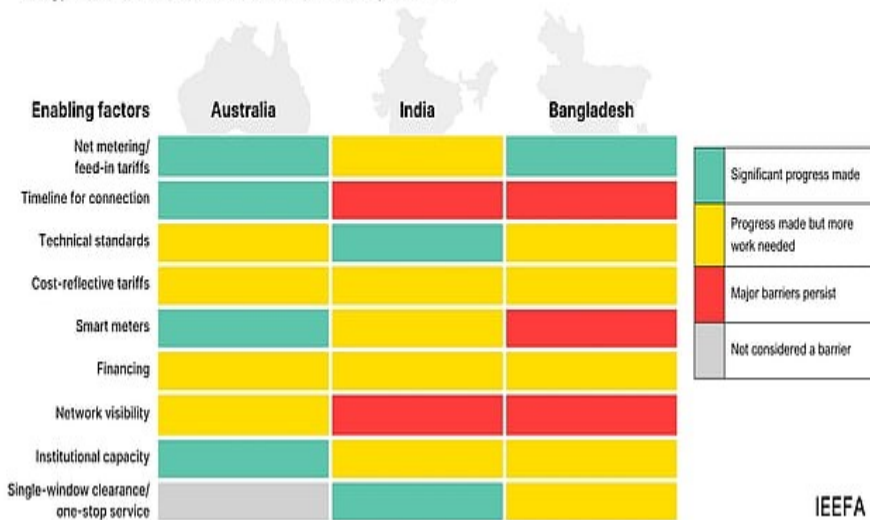
Up to 30% Cheaper

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

Country-level readiness for expansion of distributed energy resources

Australia, India and Bangladesh have all made notable progress in developing an enabling ecosystem for distributed energy resources (DERs), but there is room for improvement



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 -
 - Aryabhata 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.

