

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

One Liners 08-08-2026

Geography

Shrinking Danube River

Danube River, Europe's vital 10-nation lifeline stretching from Germany to the Black Sea, has plummeted to historic, record-low water levels.

Danube is Europe's second-longest river after Volga river (starts in western Russia and empties into the Caspian Sea).



• **Driven by** – Consecutive Sahara-fuelled heatwaves and severe rainfall deficits.

• **Effects** –

- Crippled supply chains
- Forced emergency energy shutdowns
- Halted international tourism
- Physically exposed remnants of long-buried history

Polity & Governance

MSME (Amendment) bill 2026

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, passed by Parliament recently.

Key Provisions and Changes

- It empowers the central government to notify enterprise tiers using investment and turnover criteria.
- Filing of a memorandum now voluntary for all MSMEs.
 - Authorizes central and state governments to roll out digital registration platform
- It requires Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other notified entities to clear MSME invoices through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).
- **Dispute resolution** - Empowers courts to order payment of at least 50% of an awarded amount to suppliers if a challenge stays pending past 6 months
 - Mandates mediation completion within 90 days.
- **Decriminalisation** - Replaces criminal prosecution for minor rule infractions with graded financial penalties starting from ₹1,000 up to ₹50,000, with periodic upward revisions.

All-India Licence For Container Train Operators

Indian Railways has approved modifications in the Model Concession Agreement.

- Container Train Operators, or CTOs, will now be permitted to run container trains on all routes across the Indian Railways network under a single All India licence
 - With a uniform registration fee of 25 crore rupees.
- The modifications removed the earlier system of separate permissions and fees for different route categories.
- The permission granted to a Container Train Operator may be extended for a further period of 20 years after its expiry.

International Relations and Issues

BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting

16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting concluded in August 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan, under India's BRICS Chairship.

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

Outcomes & Focus Areas

- Reaffirmed commitment to a reformed, consensus-based World Trade Organization (WTO) with a fully functioning dispute settlement system.
- Adopted *Jaipur Consensus*, a workplan for MSME internationalization, credit assessment principles, and a proposed invoice discounting mechanism.
- Launched the GVC (Global Value Chains) Action Plan (2026-2030), emphasizing special economic zones and digital trade documentation
- Approved principles for facilitating cross-border digitally delivered services and established a BRICS Technical Council alongside the BRICS Connect initiative.
- Reviewed the long-term Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2030.

Congo's Ebola outbreak 2026

Confirmed [*Ebola*](#) cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have surpassed 4,000 for the first time in the country's history.

- This emergency is now officially the country's largest-ever Ebola outbreak and the second-largest epidemic globally.
- The capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is ***Kinshasa***.
- **Affected Regions** - The disease has expanded into five eastern provinces: ***Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele, and Tshopo***.



New Hybrid Magneto Rheometer

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna has developed custom-designed hybrid magneto-rheometer that accurately characterizes next-generation magnetorheological (MR) fluids recently.

Key innovations of the Hybrid Rheometer -

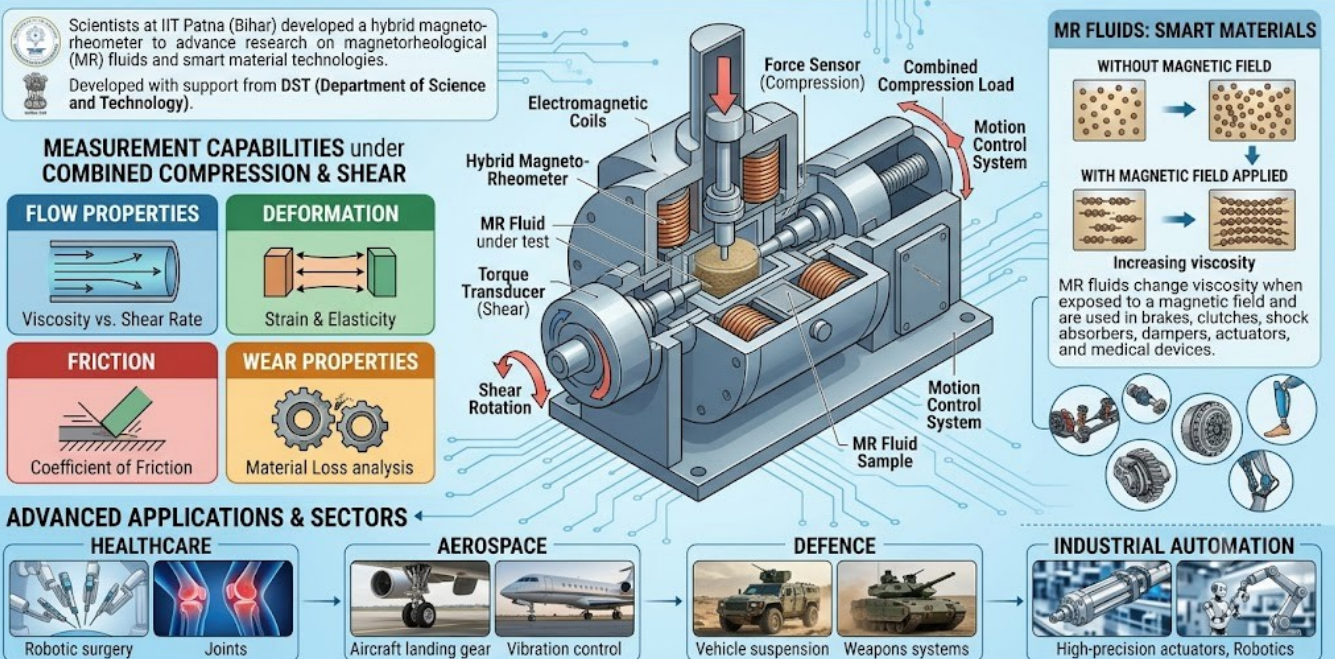
- It evaluates fluids under combined compression and shear modes simultaneously.
 - This mixed-mode behavior is critical for real-world setups.
- Traces both rheological properties (flow and deformation) and tribological properties (friction and wear) at the same time.
- Generates a high-magnitude, constant magnetic field across the nano iron powder-based sample using low electrical current.

• Applications -

- Automotive & Robotics
- Medical Healthcare

A rheometer is a high-precision laboratory device used to measure how fluids, suspensions, or slurries flow and deform in response to applied forces.

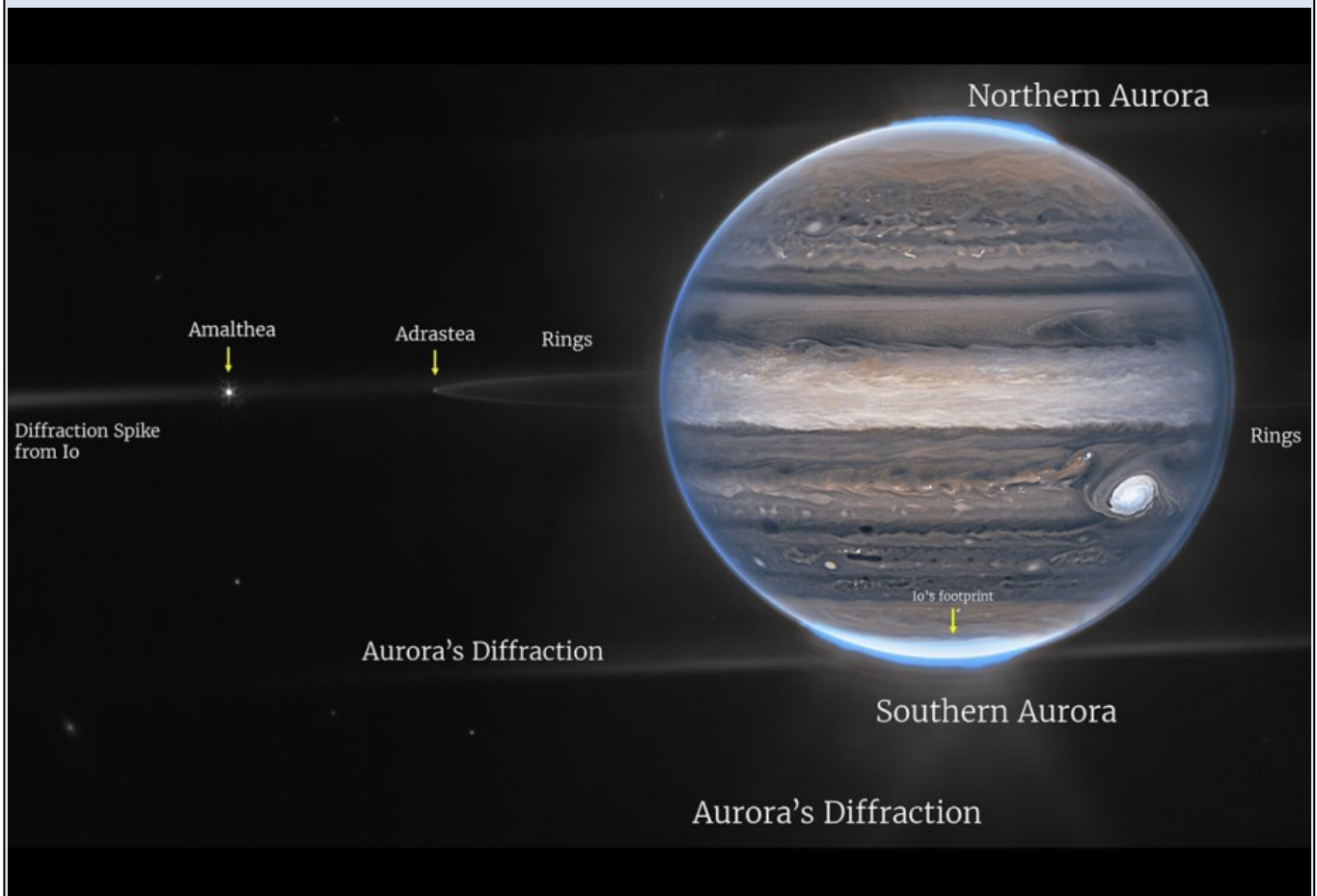
HYBRID MAGNETO-RHEOMETER: DEVELOPED AT IIT PATNA (BIHAR)



Signs of Ancient Disaster for Neptune's moons

Observations from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have uncovered forensic evidence of an ancient "celestial demolition derby" around Neptune.

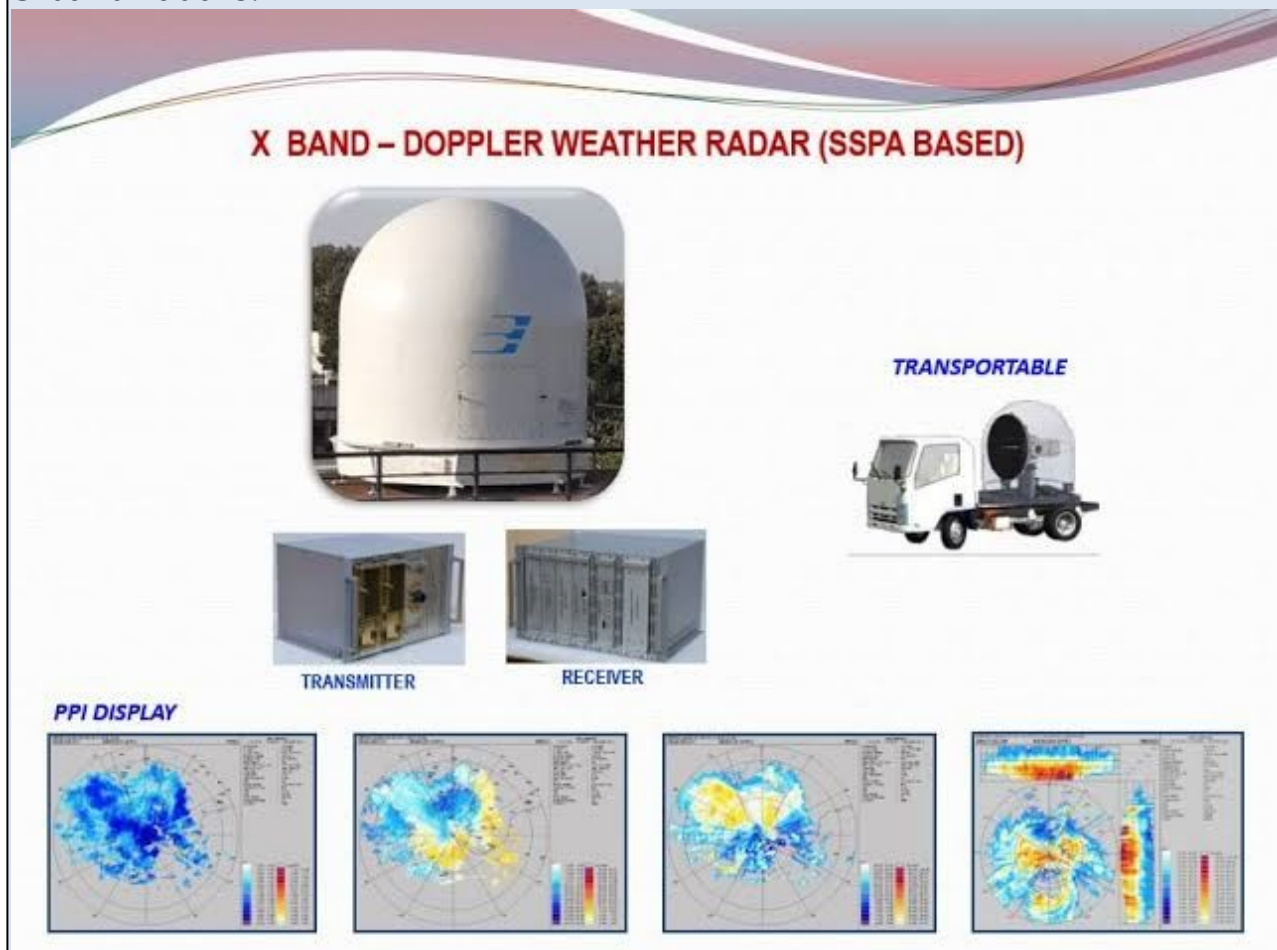
- **Significance** – It confirm that a massive catastrophe destroyed the planet's original moon system billions of years ago.
- JWST detected magnesium-rich clay minerals on these small worlds and rings.
- These clays require prolonged contact between liquid water and rock to form.
- The current inner moons are far too small and cold to generate liquid water.
- Therefore, these minerals must have formed deep inside the core of a much larger, warmer ancient world.
- That world was literally turned inside out, and the current inner moons re-formed out of its shattered remains.



X-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Wayanad

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) will commission X-Band Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Pulpally in Kerala's Wayanad district.

- The project is a collaboration between –
 - Union Ministry of Earth Sciences,
 - Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA),
 - Pazhassi Raja College, which provided the land for the facility.
- **Engineered to** – Improve immediate, very short-range weather forecasting—and early disaster warning capabilities in the high-risk terrain of the Western Ghats
- **Specifications** –
 - **Coverage Radius** – 100-kilometer radius, centered at Pulpally, Kerala.
 - **Frequency & Wavelength** – Operating in the microwave spectrum at a frequency of 8–12 GHz (wavelengths of 2–4 cm).
 - **High Resolution** – Because X-band radars use shorter wavelengths, they excel at detecting tiny water droplets, light rain, and fog.
 - This yields exceptionally detailed imagery compared to larger C-band or S-band radars.



FAO Food Price Index

- The FAO Food Price Index is a monthly trade-weighted measure tracking changes in international market prices of a global basket of basic food commodities.
- **Highlights** – Global food prices hit a 3-year high in July 2026.
- It warned that these spikes could trigger a fresh cycle of domestic food inflation globally within three to six months.
- **Factors fuelling the surge**
 - **Geopolitical Warfare** – conflicts in Ukraine and Iran have heavily disrupted Black Sea export corridors and critical global trade checkpoints like the Strait of Hormuz.
 - **Extreme Climate Events** – An intensely powerful El Niño pattern alongside severe mid-summer heatwaves severely choked crop yields across the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

World Development Report 2026 highlights

- The World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence, *published by the World Bank*.
 - The report reveals that AI could compress a century of economic progress into just a decade for developing nations, but only if governments swiftly fix critical infrastructural gaps.
- Highlights –**
- High-income countries face over 3× higher GenAI automation risk than low- and middle-income countries.
 - AI could boost productivity in 16%+ of developing-economy jobs and 18%+ in advanced economies.
 - Developing countries lack reliable power, internet, data systems, skills and institutions for effective AI adoption.
 - AI can improve farm productivity and resilience, but requires infrastructure, supportive policies and equitable access.

