

UPSC Daily Current Affairs | One Liners 25-08-2026

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Geography

Global Ocean - Hottest Day Record

Recently, On Aug 22, 2026, global sea surface temperature hit 21.1°C, highest ever.

- **Region** - Extra-polar oceans (60°N-60°S) averaged 21.104°C, above previous record (March 2024).

- **Timing** - Unusual peak in August; normally highest in March-April.

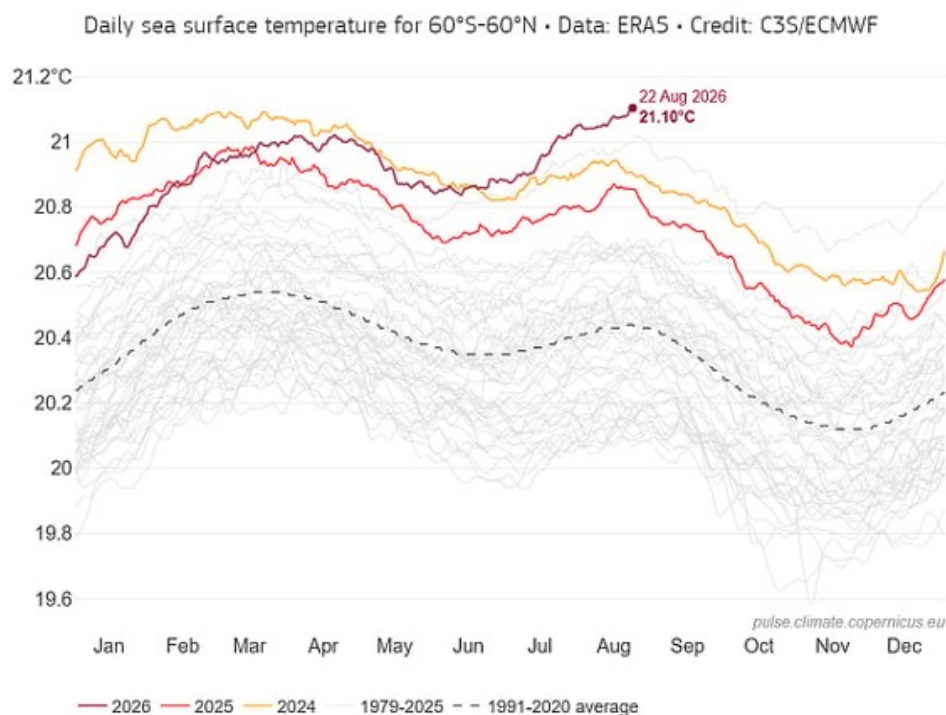
- **Cause** - Strong El Niño is developing in the tropical Pacific.

Adding warmth to an ocean that has already been heating over many decades because of human-driven climate change.

- **Impact** - Risks to marine ecosystems, coastal communities; marine heatwave days tripled since 1990s.

- **Significance** - Warmer oceans drive sea-level rise, intensify storms, weaken carbon absorption.

Global sea surface temperature at record levels



Economy

Kanda Express for Onion Transport

Onion prices up 19% in a month

• **Measure** - Centre launches 'Kanda Express' trains from Nashik to Delhi, Chennai, Kochi, Guwahati.

• **Cause** - Lower onion output and tighter supplies.

• **Objective** - Move onions from surplus to deficit markets, ease supply pressure.

• **Impact** - Aims to control food inflation, reduce household burden, stabilise retail prices.



Agriculture

First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid

Recently, Vice-President unveiled India's first indigenous non-GMO popcorn maize hybrid in Eluru, Andhra Pradesh.

• **Non-Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed** - Hybrid seed for high-expansion popcorn.

• **Features** - High-expansion kernels, premium popcorn quality; integrated value chain with processing, storage, packaging.

• **Significance** - Reduces dependence on imported hybrids, conserves foreign exchange, strengthens Aatmanirbhar Bharat, builds globally competitive popcorn ecosystem.



ALTERRA - UAE Climate Fund

USD 30 billion climate fund launched by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at COP28.

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Purpose - Finance clean energy and climate resilience projects in developing countries.

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Context - Western nations caused most emissions; UAE uses hydrocarbon wealth to help fill climate-finance gap.

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Principle - Based on **CBDR-RC** (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities), nations with more economic capacity must take more responsibility.

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Significance - Shows emerging financial powers like UAE can support global climate goals along with traditional donors.



Green AI Data Centre

Andhra Pradesh govt sanctions AM AI Factory project.

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Location - Amanam village, Bheemunipatnam mandal, Visakhapatnam district.

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Aim - To facilitate the rapid development of the large-scale AI data centre, highlighting the state's commitment to attracting significant digital infrastructure investments and fostering regional growth in Visakhapatnam.

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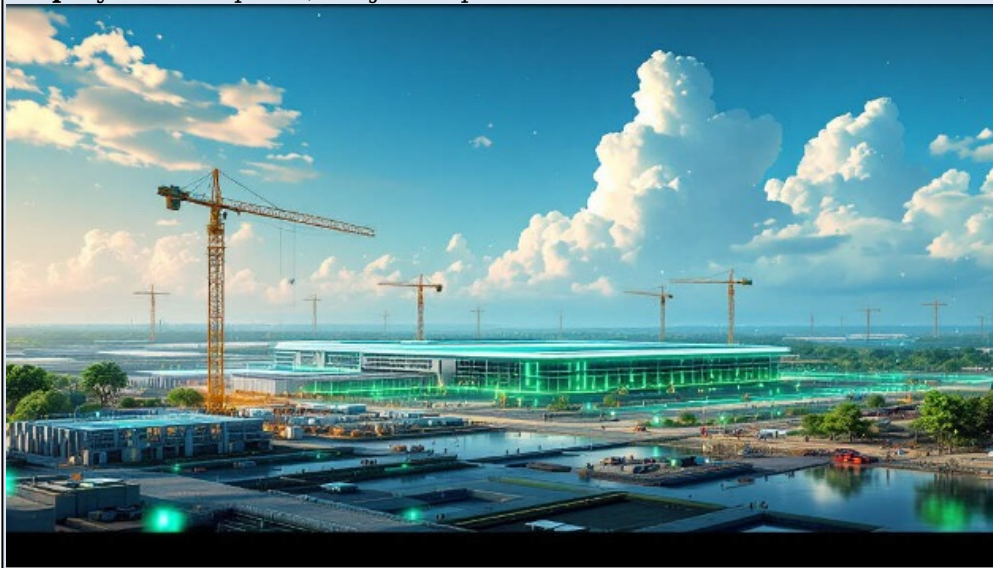
Capacity - The facility will have a 512-MW capacity and is targeted for completion in two years and four months.

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Support - State to provide power infra, water supply, fiscal incentives (stamp duty, electricity duty exemptions).

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Employment - Up to 1,000 jobs expected.



First module of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)

Union Cabinet clears first module BAS-1 under revised Gaganyaan Programme.

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Timeline - Eight missions by Dec 2028; BAS-1 launch in 2028; full station by 2035.

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Scope - Human spaceflight extended to precursor missions, uncrewed flight, new hardware.

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Vision - Operational BAS by 2035, Indian crewed lunar mission by 2040.

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Significance - Boosts microgravity research, tech spin-offs, industrial participation, jobs in high-tech space sectors.



India's First Indigenous 5 kN Air-Breathing RDE

- **Launch** - Defense startup D-Propulse demonstrated 5 kN Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE) with aerospike nozzle.

- Hot-fire test at DRDO facility; incubated at IIT Madras.

- **Validation** - Achieved Technology Readiness Level-5 (TRL-5) in relevant environment.

- **Features** - Pressure-gain combustion, 15-25% higher efficiency, simpler design without moving parts.

- **Target** - Flight-ready engine by Dec 2027.

- **Applications** - Future defense platforms: cruise missiles, drones, high-speed UAVs.

- **Significance** - Strengthens India's indigenous propulsion ecosystem and advanced air-breathing capabilities.



Index

Information Technology Resilience Index - SEBI Framework

SEBI launches IT Resilience Index (ITRI) for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

• **Scope** - Applies to stock exchanges, depositories; assesses IT systems across 9 parameters.

• **Parameters** - Availability, security (20% each); integrity, governance, reliability, monitoring, continuity, flexibility (10% each); scalability, incident handling (5% each).

• **Mechanism** - MIIs to compute ITRI half-yearly, submit comparative analysis with corrective actions.

• **Support** - Early Warning System (EWS) for detecting deterioration; real-time monitoring of service delivery.

• **Deadline** - Full rollout by Feb 28, 2027.

• **Significance** - Strengthens resilience, oversight, and governance of market IT systems.



Miscellaneous

Sophie Adenot - First French Woman to Walk in Space

- **Mission**- With NASA astronaut Anil Menon, worked 6.5 hrs on ISS antenna replacement.
- **Challenge** - Task unfinished due to time limits; electrical connections delayed installation.
- Scheduled second spacewalk on Aug 25 using Canadarm2 to complete antenna job.
- **Significance** - Historic achievement for European astronauts; adds to ISS maintenance programme.

