

UPSC Daily Current Affairs | One Liners 31-08-2026

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International Relations and Issues

Javelin Missile Deal with United States

India signed Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) with U.S. to procure Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems via Foreign Military Sales route.

- **Javelin Missile** - Javelin is medium-range, fire-and-forget anti-tank missile engaging armoured vehicles and fortified positions.
- **Production** - Made by Javelin Joint Venture (RTX and Lockheed Martin); operated by U.S. Army, Marine Corps and global customers.
- **Impact** - Enhances India's anti-armour capabilities and deepens defence-industrial ties with U.S.



Key Petrol Supplier to Russia

India emerges as key supplier of gasoline (petrol) to Russia amid refinery disruptions from Ukrainian drone attacks.

- **Imports** - Russia's seaborne gasoline imports surged to record 125,000 bpd in Aug 2026 (470,000 tonnes).
- **India's Role** - Indian refiners supplied 1 million barrels in last two months, mainly from Vadinar refinery (Nayara Energy, partly owned by Rosneft).
- **Reason** - Attacks caused up to 70% drop in Russian domestic fuel production; forced Moscow to import.
- **Other Suppliers** - Turkey and Morocco also supplied gasoline.
- **Significance** - Highlights India's growing role in global energy trade and Russia's fuel supply crunch.



**India becomes
key petrol supplier to Russia**
amid attacks on refineries,
fuel shortages

Uzbekistan's Oliy Darajali Dustlik Order

Uzbekistan conferred its highest state award, the 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order, on PM Modi in August 2026, marking his 36th global honour.

- **Occasion** - Presented by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during PM Modi's two-day state visit to Tashkent.
- **Recognition** - Awarded for contribution to strengthening India-Uzbekistan strategic partnership and deepening bilateral ties.
- **Vision** - Shared developmental goals of Viksit Bharat and Yangi Uzbekistan for growth and modernisation.
- **Significance** - Marks diplomatic milestone, highlighting expanding India-Uzbekistan relationship.



Iceland on Joining EU

Iceland voters reject proposal to resume talks on joining European Union.

- **Context** - Referendum held amid US President Trump's threats over Greenland, driving debate on European solidarity.
- **Result** - 53% opposed restarting membership negotiations.
- **Supporters' View** - EU membership could lower inflation, interest rates and adopting euro may bring stability.
- **Opponents' View** - Iceland already benefits via single market and Schengen zone without obligations of full membership.
- **Significance** - Brings long-running debate on EU membership to an end.



Iceland says no to renewed EU talks as voters reject push to revisit membership debate

Devadurga Gold and Copper Exploration

Officials to expedite mineral exploration in Devadurga gold-copper block secured by SCCL.

- Block located near Hutti Gold Mines, proposal for SCCL-Hutti joint venture to combine expertise.
- **Impact** - Partnership to boost gold output, adopt advanced technologies, create local jobs and strengthen economic development.
- **Production** - Hutti project produces 2-4 kg gold per day.
- **Significance** - Gold crucial to economic security; aim to reduce import dependence and increase domestic production.



HOW IS MINING DIFFERENT FROM MINERAL EXPLORATION?

MINERAL EXPLORATION

Searches for minerals beneath the surface

Studies rocks soil and land patterns

Drills to understand the size and shape of mineral zones

Evaluates whether mining is technically and economically feasible

Continues as a progressive process, often alongside early mining stages through detailed exploration

MINING

Begins after minerals are confirmed to be economically extractable

Uses heavy machines to remove overburden

Develops access to reach mineral zones

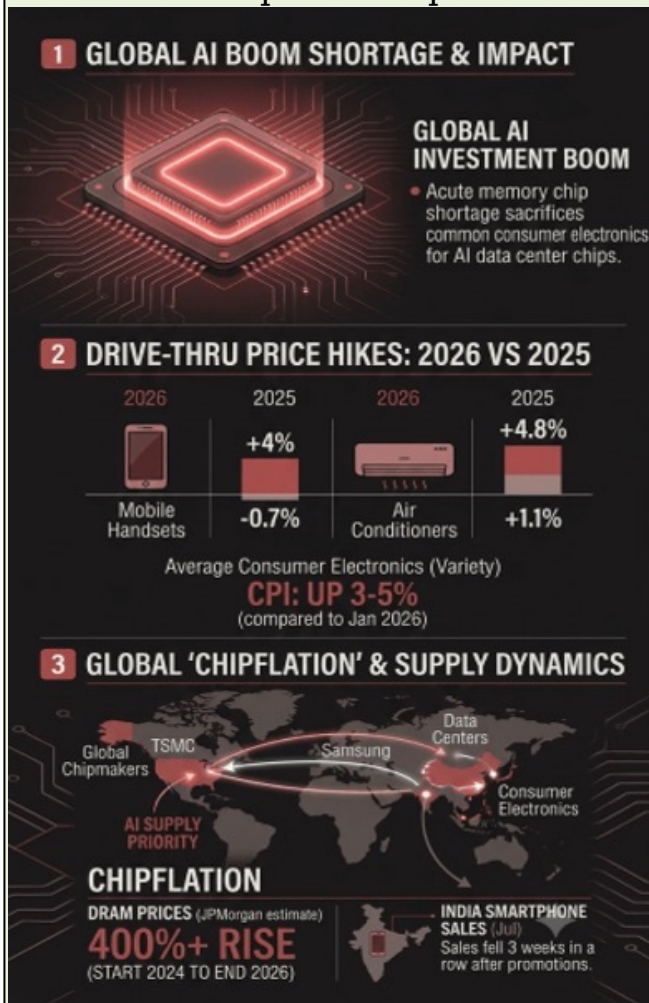
Involves drilling, blasting and hauling of ore

Transports minerals from the mine to the market or captive plant

Chipflation

Global AI investment boom creates acute shortage of memory chips.

- **Impact** - Years of price hikes replicated in just 6 months; Consumer Price Index (CPI) data shows 3-5% rise in electronics Jan-July 2026.
- Examples - Mobile phones up 4%, ACs 4.8%, TVs 3.5% in 6 months; similar hikes earlier took 3-4 years.
- **Reason** - Chipmakers prioritize advanced AI/data-centre chips; DRAM (Dynamic Random-Access Memory) supply for consumer goods sacrificed.
- **DRAM** - A type of volatile semiconductor memory to store data that the processor needs to access quickly in real time.
- **Global Effect** - Smartphone exports down 11%; US Producer Price Index for electronic components up 28%.

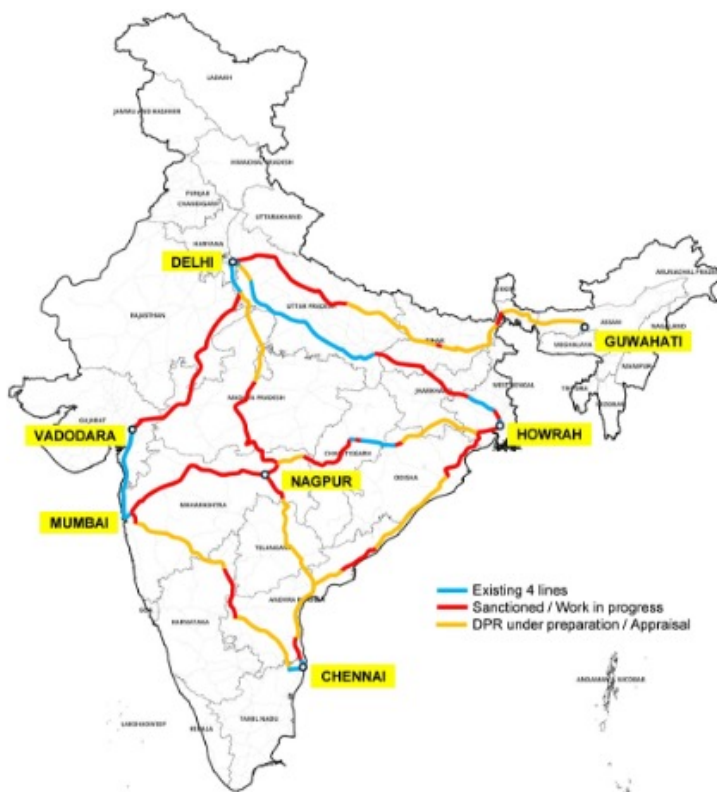


Four-laning of 11,000-km - Indian Railways

Indian Railways to four-lane 11,000 km high-density network to boost train capacity and ease congestion.

- **7 key routes** - Delhi-Howrah, Howrah-Chennai, Chennai-Mumbai, Mumbai-Delhi, Delhi-Chennai, Mumbai-Howrah, Delhi-Guwahati.
- **Traffic Share** - These routes form 16% of network but carry 41% of total rail traffic.
- **Benefits** - More flexibility, reduced pressure on tracks, improved passenger and freight movement.
- **Kavach 4.0** - Automatic Train Protection system expanded to 2,490 Route km across Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors with upgraded accuracy and integration.
- **Significance** - Strengthens capacity, safety and prepares network for future demand.

7 High Density Routes



Quantum and AI University Campus

India's first dedicated Quantum and AI University approved at Amaravati by National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology.

- **Focus Areas** - Quantum Technologies, AI, Semiconductors, deep-tech; integrating education, research, skilling, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Academic Programmes** - UG, PG, doctoral, diploma and executive courses in Quantum Computing, AI, Data Science, Semiconductor Fabrication, Chip Design, VLSI, HPC.
- **Sustainability** - Solar power, EV charging, waste-management; smart classrooms, labs, hostels, auditorium, sports facilities, 500-bed residential capacity.
- **Significance** - Strengthens Amaravati as national hub for Quantum, AI, Semiconductors and deep-tech innovation.



**India to set up its first
AI-Quantum university in
Amaravati, Andhra
Pradesh with ₹730 crore
investment**

National Small Industry Day

Recently, national small Industry day was observed on August 30.

- **History** - Originates from Aug 30, 2000 policy package; first convention and awards held Aug 30, 2001, New Delhi.
- **Significance** - Celebrates vital contributions of small-scale industries and MSMEs to national economy.
- **Economic Impact** - MSMEs contribute 30%+ of GDP and nearly 45% of exports.
- **Employment** - Sector employs 11 crore+ people across rural and urban areas.



International Whale Shark Day 2026

Recently, International Whale Shark Day was observed Aug 30 to raise awareness on whale shark conservation.

- **Campaign** - Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) launched Save the Whale Shark Campaign along Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep coasts.
- **Species** - Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is Earth's largest fish and keystone species in marine ecosystems.
- **Distribution (India)** - Found along entire coast; largest aggregation along Gujarat coast.
- **Status** - Listed Endangered on IUCN Red List and under Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Significance** - Highlights importance of protecting marine biodiversity and fragile coastal ecosystems.

About the Day:

International Whale Shark Day raises awareness about the world's largest fish and the need to conserve its marine habitats.

Why It Matters:

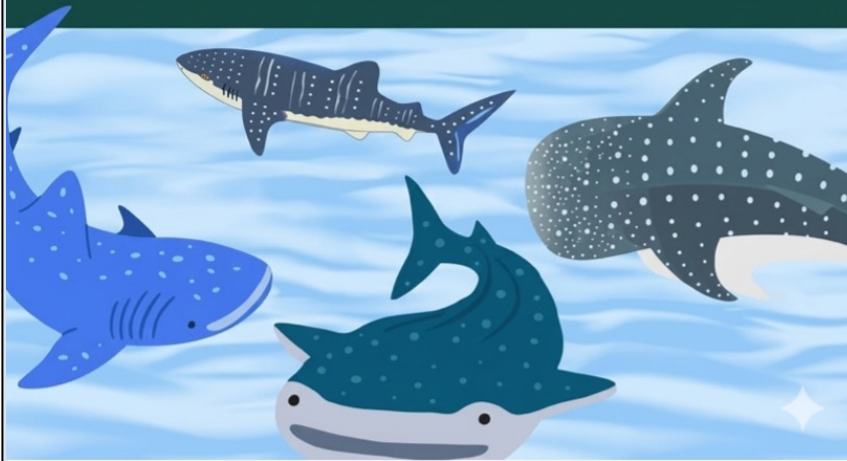
- Whale sharks are threatened by fishing, vessel strikes, plastic pollution, and climate change.
- They are indicators of healthy marine ecosystems.
- Protecting them supports ocean biodiversity.

How You Can Help:

- Reduce plastic pollution.
- Support sustainable marine tourism.
- Advocate for ocean conservation.

Remember:

PHHealthy oceans are home to extraordinary life. 🐟🐠





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Information is Empowering