

UPSC Daily Current Affairs | One Liners 20-08-2026

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Social Issues

Notifiable Diseases in Maharashtra

Recently, Maharashtra makes snakebite a notifiable disease to strengthen monitoring and treatment.

- Public Health Department announces snakebite deaths as notifiable disease.
- **Requirement** - All government/private hospitals, medical colleges, practitioners must report suspected, probable, confirmed cases and deaths.
- **Mechanism** - Data recorded in Health Management Information System (HMIS/DHIS-2), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) or other reporting system specified by the government to collect reliable data.
- Nodal officers appointed at State, district, municipal levels.
- **Purpose** - Ensure timely treatment, Anti-Snake Venom Vaccine (ASV) availability, scientific record, preventive measures.

Snake bite

Symptoms of a snake bite vary based on what type of snake bit you.

Symptoms of a **nonvenomous** snake bite:



Mild swelling.



Color changes to your skin.



Light bleeding.

Symptoms of a **venomous** snake bite:



Pain.



Puncture wound that bleeds.



Sweating.



Difficulty breathing.



Headache and dizziness.



Nausea and vomiting.

Her Harvest 2026

A report says that half of India's women farmers recorded as unpaid helpers.

- **Report** - Her Harvest 2026 highlights misclassification of women farmers.
- **Findings** - 50.5% women in agriculture listed as unpaid helpers vs 21.7% men.
- **Impact** - Annual losses of Rs.1.2-2 lakh crore in agricultural output.
- **Workforce** - Women form 48% of agri workforce, but hold only 13.96% operational holdings.
- **Gap** - Farms run by women 24% less productive due to lack of credit, inputs, markets.
- Women in agrifood systems earn about Rs 82 for every Rs 100 earned by men, while women farm workers earn 20-30 per cent less for the same work.



Polity and Governance

31st Meeting of the Southern Zonal Council

Union Home Minister to chair 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

- **Council** - Southern Zonal Council includes Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep.
- Under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, 5 Zonal Councils, including the Southern Zonal Council, have been established.
- **Focus** - Dialogue on water sharing, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), education, housing, civil aviation.

International Relations and Issues

8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit

India hosts 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026 virtually, focusing on youth-led energy innovation.

- **Theme** - Guided by “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability” and Energy for All.
- **Participants** - 100+ young energy professionals, policymakers, academics, BRICS YEA, SEforALL, ISA, IRENA.
- **Focus** - Energy security and sustainability, access and equity, technology and innovation.
- **India's Role** - Highlighted PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, SHANTI Act, RDSS; showcased smart grids and energy storage.



2nd BRICS 2026 Tourism Working Group Meeting

Recently, 2nd BRICS 2026 Tourism Working Group Meeting held in Jaipur under India's Chairship.

- **Theme** - "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".
- **Focus** - AI in Tourism, Sustainability and Responsible Tourism, Skilling and Capacity Building, Seamless Travel Facilitation.
- **Participants** - Delegates from BRICS Member States.
- **Outcome** - Shared commitment to tourism as driver of growth, jobs, sustainable development, people-to-people exchanges.



Regional Rural Banks' Performance FY26

Regional Rural Banks' gross loans rise 10.3% to Rs.5.78 lakh crore in FY26; priority sector lending remains strong.

- **Growth** - Loans up from Rs.5.24 lakh crore to Rs.5.78 lakh crore.
- **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** - Achievement at 91.7% vs 75% target; almost all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) met PSL norms.
- **Agriculture** - Largest share with Rs.3.78 lakh crore (77% of PSL); farm credit 98% of agri lending.
- **MSME** - Credit reached Rs.66,978 crore (13.6% of PSL); 95% to micro enterprises.
- **Weaker Sections** - Lending of Rs.3.49 lakh crore for inclusion.
- **Significance** - RRBs strengthen rural credit, livelihoods, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion.



Environment

2030 Food System Goal

Recently a study published in Nature Food by Food Systems Countdown Initiative, assessing 197 countries, 44 indicators.

- **Findings** - Most countries will miss 2030 food system goal; emission removal among biggest gaps.
- Progress too slow; food system emissions 75% away from target, no country on track.
- **Weakness** - Food insecurity, governance, ultra-processed food sales, pesticide use, water withdrawals worsening.
- **Regional** - Europe and Asia closer to targets; Africa and Americas lagging; Tunisia leads in Africa.
- **Positive** - Some indicators (cropland change, rural employment, mobile subscriptions) show progress.



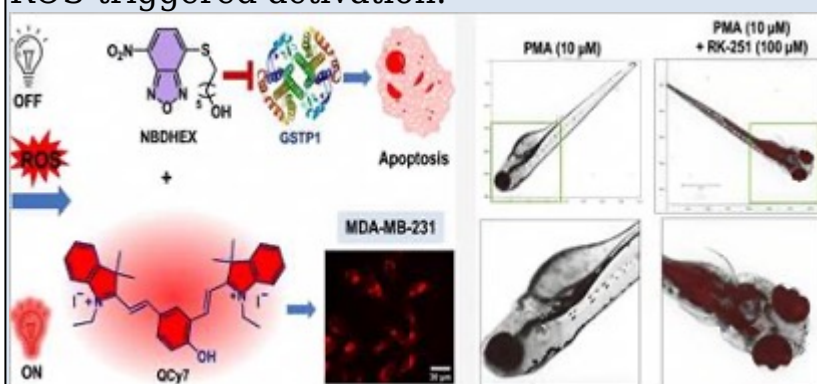
FOODSYSTEMS 2030

Science

Smart Cancer Drug - RK-251

A new smart cancer drug designed to switch on and work only inside cancer cells, could replace chemotherapy.

- **Innovation** - Developed by IASST (DST) and IIT-Guwahati team.
- **Mechanism** - Cancer cells often produce high levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which are harmful molecules.
- RK-251 enters a cancer cell, the high ROS levels trigger the drug's activation, releasing a powerful anticancer compound called "NBDHEX"..
- **Target** - Blocks proteins used by cancer cells to survive and resist treatment.
- **Results** - Strong activity against triple-negative breast cancer; minimal effect on healthy cells.
- **Safety** - Zebrafish embryo study showed no toxicity; fluorescence confirmed ROS-triggered activation.



Miscellaneous

Ivonne Baki - UN Secretary-General Candidate

Ecuadorean diplomat Ivonne Baki nominated as candidate to lead UN.

- **Nomination** - Backed by Tonga, second candidate from Ecuador.
- **Profile** - Former minister, ambassador to France, Qatar, USA; links with Trump and Clinton.
- **Vision** - Renew UN Charter's promise, shift focus to results, fresh ideas, new talent.



Oldest Directly Dated Traces of Microbial Life

Indian rock yields oldest directly dated traces of microbial life.

- **Discovery** - Found in Singhbhum Craton (Jharkhand-Odisha); rock from Bhitardari.
- **Age** - 3.497 billion years, dated using zircon crystals.
- **Evidence** - Carbon isotopes and degraded organic matter confirm biosignature.
- **Significance** - Oldest directly dated rock with confirmed microbial life; suggests life began much earlier after Earth's formation.

