UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 23-09-2025

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Agriculture

Equator Initiative Award

The Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group from Teertha village in Kundgol taluk is one among the 10 winners of the Equator Prize 2025.

- It also referred to as the *Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation.*
- **Presented by –** United Nations Development Programme.
- **Announced on –** International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.
- **Aim –** To honour nature-based solutions led by *indigenous people and local communities* that promote sustainable development and ecological resilience.
- **Theme 2025 –** "Women and Youth Leadership for Nature-Based Climate Action".
- **India awarded for –** Implementing eco-friendly farming practices in rainfed lands, managing community seed banks.
- Ensuring food and nutrition security and promoting millet cultivation.
- **Other winners –** Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Peru, and Tanzania.

Environment

Glyphosate

- Glyphosate is a widely used *herbicide that can kill certain weeds and grasses.*
- **Works by –** Blocking an enzyme essential for plant growth.
- **Primarily used in** - Agriculture, but also in forestry and lawn and garden care.
- **WHO's International Agency for Re-search on Cancer classifies it as –** "Probably carcinogenic to humans".

Security

MiG-21 fighter jets

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is retiring its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets after nearly six decades of service.

- It is a supersonic jet fighter and interceptor aircraft.
- **Introduced in –** 1963, as the 1st supersonic fighter for India (1963), 28 Squadron (1st Supersonics').
- **Designed by –** Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau in the Soviet Union.
- **Hailed as –** "Workhorse" of India's air defence.
- **Replaced by –** Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk 1A.
- **Key Roles**
  - 1965 & 1971 wars.
  - 1999 Kargil conflict.
  - 2019 Balakot air strikes (Gp Capt Abhinandan Varthaman shot down F-16).
  - Operation Sindoor.

Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

- An Indian single-engine, delta wing, all weather and multirole light fighter.
- **Designed as –** A multi-role aircraft capable of taking up offensive air support, close combat and ground attack role at ease.
- To undertake ground maritime operations.
- **Designed by –** Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
- **Produced by –** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Generation –** 4.5 generation fighter aircraft.
- **Key component of –** India's indigenous defence program.

Science

"Smog-Eating" technology

The Delhi government will conduct a time-bound study on "smog-eating" photocatalytic coatings.

- **Project -** *Titanium Oxide-based coatings,* which can be applied to roads, pavements, and public spaces.
- **Designed to –** Neutralise harmful gases like nitrogen dioxide and volatile hydrocarbons that contribute to the capital's toxic air.
- **Aim –** To strengthen the city's pollution-control measures through technology-driven interventions and scientific validation.

Chronic Insomnia Accelerates Dementia

- **Chronic insomnia –** It refers to sleep problems that last at least 3 times per week for 3 months.
- **Accelerate –** Both amyloid buildup and silent blood-vessel damage, nudging the brain toward cognitive decline, especially in people who already carry the high-risk ApoE4 gene.

ApoE4 gene

- ApoE4 is the primary genetic risk factor for sporadic *Alzheimer's disease (AD).*
- **Expressed in –** 40–65% of all AD patients.
- **Associated to –** Many pathological processes possibly linked to cognitive impairment, such as amyloid-β (Aβ) and tau pathologies.

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Report on WASH (2000 – 2024)

- **Title –** Progress on Household Drinking Water and Sanitation 2000–2024: Special focus on inequalities.
- It presents updated *national, regional and global estimates* on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for the period 2000–2024.
- **Launched by –** World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) during World Water Week (August 24-28, 2025).
- **Focused particularly on –** Inequalities in access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, which continue to impede the achievement of UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.
- **Key highlights –**
  - Open defecation in low-income countries remained *4 times higher than the global average.*
  - To meet 2030 targets, low-income countries would need *a 7-fold increase in access to safe water and an 18-fold increase in sanitation.*

World Water Week

- It is the leading annual conference on global water issues.
- **Annually held –** since 1991
- **Organised by –** Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).
- **Aim –** To accelerate progress in international processes related to water, development, and climate.
- **Theme 2025 –** "Water for Climate Action".

India Water Week

- It is a 5-day conference and exhibition which is India's international water resources event.
- **Started in –** 2012, conducted biannually
- **Lasted edition in –** 2024.
- **Next edition will be conducted in –** 2026.
- **Organized by –** Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Aim –** To focus on "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management".

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