

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.

"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 ($A\beta$) 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

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It is the leading annual conference on global water issues.

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Annually held - since 1991

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Organised by - Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

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Aim - To accelerate progress in international processes related to water, development, and climate.

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Theme 2025 - "Water for Climate Action".

India Water Week

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It is a 5-day conference and exhibition which is India's international water resources event.

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Started in - 2012, conducted biannually

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Lastest edition in - 2024.

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Next edition will be conducted in - 2026.

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Organized by - Ministry of Jal Shakti.

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Aim - To focus on "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management".