

UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 24-09-2025

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Polity & Governance

Secularism

There can be no restriction in a public event on the basis of religion.

- **Supreme Court reaffirmed** - Secularism is a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- **Significance** - Supreme court upholds the right to participate in public cultural events regardless of religion.

- **Established in** - Kesavananda Bharati case (1973).

- Parliament cannot amend the 'basic structure' of the Constitution (e.g., secularism, democracy, federalism).

UP Prohibits Caste-Based Rallies

Allahabad High Court directed the government to remove caste glorifying boards.

- **Aim** - To eliminate caste-based discrimination.

Key directives of the order

- Removing caste columns from police records, such as panchakarmas, arrest memos, and personal search memos.

- Removing caste-glorifying signboards and announcements;

- Strictly monitoring social media for content that glorifies or denigrates any caste.

- **Legal basis** - Vehicles bearing caste names, slogans, or stickers will be challenged under the Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

International Relations and Issues

China's Internet Ban

China's internet regulator launched a two-month crackdown on social media.

- **Authorized by** - Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC).

- **Objectives** - Combat content with "malicious incitement of conflict" and "negative outlooks on life."

Economy

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- An economic indicator that assesses the health of a country's manufacturing or services sector.

- **Published on** - Monthly basis, by S&P Global.

- **Uses** - It provides timely insights into current economic conditions, aiding swift decision-making.

- **Readings**

- Above 50 - Sectoral expansion

- Below 50 - Contraction

- Equal to 50 - No change

- **Covers** - Various business aspects like new orders, production, and employment, offering a comprehensive view of sector performance.

Agriculture

Rooibos tea

- **Scientific name** - Rooibos plant (*Aspalathus linearis*)

- It is a caffeine-free drink made from the leaves of a rooibos shrub.

- **Indigenous to** - South Africa.

- **Grows in** - Mountainous Cederberg region of South Africa's Western Cape province.

- **Harvested by** - Khoisan people.

- **Benefits** -

- To protect your body's cells from damage caused by harmful molecules.

- Anti-inflammatory substance, which reduces swelling.

- To protect the heart and liver, regulate blood sugar and improve skin health & strengthen gut barrier.

Environment

51st Foundation Day of Central Pollution Control Board

- It is a Statutory organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

- **Established under** - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

- **Aim** - To promote cleanliness of streams and wells, and improving air quality.

- **Report released** -

- Title 'Classification of Polluted River Stretches, 2025'.

- Title 'Identification of Non-Polluted and Polluted Stretches and Water Bodies through Freshwater Benthic Macroinvertebrates in India'.

- **Launched** - Updated SAMEER App (Version 2.0)

SAMEER App

- It provides hourly updates on the *National Air Quality Index (AQI)*.

- Air Quality Index is a tool for effective communication of air quality in *single number, nomenclature and colour*.

- **Published by** - Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

- **Pollutants monitored** - Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone(O₃) etc.

Science

India's 1st Bamboo-Based Bioethanol Plant

- **Inaugurated in** - Golaghat, Assam.

- **Developed by** - Assam Bio-Ethanol Private Limited with Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.

- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

- **Aim** - To make energy self-sufficiency and green energy promotion with circular economy.

Bamboo

- Bamboos are typically fast-growing perennials, with some species growing as much as 30 cm (1 foot) per day.

- **Characteristics** - The woody ringed stems, known as culms, are typically hollow between the rings (nodes) and grow in branching clusters from a thick rhizome (underground stem).

- **No longer a tree** - Amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, bamboo is no longer classified as a tree, lifting the ban on its cutting.

- It supports the livelihoods of forest communities and private growers.

Bioethanol

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It is a type of *alcohol and high-octane biofuel (C₂H₅OH)*.

Produced from - Biomass like corn, sugarcane, grains, bamboo and vegetable residues.

