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 (SO_2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2), Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone(O_3) 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

- It is a type of *alcohol and high-octane biofuel (C2H5OH).*
- **Produced from –** Biomass like corn, sugarcane, grains, bamboo and vegetable residues.

