



Glyphosate

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Why in News

A German pharma company is facing thousands of lawsuits over its herbicide products which are based on a compound called **glyphosate**.

Herbicide is an agent, **usually chemical**, for killing or inhibiting the growth of unwanted plants, such as residential or agricultural weeds and invasive species.

- **Scientific Name:** It was developed in 1970, and its scientific name is **N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine** under the **International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)** system of nomenclature.
- **Application:** It is applied to the leaves of plants to kill weeds.
- **Usage in India**
 - It has a very good market size in the **tea sector of West Bengal and Assam**.
 - Presently, its consumption is **highest in Maharashtra** as it is becoming a key herbicide in sugarcane, maize and many fruit crops.
- **Concerns**
 - In 2015, the World Health Organization published a study that found glyphosate **“probably carcinogenic to humans”**. However, no advisory has been issued yet.
 - France, Italy, and Vietnam banned its use after the finding.

Source: IE