DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By

Mentorship India

Important News Articles

1. India votes in favour of immediate ceasefire in Gaza by Israel - The Hindu/ India shifts stand, backs UNGA resolution on 'immediate ceasefire' - Indian Express
2. House passes Bill to set up Central tribal university in Telangana - The Hindu/ Rajya Sabha clears Central Universities Bill, repealing of 76 redundant and obsolete laws - Indian Express
3. 'Automatic expiry of stay prejudices litigant': Top court reverses its order - Indian Express
4. Export-oriented green hydrogen projects may get govt's fiscal support - Indian Express
5. COP-28 calls for 'transition away' from fossil fuels - The Hindu/ For first time, nations strike deal to move away from fossil fuels - Indian Express
6. Road fatalities rise in India, despite global drop: WHO - The Hindu
7. 'New Delhi Declaration' on artificial intelligence adopted - The Hindu/ GPAI members back equitable Al access in New Delhi declaration - Indian Express
8. Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme launched to promote Sustainable Management of forests and agroforestry – PIB

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. The limitations of CCS and CDR and their grip on future climate - The Hindu
2. COP28: Much done, but still not enough - Indian Express

Quick Look

1. Demaorchestia alanensis
2. GST Appellate Tribunals (GSTATs)
3. Bab al-Mandab strait
4. Cassiopeia A
5. Saiga Antelope

Important News Articles

GS II

1. India votes in favour of immediate ceasefire in Gaza by Israel - The Hindu/ India shifts stand, backs UNGA resolution on 'immediate ceasefire' - Indian Express

Relevance: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

News:

	Prelims Takeaway
	• UNGA

- India has **voted in favor of a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution** calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of hostages in the Israel-Hamas conflict

Key Points

- The I**srael-Hamas war** has been ongoing for over two months.
- **India had previously abstained** from a similar resolution in October.

UNGA Vote

- **The resolution was adopted at an emergency special session w**ith overwhelming support (153 in favor, 10 against, 23 abstentions).
- Notably, **every Asian country voted i**n favor.
- **Austria, Israel, and the US voted against**, while Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ukraine, and the UK abstained.

Resolution Details

- **Introduced by Egypt,** the resolution demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire
  - It emphasises compliance with international law and the release of all hostages.
- **The text did not explicitly name Hamas.**
- **Austria and the US** proposed s**eparate amendments.**
- **India supported both amendments,** but they failed to achieve the required two-thirds majority.
- **The amendments addressed the role of Hamas** in holding hostages and emphasized immediate humanitarian access.

India's Perspective

- **India's Permanent Representative** to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, emphasized the challenge of striking the right balance in this difficult time.

International Community Response

- **India welcomed the adoption of the resolution,** expressing satisfaction that the international community found "common ground" amid the region's challenges.

2. House passes Bill to set up Central tribal university in Telangana - The Hindu/ Rajya Sabha clears Central Universities Bill, repealing of 76 redundant and obsolete laws - Indian Express

Relevance: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

News:

	Prelims Takeaway
	• Koya tribe

- **Central Universities (Amendment) Bill** passed in rajya sabha establishing a Tribal University in Telangana

Key Points

- The Rajya Sabha approves the **Central Universities (Amendment) Bill**
- **Lok Sabha** had previously **cleared both bills.**

Establishment of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University

- The Central Universities Bill aims to **establish the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana.**

Sammakka-Sarakka

- It is also **called Medaram Jatara**, is the second-largest fair in India, after the Kumbh Mela
  - celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe for four days.
- It is a **tribal festival honouring the fight of a mother and daughter**, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- It is **celebrated once in two years in the month of "Magha"** (February) on the full moon day.
- **Koya tribe is the largest adivasi tribe of Telangana** and listed as Scheduled Tribe in Telangana.
- The community is spread across **Telugu speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Koyas popularly call themselves as Dorala Sattam** (Lords group) and Putta Dora (original lords). Koyas call themselves "Koitur" in their dialect, like Gonds.

3. 'Automatic expiry of stay prejudices litigant': Top court reverses its order - Indian Express

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

News:

Prelims Takeaway
• Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court **reviewed the implications of its 2018 judgement**, which mandated that **stays granted in civil or criminal cases would automatically lapse after six months**, unless extended by a court.
- A five-judge constitution bench, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, is **reexamining the correctness of this ruling.**

Key Points

Challenges with Automatic Expiry

- The automatic expiry of stay orders is **criticised for causing prejudice to litigants, irrespective of their conduct.**
- **Litigants may face systemic flaws b**eyond their control, leading to the vacating of stays.

Judicial Act vs. Administrative Act

- Chief Justice **emphasises that the vacating of an order of stay** is a judicial act, not an administrative one.

Withdrawal of High Court's Jurisdiction

- Justice raises concerns, **suggesting that the automatic expiry essentially** amounts to **withdrawing the jurisdiction** of the high court.
- Questions the purpose of having high courts **if such limitations are imposed.**

Distrust in High Court Judges

- Raises t**he fundamental question of the relevance of high courts** if their jurisdiction is curtailed.

Reservations on 2018 Judgement

- A three-judge bench, presided by the CJI, **refers the 2018 judgement to a five-judge** constitution bench.

Serious Concerns about Miscarriage of Justice

- The three-judge bench **contends that the automatic vacation of stay without the application of judicial mind** may result in a serious miscarriage of justice.

GS III

4. Export-oriented green hydrogen projects may get govt's fiscal support - Indian Express

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

News:

- The Indian government is considering **amendments to Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** rules to accommodate renewable energy plants for captive consumption in SEZs specifically for green hydrogen projects.
- This potential change, **currently under review by the Ministry of Commerce,** aims to allow fiscal benefits for export-oriented green hydrogen initiatives.

Key Points

- Green hydrogen developers **seek an amendment to the rule issued by the commerce ministry's** SEZ Division
  o which currently restricts tax and duty benefits for non-conventional power plants set up for captive consumption in SEZ units.

Multi-Locational SEZs

- **Developers propose the notification of SEZs** that can be spread across multiple locations, especially for green hydrogen projects.
- **This adjustment would facilitate the use of wind energy**, as turbines can be located at a considerable distance from each other
  o overcoming the current requirement for contiguous land area.

Relaxation of Land Area Requirement

- The **commerce ministry is open to relaxing the contiguous land area** requirement of 50 hectares for SEZs, specifically for green hydrogen projects.
- This r**elaxation is crucial for export-oriented green hydrogen** projects utilising wind energy, as it allows discontiguous patches of land for wind turbine installations.

Amendment Impact on Fiscal Benefits

- The suggested **amendment aims to make renewable energy plants for captive consumption e**ligible for fiscal benefits, aligning them with plants meant for selling power outside of SEZs.

Government's Response and Further Directions

- **The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** directs the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **to address transmission and logistics issues faced by green hydrogen developer**s.

Reduced Bank Guarantees

- MNRE urges the **power ministry to reduce bank guarantees required for grid connectivity** of renewable energy plants from Rs 10 lakh per megawatt to Rs 5 lakh per megawatt.

Dual Connectivity

- **MNRE requests the power ministry to provide dual connectivity** for green hydrogen projects through both central and state transmission systems.

Upcoming Meetings and Proposals

- MNRE proposes a separate meeting with **MoPSW to discuss land allocation near ports for green hydrogen projects.**
- **MoPSW is urged to set up common infrastructure** for bunkering of green ammonia at ports, supporting the derivatives of green hydrogen.

5. COP-28 calls for 'transition away' from fossil fuels - The Hindu/ For first time, nations strike deal to move away from fossil fuels - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
News:

- **Negotiators at COP28 in Dubai reached the Dubai Consensus,** marking a small but significant move towards transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Prelims Takeaway
• Dubai Consensus

Key Points

- The consensus, a 21-page resolution, emphasises the need for a just, orderly, and equitable transition from **fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050**
  - Aligning with scientific recommendations to limit global temperature rise.

Key Points from the Dubai Consensus

- The resolution calls on parties to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, **aiming for net zero by 2050.**
- Notably, the term "transitioning" replaces earlier drafts' **stronger language of "phase-out."**

Compromise Agreement

- The text **reflects a compromise between developed and developing nations,** addressing greenhouse gas emissions while considering proportional contributions based on historic responsibility.

COP28 Negotiations

- **COP28 goes into overtime, with the final agreement** released after continued wrangling.
- The **negotiation process involves all 198 signatories** agreeing on every line in the text.

Delayed Closure

- The final text is cleared, but proceedings extend for **six more hours as countries express their opinions on specific aspects of the text.**
- Grievances are expected **to influence future deliberations**.

Eye on emissions

Global Stocktake was the first COP where countries were expected to account for actions undertaken to fulfil obligations under the Paris Agreement — of keeping emissions on track to below 2°C and endeavour to 1.5°C

■ The stocktake found that steps taken by Parties were inadequate and even in the most optimistic case, would see a 5% reduction in emissions by 2030 (over 2019 levels) when it should have been 43%

■ Greenhouse gas emissions have to be reduced sharply and this will require tackling the main culprit — fossil fuels

■ Countries must implement systems to adapt to present and future effects of climate change by 2030

Achievements and Funding Commitments

Loss and Damage Fund

- **Commitments worth $750 million are secured for the Loss** and Damage Fund, aiding countries in addressing climate disasters.

Decarbonization Pledges

- **Pledges worth $85 million, outside the main COP tex**t, aim to accelerate both private and public sector decarbonization efforts globally.

Signal to Fossil Fuel Industry

- The consensus signals a **formal notice to the fossil fuel industry that its old business** model is expiring, fostering a shift toward renewable energy and efficiency.
- **The term "transitioning" is seen as a compromise**, diluting earlier calls for a "phase-out" of fossil fuels.
- Some countries, like **Saudi Arabia, oppose explicit references to "phasing out fossil fuels."**

Adaptation and Financing Challenges

Broken Financing Promises

- **The Dubai Consensus acknowledges a matter of "deep regret"** regarding the partial realisation of the 2009 commitment to mobilise $100 billion annually between 2020 and 2025.

Carbon Space and Adaptation

- Critics highlight the need for increased focus on adaptation in a world where **temperatures may rise by 2 degrees C or more.**
- **Developing countries emphasise the importance** of preserving carbon space for their development.

6. Road fatalities rise in India, despite global drop: WHO - The Hindu

Relevance: Reports and Indices

News:

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** reported a **5% reduction in global road traffic deaths,** totaling 1.19 million annually between 2010 and 2021.
- This positive trend is attributed to a **decrease in 108 United Nations member countries.**

Prelims Takeaway
- Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023
- World Health Organization

India's Situation

- **In India, road traffic fatalities rose** from 1.34 lakh in 2010 to 1.54 lakh in 2021 according to the **'Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023'.**
- This indicates a **15% surge, in contrast to the global trend,** raising concerns about road safety measures in the country.

Global Success Stories

- **Ten countries,** including Belarus, Denmark, Japan and the UAE, achieved over a **50% reduction in road traffic deaths.**
- Additionally, **35 countries demonstrated notable progress,** reducing fatalities by 30% to 50%.

Age Group Impact

- **Road crashes were the leading cause of deaths** among individuals aged five to 29 years in 2019.
- Overall, **road traffic accidents were the 12th leading cause of deaths** when all ages are considered, with two-thirds occurring among people of working age.

Population Growth vs Fatality Rate

- Despite a **global population growth of nearly 14 billion (13%)** in the past decade, the **road traffic fatalities reduced by 5%.**
- This resulted in a **decline in the road fatality rate** from 18 per 1 lakh people in 2010 to 15 per 1 lakh in 2021, marking a **16% reduction.**

Vehicle Growth Impact

- The **global motor vehicle fleet expanded by 160%** during the same period.
- Therefore, **annual fatality rates per 1 lakh vehicles fell** from 79 deaths to 47 deaths, which is a **41% reduction.**

Regional Distribution
- 28% of global road traffic deaths occurred in the WHO's South-East Asia Region
- 25% in the Western Pacific Region
- 19% in the African Region
- 12% in the Region of the Americas
- 11% in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
- 5% in the European Region

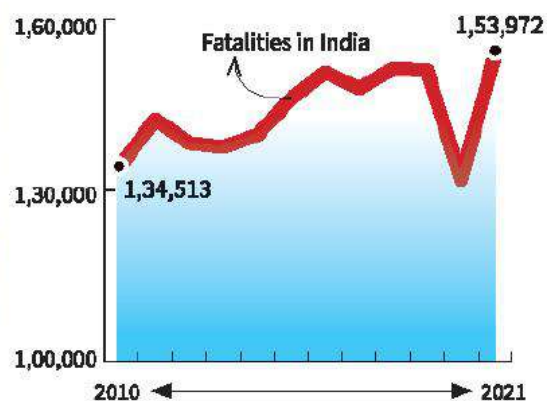**Inequality in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**
- **Nine out of 10 road traffic deaths** occurred in **low- and middle-income countries,** where the **risk of death is three times higher** than in high-income countries.
- Despite having **just 1% of the world's motor vehicles,** low-income countries bear a disproportionate share of fatalities.

Deadlier roads
Road traffic-related fatalities in India reached a 11-year high in 2021 after a dip in 2020

Killer roads: Charred wreckage of a car after an accident in Bareilly. PTI

Fatalities in India — 1,34,513 (2010) rising to 1,53,972 (2021)

7. 'New Delhi Declaration' on artificial intelligence adopted - The Hindu/ GPAI members back equitable AI access in New Delhi declaration - Indian Express

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

News:
- After extensive discussions the **'New Delhi Declaration' of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** was officially adopted.

Prelims Takeaway
• Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)
• 'New Delhi Declaration' of GPAI

- The ministerial declaration underscores the **commitment to principles for responsible and trustworthy AI** rooted in democratic values and human rights.

Key Commitments of the 'New Delhi Declaration'
- It **commits member countries to address concerns** related to
  - Misinformation, disinformation, unemployment, transparency, fairness, protection of intellectual property and personal data, and threats to human rights and democratic values.
- The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology emphasized GPAI's inclusive nature, encouraging **participation from developing countries.**
- Japan stressed the core mission of including **lower and middle-income countries,** with **Senegal joining the GPAI steering committee.**

- The declaration highlights India's contribution to GPAI by **incorporating agriculture as a thematic priority.**
  - It embraces the use of AI innovation to **support sustainable agriculture.**
- The GPAI member countries expressed the intent to discuss **leveraging OECD resources** to devise optimal solutions for the **deployment and governance of AI for the benefit of people globally.**

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

- It is a **multi-stakeholder** initiative focusing on **AI research and practical applications.**
- **Objective:** To bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- Launched in **June 2020 with 15 members,** it has now expanded to 28 member countries and the European Union.
- Membership in GPAI is **open to all countries,** including emerging and developing countries.
- **India** is one of the **founding members of GPAI.**
- Its **secretariat** is hosted at the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris.**

Organisation Structure

- It has a **Council and a Steering Committee.**
- It has **two Centres of Expertise** namely in Montreal and Paris.
  - These Centres of Expertise **facilitate GPAI's four working groups** and their research and practical projects, across various sectors and disciplines.
- The working groups will **initially focus on four themes** viz.
  - Responsible AI
  - Data Governance
  - the Future of Work
  - Innovation and Commercialization

8. Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme launched to promote Sustainable Management of forests and agroforestry - PIB

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change** introduced the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme.**

Prelims Takeaway
• Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme   • Agroforestry

Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme

- It is a national initiative aimed at **encouraging sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices** in India.
- It offers **voluntary third-party certification** designed to **promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry** in the country.
- **Parties involved:** State Forest departments, individual farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in agroforestry and farm forestry, as well as other wood-based industries in the value chain.

Three Key Certifications

- **Forest Management Certification**
  - Aligned with the Indian Forest Management Standard, it includes 8 criteria, 69 indicators, and 254 verifiers, integral to the National Working Plan Code 2023.

- **Tree Outside Forest Management Certification**
  - Specifically designed for agroforestry, focusing on responsible practices beyond traditional forest areas.
- **Chain of Custody Certification**
  - Ensuring the traceability of wood-based products through the supply chain, emphasising responsible sourcing.

Oversight and Governance

- The **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council,** comprising stakeholders from esteemed institutions and government bodies, will **oversee the scheme.**
  - The council includes representatives from Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Forest Survey of India, Quality Council of India, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The **Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal,** is designated as the scheme operating agency and is responsible for the **overall management of the Scheme.**

Accreditation Process

- The **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies,** under the Quality Council of India, will **accredit certification bodies.**
- These bodies will **conduct independent audits to assess entities' adherence** to the prescribed standards within the scheme.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. The limitations of CCS and CDR and their grip on future climate - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation
Context:
- The recently concluded COP28 brought attention to **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** and **carbon-dioxide removal (CDR)** technologies in **addressing carbon emissions.**

CCS and CDR Technologies	CCS Effectiveness

- Carbon Capture and Storage
  o Involves capturing carbon dioxide (CO_2) at emission sources to prevent its release into the atmosphere.
  o These sources include the fossil fuel industry and industrial processes like steel and cement production.
- Carbon Dioxide Removal
  o Encompasses natural methods like afforestation and technological approaches such as direct air capture to absorb and store CO_2, mitigating its impact on climate change.
Scale and Challenges
- The success scale of CCS and CDR raises questions, especially considering the ambitious targets set by the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).
- IPCC scenarios suggest sequestering 5 billion tonnes of CO_2 by 2040, an amount exceeding India's current annual emissions.
- CDR is crucial for achieving the 1.5°C warming limit, as direct mitigation without it seems nearly impossible.
	- Effective CCS applications require a capture rate of 90-95%, permanent storage of captured emissions and minimal methane emissions leakage.
	- In reality, natural CDR has been used to offset existing emissions, raising concerns about shifting the mitigation burden away from reducing fossil fuel use.
	CDR Challenges
	- Land-based CDR methods like afforestation and reforestation face equity issues, impacting land rights of indigenous communities, biodiversity and competing with agriculture.
	- Technological CDR at scale raises concerns about land use in the Global South, potentially affecting renewable energy generation and food security.
	- CCS is still a technology under development without demonstrated feasibility at large scale despite decades of development.
	Pitfalls of CCS and CDR
	- There are concerns that CCS and CDR, by creating "room" to emit CO_2, may inadvertently encourage greenhouse gas emissions.
	- Higher use of CCS and CDR may lead to emissions scenarios with a higher contribution from gas, potentially conflicting with emission reduction goals.

2. COP28: Much done, but still not enough - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation
Context:
- The recently concluded **COP28 yielded significant results** but fell short of ambitious expectations.
- The conference faced criticism for **not meeting climate action expectations in the immediate-term.**

Expectations and Context
- COP28 was viewed as possibly the **last opportunity to align with the 1.5°C warming threshold.**
- The primary focus was on **conducting a Global Stocktake (GST)** to assess the **world's progress against climate change** and determine further actions.
- **Global warming records were consistently broken in 2023,** emphasizing the urgency for more ambitious climate actions.
- Every assessment showed that the **world was not doing enough,** and that the 1.5°C target was rapidly slipping out of hand.

Key Outcomes
- **Fossil Fuel Transition**
  - The agreement called for countries to contribute to transitioning away from fossil fuels to achieve net-zero by 2050.
  - However, it lacked specific timelines and targets, leading to disappointment for some countries advocating for a "fossil fuel phase-out."
- **Renewable Energy Tripled**
  - Countries were urged to contribute to tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

- o Tripling is a global target, and it is not incumbent on every country to individually triple its current installed capacity.
- **Coal Phase-Down**
  - o Despite being a fossil fuel, just like oil or natural gas, coal has received a separate mention in the agreement due to the phase-down decision in 2021.
  - o However, the agreement lacked specifics on measurement or baseline for this phase-down.
- **Methane Emission Cuts**
  - o The agreement emphasized reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions, particularly methane, by 2030.
  - o Methane is the most widespread greenhouse gas apart from CO2, accounting for nearly 25 percent of all emissions.
  - o It is also about 80 times more potent than CO2 in causing global warming.
  - o However, it did not set specific targets, reflecting concerns from countries like India, where agriculture is a major source of methane emissions.
- **Loss and Damage Fund**
  - o Operationalized during COP28, this fund aims to assist vulnerable countries recovering from climate-induced disasters.
  - o Commitments of around US$ 800 million were made during the conference.
- **Global Goal on Adaptation**
  - o The COP28 adopted a framework for a global goal on adaptation, addressing issues such as water scarcity, climate-resilient food production, and health impacts.
  - o However, the agreement lacks financial provisions and requires further development.

Conclusion

- While COP28 achieved crucial milestones, the **absence of clear timelines for fossil fuel transition** and **specific targets for methane emission cuts** left room for criticism.
- The conference's outcomes signify progress, but **increased efforts are necessary to meet the urgency of the climate crisis.**

Quick Look

1. Demaorchestia alanensis

- Recently, the researchers at Berhampur University, Odisha, discovered a new species of marine amphipod named Demaorchestia alanensis.
- Demaorchestia alanensis is a new species of marine amphipod-a shrimp-like crustacea of the genus Demaorchestia.
- The present discovery has added one more species to the genus Demaorchestia, raising the global species number in the group to six.
- **Features**
  - It is white in colour and less than 15 millimetres in length.
  - It has 13 pairs of legs, while three pairs are used for swimming in the water, eight pairs are used for walking on land and the other two pairs are used for capturing prey and feeding.
  - The species can be distinguished from the other members of the genus by two to three strong, hair-like structures, or setae, on the anterior margin of the propodus of the gnathopod.

2. GST Appellate Tribunals (GSTATs)

- The Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017, Section 109 mandates for the constitution of a GSTAT and its Benches.
- The GSTAT will be the specialized appellate authority for resolving disputes under the GST laws.
- The GST Tribunal will have one principal bench in New Delhi.
- It will have as many benches or boards in states as decided by each state subject to approval of the council
- North-eastern states could opt for one bench for 2-3 states and an additional bench for very far-flung areas.
- The principal bench and state boards would have two technical and two judicial members each, with equal representation from the Centre and states.
- However, all four members would not sit for hearing each case.

3. Bab al-Mandab strait

- It is strait between Arabia (northeast) and Africa (southwest) that connects the Red Sea(northwest) with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean (southeast).
- It forms a vital strategic link in the maritime trade route between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal
- It is one of the world's most important routes for global seaborne commodity shipments, particularly crude oil and fuel.
- It is bordered by Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea on the African coast.

4. Cassiopeia A

- It is a remnant of a massive star that exploded some 340 years ago.
- It is the youngest remnant of the massive star in our galaxy known to mankind.
- It belongs to the prototypical type of supernova remnant and has been extensively studied by a number of ground-based and space-based observatories.
- The remnant spans about 10 light-years and is located 11,000 light-years away in the constellation Cassiopeia.

- It gives information related to the supernovae phenomenon and its complexities.

5. Saiga Antelope

- It is a large migratory herbivore.
- This antelope has an extremely unusual appearance with an oversized and flexible nose, the internal structure of which acts like a filter.
- Their large noses filter out dust kicked up by the herd in the warm summers and warms the icy air before it reaches their lungs in the winters.
- It inhabits open dry steppe grasslands and semi-arid deserts.
- The antelope were once found throughout the Eurasian Steppe, the great band of grassland that stretches from Hungary in Europe to Manchuria in Asia.
- Presently it is found in fragmented populations within Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and choose the correct option
1. The UNGA consists of representatives from all member states, with each state having one vote.
2. The UNGA has the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states, similar to the UN Security Council.
3. The UNGA meets annually in regular sessions, and decisions on important matters require a two-thirds majority vote.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Sammakka-Sarakka, a tribal festival in Telangana, and choose the correct option:
1. Sammakka-Sarakka is celebrated annually in honour of the legendary mother-daughter duo who fought against an oppressive ruler.
2. The festival takes place at Medaram, a remote tribal village in the state of Telangana, attracting millions of devotees.
3. The tribal university established in Telangana is named after Sammakka-Sarakka to commemorate their historical significance.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court of India and choose the correct option:
1. The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President of India and holds office until the age of 65.

2. The Supreme Court of India has original jurisdiction in matters involving disputes between states or between the Union and states.
3. The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review, allowing it to review and strike down laws or executive actions that are unconstitutional.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Green Hydrogen and choose the correct option:
1. It is produced using fossil fuels and is considered a major contributor to carbon emissions.
2. Its production involves the use of renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar power, to electrolyze water and extract hydrogen.
3. The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) in India aims to achieve 10 million tonnes of Green Hydrogen production by 2030.

Hw many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Dubai Consensus and choose the correct option:
1. It is a global agreement reached during the COP28 climate conference held in Dubai.
2. Its primary focus is to phase out all fossil fuels and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
3. It reflects a unanimous agreement among all 198 signatory countries without any dissenting opinions.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q6. The 'Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023' seen in the news recently was released by which of the following international organisations?
A. International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP)
B. International Transport Forum (ITF)
C. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
D. World Health Organization (WHO)

Q7. With reference to the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), consider the following statements
1. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on AI research and practical applications to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI.
2. It has two Centres of Expertise that facilitate its four working groups and their research and practical projects.
3. Recently, India joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).

How many of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q8. Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme
1. It offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.
2. The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
3. It is launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q9. Consider the following statements
1. Carbon Capture and Storage refers to technologies, practices, and approaches that remove and durably store carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere.
2. Carbon Dioxide Removal involves capturing carbon dioxide (CO_2) at emission sources to prevent its release into the atmosphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. The Warsaw Mechanism, often seen in the news, is associated with
A. Climate Change Mitigation Strategies
B. Global Cybersecurity Protocols
C. International Arms Control Agreements
D. Framework for Addressing Loss and Damage in Climate Change

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option B is correct
Explanation

- The UNGA consists of representatives from all member states, with each state having one vote. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

- The UNGA is a forum for member states to discuss and coordinate on international issues. Each member state, regardless of size or population, has one vote in the General Assembly.

- The UNGA has the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states, similar to the UN Security Council. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**

- Unlike the UN Security Council, the UNGA's resolutions are not binding. They are recommendations and express the will of the majority. The Security Council has the power to issue binding resolutions.

- The UNGA holds regular sessions once a year, and decisions on significant issues, such as budgetary matters or admission of new members, require a two-thirds majority vote. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Ans.2 Option B is correct
Explanation

- Sammakka and her daughter Sarakka are revered as tribal goddesses who fought against an unjust ruler. The festival commemorates their courage and sacrifice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

- The Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara (festival) takes place at Medaram, a remote village in the Mulugu district of Telangana. It is one of the largest tribal festivals in Asia, drawing millions of devotees. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**

- While Sammakka-Sarakka are culturally significant, the tribal university in Telangana mentioned in recent news is named the "Sammakka Saralamma University," emphasizing the names of both goddesses. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect**

Ans. 3 Option C is correct
Explanation

- The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President of India and holds office until reaching the age of 65, or until resignation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

- The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in disputes between states or between the Union (central government) and states in India. This is outlined in Article 131 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

- The Supreme Court of India possesses the power of judicial review, enabling it to review and declare laws or executive actions unconstitutional if they violate the provisions of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Ans. 4 Option A is correct
Explanation

- Green Hydrogen is produced through a process called electrolysis, where renewable energy sources like wind or solar power are used to split water (H_2O) into hydrogen (H_2) and oxygen (O_2). It does not involve the use of fossil fuels. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**

- Green Hydrogen is produced through a clean and sustainable process called electrolysis, using electricity generated from renewable sources like wind or solar power to separate hydrogen from water. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

- As of the latest information available, the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) in India aims to achieve 5 million tonnes of Green Hydrogen production per year by 2030, not 10 million tonnes. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

Ans. 5 Option A is correct
Explanation

- While the Dubai Consensus is associated with the COP28 climate conference, it is not a global agreement. The term may refer to an understanding or resolution reached during

the conference. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**

- The Dubai Consensus does focus on transitioning away from fossil fuels and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. However, the language of "transitioning" is used instead of a direct "phase-out." **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The COP conferences, including COP28 in Dubai, operate on a consensus-based decision-making process. However, achieving unanimous agreement without any dissenting opinions among 198 signatory countries is challenging and often involves compromises. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Ans.6 Option D is correct
Explanation

- The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released the 'Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023'. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- It reported a 5% reduction in global road traffic deaths, totaling 1.19 million annually between 2010 and 2021.
- In India, road traffic fatalities rose from 1.34 lakh in 2010 to 1.54 lakh in 2021 indicating a 15% surge, in contrast to the global trend.
- Ten countries, including Belarus, Denmark, Japan and the UAE, achieved over a 50% reduction in road traffic deaths.
- Road crashes were the leading cause of deaths among individuals aged five to 29 years in 2019.
- Overall, road traffic accidents were the 12th leading cause of deaths when all ages are considered, with two-thirds occurring among people of working age.

Ans. 7 Option A is correct
Explanation

- Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on AI research and practical applications.
- Objective: To bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge

research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Launched in June 2020 with 15 members, it has now expanded to 28 member countries and the European Union.
- Membership in GPAI is open to all countries, including emerging and developing countries.
- India is one of the founding members of GPAI. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Its secretariat is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris.
- It has a Council and a Steering Committee.
- It has two Centres of Expertise, namely in Montreal and Paris, that facilitate GPAI's four working groups and their research and practical projects, across various sectors and disciplines. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option B is correct
Explanation

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change introduced the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It is a national initiative aimed at encouraging sustainable forest management and agroforestry practices in India.
- It offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It will be overseen by the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council, which will act as a multistakeholder advisory body.
- Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will act as the scheme operating agency and will be responsible for overall management of the scheme.

Ans. 9 Option D is correct
Explanation

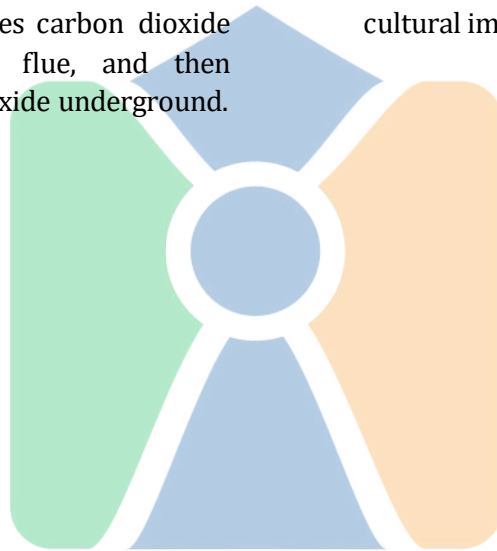- Carbon Capture and Storage involves capturing carbon dioxide (CO_2) at emission

sources to prevent its release into the atmosphere. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

- These sources include the fossil fuel industry and industrial processes like steel and cement production.
- Carbon Dioxide Removal encompasses natural methods like afforestation and technological approaches such as direct air capture to absorb and store CO_2, mitigating its impact on climate change. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- While carbon removal captures carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, carbon capture and storage (CCS) captures carbon dioxide from a smokestack or flue, and then sequesters that carbon dioxide underground.

Ans. 10 Option D is correct
Explanation

- The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damages, set up in 2013, was the first formal acknowledgment of the need to compensate developing countries struck by climate disasters. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- 'Loss and Damage' refers to impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided either by mitigation or adaptation.
- They include not only economic damage to property but also loss of livelihoods, and the destruction of biodiversity and sites that have cultural importance.

Mentorship
India

Our mission is crystal clear – to provide the finest UPSC mentorship and guidance available in India. We recognize that the path to success in the UPSC examination is both demanding and multifaceted. This is precisely why we have developed a comprehensive approach that goes beyond conventional coaching. Our commitment lies in fostering excellence by equipping aspirants with the necessary tools, knowledge, and unwavering support to not only excel in the examination but also in life itself.

Mentorship India represents more than just an organization; it is a community of ambitious individuals bound together by the shared objective of conquering the UPSC examination. We warmly invite you to embark on this transformative journey alongside us. Whether you are a novice taking your initial steps or a seasoned aspirant aiming for the pinnacle, Mentorship India is your dependable companion in the relentless pursuit of excellence.

+91 9999 057869
www.mentorshipindia.com

A-92, Third Floor, Hari Nagar
Delhi - 110064

@mentorship.india

Skill India
कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत

Digital India
Power To Empower

G20
भारत 2023 INDIA

MAKE IN INDIA