

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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## Important News Articles

### GS I

#### 1. Jammu and Kashmir's famed Pashmina gets geographical recognition with GI tag - Hindustan Times

**Relevance:** Art and Culture

**News:**

- Recently, **Basohli Pashmina from Jammu and Kashmir** has got the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

**Basohli Pashmina**

- It is a more than **100-year-old traditional craft** from **Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district**.
- It is a **hand-spun product** known for **extreme softness, fineness and light-weight, has insulating properties and extended life**.
- Pashmina products include **shawls for both men and women, mufflers, blankets and basket**.

**Pashmina**

- It refers to a **fine variant of spun cashmere** (animal-hair fibre) derived from the downy undercoat of the **Changthangi**.
- It is obtained from a **breed of mountain goats** (*Capra hircus*) found on the **Changthang Plateau in Tibet and parts of Ladakh**.
- Traditional producers of pashmina wool in the Ladakh region** are known as the **Changpa**.

**Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**

- It is an **indication** used to **identify goods having special characteristics** originating from a **definite geographical territory**.
- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the **registration and better protection** of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- It is governed and directed by the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.
- It is primarily an **agricultural, natural or a manufactured product** (handicrafts and industrial goods).
- Validity: 10 years** following which it can be renewed.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Geographical Indication (GI) Tag
- Basholi Pashmina
- Pashmina Wool

### GS II

#### 2. 'Green shipping plan to position maritime sector as eco-friendly' - The Hindu

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

**News:**

- Director General of Shipping** took part in the **13th edition of the South Asia's largest maritime exhibition and conference -INMEX SMM India 2023**
- He said that the **National Action Plan for Green Shipping** promotes eco-friendly practices and **incentives for low-emission ships**.

**Key points**

- The **recent achievements in the shipping sector** include:
  - doubling major ports' capacity
  - substantial waterway growth
  - increased cruise passengers and seafarers
  - expanded solar power,
  - lighthouse tourism.
- This progress is fuelled by transformative reforms like **Sagarmala and digitization initiatives**.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- International Maritime Organisation
- Solar energy

- **Sustainability** is key, as seen through the Swachh Sagar Portal for environmental data.
- The sector's vision encompasses **quadrupling port capacity, clean energy fuel hubs, cruise tourism growth, shipbuilding and recycling leadership**, and a 5,000 km regional waterway grid.

#### **National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping**

- It is a major initiative by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW)** towards providing greener solutions.
- The NCoEGPS will be **working under the framework of the Sagarmala programme** of the MoPSW.
- The **Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** is the **knowledge and implementation partner** for this project.
- The centre aims to develop a **regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption roadmap for Green Shipping** to foster carbon neutrality and circular economy (CE) in the shipping sector in India.
- Green shipping is **when people or goods are transported by ships using the minimum resources and energy possible**
- all ships **must switch to an alternative fuel oil** that emits less than 0.50% sulphur into the atmosphere as per guideline of **IMO (International Maritime Organisation)**
- India has been **selected as the first country under IMO Green Voyage 2050** project to conduct a pilot project related to Green Shipping

### **3. Election of China-friendly Mohamed Muizzu could test Indo-Maldives ties - Indian Express**

**Relevance:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

#### **News:**

- The somewhat **surprising victory of Mohamed Muizzu** after a second-round run-off **presidential election** earlier this week is widely seen as **being to China's benefit**.
- **India's ties with the Maldives**, including in defence and through infrastructure investments, **were among the primary issues in the campaign**.

#### **Prelims Takeaway**

- Greater Male Connectivity project
- Colombo Security Conclave

#### **India-Maldives bilateral relation**

- India provides the **largest number of training opportunities for Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF)**, meeting around 70% of their defence training requirements.
- A **drug detoxification and rehabilitation centre** in Addu built with Indian assistance
- India is **Maldives 2nd largest trading partner**
- **Hanimaadhoo International Airport** Development project under an **Indian credit line** will add a brand-new terminal to cater to 1.3 million passengers a year.
- In 2022, the **National College for Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPLE)** was inaugurated by India's External Affairs Minister.
- NCPLE is the **largest grant project executed by India in Maldives**.

#### **Neighbourhood First policy**

- Under the **Neighbourhood First policy and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**, security cooperation between the two countries has grown.
- **Colombo Security Conclave**, which includes Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives.
- Delhi has also **provided financial assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project**, among other infrastructure collaborations.

#### 4. LPG subsidy for Ujjwala beneficiaries raised to ₹300 - The Hindu/ Govt hikes LPG subsidy for Ujjwala beneficiaries by 50% to Rs 300 per cylinder - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

**News:**

- **Ujjwala beneficiaries will get an additional subsidy** of ₹100, taking the entire amount to ₹300, the Union Cabinet decided recently.
- This will **benefit 9.6 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries**.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Socio Economic Caste Census Data 2011
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme

**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme**

- The Scheme was **launched** by the **Prime Minister** on **1st May, 2016** with the slogan of **“Clean Fuel, Better Life”**.
- **Objective:** To safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG.
- **Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- **5 crore LPG connections** were to be provided to **BPL (Below Poverty Line)** families with a support of Rs 1600 per connection in the next 3 years (2016-19).
- Subsequently, the target was revised to **8 crore LPG connections** in April 2018.
- **Connections** are issued in the name of **women of the households**.
- The **identification** of the **BPL** families is done through **Socio Economic Caste Census Data 2011**.
- The eligible beneficiaries **receive a free LPG connection**.
- The beneficiaries also receive a subsidy on the **first six refills of 14.2 kg cylinders or eight refills of 5 kg cylinders**.
- The beneficiaries can opt for an **EMI facility to pay for the cost of the stove and the first refill**.
- The **beneficiaries can also join the PAHAL scheme** to receive the subsidy amount directly in their bank accounts.

GS III

#### 5. Trio wins Chemistry Nobel for ‘quantum dots’ - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

**News:**

- The 2023 **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** has been awarded to **Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov** for the **discovery and synthesis of quantum dots**.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- A quantum dot
- nanotechnology's

**Key points**

- Quantum **dots have unique properties and now spread their light** from television screens and LED lamps.
- They **catalyse chemical reactions and their clear light can illuminate tumour tissue** for a surgeon
- Researchers have primarily **utilised quantum dots to create coloured light**.
- They believe that in the **future quantum dots can contribute to flexible electronics, miniscule sensors, slimmer solar cells and perhaps encrypted quantum communication**.
- Today quantum **dots are an important part of nanotechnology's toolbox**.
- Researchers believe that in the future they could contribute to flexible electronics, **tiny sensors, thinner solar cells and encrypted quantum communication**
- Last year the prestigious Prize was cinched by Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless for the **development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry**.

- Their work in **click chemistry** has been used to develop pharmaceuticals, mapping DNA while **bioorthogonal chemistry** refined the pharmaceuticals used to treat cancer.
- The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology was granted to **Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman**
- their “discoveries concerning **nucleoside base modification that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines** against COVID-19.”

#### A quantum dot

- It is a **nanoparticle made of any semiconductor material** such as silicon, cadmium selenide, cadmium sulphide, or indium arsenide.
- They are **essentially small crystals of nanometer-size dimensions** – they’re about 20,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.
- They have **distinctive electrical conduction properties that are determined by the incredibly small size and structure.**
- When these QDs are **hit with a specific frequency of radiation, their changeable structure, tailored by scientists,** means that they can be finely tuned to emit a specific frequency of radiation
- **changing the wavelength of the light source can achieve the same effect.**
- In the dark, the QDs remain inactive. When bombarded by visible light, they become energetically “excited.”

## 6. New defence indigenisation list has futuristic weapons, systems - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

#### News:

- Recently, Defence Minister released the **fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) of 98 items which will be procured by the three armed services from indigenous suppliers** in a staggered manner
- He also released the **Indian Navy’s updated indigenisation roadmap, named Swavlamban 2.0.**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- SPRINT initiative
- Swavlamban 2.0

#### Key Points

- It lays **special focus on import substitution of components of major systems**

#### Indigenisation list

- Some items **on the list include :**
  - a futuristic infantry combat vehicle
  - articulated all-terrain vehicles
  - several types of unmanned aerial vehicles
  - medium range precision kill system for artillery,
  - an automated mobile test system for the OSA-AK-M air defence system,
  - gravity rollers for the Mi-17V5 helicopter,
  - flares of P-8I and MiG 29-K aircraft.
- Noting that the Navy has made a **commitment to become a fully atma nirbhar or self-reliant force by 2047.**

#### Futuristic technologies

- Last year, the Navy had set a target to develop **75 futuristic technologies** in partnership with domestic micro, small and medium enterprises, or MSMEs, and start-ups.
- These promises “**have been fully met, and even surpassed in some cases, primarily through the SPRINT initiative.**”

## 7. Govt. eases aircraft recovery rules - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Economy

#### News:

- The government has notified that the **protection offered to a corporate debtor** from recovery of dues under the IBC, 2016 **will not cover aircraft, helicopters and engines.**
- The lessors will now have to move NCLT or other Courts and seek deregistration and export of their aircraft.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- IBC, 2016
- Cape Town Convention

## No cover

Centre limits the scope of the IBC moratorium so that aircraft lessors can take possession of their aircraft from debtors



- The move comes after lessors moved court following NCLT's blanket moratorium backing Go First

- India is a signatory to the Cape Town Convention that lets lessors take possession of leased assets

- The decision, if implemented retrospectively, may stall Go First's insolvency resolution proceedings

## Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016

- **Purpose:** To consolidate all laws related to insolvency and bankruptcy and to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPA).
- It covers all **individuals, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms.**
- Under IBC, the **insolvency regime shifted** from 'debtor-in-possession' to '**creditor-in-control**' thus ensuring business continuance.
- **Adjudicating Authority**
  - National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for companies and LLPs.
  - Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and partnership firms.

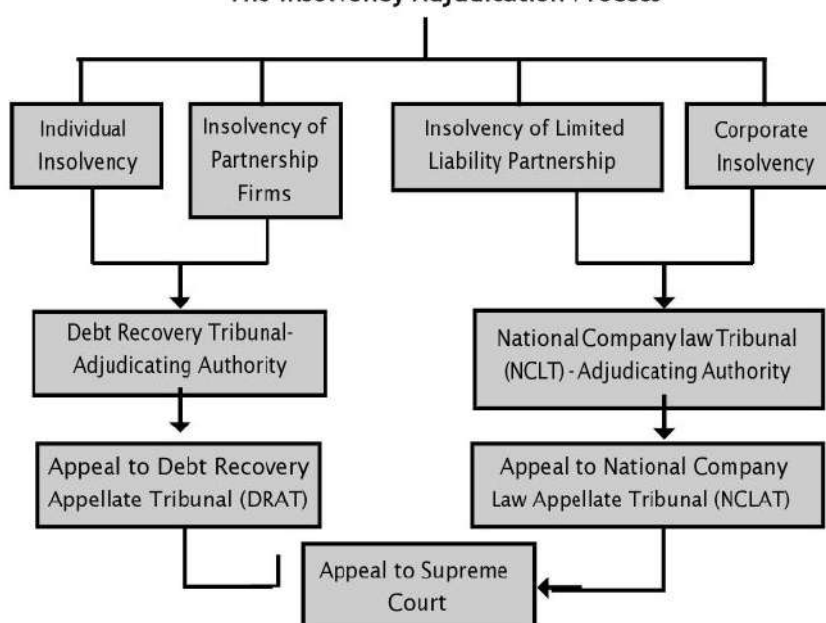
### Insolvency

- It is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.

### Bankruptcy

- It is a situation whereby a court of competent jurisdiction has declared a person or other entity insolvent, having passed appropriate orders to resolve it and protect the rights of the creditors.
- It is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts.

### The Insolvency Adjudication Process



**The Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment**

- The Cape Town Convention is an **international treaty** intended to **standardise transactions involving movable property**.
- It **creates international standards** for
  - Registration of contracts of sale, security interests, leases and conditional sales contracts
  - Various legal remedies for default in financing agreements, including repossession and the effect of particular states' bankruptcy laws
- It was **adopted** under the joint auspices of the **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)** and the **International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)**.
- **India** is a **party** to the convention.

**8. DPIIT and GatiShakti Vishwavidyalaya sign MoU for advancing PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan - PIB**

**Relevance:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

**News:**

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and **GatiShakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** entered into **collaboration** recently.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- PM Gati Shakti
- Special Economic Zones

**Key Details of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

- **Purpose:** To advance India's infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- **GSV** shall be the **nodal agency** across India to **design, develop and deliver courses and curriculum**.
- These courses and curriculum are related to **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** and **National Logistics Policy** at various centres in different states.

**Significance**

- It will bring **academic vigour to PM GatiShakti approach** leading to
  - reduced logistics cost
  - efficient logistics
  - fostering a competitive business ecosystem
- It will lead to a **virtuous cycle of growth and achievement** of the **vision of Amrit Kaal**.
- It shall give momentum to **comprehensive logistics sector development** and embarks Bharat's journey to become a **Vishwaguru**.

**PM Gati Shakti Scheme**

- Launched in **2021**, it is also known as the **National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity**.
- It will **subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline** launched in 2019.
- **Aim:** To provide a competitive advantage for manufacturing in India.
- It is a **digital platform to bring 16 Ministries together** for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of **infrastructure connectivity projects**.
- It targets to **cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity** and **reduce the turnaround time**.
- It will also facilitate the **last mile connectivity of infrastructure**.
- It will incorporate the **infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments**.
  - Like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.
- **Economic Zones** will be covered to **improve connectivity and make Indian businesses more competitive**.
  - Like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones

**Gati Shakti Digital Platform**

- It involves the **creation of a common umbrella platform**.
- Through it, **infrastructure projects can be planned and implemented in an efficacious manner** by way of coordination between various ministries/departments on a real-time basis.



## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 1. Keeping tabs on carbon with an accounting system - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

**News:**

- The term '**climate polycrisis**' refers to the **interconnected and compounding crises related to climate change** that are affecting the planet across several sectors and domains.
- It encompasses the **physical impacts of climate change** and the **social, economic and political challenges** that arise from these impacts.

Indian Scenario	Carbon Accounting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In India, one can see the interconnections between seemingly different sectors that are being impacted by climate change.</li> <li>• It includes sectors such as energy, infrastructure, health, migration and food production</li> <li>• Recognising the complexity and interconnectedness of the climate polycrisis, it is crucial in developing a holistic approach.</li> <li>• Such an approach must take into account the diverse perspectives and priorities of different stakeholders while ensuring resilience, equity, and justice.</li> <li>• We need to imagine 'carbon infrastructure' that creates opportunities for a flourishing future carbon regime.</li> <li>• Such a regime would take the flows of carbon into account in the formulation of policy at every level viz. household, panchayat, district, State and country.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Measurement as the first step</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to measure carbon emissions from that of individual citizens to that of the nation as a whole, including all that is in the flow.</li> <li>• Then, we can build an accounting system that helps us balance our carbon books.</li> <li>• Existing carbon accounting methodologies are already capable of tracking carbon balance sheets at the corporate level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The stocks and flows of carbon are not tracked at a granular level anywhere in the world.</li> <li>• As a result, there is no possibility for a progressive carbon tax that penalises large buyers of petrol more than the average consumer.</li> <li>• A progressive carbon tax requires us to keep track of the inflows and outflows of carbon i.e., national carbon accounting.</li> <li>• Carbon accounting is a way for companies to keep track of the carbon they are producing, removing, storing and offsetting.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>National Carbon Accounting (NCA) System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is both an evolutionary and a revolutionary generalisation of these ideas.</li> <li>• It will bring the entire nation, starting from individuals and households under one carbon accounting framework.</li> <li>• One would file carbon tax returns alongside the income tax returns, or maybe only the carbon tax returns.</li> <li>• It will bring the concept of carbon books to the nation and will make it mandatory for businesses and individuals to declare/report their carbon inflows and outflows.</li> <li>• It will make the circulation of carbon visible, and just as with financial accounting, other goods and services can be 'financed' using carbon surpluses.</li> <li>• We will be able to set targets, make predictions about future emission reductions and track our progress against those goals.</li> <li>• We can speculate about a future national carbon budget that helps us re-imagine the entire economy, including new technologies and new forms of collective action.</li> <li>• Instead of just increasing economic GDP in money terms, there will be a parallel goal of a carbon GDP which countries will try to reduce.</li> </ul>

**Conclusion**

- NCA will help India meet its **commitment to becoming net zero by 2070**.
- It will also help **create new livelihoods and new forms of organising its economy and society**.
- It will open up the **possibilities of a new form of public discourse** and an **alignment between development and ecological sustainability**.
- In short, an NCA is a **polysolution to the climate polycrisis**.

### 2. Drawing lines in Cauvery waters - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Polity and Governance

**Context:**

- Recently, the **Cauvery dispute has flared up again** for the first time after 2018 when the SC re-adjudicated it after a tribunal gave its award.
- The Court also directed the creation of the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** to implement the decision.

### Current Issue

- The current round of contestation began when Tamil Nadu approached the apex court in August.
- It wanted directions for Karnataka to release Cauvery waters at the rate of 24,000 cusecs towards its due share.
- Karnataka contested it stating unfavourable rainfall.
- Eventually, the recent directions to Karnataka, asking it to release at the rate of 3,000 cusecs, led to widespread protests in the state.
- The recent Bengaluru Bandh and the statewide bandh led to the arrest of hundreds of persons, several cancelled flights and a halted economy.

### Losses to States

- Though the dispute spans a couple of centuries, it has had frequent flare-ups since the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) began adjudicating in 1990.
- There have been several incidents of escalation, invariably during distress years.
- It often leads to civic unrest and violence, in addition to causing significant economic losses.
- According to the ASSOCHAM, the previous flare-up in 2016 had caused a loss of Rs 25,000 crore to Karnataka alone.

### Mechanism for Resolution

- Inter-State River Water Disputes Act (ISWD), 1956 provides for setting up of tribunals for adjudication of an inter-state river dispute.
- CWMA is the first permanent interstate institutional mechanism to be created to resolve adversarial positions on river water disputes amongst states since 1980.
- The CWMA, assisted by its technical arm, the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee (CWRC), has been coordinating the implementation of the Cauvery decision.
- Based on what has happened so far, it's clear to observers that the CWMA has had a noticeable impact.
- The formal coordination between states has helped decrease the scale and intensity of escalation.
- While political factors are important, the CWMA, as a dedicated platform for unbiased discussions, seems to have made an impact.

### Significance of Interstate Institutional Mechanisms

- It is an opportunity to recognise the critical importance of interstate institutional mechanisms in river-water disputes and reflect on how to sort them out.
- Firstly, instances of escalation show that we can't always achieve a permanent solution to these disputes.
- Instead, we're realising that conflict and cooperation can coexist in transboundary water-sharing situations.
- We should supplement legal rulings with institutional approaches that promote cooperation and reduce conflict.
- Secondly, we should contemplate how institutions like the CWMA can be enhanced based on how this situation develops.
- We have models like the NCA, which evolved out of consensus and the CWMA established under Supreme Court orders.
- It may be necessary to put more emphasis on building consensus in the future.

## Quick Look

### 1. Glacial lake outburst floods or GLOF

- Glacial lakes are large bodies of water that sit in front of, on top of or beneath a melting glacier.
- As they grow larger, they become more dangerous because glacial lakes are mostly dammed by unstable ice or sediment composed of loose rock and debris.
- In case the boundary around them breaks, huge amounts of water rush down the side of the mountains, which could cause flooding in the downstream areas.
- This is called glacial lake outburst floods.

### 2. Hyponatremia

- This is a condition when the concentration of sodium in the blood is lower than what is needed for the body to function normally.
- This dip in sodium can affect blood pressure, muscle and nerve functioning.
- This is because the body will become overwhelmed with fluid, causing cells to swell and organs to malfunction.
- The symptoms include confusion, headache, fatigue, nausea, lethargy, thirst and dizziness.
- If the counts are under 120 mEq/L, then it can lead to seizures and other issues such as cerebral edema and permanent brain injury.

### 3. Hojagiri Dance

- Hojagiri is a folk dance, performed in the state of Tripura by the Reang people.
- The dance is performed by women and young girls, about 4 to 6 members in a team, singing, balancing on an earthen pitcher and managing other props.
- It is attractive due to its melodious songs accompanied by bamboo flute, cymbals and the khamb.
- The dance is performed on the occasion of Hojagiri festivals or Laxmi Puja, held on the following full moon night of Durga Puja.
- The male members participate in singing the lyrics, playing the Kham and Sumui (Kshumu).
- Required for the dance are, a BAILING, a wide circular rice cleaning article made of cane, a pitcher or kalash, a bottle, a household traditional lamp, a plain dish and a handkerchief for each performer.
- The whole of the Huk or Jhum cultivation is exhibited through this dance.

### 4. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime

- Often known as the Palermo Convention, it is a multinational treaty against transnational organised crime that was established by the United Nations in 2000.
- It has a total of 147 signatories and 190 parties to the convention.
- The Convention is further supplemented by three Protocols
  - The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
  - The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air
  - The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition
- India signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its three Protocols on December 12, 2002.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the nodal agency for all dealings with UNTOC.

### 5. Exercise SAMPRITI 2023

- It is an annual joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
- It was started in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022.
- This exercise, alternately organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives.

- It underscores the importance of enhancing interoperability between the two armies, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices.
- It will witness participation by personnel from diverse units such as artillery, engineers and other supporting arms and services from both sides.
- It will include a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and a Field Training Exercise (FTX), culminating in a Validation Exercise.
- It promises to further enhance defence cooperation between India and Bangladesh, fostering deeper bilateral relations, cultural understanding, and mutual benefits from shared experiences in Sub Conventional Operations.

## 6. Exlusome

- It is a newly discovered organelle in mammalian cells located within the cell plasma.
- It is made up of DNA rings known as plasmids.
- This is peculiar because eukaryotic cells usually keep most of their DNA in the cell nucleus, where it is organized into chromosomes.
- However, in the exlusome, it is organized into plasmids -small, circular DNA strands that can replicate independently of chromosomes and are usually found in bacteria and other microscopic organisms.

## 7. Swavlamban 2.0'

- The Navy has surpassed its target set last year to develop 75 futuristic technologies in partnership with domestic Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and startups which are going to be launched as 'Swavlamban 2.0'.
- Technologies included: Technologies are being progressed across the spectrum, including
- Blue-green lasers for underwater applications;
- Autonomous weaponised swarms and underwater swarm drones;
- Multiple firefighting aids; introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for various uses and the development of an ultra-endurance small drone for maritime missions.

## 8. Swamp deer

- The swamp deer also called as barasingha is a deer species distributed in the Indian subcontinent.
- It belongs to the family Cervidae (order Artiodactyla), found in open forests and grasslands of India and Nepal.
- It eats predominantly wetland plants and herbaceous plants which are common in this deer's natural habitat.
- Its population is now restricted to isolated and scattered locations in Nepal, Assam and the northern areas of India.
- It is now extinct in both Bangladesh, and in Pakistan
- There are three subspecies of swamp deer found in the Indian Subcontinent.
- The western swamp deer found in Nepal,
- Southern swamp deer found in central and north India and
- Eastern swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii ranjitsinhi*) found in the Kaziranga and Dudhwa National Parks.

## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. The “Bhasoli Pashmina” which recently received the GI Tag belongs to which Indian region?**

- A. Ladakh
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Jammu and Kashmir

**Q2. Consider the following statements about National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping ( NCoEGPS)**

1. The NCoEGPS will be working under the framework of the Sagarmala programme of the MoPSW.
2. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is the knowledge and implementation partner for this project.

**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

**Q3. Consider the following statements about British overseas territories**

1. Falkland Islands
2. Diego Garcia
3. Nelson Island
4. Salomon Islands

**How many of the above islands is/are located in the Indian ocean?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

**Q4. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme**

1. Under this scheme connections are issued in the name of women of the households.
2. The identification of the BPL families is done through Socio Economic Caste Census Data 2011.
3. The beneficiaries can also join the PAHAL scheme to receive the subsidy amount directly in their bank accounts.

**How 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 about Quantum dots**

1. It is a nanoparticle made of any semiconductor material such as silicon, cadmium selenide, cadmium sulphide, or indium arsenide.
2. These have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps.
3. They catalyse chemical reactions and their clear light can illuminate tumour tissue for a surgeon

**How many of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q6. Consider the following statements about SPRINT Scheme:**

1. SPRINT' Scheme is an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies.
2. Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO), in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies into the Indian Navy.

**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

**Q7. With reference to Cape Town Convention, consider the following statements**

1. The convention intends to standardize transactions involving movable property.
2. India is not a party to this convention.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q8. With reference to PM Gati Shakti, consider the following statements**

1. It is a digital platform for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
2. It will bring all the Ministries of the Government of India including Railways and Roadways together.
3. It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q9. Which of the following statements most aptly describe the term 'climate polycrisis'?**

- A. The interconnected and compounding crises related to climate change that

are affecting the planet across several sectors and domains.

- B. The phenomenon where climate change leads to a simultaneous increase in both global temperatures and precipitation levels.
- C. A political term referring to the polarising debates surrounding climate change policies.
- D. The study of the Earth's climate history over the past million years.

**Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the Cauvery River**

1. It originates from the Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats.
2. Its basin lies in the States Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.
3. The Mettur Dam, the largest in India, is located across the river.

**How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

## Prelims Track Answer

**Ans. 1 Option D is correct**

**Explanation**

- Basohli Pashmina is a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. **Hence, Option D is correct**
- It is a hand-spun product known for extreme softness, fineness and light-weight, has insulating properties and extended life.
- Pashmina products include shawls for both men and women, mufflers, blankets and basket.

**Ans. 2 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- It is a major initiative by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW) towards providing greener solutions.
- The NCoEGPS will be working under the framework of the Sagarmala programme of the MoPSW. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is the knowledge and implementation partner for this project. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The centre aims to develop a regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption roadmap for Green Shipping to foster carbon neutrality and circular economy (CE) in the shipping sector in India.
- Green shipping is when people or goods are transported by ships using the minimum resources and energy possible

**Ans. 3 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

The British Indian Ocean Territory (Constitution) Order 2004 defines the territory as comprising the following islands or groups of islands:

- Diego Garcia.
- Three Brothers Islands.
- Egmont Islands.
- Nelson Island.
- Peros Banhos.
- Eagle Islands.
- Salomon Islands.
- Danger Island.
- Falkland Islands are located in the Atlantic ocean. **Hence, option 1 is incorrect.**

**Ans.4 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- 5 crore LPG connections were to be provided to BPL (Below Poverty Line) families with a support of Rs 1600 per connection in the next 3 years (2016-19).
- Subsequently, the target was revised to 8 crore LPG connections in April 2018.
- Connections are issued in the name of women of the households. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The identification of the BPL families is done through Socio Economic Caste Census Data 2011. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The eligible beneficiaries receive a free LPG connection.
- The beneficiaries also receive a subsidy on the first six refills of 14.2 kg cylinders or eight refills of 5 kg cylinders.
- The beneficiaries can opt for an EMI facility to pay for the cost of the stove and the first refill.
- The beneficiaries can also join the PAHAL scheme to receive the subsidy amount directly in their bank accounts. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Ans. 5 Option D is correct**

**Explanation**

- It is a nanoparticle made of any semiconductor material such as silicon, cadmium selenide, cadmium sulphide, or indium arsenide. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Quantum dots have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They catalyse chemical reactions and their clear light can illuminate tumour tissue for a surgeon **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Researchers have primarily utilised quantum dots to create coloured light.
- They believe that in the future quantum dots can contribute to flexible electronics, miniscule sensors, slimmer solar cells and perhaps encrypted quantum communication.
- Today quantum dots are an important part of nanotechnology's toolbox.

**Ans. 6 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- 'SPRINT' Scheme is an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The task of development of this technology is one of the 75 challenges that have been introduced by the Indian Navy under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav last year.
- To achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO), in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy

till August 2023. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- This collaborative project is named SPRINT {Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)}.

**Ans. 7 Option B is correct**

**Explanation**

- The Cape Town Convention is an international treaty intended to standardise transactions involving movable property. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It creates international standards for registration of contracts of sale, security interests, leases and conditional sales contracts and various legal remedies for default in financing agreements, including repossession and the effect of particular states' bankruptcy laws
- It was adopted under the joint auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).
- India is a party to the convention. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Ans. 8 Option B is correct**

**Explanation**

- The PM Gati Shakti Scheme launched in 2021, is also known as the National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity.
- It will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline launched in 2019.
- Aim: To provide a competitive advantage for manufacturing in India.
- It is a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. **Hence,**



**statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect.**

- It targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time.
- It will also facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments.
- Economic Zones will be covered to improve connectivity and make Indian businesses more competitive.

**Ans. 9 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

- The term 'climate polycrisis' refers to the interconnected and compounding crises related to climate change that are affecting the planet across several sectors and domains. **Hence, Option A is correct**
- It encompasses the physical impacts of climate change and the social, economic and political challenges that arise from these impacts.

**Ans. 10 Option B is correct**

**Explanation**

- River Cauvery, known as 'Ponni' in Tamil, is a sacred river of southern India.
- It rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The basin lies in the States Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It flows in a southeasterly direction through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls and drains into Bay of Bengal through Pondicherry.
- Left Bank Tributary: Arkavathi, Hemavathi, Shimsa, and Harangi.
- Right Bank Tributary: Lakshmantirtha, Suvarnavati, Noyil, Bhavani, Kabini, and Amaravathi.
- The Mettur Dam is one of the largest dams in India and also the largest in Tamil Nadu, located across the river Kaveri where it enters the plains. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

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