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### **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 03-03-2025**

#### **GS-1**

1. Amir Khusrau
2. Bhavani river

#### **GS-2**

3. Bar Council of India (BCI)
4. 'Pradhan Pati', 'Sarpanch Pati' or 'Mukhiya Pati'

#### **GS-3**

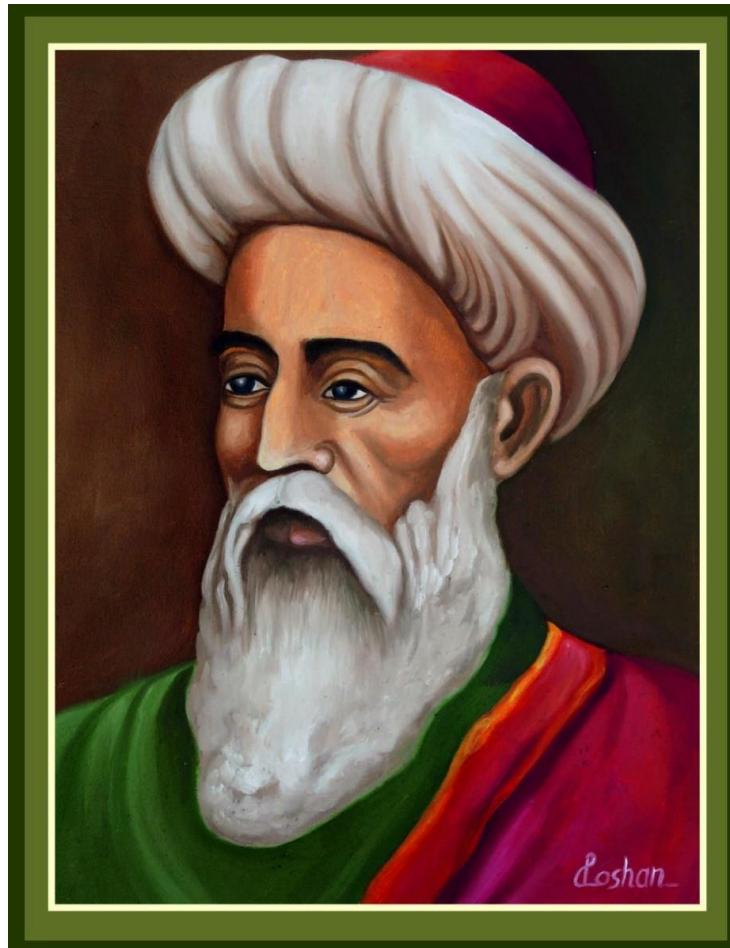
5. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

## Amir Khusrau

**Syllabus: GS-1; Medieval Indian History, Art & Culture**

### **Context**

- Prime Minister Modi attends Jahan-e-Khusrau- the annual music festival that commemorates the Sufi poet-musician Amir Khusrau



### **About**

- Amir Khusrau (1253–1325) was a Sufi poet, scholar, and musician of the Delhi Sultanate. He is considered the "father of Qawwali" and one of the greatest literary figures in medieval India.

### **Early Life & Background**

- Born in **1253** in Patiyali (present-day Uttar Pradesh).
- Of **Turko-Indian** descent, his father was a Turkic officer in the Delhi Sultanate.

- Displayed early brilliance in poetry and music.
- Became a disciple of **Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya** of the Chishti order.

### Contributions to Literature

- Wrote in **Persian, Arabic, and Hindavi** (early Hindi).
- Introduced a unique Indo-Persian literary style.
- Wrote **five diwans** (collections of poetry) and historical masnavis.
- **Major works:**
  - *Tughlaqnama* – Chronicles the reign of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.
  - *Khazain-ul-Futuh* – Records the victories of Alauddin Khilji.
  - *Ashiq* – A love story written in verse.

### Music & Cultural Contributions

- Invented **Sitar** (or modified the Persian Sehtar).
- Introduced **Qawwali** and developed new Ragas like **Sufi Kalam**.
- Laid the foundation for Hindustani classical music.

### Association with Delhi Sultans

- Served in the courts of **Balban, Jalaluddin Khilji, Alauddin Khilji, and Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq**.
- Wrote panegyrics for kings but maintained a close relationship with Sufi saints.

### Legacy

- Regarded as the **first Indian poet of Hindavi (early Hindi-Urdu)**.
- His poetry influenced later poets like Kabir and Tulsidas.
- His Sufi compositions continue to inspire devotional music traditions.

## **Bhavani river**

### Syllabus: GS-1; Geography

#### Context

- Residents of Jadayampalayam and Bellepalayam panchayats in Mettupalayam taluk have their fingers crossed as blackishness of the water at the pumping points along Bhavani river for the last one week has left them with no option but to manage with supplies lesser than 20% of the water requirement.

## About

- The **Bhavani River** is an important river in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu.

### 1. Origin and Course

- **Origin:** Bhavani River originates from the Nilgiri Hills in the Western Ghats, near Attappadi Reserve Forest in Kerala.
- **Course:** It flows through Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu before merging with the Cauvery River.
- **Confluence:** It joins the Cauvery River at **Bhavani town** near Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- **Length:** Approximately **217 km**.

### 2. Tributaries

- **Major Tributaries:** Kundha, Siruvani, and Kodiveri Rivers.
- **Siruvani River:** Provides drinking water to Coimbatore and is known for its sweetness.

### 3. Dams and Projects

- **Bhavanisagar Dam:** One of the largest earthen dams in India, built across the Bhavani River in Tamil Nadu.
- **Kundah Hydro-electric Project:** A significant hydroelectric project on the Bhavani River.

### 4. Economic and Agricultural Importance

- **Irrigation:** Bhavani River supports agriculture in the Erode and Coimbatore districts.
- **Crops:** Major crops irrigated by the river include sugarcane, banana, and turmeric.

### 5. Environmental Significance

- **Eco-sensitive Areas:** The river passes through forested regions rich in biodiversity.
- **Siruvani Waterfalls:** A tourist attraction located along its course.
- **Deforestation & Sand Mining:** Major environmental concerns affecting the river.

### 6. Religious and Cultural Significance

- **Bhavani Sangameshwarar Temple:** A famous temple located at the confluence of Bhavani and Cauvery.

- The river is named after Goddess Bhavani.

## 7. Issues and Challenges

- **Pollution:** Industrial and domestic waste disposal has led to pollution.
- **Encroachment & Water Scarcity:** Increasing human activities threaten the river ecosystem.

## 8. Bhavani River Dispute

- There have been disputes over water-sharing between **Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
- Tamil Nadu claims more rights over Bhavani's water for irrigation.
- Kerala has planned projects like the **Attappadi Irrigation Scheme**, leading to tensions between the states.

### Know more



## **Bar Council of India (BCI)**

**Syllabus: GS-2; Polity- Judiciary**

### **Context**

- The Union Ministry of Law and Justice withdrew the draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, following strikes by lawyers and objections from the Bar Council of India (BCI).

### **About**

- The **Bar Council of India (BCI)** is a statutory body that regulates legal education and the legal profession in India. It was established under the **Advocates Act, 1961**.

### **Key Functions of the Bar Council of India (BCI)**

- 1. Regulation of Legal Education**
  - Prescribes standards for legal education in India.
  - Recognizes universities and law colleges.
  - Frames rules for the curriculum, duration, and qualifications for law courses.
- 2. Regulation of the Legal Profession**
  - Grants licenses to law graduates to practice law.
  - Conducts the **All India Bar Examination (AIBE)** for advocates.
  - Prescribes a code of conduct and ethical standards for advocates.
- 3. Disciplinary Jurisdiction**
  - Has the power to take disciplinary actions against advocates for professional misconduct.
- 4. Protects the Rights, Privileges & Interests of Advocates**
  - Works for the welfare of lawyers.
  - Promotes legal aid to the underprivileged.
- 5. Framing Rules & Regulations**
  - Formulates rules under the **Advocates Act, 1961** for the smooth functioning of the legal profession.

### **Composition of BCI**

- **Chairman & Vice-Chairman:** Elected by members of the Council.
- **Members:** Elected from the State Bar Councils.
- **Ex-officio Members:** Includes the Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India.

## State Bar Councils

Each state has its **State Bar Council**, which operates under the BCI and is responsible for:

- Enrolling advocates.
- Disciplinary actions at the state level.

## Important Provisions Related to BCI

- **Advocates Act, 1961** – Provides the legal framework for the Bar Council.
- **All India Bar Examination (AIBE)** – A mandatory exam for law graduates to practice in courts.
- **Code of Ethics for Lawyers** – Regulates professional conduct.

## Recent Issues & Developments

- Discussions on allowing **Foreign Law Firms** in India.
- Debates over the **uniformity of legal education**.
- Concerns over **delays in disciplinary actions against advocates**.

## **'Pradhan Pati', 'Sarpanch Pati' or 'Mukhiya Pati'**

### Syllabus: GS-2; Governance

#### Context

- A panel constituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has recommended “exemplary penalties” for proven cases of proxy leadership as a measure to curb the practice of ‘Pradhan Pati’, ‘Sarpanch Pati’ or ‘Mukhiya Pati’ in Gram Panchayats across the country.

#### Meaning & Concept

- ‘Pradhan Pati’, ‘Sarpanch Pati’, or ‘Mukhiya Pati’ are informal terms used to describe the husbands of elected women representatives (EWRs) in local governance (Panchayati Raj Institutions).
- Though women are officially elected as **Pradhan (Gram Panchayat head), Sarpanch, or Mukhiya**, in many cases, their husbands or male relatives exercise actual power on their behalf.
- This phenomenon reflects **proxy leadership**, where male family members make decisions, undermining the intent of women’s political empowerment.

## Reasons for Proxy Leadership

- **Patriarchal Mindset** – Traditional gender norms restrict women from independently exercising authority.
- **Lack of Education & Awareness** – Many elected women lack formal education or political exposure.
- **Male Dominance in Bureaucracy & Politics** – Officials and community members often prefer dealing with men rather than directly engaging with women leaders.
- **Socio-Cultural Constraints** – In conservative societies, women face restrictions on mobility and participation in public affairs.
- **Reservation Mandate** – With **33% to 50% reservation** for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (as per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act), many women contest elections as a formality, while their husbands run the administration.

## Impact of Proxy Leadership

### Negative Impacts:

- **Defeats Women Empowerment** – Prevents women from gaining real leadership experience.
- **Continues Male Domination** – Maintains the status quo rather than promoting gender equality.
- **Weakens Grassroots Democracy** – Decisions may not reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

### Positive Aspects (In Few Cases):

- **Transitional Phase** – Over time, some women gain confidence and gradually take independent decisions.
- **Indirect Learning** – Exposure to governance can help women understand administrative processes.

## Government & Legal Measures to Tackle This Issue

- **Training & Capacity Building** – Various schemes like the **National Programme for Capacity Building of Elected Women Representatives** (by the Ministry of Women and Child Development) aim to train women leaders.
- **Legal Provisions** – Some states, like Bihar and Rajasthan, have taken steps to prevent husbands from attending official meetings on behalf of their wives.
- **Awareness Campaigns** – Encouraging self-reliance and leadership among elected women representatives.

- **Strict Implementation of Laws** – Ensuring women actively participate in governance rather than being mere figureheads.

## Conclusion

- ‘Pradhan Pati’ culture remains a challenge in achieving true **women’s political empowerment** at the grassroots level.
- Strengthening **capacity-building programs, legal interventions, and social awareness** is necessary to ensure that elected women leaders can exercise their powers independently.
- Over time, **mindset change, education, and experience** can help women assert their rightful place in governance.

## Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

### Syllabus: GS-3; Environment Organizations

#### Context

- World leaders at 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Rome have reached a historic agreement on financing global conservation goals.

#### About

- The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is an international treaty adopted at the **Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992**.
- It is a legally binding agreement that aims to promote **sustainable development** by conserving biological diversity.

#### Objectives of CBD

- **Conservation of Biological Diversity** – Protecting ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity.
- **Sustainable Use of Biodiversity** – Ensuring that biodiversity is used in a way that does not cause long-term damage.
- **Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits** – Ensuring that benefits from genetic resources are shared fairly, particularly with indigenous communities.

## Key Features of CBD

- Entered into force on **December 29, 1993**.
- It has **196 member countries** (as of 2024).
- The **United States is not a party** to the CBD, although it has signed the treaty.
- The **Secretariat** is based in **Montreal, Canada**.

## Important Protocols Under CBD

- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)**
  - Aims to ensure the **safe handling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)**.
  - Came into force in **2003**.
  - Focuses on preventing environmental risks from GMOs.
- **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (2010)**
  - Establishes a framework for **equitable sharing of benefits** arising from genetic resources.
  - Came into force in **2014**.
  - Ensures indigenous communities get a fair share from the use of their traditional knowledge.

## Conferences of the Parties (COPs)

- The **Conference of Parties (COP)** is the governing body of the CBD.
- **Notable COPs:**
  - **COP-10 (2010, Nagoya, Japan)** – Adopted the **Nagoya Protocol** and **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**.
  - **COP-15 (2022, Montreal, Canada)** – Adopted the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** with a target to **protect 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030**.
  - **COP-16 (2024, Rome, Italy)** – A historic agreement on **financing global conservation goals** was reached.
    - Established a **long-term financial mechanism** to safeguard biodiversity.
    - Ensures the **successful implementation** of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2020)

- Adopted in **COP-10** to prevent biodiversity loss.
- **Five Strategic Goals:**

1. Address underlying causes of biodiversity loss.
2. Reduce direct pressures on biodiversity.
3. Improve the status of biodiversity.
4. Enhance benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services.
5. Strengthen implementation.

### **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**

- Adopted at **COP-15 in 2022**.
- Key targets include:
  - Protect **30% of the planet's land and water** by 2030.
  - Reduce harmful subsidies by **\$500 billion per year**.
  - Cut **pesticide use by at least 50%**.
  - Restore at least **30% of degraded ecosystems**.
- **COP-16 Decision (2024):**
  - A landmark decision to **fund biodiversity conservation** on a global scale.
  - This ensures that **developing nations receive adequate financial support** for conservation efforts.

### **India and CBD**

- India is a **signatory and ratified the CBD in 1994**.
- Enacted the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** to align with the CBD.
- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** was established in **2003** for implementation.
- India hosted **COP-11 in Hyderabad (2012)**.