DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 25-11-2025

GS-2

1. **Doctrine of Clean Hands**
2. **Inland Waterways Authority of India**

GS-3

3. **Indian Pond Heron**
4. **Interstellar Objects**
5. **Joint Crediting Mechanism**

Doctrine of Clean Hands

Syllabus: GS-2; Judiciary

Context

- The **Delhi High Court** ruled that the *Doctrine of Clean Hands* **cannot be used to deny relief** to a petitioner who has **successfully proved cruelty** in a matrimonial case, especially when the respondent's counter-allegations are **unsubstantiated**.

About the Doctrine of Clean Hands

- An **equitable principle** requiring that a person seeking relief must approach the court with **honesty, transparency, and integrity**.
- Prevents a party from obtaining an equitable remedy if they have acted in **bad faith**, concealed facts, or engaged in **unfair conduct**.
- Expressed as: **"He who seeks equity must do equity."**
- Origin: **English Courts of Chancery**, which administered equity.

Clean Hands Doctrine in Indian Jurisprudence

- The **Supreme Court of India** has repeatedly stressed full and honest disclosure of **all material facts**.
- **Suppression of material facts** = fraud on the court, misrepresentation, or abuse of process.
- Consequences for lack of clean hands:
  - Denial of relief (interim or final)
  - Dismissal of petitions
  - Exemplary costs
  - Possible **contempt proceedings**
- Particularly relevant in:
  - **Writ petitions under Article 226**
  - **Special Leave Petitions under Article 136**

Inland Waterways Authority of India

Syllabus: GS-2; Statutory Bodies

Context

- IWAI has signed major agreements worth **₹3,000 crore** to boost **cargo movement, passenger transport, and river-based tourism** in the **Northeast region**.

About IWAI

- **Statutory Body** under the *Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985*.
- **Established:** 27 October 1986
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Functions

- Develops and regulates **Inland Water Transport (IWT)** on **National Waterways**.
- Undertakes:
  - **IWT infrastructure development & maintenance** (via central government grants)
  - **Techno-economic feasibility studies**
  - **Proposals for declaring new national waterways**
- Advises the central government on matters related to inland waterways.
- Assists State Governments in developing the IWT sector.

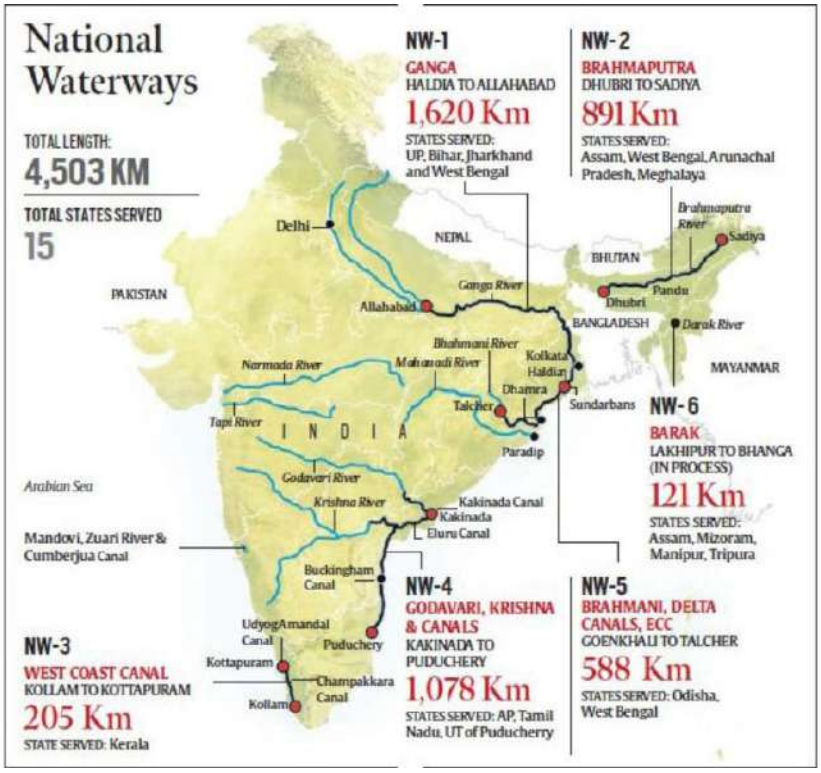
Headquarters

- **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**

Regional & Sub Offices

- **Regional Offices:** Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati, Kochi
- **Sub-Offices:** Allahabad, Varanasi, Farakka, Sahibganj, Haldia, Swroopganj, Hemnagar, Dibrugarh, Dhubri, Silchar, Kollam, Bhubaneshwar, Vijayawada

Know more



Indian Pond Heron

Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

Context

- Citizen-science data from Visakhapatnam indicates that **Indian Pond Herons and Cattle Egrets may be making regular seasonal movements along India's East Coast**, shedding light on a **30-year-old migration mystery** noted earlier in Chennai.

About Indian Pond Heron

- **Scientific Name:** *Ardeola grayii*
- **Common Name:** Paddybird
- **Family:** Ardeidae
- **Type:** Small Old-World heron.

Appearance

- Stocky body, short neck, thick bill, buff-brown back.
- **Breeding Plumage:** Chestnut/maroon back plumes + long occipital crest.
- **Non-breeding Plumage:** Greyish-brown, dull appearance (well-camouflaged).

Habitat

- Occupies **shallow aquatic habitats**—freshwater or saltwater, natural or man-made.

Distribution

- Found from **Iran to South Asia**: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka.

Behaviour

- **Semi-colonial breeders**; communal roosting common in urban avenue trees.
- Generally **solitary and secretive** while foraging.
- Stands motionless at edges of water, **ambush predator**.

Conservation

- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule IV

Interstellar Objects

Syllabus: GS-3; Space Science

Context

- **NASA has released new high-resolution images of Comet 3I/ATLAS**, an *interstellar object* that astronomers estimate to be **billions of years old**. This makes

it the **third confirmed interstellar visitor** to our solar system after **1I/'Oumuamua (2017)** and **2I/Borisov (2019)**.

About Interstellar Objects

- **Definition:** Celestial bodies that **originate outside our Solar System** and pass through it.
- **Not gravitationally bound** to any star.
- Often ejected from other star systems due to:
  - Collisions,
  - Gravitational slingshot effects of stars or giant planets.

Key Examples

1. **1I/'Oumuamua** – First detected interstellar object (2017).
2. **2I/Borisov** – First clearly comet-like interstellar object (2019).
3. **3I/ATLAS** – Newly imaged by NASA; billions of years old.

Characteristics

1. Origin

- Come from **other star systems** or the **interstellar medium**.

2. Hyperbolic Orbit

- Follow an **open-ended hyperbolic trajectory**.
- Have a **perihelion** but **no aphelion**, indicating they will leave the Solar System permanently.

3. High Velocity

- Move at speeds too high for the Sun's gravity to capture them.
- Hence, they do not settle into elliptical orbits like typical comets or asteroids.

Significance for Science

1. Clues to Other Star Systems

- Carry material formed in **alien planetary systems**.
- Allow direct sampling of **extrasolar chemistry and physical processes**.

2. Insights into Planet Formation

- Reveal how planets form around other stars.
- Provide comparative data for models of protoplanetary disks.

3. Understanding Galactic Dynamics

- Help scientists understand **ejection processes** in young solar systems.
- Could also give hints about **stellar encounters** and **planetary system instability**.

Joint Crediting Mechanism

Syllabus: GS-3; Environment & Ecology- International Institutions

Context

- India participated in the **11th JCM Partner Countries' Meeting**, led by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

What is JCM?

- A **bilateral carbon-crediting mechanism** initiated by **Japan**.
- **Launched:** 2013.

- **Purpose:** Promote diffusion of **advanced decarbonization technologies**, infrastructure, and low-carbon solutions in partner countries through Japanese investment.
- **Outcome:** Both Japan and the partner country receive **carbon credits**, helping achieve their **NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions).**

Key Features

- Implemented under **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** (cooperative approaches).
- Operates within the **UNFCCC** framework.
- **Complementary** to CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) and JI (Joint Implementation).
- Uses a **quantitative evaluation** to allot credits for Japan's contribution.

India and JCM

- India is **one of 31 partner countries** in the mechanism.

Focus Areas / Priority Sectors

- Renewable energy **with storage**
- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG)**
- **Green Hydrogen & Green Ammonia**
- Hard-to-abate sectors (steel, cement, chemicals etc.)