



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 30-06-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Kolhapuri Chappals

### **GS-2**

2. Sugamya Bharat App

### **GS-3**

3. Litchi
4. Asiatic Wild Dog
5. Secondary Pollutants

## **Kolhapuri Chappals**

Syllabus: GS-1; Art & Culture, GS-3: Economy & IPR

### **Content**

- The **Kolhapuri chappal**, a traditional Indian leather footwear with a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, recently became the center of a global controversy when **Italian luxury brand Prada** showcased a strikingly similar design in its **2026 Men's Spring-Summer collection**.



### **1. Kolhapuri Chappal – Historical & Cultural Significance**

- **Origin:** Dates back to the **12th century** in **Kolhapur (Maharashtra)** and neighboring **Karnataka**.
- **Features:**
  - Handmade from **vegetable-tanned leather**.
  - Intricate designs with **T-straps, brass embellishments, and embroidery**.

- **GI Tag:** Awarded in **2019** to protect authenticity and support local artisans.
- **Economic Role:** Supports **rural livelihoods** but faces decline due to **cheap imitations** and **rising costs**.

## 2. The Prada Controversy – Key Details

- Prada's **2026 collection** featured sandals resembling Kolhapuri chappals but **priced 50-100x higher**.
- **No credit** was given to Indian artisans initially; later, Prada acknowledged inspiration in a letter to the **Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce**.
- **Artisans' Response:** Considering legal action for **cultural appropriation** and **GI violation**.

## 3. Issues at Stake

### (A) Cultural Appropriation

- **Definition:** Adoption of cultural elements (e.g., designs, motifs) by dominant entities **without permission, credit, or fair compensation**.
- **Examples:**
  - **Gucci** selling a **kurta-like kaftan** for thousands of dollars.
  - **Louis Vuitton** commercializing **keffiyeh-inspired scarves**.
- **Ethical Concerns:**
  - **Exploitation** of traditional knowledge for profit.
  - **Erasure** of original creators' contributions.

### (B) Geographical Indication (GI) Tag – Scope & Limitations

- **What GI Protects:**
  - Ensures only authorized producers (from Maharashtra/Karnataka) can use the "**Kolhapuri**" name.
  - **Does not prevent** others from replicating the **design** unless they falsely claim origin.

➤ **Why Prada Might Avoid GI Violation:**

- Did **not** use the term "**Kolhapuri**".
- **No legal obligation** to compensate artisans (only moral responsibility).

**(C) Challenges in Protecting Traditional Crafts**

➤ **Weak IPR Frameworks:**

- Patents/copyrights require **individual inventors**, not community-based knowledge.
- Traditional crafts often lack **documentation**.

➤ **Global Exploitation:**

- Big brands replicate designs **without crediting or sharing profits**.

➤ **Economic Pressures:**

- Artisans face **competition from machine-made imitations**.

**4. Legal & Ethical Solutions**

**(A) Strengthening GI Protection**

- **Stricter enforcement** against misuse (e.g., fake "Kolhapuri" products).
- **Expand GI coverage** to include **design elements**, not just names.

**(B) Alternative Legal Avenues**

- **Copyright Claims:** If designs qualify as "artistic works" under the **Indian Copyright Act**.
- **Consumer Protection Laws:** Against misleading marketing (e.g., implying Indian origin).

**(C) Government Initiatives**

- **PM Vishwakarma Yojana:** Financial aid for artisans.

- **One District One Product (ODOP):** Promotes traditional crafts.
- **Collaborations:** Ethical partnerships between brands and artisans (e.g., **Fabindia**).

#### (D) Global Measures

- **WIPO's Traditional Knowledge Treaty:** Proposed international framework.
- **Fair Trade Certification:** Ensures artisans receive fair compensation.

#### Conclusion

The **Prada-Kolhapuri chappal controversy** underscores the need for **stronger legal safeguards** and **ethical fashion practices**. While **GI tags offer some protection**, systemic reforms—such as **documenting traditional knowledge** and **promoting fair trade**—are essential to prevent exploitation. This case serves as a **microcosm of broader issues** in globalization, IPR, and cultural preservation.

#### Practice Questions

1. "What is cultural appropriation? Analyze its impact on indigenous artisans with examples." (GS-1/GS-4 Ethics)

#### Case Study Linkages

- **Art & Culture:** Preservation of traditional craftsmanship.
- **Economy:** Role of handicrafts in rural livelihoods.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** GI tags, patents, and copyrights.
- **Ethics:** Corporate responsibility in cultural representation.

## **Sugamya Bharat App**

### **Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions**

#### **Context**

- The central government has revamped the Sugamya Bharat App (SBA), a key initiative aimed at enhancing accessibility for divyangjan and elderly citizens.
- The updated app features a more intuitive user interface and an AI-powered chatbot, providing real-time assistance and easier access to information on government schemes and initiatives.

#### **Introduction**

- **Launched in 2021** by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Part of the **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**, launched in 2015 to promote inclusivity for **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**.

#### **Key Features of the App**

- 1. Crowdsourced Accessibility Reporting:**
  - a. Users can upload **geo-tagged photos** to report barriers in:
    - i. **Public Infrastructure** (buildings, footpaths, toilets).
    - ii. **Transportation** (buses, railways, airports).
    - iii. **Digital Services** (inaccessible websites/apps).
  - b. **Real-time grievance redressal:** Authorities take corrective action based on reports.
- 2. Progress (As of June 2025):**
  - a. **2,705 complaints** registered, **1,897 resolved** (~70% resolution rate).
  - b. **14,300+ registered users**, **83,700+ downloads** (Android + iOS).
- 3. Revamped Features (2025):**
  - a. Notifications on new **accessibility initiatives**.
  - b. Integration of **government schemes** for PwDs (e.g., UDID, scholarships).

#### **Objectives & Significance**

- 1. Aligns with Legal Frameworks:**

- a. **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2016):** Mandates accessibility in public spaces.
  - b. **UN Convention on the Rights of PwDs (UNCRPD):** India is a signatory.
2. **Governance & Technology:**
  - a. Promotes **participatory governance** (citizen involvement in policy implementation).
  - b. Uses **ICT for social empowerment** (UPSC keywords: e-governance, inclusivity).
3. **SDG Linkage:**
  - a. **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities).
  - b. **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities – accessible infrastructure).

### Government Initiatives Linked to Sugamya Bharat App

1. **Accessible India Campaign (AIC):**
  - a. Focus on **universal accessibility** in Smart Cities.
  - b. Targets:
    - i. 50% of govt buildings in state capitals made accessible.
    - ii. 100% airports and railway stations made disability-friendly.
2. **UDID (Unique Disability ID):**
  - a. Digital ID for PwDs to access schemes seamlessly.
3. **GIGW (Guidelines for Indian Government Websites):**
  - a. Ensures **digital accessibility** (WCAG 2.0 compliance).

### Conclusion

The Sugamya Bharat App exemplifies **technology-driven inclusive governance**, aligning with India's commitment to "**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**".

### Practice Questions

#### Essay:

1. "Inclusive Development: The Pathway to a Just Society."

## **Litchi**

### **Syllabus: GS-3; Agriculture- Import & Export**

#### **Context**

- In a boost to India's horticultural exports, the first consignment of rose-scented litchi from Pathankot, Punjab, was flagged off to Doha, Qatar.



#### **1. About**

- Litchi (*Litchi chinensis*) is a tropical/subtropical fruit native to **China** but widely cultivated in India.

#### **2. Botanical & Agricultural Aspects**

- **Scientific Name:** *Litchi chinensis* (Family: Sapindaceae).
- **Climate:**
  - **Tropical/Subtropical** (sensitive to frost).
  - Ideal temperature: **20–35°C**, high humidity during fruit growth.
- **Soil:** Well-drained, loamy (pH **5.0–7.0**).
- **Major Producing States:**
  - **Bihar** (Muzaffarpur – "Litchi Kingdom of India," GI-tagged).
  - **Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Uttarakhand, Tripura.**
- **Varieties:**
  - **Shahi, China, Rose Scented** (export-quality).

#### **3. Economic & Nutritional Importance**

- **Production:**



- **Punjab produced 71,490 MT (2023–24), contributing 12% of India's output.**
- **Exports:**
  - **639.53 MT exported (2023–24).**
  - **Recent shipments: 1 MT to Qatar, 0.5 MT to UAE (2024).**
- **Nutrition:**
  - **Rich in Vitamin C, antioxidants, potassium.**
  - **Used in juices, jams, Ayurvedic medicine.**

#### 4. Recent Developments in Litchi Exports

- **First Consignment from Punjab (Pathankot):**
  - **Exported to Doha (Qatar) & Dubai (UAE) via refrigerated pallets.**
  - **Facilitated by APEDA and Punjab Horticulture Department.**
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - **APEDA:** Market linkages, quality compliance.
  - **Mission for Integrated Horticulture Development (MIDH):** Supports post-harvest management.
- **Export Growth:**
  - **India's fruit-vegetable exports: \$3.87 billion (2024–25, 5.67% growth).**

#### 5. Challenges in Litchi Cultivation

- **Agricultural Challenges:**
  - **Pests:** Fruit borer, mites.
  - **Diseases:** Anthracnose fungus.
  - **Irregular bearing** (alternate-year fruiting).
- **Health Concerns:**
  - **Hypoglycin A toxin** in unripe litchi → linked to **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** in Bihar.
- **Export Barriers:**
  - **Perishability** → Requires cold chain infrastructure.
  - **Competition** from China, Thailand.

## 6. Government Schemes & GI Tags

- **Geographical Indication (GI):**
  - **Muzaffarpur Litchi (Bihar)** – GI tag in **2018**.
- **Research & Development:**
  - **ICAR-NRC for Litchi (Muzaffarpur):** Develops high-yield varieties.
- **Export Promotion:**
  - **APEDA's Market Access Initiatives:** Targets Gulf, EU, USA.

### Practice Questions:

1. "How can APEDA enhance India's horticultural exports? Illustrate with litchi as a case study." (GS-3)

## Asiatic Wild Dog

### Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity conservation

#### Context

- A **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** study confirmed the return of dholes to **Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape (KKAL)**, Assam, after being locally extinct.

#### 1. About

- **Scientific Name:** *Cuon alpinus*
- **Family:** Canidae (same as dogs, wolves, and foxes).
- **Other Names:** Indian wild dog, whistling dog, red wolf, red dog, mountain wolf.

#### Physical Characteristics

- **Size:** Medium-sized (12–20 kg).
- **Appearance:** Rusty-red coat, white underside, bushy tail, and rounded ears.
- **Distinct Feature:** Fewer molars (only 40 teeth compared to 42 in other canids).



## 2. Habitat & Distribution

### Global Range

- Found in **Central, Eastern, and Southeast Asia** (China, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia).

### Distribution in India

- **Three Key Clusters:**
  - **Western & Eastern Ghats** (stronghold region).
  - **Central India** (Satpura, Kanha, Pench).
  - **Northeast India** (KKAL, Namdapha, Manas).
- **Preferred Habitats:** Dense jungles, steppes, mountains, scrub forests, and pine forests.

### Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape (KKAL)

- **Location:** South of the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
- **Biodiversity Significance:**
  - Part of the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**.
  - Houses:
    - 50% of Assam's elephants.
    - 70% of Assam's tigers.

- 90% of India's rhino population.

### 3. Behavior & Ecological Role

- **Social Structure:** Lives in packs of **5–30 individuals** (highly cooperative).
- **Hunting Style:** Preys on deer, wild boar, and sometimes gaur (works in teams).
- **Unique Vocalizations:** Whistles, screams, and clucks (called "dhole" sounds).

- **Ecological Role:**

- **Apex Predator:** Maintains prey population balance.
- **Indicator Species:** Reflects forest ecosystem health.
- **Competes with tigers/leopards** but avoids direct conflict.

### 4. Threats to Dholes

- **Habitat Loss & Fragmentation:** Deforestation for agriculture, infrastructure (e.g., highways in Western Ghats).
- **Prey Depletion:** Overhunting of deer/gaur by humans.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** Retaliatory killings due to livestock predation.
- **Diseases:** Canine distemper and rabies from domestic dogs.

### 5. Conservation Status & Efforts

#### Legal Protections

| Category                              | Status                             |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| IUCN Red List                         | Endangered (population declining). |
| CITES                                 | Appendix II (regulated trade).     |
| Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (India) | Schedule II (protected species).   |

#### Conservation Initiatives

- **Project Tiger Reserves:** Indirectly protect dholes (e.g., Bandipur, Nagarhole).
- **KKAL Conservation:** Focus on habitat connectivity and prey recovery.
- **Community-Based Programs:** Awareness to reduce retaliatory killings.
- **Global Efforts:** Listed in IUCN's **Canid Specialist Group** priority species.

## **Secondary Pollutants**

### **Syllabus: GS-3; Environmental Pollution**

#### **Context**

- A Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) study found that **ammonium sulphate** (a secondary pollutant) contributes to **nearly 30% of India's PM2.5 pollution**.

#### **About**

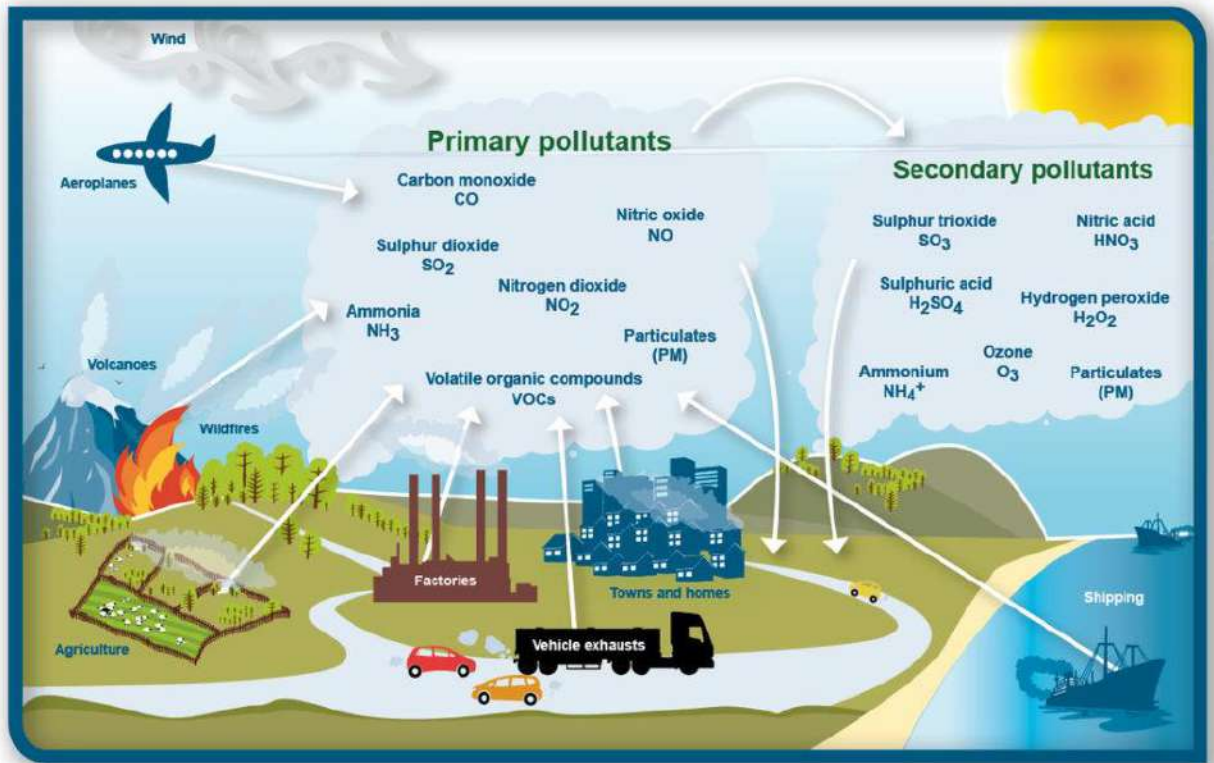
- Secondary pollutants are **more dangerous** than primary pollutants due to complex atmospheric reactions.
- **Photochemical smog** (e.g., Delhi's haze) is a major environmental challenge linked to secondary pollutants.

#### **What are Secondary Pollutants?**

- Secondary pollutants are **not directly emitted** but form when **primary pollutants react** with sunlight, water vapor, or other atmospheric compounds.

#### **Primary vs. Secondary Pollutants**

| <b>Aspect</b>   | <b>Primary Pollutants</b>                                       | <b>Secondary Pollutants</b>                            |
|-----------------|---|--|
| <b>Emission</b> | Directly emitted (e.g., CO, SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> ) | Formed via atmospheric reactions                       |
| <b>Examples</b> | Smoke, dust, CO, SO <sub>2</sub>                                | Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ), PANs, Acid Rain, Secondary PM |
| <b>Control</b>  | Easier (source-specific)  | Harder (depends on multiple factors)                   |



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## Key Secondary Pollutants & Their Effects

### 1. Ground-Level Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)

- **Formation:** NO<sub>x</sub> + VOCs + Sunlight → Ozone
- **Sources:** Vehicles, industries, solvents.
- **Impacts:**
  - **Health:** Asthma, bronchitis, lung damage.
  - **Environment:** Reduces crop yields (wheat, rice).
  - **Smog:** Major component of **photochemical smog**.

### 2. Photochemical Smog

- **Formation:** NO<sub>x</sub> + VOCs + Sunlight → O<sub>3</sub> + PANs + Haze
- **Characteristics:** Brownish-yellow haze (common in Delhi, Los Angeles).
- **Impacts:**
  - **Health:** Eye & lung irritation.
  - **Visibility:** Reduces sunlight (global dimming).

- **Monuments:** Damages marble (e.g., Taj Mahal).

### 3. Acid Rain ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , $\text{HNO}_3$ )

- **Formation:**  $\text{SO}_2 + \text{NO}_x + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Sulfuric/Nitric Acid}$
- **Impacts:**
  - **Water Bodies:** Acidifies lakes (fish mortality).
  - **Soil:** Leaches nutrients, reduces fertility.
  - **Buildings:** Corrodes limestone & metals.

### 4. Secondary Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub>)

- **Formation:**  $\text{SO}_2 + \text{NO}_x + \text{NH}_3 \rightarrow \text{Sulfates/Nitrates}$
- **CREA Study (2025):** 30% of India's PM<sub>2.5</sub> comes from ammonium sulphate.
- **Impacts:**
  - **Health:** Lung cancer, heart disease.
  - **Environment:** Haze, reduced photosynthesis.

### 5. Peroxyacyl Nitrates (PANs)

- **Formation:** VOCs + NO<sub>x</sub> + Sunlight
- **Impacts:**
  - **Health:** Severe eye irritation.
  - **Agriculture:** Damages plant leaves.

### Why Are Secondary Pollutants Hard to Control?

1. **Complex Chemistry:** Depend on sunlight, humidity, and precursor gases.
2. **Transboundary Pollution:** Can travel long distances (e.g., acid rain from Europe affecting Scandinavia).
3. **Non-Linear Reactions:** Formation processes are not fully understood.

### Mitigation Strategies

#### 1. Reducing Precursors

- **BS-VI norms** (cuts NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> from vehicles).
- **Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD)** in power plants.
- **Promoting EVs** to reduce NO<sub>x</sub>/VOCs.

## 2. Policy Interventions

- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** – Aims for **40% PM reduction by 2026**.
- **Gothenburg Protocol** (limits transboundary air pollution).

## 3. Technological Solutions

- **Green fuels** (hydrogen, ethanol blending).
- **Carbon capture** in industries.

## Practice Questions

1. **"Why are secondary pollutants harder to regulate than primary pollutants?"**