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**6 NOVEMBER 2025**

**EN-BUZZER**

# Daily News Analysis

For IAS/IPS/IFS Coaching - Call us at 7994058393

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**THURSDAY, 6th NOVEMBER 2025**

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## 1. CITES

- Prelims - CITES
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

### Why in the news?

- The CITES recommended has that India's wildlife authorities pause the issue of permits that allow endangered animals to be imported by zoos, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centres.

### Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- **Also known as:** Washington Convention.
- **Adopted:** 1973; Entered into force: 1 July 1975.
- **Aim:** To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Secretariat:** Provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- **Membership**
  - Total Members: ~184 Parties (as of 2024).
  - India: Became a party in 1976.
- **Key Features**
  - **Legally binding:** Parties are obligated to adopt domestic legislation to enforce CITES, though it does not replace national laws.
  - **Trade regulation:** Controls trade through a system of permits and certificates.
  - **Species listings:** Species are listed in three Appendices:
    - ★ **Appendix I:** Species threatened with extinction — trade permitted only in exceptional circumstances (e.g., tigers, Asian elephants).
    - ★ **Appendix II:** Species not necessarily threatened but may become so unless trade is strictly regulated (e.g., certain orchids, corals).
    - ★ **Appendix III:** Species protected in at least one country that has requested assistance in controlling trade.
- **India and CITES**



- India has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which aligns with CITES provisions.
- Active in proposing stricter protections for several species, including sharks, sea cucumbers, and rosewood.
- Indian agencies like the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) work in coordination with CITES.
- **Significance of CITES**
  - **Biodiversity conservation:** Helps curb over-exploitation of species through trade.
  - **International cooperation:** Promotes global efforts for species conservation and strengthens wildlife protection networks.
  - **Combats illegal wildlife trade:** Supports customs and enforcement agencies in identifying illegal shipments.
- **Challenges Faced by CITES**
  - **Illegal trade persists:** Despite controls, wildlife trafficking continues through clandestine channels.
  - **Enforcement gaps:** Variations in national capacities and legislation among member countries.
  - **Balancing conservation and livelihoods:** Some local communities depend on trade in wildlife products.



## 2. Bahrain

- **Prelims** - Location of Bahrain
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

### Bahrain



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#### Why in the news?

- India and Bahrain hold talks on boosting defense and trade ties.

#### Bahrain

- **Location:** Bahrain is an island country in West Asia.
- **Capital:** Manama
- **Border:** It is an archipelago of islands and has no land borders with other countries.
- **Neighbouring Water Bodies:** Persian Gulf.
- **Major Physical Region:** Most of Bahrain is a desert with low-lying rocky and sandy plains.
- **Highest Point:** Jabal ad Dukham.
- **International Grouping:** Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)



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### 3. Heavy Metals Pollution

- Prelims - Heavy Metals Pollution
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

#### Why in the news?

- Heavy metals are polluting the Cauvery River and its fish, researchers from Tamil Nadu have reported.

#### Heavy Metals Pollution

- **Definition:** Heavy metal pollution refers to the contamination of the environment (air, water, soil, and biota) by toxic metals with high atomic weights and densities  $>5 \text{ g/cm}^3$  that are non-biodegradable and persist for long periods.
- **Common Heavy Metals:** Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Arsenic (As), Nickel (Ni), Copper (Cu), Zinc (Zn), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Cobalt (Co).
- **Sources of Heavy Metal Pollution**
  - **Industrial Sources**
    - ★ **Mining & Smelting:** Release of Pb, Cd, Zn, and Cu.
    - ★ **Tanneries & Electroplating:** Chromium and Nickel contamination.
    - ★ **Thermal Power Plants:** Fly ash containing Mercury and Lead.
    - ★ **Battery Manufacturing:** Lead and Cadmium.
    - ★ **Paints & Pigments:** Lead and Chromium compounds.
  - **Agricultural Sources**
    - ★ **Phosphate Fertilizers:** Contain Cadmium.
    - ★ **Pesticides & Fungicides:** Arsenic, Copper, and Mercury residues.
    - ★ **Sewage Sludge Irrigation:** Accumulation of multiple heavy metals in soil.
  - **Domestic & Urban Sources**
    - ★ Electronic waste disposal (e-waste).
    - ★ Plastic additives (e.g., lead stabilizers, cadmium pigments).
    - ★ Plumbing corrosion (lead pipes).



- **Environmental & Health Impacts**

- **On Human Health**

- ★ **Lead (Pb):** Neurotoxin — affects children's brain development, causes anaemia and hypertension.
    - ★ **Mercury (Hg):** Bioaccumulates in fish — causes Minamata disease (neurological damage).
    - ★ **Cadmium (Cd):** Kidney dysfunction, bone demineralization (Itai-Itai disease in Japan).
    - ★ **Arsenic (As):** Skin lesions, cancer, cardiovascular issues (notable in Bengal Delta aquifers).
    - ★ **Chromium (Cr VI):** Carcinogenic, damages liver and kidney.

- **On Environment**

- ★ **Soil Degradation:** Heavy metals reduce soil fertility and microbial activity.
    - ★ **Water Contamination:** Bioaccumulation in aquatic organisms → biomagnification in food chains.
    - ★ **Plant Toxicity:** Chlorosis, reduced photosynthesis, stunted growth.

- **Examples**

- **Minamata Bay, Japan (1950s):** Mercury poisoning due to industrial wastewater.
  - **Itai-Itai Disease, Japan:** Cadmium contamination from mining waste.

- **Measures by Indian Government**

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** – umbrella legislation.
  - **Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.**
  - **E-Waste Management Rules, 2022** – for recycling and extended producer responsibility (EPR).
  - **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** – enforcing accountability for toxic discharges.
  - **National Clean Ganga Mission (Namami Gange)** – addressing industrial effluents.



→ Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) – monitors heavy metals in rivers and soil.

- **Global Initiatives**

→ **Basel Convention (1989)**: Control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.

→ **Stockholm Convention (2001)**: Indirectly targets persistent pollutants.

→ **Minamata Convention (2013)**: On Mercury emissions and trade control (India ratified in 2018).

→ **UN SDG 12 & 14**: Sustainable consumption and reduction of marine pollution.



## 4. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **Prelims** - Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)



#### Why is it in the news?

- FATF has released the "Asset Recovery Guidance and Best Practices" guidelines, which provide a comprehensive and updated framework to strengthen the global system for asset recovery against financial crimes.

#### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **What is it?:** FATF is a global money laundering and terror financing watchdog setup in 1989.
- **Launch:** It is launched by G7 countries at Paris.
- **Head Quarter:** The FATF Secretariat is located at the OECD headquarters in Paris.
- **Functions:**
  - FATF's main role is to review money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and improve its standards to address new risks, such as regulating virtual assets like cryptocurrencies.
  - FATF also monitors countries to ensure they fully implement the FATF Standards and takes action against those that do not comply.
- **FATF Sessions:**
  - The decision-making body of FATF is called the FATF Plenary, which meets three times a year.
- **Membership:**
  - It is a 39-member body representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.
  - India joined with 'observer' status in 2006 and became a full member of FATF in 2010.



#### Listing:

- The **Grey List** includes countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering.
- The **Black List** includes Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) that support terror funding and money laundering activities. As of now, **Iran, North Korea and Myanmar** are the three black listed countries.

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## 5. Stubble Burning

- Prelims - Stubble Burning
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

### Why in the news?

- As per recent data collected, the stubble-burning area in Punjab 20% lower than last year's in three major districts.

### Stubble Burning

- **Definition** - Stubble burning, also known as parali burning, is the practice of setting fire to leftover crop residue in fields after harvest. This is a prevalent practice in North-West India, particularly in states like Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Reasons for Stubble Burning:**
  - **Quick and inexpensive method:** Farmers find it to be a quick and cheap way to clear their fields for sowing the next crop.
  - **Lack of alternatives:** Limited access to or awareness of alternative methods for crop residue management.
- **Impacts of Stubble Burning:**
  - **Air pollution:** Stubble burning is a major contributor to air pollution, particularly PM2.5 particles, leading to respiratory problems and health issues.
  - **Soil degradation:** Burning destroys essential nutrients and microbes in the soil, reducing fertility and long-term productivity.
  - **Climate change:** Releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change.
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - **National Policy on Sustainable Agriculture (2015):** Promotes crop residue management practices.
  - **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM):** Provides subsidies for machinery like Happy Seeder that can sow seeds directly into the stubble.
  - **Financial incentives:** Schemes to encourage farmers to adopt alternative practices like composting or baling.
  - **National Green Tribunal (NGT) bans:** Imposed bans on stubble burning with penalties for violations.



## 6. Contempt of Court

- **Prelims** - Contempt of Court
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

### Why in the news?

- The Supreme Court witness multiple controversies related to contempt of court and its ultimate head of judiciary that chief justice of India.

### Contempt of Court

- **Definition:** Contempt of court is a concept that seeks to protect judicial institutions from motivated attacks and unwarranted criticism, and as a legal mechanism to punish those who lower its authority.
- **Statutory Basis:** The Contempt of Courts Act, of 1971, gives statutory backing to the idea.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 129 of the Constitution conferred on the Supreme Court the power to punish contempt of itself. Article 215 conferred a corresponding power on the High Courts.
- **Type of Contempt**
  - **Civil Contempt** - Civil contempt is committed when someone wilfully disobeys a court order or wilfully breaches an undertaking given to the court.
  - **Criminal Contempt** - Criminal contempt consists of three forms: (a) words, signs, and actions that “scandalize” or “lower” the authority of any court (b) prejudices or interferes with any judicial proceeding, and (c) interferes with or obstructs the administration of justice.
- **Punishment:** The punishment for contempt of court is simple imprisonment for a term of up to six months and/or a fine of up to ₹2,000.
- **What is not contempt of court?**
  - Fair and accurate reporting of judicial proceedings will not amount to contempt of court.
  - Nor is any fair criticism on the merits of a judicial order after a case is heard and disposed of.



## 7. Mauritius

- **Prelims** - Location of Mauritius
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

### Mauritius



#### Why in news?

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Savitri recently arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius as part of a Long-Range Operational Deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region.

#### Mauritius

- **Location:** Mauritius is an Indian Ocean island country.
- **Capital:** Port Louis.
- **Maritime Border:** It shares a maritime border with Madagascar and Reunion Island.
- **Groupings:** Member of the African Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.



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