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EN-BUZZER



**Daily News
Analysis**

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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



Why in the news?

- India and Bahrain hold talks on boosting defense and trade ties.
- **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 g/cm³ 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.

>> Kozhikode >> Ernakulam >> Thiruvananthapuram

→ 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

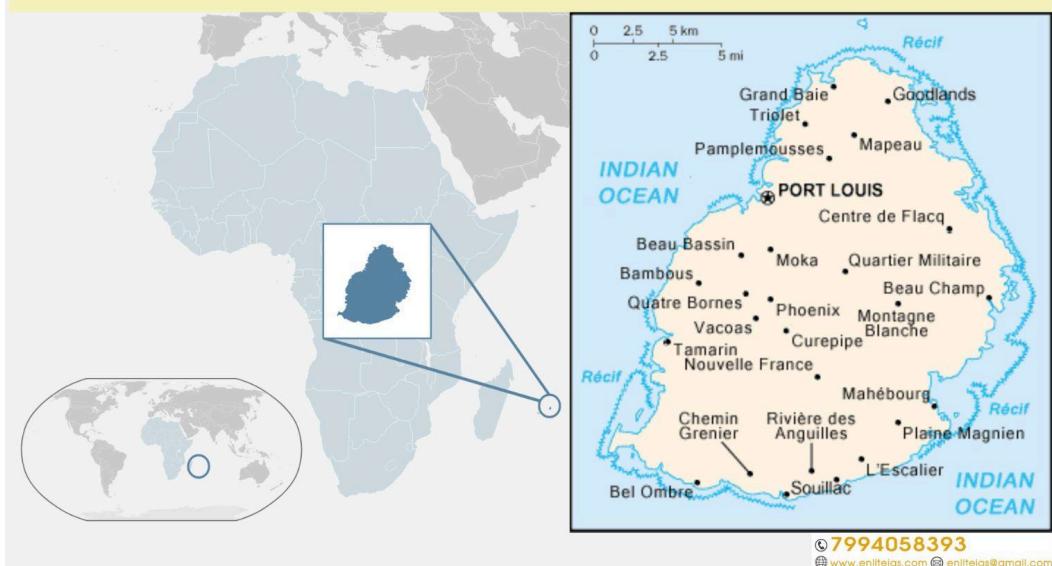


Why in news?

- 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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