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EN-BUZZER

Daily News Analysis

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1. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

- **Prelims** - Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- The CAG of India has granted permission to initiate two new cadres for more centralisation.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 148 to Article 151** deal with the provisions related to Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- **Functions of CAG:**
 - **CAG is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.**
 - She/He is the **custodian of the public purse** and oversees the whole financial system of the country at both the federal and state levels.
 - His/her duty is to maintain the Indian Constitution and the legislation of Parliament in the sphere of financial administration.
 - CAG audits all expenditures from the Consolidated Fund of India, each state's consolidated fund, and each union territory with a Legislative Assembly's consolidated fund.
 - She/He audits all expenditures from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India, as well as each state's contingency fund and public account.
- **Reports by CAG:**
 - The CAG submits three audit reports to the President– on appropriation accounts, on finance accounts, and on public undertakings.
 - These reports are presented to both houses of Parliament by the President. The PAC investigates these reports and provides its findings to Parliament.



2. State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Report, 2025

- Prelims - State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Report, 2025
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Food and Agricultural Organization published the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Report, 2025.

State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Report, 2025

- **What is it?:** The SOFA Report is a flagship FAO publication that examines key issues in agriculture, food systems, land use and production.
- **Key Findings:**
 - Approximately **1.7 billion people** live in regions where yields are falling due to **human-induced land degradation**.
 - **Agricultural expansion** remains the primary driver of deforestation globally, causing about **90 % of forest loss**.
 - **Cropland abandonment** is significant- about **3.6 million hectares** annually, largely because of degradation processes.
 - **Yield gaps** (difference between actual yields and potential) are particularly high in regions with dense population and degraded land- especially eastern & southern Asia.
 - Degraded land undermines not just production, but rural livelihoods, ecosystem services and food security- making it a “silent crisis”.
- **Relevance for India:**
 - India is highlighted as facing among the highest yield losses from land degradation.
 - Considering India’s goals like doubling farmers’ incomes, increasing cropping intensity, depth of irrigation and crop diversification, degradation-driven yield loss represents both a constraint and policy risk.
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Sustainable Land Management (SLM):** Practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, soil organic matter enhancement, improved irrigation, crop rotation and cover-crops.



- **Incentive & regulatory mix:** Design policy instruments like subsidies, credits and payments for ecosystem services tailored to farm size, agro-ecology, land-user type.
- Focus on small-scale farms and vulnerable populations.
- Strengthen data, monitoring and early warning by investing in mapping land-degradation hotspots, yield-gap analytics, remote sensing, farmer-level data.
- Link productivity, sustainability and equity.
- Cross-sectoral coordination between agriculture, forestry, water, environment and land-planning.
- **Rehabilitation & restoration:** Restoration of degraded lands should become part of national agriculture/land-use strategy.



3. Geothermal Energy

- Prelims - Geothermal Energy
- Mains - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (ESSL) is preparing to set up the largest Geothermal Energy technology pilot project in Andhra Pradesh.

Geothermal Energy

- **What is it?:**
 - Geothermal energy is the heat derived from the Earth's interior that can be harnessed for electricity generation, heating, and other applications.
 - It originates from the radioactive decay of elements and the residual heat from the planet's formation.
- **Global Scenario:**
 - **Major producers:** USA, Indonesia, Philippines, New Zealand, Iceland, and Kenya.
 - **Iceland** gets over 25% of its energy from geothermal sources.
 - FAO and IRENA promote geothermal for low-carbon development.
- **Indian Scenario:**
 - **Estimated potential:** ≈10 GW as per Geological Survey of India.
 - Major Geothermal Provinces:
 - ★ Himalayan belt – Puga (Ladakh), Chhumathang
 - ★ Son-Narmada-Tapi (SONATA) belt – Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat
 - ★ Cambay Graben – Gujarat
 - ★ Godavari and Mahanadi basins – Andhra Pradesh, Odisha
 - ★ West coast & Andaman-Nicobar Islands
- **Advantages:**
 - Renewable: Unlimited heat from Earth's core.
 - Clean Energy: Low CO₂ emissions compared to fossil fuels.
 - Cost-Efficient in Some Areas: Used for heating homes, baths, and generating electricity.



→ High Energy Yield: Modular expansion possible; competitive electricity costs.

- **Challenges:**

- High upfront exploration and drilling costs.
- Site-specific resource availability.
- Technological gaps and lack of skilled manpower.
- Seismic risks and groundwater contamination if not managed properly.
- Limited public/private investment and data in India.

- **Policy Initiatives of India:**

- **MNRE's National Geothermal Energy Policy (Draft):** promotes exploration, R&D, and private investment.
- **Puga Geothermal Project (Ladakh):** India's first geothermal power plant (piloted by ONGC Energy Centre & Ladakh UT Administration).
- **The National Clean Energy Fund** can support geothermal research.



4. Emissions Gap Report, 2025

- **Prelims** - Emissions Gap Report, 2025
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Emission Gap Report 2025 edition was released by UNEP.


Emissions Gap Report, 2025

- **What is it?:** The Emissions Gap Report 2025 assesses the gap between current global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions trajectories and the emission levels needed to meet the Paris Agreement goals.
- **Released by:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Key Findings:**
 - Global GHG emissions are at an all-time high and still rising, despite pledged emissions reductions.
 - To remain on a “least-cost pathway” for 1.5 °C warming, global emissions must fall by ~42 % by 2030 (from 2019 levels) and ~57 % by 2035.
 - Current national pledges and policies would likely lead to warming of ~2.3-2.6 °C by the end of the century.
 - The report calls for a “quantum leap” in ambition in the next round of national contributions (NDCs) and immediate operationalisation of mitigation actions.
 - Delays in action increase costs, risks and reduce available options to stay within 1.5 °C.
- **Challenges Identified:**
 - Many national climate targets (NDCs) are still **not sufficient** to meet global pathways aligned with 1.5 °C.
 - Implementation gaps in policies
 - Higher cost, stranded assets and locked-in carbon infrastructure.
 - Capacity, finance and technology barriers remain especially for developing countries, raising issues of equity, just transition and support.
 - There is a risk of overshooting 1.5 °C, closing many options for safe transitions, increasing climate-risk exposure.



5. Syria

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


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Syria


Why in the news?

- Following the United Nations, US and Britain removed the sanctions on Syrian President.

Syria

- **Location:** Syria is a Western Asian country located in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Levant.
- **Capital:** Damascus
- **Borders Countries:** Turkey , Iraq , Jordan, Israel and Lebanon.
- **Maritime Border Countries:** Cyprus lies to the west across the Mediterranean Sea
- **Major Rivers in Syria:** Euphrates, Tigris
- **Disputed Territories:** Golan heights with Israel

SYRIAN



7994058393
www.enliteias.com | enliteias@gmail.com



6. Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980

- **Prelims** - Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Union Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has suggested streamlining and standardising the penal provisions imposed for violations under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980

- **What is it?:** It was passed under the Article 252 of the Indian Constitution to curb deforestation and ensure judicious use of forest land for non-forest purposes.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - Defines Forest land as well as Non-Forest Use:
 - ★ **Forest land** includes reserved, protected, and any area recorded as forest in government records.
 - ★ **Non-forest purposes** include cultivation, mining, or any construction activity unrelated to forest conservation.
 - **Prior approval of the Central Government** is mandatory for:
 - ★ De-reservation of reserved forests.
 - ★ Use of forest land for non-forest purposes.
 - ★ Assignment of forest land to private persons or corporations.
 - ★ Clearing of naturally grown trees for reforestation.
 - An Advisory Committee is constituted by the Central govt-
 - ★ Grant of approval for forest land diversion.
 - ★ Measures for forest conservation and regeneration.
 - **Penalties:** Violation of provisions may lead to **imprisonment up to 15 days** or **fine**, or both.
- **Latest FAC Recommendations:**
 - **Rationalisation and uniformity** in the penal provisions applied for violations of the Act, to reduce inconsistency in how different cases are penalised.



- **Penal compensatory afforestation (CA)** should be charged in addition to monetary penalties (under the Act/Rules) and in a manner proportional to the area of forest land involved in the violation.
- When no other penal provisions apply, the FAC suggested that penal CA equivalent to **twice the area of forest land** used in violation could be appropriate.
- In cases of violations, the state government should submit a **detailed violation report** to the regional ministry office, including the nature of the violation, names of responsible persons, and actions taken.



7. Rhesus Macaque

- **Prelims** - Rhesus Macaque
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has proposed re-listing the Rhesus Macaque species of monkeys under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in order to restore their statutory protection.

Rhesus Macaque

- **Distribution:**
 - Found across northern and central India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and parts of China and Afghanistan.
 - **In India**, they are commonly seen in urban areas, temples, forests, and agricultural fields.
- **Features:**
 - One of the **most widespread primate species** and **highly adaptable** to various ecological conditions.
 - **Social animals**- Live in multi-male, multi-female groups led by dominant females.
 - **High intelligence** and ability to **learn through imitation**.
 - Omnivorous diet
- **Scientific Importance:**
 - The Rhesus Macaque has been **instrumental in medical research**, including vaccine development (e.g., polio, COVID-19), and studies on genetics, neuroscience, and behaviour.
 - The **Rhesus factor (Rh factor)** in human blood was first identified through research on this species — giving rise to the *Rh-positive* and *Rh-negative* blood group classification.
- **Conservation Challenges:**
 - Habitat loss and fragmentation.
 - Overpopulation in urban areas due to food availability.
 - Human feeding practices leading to behavioural change and aggression.



→ Ethical issues in biomedical research.

- **Conservation Status:**

→ **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern (LC)- Due to its wide distribution and large population.

→ **CITES:** Appendix II- Trade is controlled to prevent over-exploitation.

→ **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (India):** Schedule II- Provides legal protection.