11/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA):*

Context: The 7th Meeting of the Governing Body of National CAMPA was held today at CASFOS, Coimbatore, under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The meeting reviewed the overall performance of National CAMPA and considered several new proposals and initiatives aimed at strengthening compensatory afforestation, forest conservation and wildlife protection across the country.

About Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA):

- CAMPA is a statutory body established at the Centre and in all States/UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016.
- It manages and oversees funds collected for compensatory afforestation when forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes.
- CAMPA was originally constituted by the Supreme Court in 2002 in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs Union of India case as an ad hoc body.
- It was created to address unutilized afforestation funds and ensure uniform and transparent fund management across States.
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 mandates compensatory afforestation and requires the user agency to bear the associated costs.
- The CAF Act, 2016 and CAF Rules, 2018 institutionalized the management and utilization of compensatory afforestation funds.
- CAMPA funds are maintained as National CAF (NCAF) and State CAF (SCAF) under the Public Accounts, and are interest-bearing and non-lapsable.
- Ninety percent of CAMPA funds are released to States/UTs, while ten percent is retained by the Centre for oversight and capacity building.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) annually audits both National and State CAMPA for financial accountability.
- CAMPA funds are utilized for afforestation, forest and wildlife management, natural regeneration, catchment area treatment, human–wildlife conflict mitigation, village relocation from protected areas, capacity building, and forest protection infrastructure.

More details of the meeting:

- Reviewing the major digital governance initiatives of National CAMPA, the Governing Body appreciated the operationalisation of the Digital Annual Plan of Operations (Digital APO) for the FY 2026-27 cycle, under which States and UTs are now required to prepare and submit their Annual Plans of Operation exclusively through an online, workflow-enabled system covering proposal creation, verification and approval, backed by integrated dashboards for fund utilisation and plantation performance.
- The Governing Body also reviewed the establishment of a dedicated Geospatial Monitoring & Evaluation System (GIS Lab) for National Authority CAMPA, a unified, technology-driven framework using satellite imagery, GIS platforms and field verification to enable transparent and

scientific monitoring of Compensatory Afforestation, NPV-supported activities and ongoing CAMPA-funded schemes.

- Progress on the Harit-SANKALP Portal (System for Accreditation, Nursery Knowledge for Afforestation Linkage Platform), developed in consultation with FAO-India, was also presented. The portal provides unique identification and QR-code-based traceability for seed sources, nurseries and planting material
- On flagship afforestation and restoration schemes, the Governing Body noted that under MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes), an amount of Rs. 88.40 crore has so far been released for plantation and restoration of mangroves across six States/UTs, with the Governing Body approving a revised outlay and three-year extension of the programme (till 2029) with an additional Rs. 500 crore, taking the overall outlay to Rs. 600 crore under a landscape-based, multi-ecosystem approach to coastal restoration.
- Under the Nagar Van Yojana, 652 Nagar Vans/Vatikas have been developed with a release of Rs. 571.50 crore, while Rs. 7.28 crore has been released to ICFRE under the Green Credit Scheme to promote plantation-based green cover expansion. The Governing Body encouraged States and UTs to further scale up these initiatives.
- It approved the Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana, a new scheme with an initial corpus of Rs. 3,000 crore over five years (2026-27 to 2030-31) for the conservation and restoration of nearly 15,000 sacred groves (Aastha Vans) across the country, along with a new scheme for landscape restoration, combating land degradation and biodiversity loss, to be supported from the National Fund.

2. *Financial Intelligence Unit–India (FIU-IND):*

Context: The Financial Intelligence Unit–India (FIU-IND) has earned another significant international recognition with its case regarding a large-scale cyber fraud, securing the Runner-up position at the prestigious Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026, presented during the Egmont Group Plenary held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Best Egmont Case Award is one of the highest recognitions within the Egmont Group, acknowledging outstanding operational cases that demonstrate excellence in financial intelligence, international cooperation and contribution to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

About Financial Intelligence Unit–India (FIU-IND):

- FIU-IND was established by the Government of India in November 2004.
- It is the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information on suspect financial transactions.
- It plays a key role in combating money laundering and terrorist financing by coordinating intelligence and enforcement efforts.
- FIU-IND is an independent body that reports directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC), headed by the Union Finance Minister.
- It receives various reports from reporting entities, including Cash Transaction Reports (CTRs), Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs), Non-Profit Organisation Transaction Reports (NTRs), Cross Border Wire Transfer Reports (CBWTRs), and Immovable Property Reports (IPRs).
- It analyzes financial transaction data to identify suspicious patterns linked to money laundering and related offences.

- It shares financial intelligence with national law enforcement agencies, regulatory authorities, and foreign Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs).
- FIU-IND acts as the central repository of financial intelligence by maintaining a national database of transaction reports.
- It coordinates financial intelligence networks and conducts research on money laundering trends, typologies, and emerging threats to strengthen anti-money laundering (AML) efforts.

3. *International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City:*

Context: In a major policy initiative aimed at strengthening India's maritime services ecosystem and enhancing the country's competitiveness in global shipping, the Government has exempted units established in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City, Gandhinagar, from the licensing requirement under Section 11 of the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 for chartering foreign vessels for EXIM and international trade operations.

About International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City:

- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- As India's first operational smart city, it represents the country's ambition to build a global hub for financial and technological services.
- Backed by strong government support, GIFT City is designed to blend world-class infrastructure with sustainable urban development.
- Established as India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) under the SEZ Act, 2005.
- Located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, spanning nearly 1000 acres and now being expanded to 3,300+ acres, the city is divided into two parts: the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) and the Multi-service Special Economic Zone (GIFT SEZ).
- GIFT City is purposefully built to support both onshore and offshore financial operations, draw global investment, drive innovation, and generate high-quality jobs, contributing to India's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047.
- GIFT City is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and a Multi-Services Special Economic Zone (SEZ).
- GIFT IFSC is governed by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) with strong government policy support.
- Units operating in GIFT IFSC are treated as non-residents under the Foreign Exchange Management (FEMA) regulations.
- IFSCA was established under the IFSCA Act, 2019 and became operational in April 2020.
- IFSCA serves as a unified regulator, replacing the regulatory roles of RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA within GIFT IFSC.
- IFSCA regulates and develops financial products, institutions, and services while promoting ease of doing business and global best practices.
- The India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) was launched at GIFT IFSC in July 2022.
- IIBX provides a transparent platform for bullion imports, trading, investment products, and vaulting services.

- IIBX follows OECD due diligence guidelines to ensure responsible and conflict-free bullion sourcing.
- GIFT IFSC hosts banks, insurers, asset managers, fintech firms, and IIBX, with regular government–industry consultations to promote growth.

4. *Global Liveability Index 2026:*

Context: Recently, Global Liveability Index 2026 was released by EIU.

About Global Liveability Index 2026:

- The Global Liveability Index evaluates the quality of life and living conditions in cities worldwide.
- It is published annually by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- The 2026 Index assessed 173 cities using over 30 qualitative and quantitative indicators.
- Cities are scored on a 1–100 scale across five parameters: Stability, Healthcare, Culture & Environment, Education, and Infrastructure.
- Copenhagen, Vienna, and Melbourne ranked as the top three most liveable cities globally in 2026.
- Among Indian cities, New Delhi (120th) ranked highest, followed by Mumbai (121st), Chennai (123rd), and Bengaluru (127th).

5. *Proteolysis-targeting chimaera (PROTAC):*

Context: U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved drug vepdegestrant, the world's first PROTAC-based therapy, for ESR1-mutated, ER-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer, where it degrades the oestrogen receptor.

About Proteolysis-targeting chimaera (PROTAC):

- PROTAC (Proteolysis Targeting Chimera) is a molecule that selectively degrades disease-causing proteins instead of merely inhibiting them.
- It works by bridging the target protein with an E3 ligase, triggering the cell's natural protein degradation pathway.
- PROTAC acts catalytically, allowing a single molecule to degrade multiple copies of the target protein, enabling lower-dose therapy.
- It can target previously "undruggable" proteins that are difficult for conventional drugs to inhibit.
- Major challenges include poor absorption due to large molecular size, reduced efficacy at high concentrations, and the potential development of resistance.

6. *Mugger Crocodiles:*

Context: A banned pesticide Aldrin led to deaths of mugger crocodiles (Crocodylus palustris) in the Chandraloi river of Rajasthan's Kota district. Aldrin is a banned organochlorine pesticide in India due to its persistent nature, soil and water contamination, bioaccumulation in the food chain, and toxic effects on the nervous system of humans and wildlife.

About Mugger Crocodiles:

- The Mugger Crocodile (Crocodylus palustris) is a medium-sized freshwater crocodile belonging to the genus Crocodylus.
- It has the broadest snout among living crocodiles, along with a powerful tail, webbed feet, and well-developed senses of sight, hearing, and smell.
- It inhabits freshwater ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and marshes.
- Its distribution extends across the Indian subcontinent, including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, and Iran.
- It is a hole-nesting species, laying eggs during the annual dry season.
- It is primarily carnivorous, feeding mainly on fish, frogs, crustaceans, insects, reptiles, birds, and small mammals.
- Major threats include habitat destruction, illegal hunting for skin, and exploitation for the traditional medicine trade.
- IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable.
- Protection Status: Listed in CITES Appendix I and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

7. *Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps):*

Context: The Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps) is a critically endangered bird species found mainly in the Thar desert of Rajasthan, with fewer than 150 birds left in the wild. A second chick produced through the “jumpstart” technique in Naliya, Kutch district, Gujarat, survived beyond the critical 40-day period after hatching on 21 May 2026.

About Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps):

- Ground bird with a height of about one metre.
- The body is brownish with a black patch spotted in white.
- It is protected under schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It is largest among the four-bustard species found in India and other three being MacQueen’s bustard, lesser florican and the Bengal florican.
- They feed on insects, lizards, grass seeds etc.
- This bird, found mainly in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Its historic range included much of the Indian sub-continent but it has now shrunken to just 10 percent of it.
- Rajasthan initiated "Project Great Indian Bustard" on World Environment Day 2013.
- In 2015, the Central government launched the GIB species recovery programme.
- It is listed as critically endangered in IUCN list

Quick Bites:

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav today inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Human–Wildlife Conflict at Coimbatore.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and IP Australia have entered into an Agreement on access to CSIR's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL) during the 3rd India–Australia Annual Summit held in Melbourne, Australia, on 9 July 2026.
- Australia–India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS): PACTS is a bilateral agreement signed during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Australia that replaces the 2020 Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation. It aims to strengthen cybersecurity, critical technologies, and resilient supply chains to enhance national security, improve global cyber resilience, and expand trusted digital choices. The partnership is jointly led by Australia's Deputy Secretary (International and Security Group) and India's Deputy National Security Advisor, with progress reviewed through annual Senior Officials' Meetings.
- World Intangible Investment Report 2026: Published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Italy's Luiss Business School (LBS), the report assesses investments in intangible assets across economies. The 2026 report reaffirms India's position as a global innovation powerhouse, recording the fastest growth in intangible investments among the world's 15 largest economies. It distinguishes tangible investments (physical assets such as factories, machinery, and buildings) from intangible investments, which include R&D, software, databases, organizational know-how, brands, design, and intellectual property (IP).
- Molluscs & Desert Rain Frog: The IUCN has warned that molluscs face increasing extinction risks from deep-sea mining, while the Desert Rain Frog (Breviceps macrops) is threatened by diamond mining. Molluscs are invertebrates with a mantle, breathing cavity, and nervous system, and include cephalopods, gastropods, and bivalves. The Desert Rain Frog is a fossorial (burrowing) species found in the sandy coastal dunes of South Africa and Namibia and is currently classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN.
- Cyananthus hookeri, a rare purple-blue alpine herb of the Campanulaceae family, was rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh after 158 years. The first confirmed Indian record since 1867 was made in the Chuna Valley near Mago village in Tawang district at an altitude of about 3,600 metres.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) identified thorium-bearing mineral deposits in Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka, on 9 July 2026. The deposits were mapped across about 700 acres in Koothanur and nearby villages, and 20 acres were marked as a core area for excavation and mining auction preparation.
- Tamil Nadu Tops India in Higher Education GER Tamil Nadu recorded a Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of 52.3% in higher education for the 2023-24 academic year.
- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved an $890 million financing package for India's national rooftop solar programme on 9 and 10 July 2026. The package supports PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, a residential rooftop solar scheme for households in rural and urban India.

- ☐ ONGC Approves Strategic Crude Reserve Expansion Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) granted in-principle approval on 9 July 2026 for a 1.75 million metric tonnes Strategic Petroleum Reserve at Mangaluru in Karnataka. The project is a Phase-I extension and falls under India's strategic crude storage network, which is managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. (ISPRL).

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Recently, India signed the Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS) with which one of the following countries?

(a) Germany
(b) Japan
(c) Australia
(d) Indonesia

The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is maintained by:

(a) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
(c) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
(d) Central Ayurveda Research Institute, Bengaluru

With reference to the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City, consider the following statements:

1. GIFT City is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and a Multi-Services Special Economic Zone (SEZ).
2. Units operating in GIFT IFSC are treated as non-residents under the Foreign Exchange Management (FEMA) regulations.
3. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is the unified regulator for financial services in GIFT IFSC.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the apex regulator for all institutions operating in GIFT IFSC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

With reference to the Financial Intelligence Unit–India (FIU-IND), consider the following statements:

1. FIU-IND was established by the Government of India in November 2004.
2. It is the central national agency for receiving, analyzing, and disseminating information on suspect financial transactions.
3. FIU-IND reports directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Union Finance Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

—---The END—--