



Date: 14/05/2026

Global Forest Goals Report 2026

Context: The Report warned that rising demand for fuelwood and charcoal has emerged as a major driver of global forest degradation, particularly in Africa and parts of Asia.



About the Report:

- The Global Forest Goals Report 2026 is a UN assessment report prepared by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** and the **UN Forum on Forests**.

Key Findings in the Report:

- Global Forest Decline:** Forest cover declined from 4.18 billion hectares

- (2015) to 4.14 billion hectares (2025), with a net annual loss of 4.12 million hectares.
- Primary Forest Loss:** The world lost nearly 16 million hectares of primary forests between 2015–2025, with South America recording the largest decline.
- Fuelwood as a Major Driver:** Growing demand for fuelwood and charcoal emerged as a major cause of forest degradation, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia.
- Agricultural Expansion:** Conversion of forests into agricultural land remained the largest global driver of deforestation.
- Climate Pressures Intensifying:** Droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, pests, and diseases are accelerating forest degradation worldwide.
- Restoration Gap:** Although 91 countries pledged to restore 190 million hectares of forests, only 44 million hectares had been restored by 2025.
- Asia's Progress:** Asia recorded the highest restoration performance, restoring over 31 million hectares (42.2% of pledged area).

Implications:

- Climate Change Risks:** Forest degradation weakens carbon sinks, intensifying global warming and biodiversity loss.
- Energy Poverty Link:** Dependence on fuelwood highlights the connection

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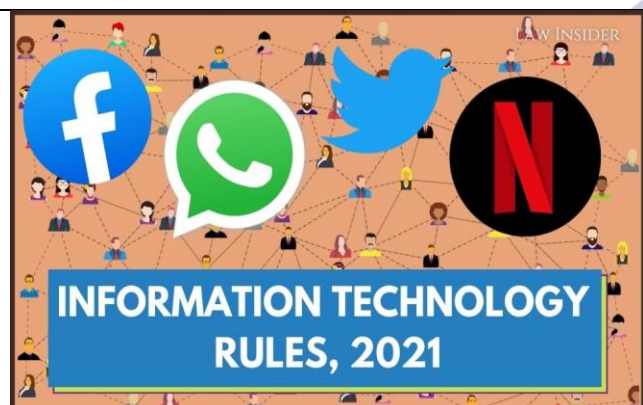
between poverty, lack of clean energy access, and environmental degradation.

- **Threat to Biodiversity:** Declining primary forests threaten endemic species, ecosystem services, and ecological balance.
- **Need for Sustainable Supply Chains:** The report stresses deforestation-free supply chains and stronger forest governance systems.

Source: Fuelwood demand emerges as major driver of global forest loss: UN Report (Down to Earth)

IT Rules 2021

Context: The Delhi High Court is hearing a case related to mobile apps that share pornographic content, in violation of the IT Rules of 2021.



About IT Rules of 2021:

- They were issued by **Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** under the provisions of **Information Technology Act, 2000**.
- They are officially known as the **IT (Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**

Major Provisions of IT Rules, 2021:

- Intermediaries have to publish on their website and mobile app **the rules and regulations, privacy policy and user agreement** and ensure necessary compliance with the policy.

- Intermediaries should frame policies to **prevent stealing of intellectual property, defamatory & obscene content**, child pornography, and any content which violates any law.
- Social Media Intermediaries have to establish a **grievance redressal mechanism**. The Grievance Officer is in charge of **addressing complaints within 24 hours and resolving them within a period of 15 days**.
- Union Govt will constitute **Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)** to function above the intermediary's grievance redressal officer.
 - The 3-member committee will be formed under the Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
 - Any person who is not satisfied with the action of the grievance redressal officer can **appeal in front of GAC within 30 days**.
 - The GAC will dispose of the appeal within 30 days.
- Intermediaries with **registered users above a notified threshold** will be classified as **significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs)**.
- **SSMIs shall appoint a Chief Compliance Officer** who shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act.
- An SSMI which provides messaging services (such as Whatsapp) must **enable the identification of the first originator of information** within India on its platform.

Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC):

- It is an **independent self-regulatory body** for Online Curated Content (OCC)

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providers. It was set up under the aegis of **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.

- It has been **recognised and registered by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** as Level II Self-Regulatory Body for publishers of OCC providers, under the IT Rules, 2021.



Under IT Rules of 2021, 'social media intermediary' is defined as an intermediary which primarily or solely enables online interaction between two or more users and allows them to create, upload, share, access disseminate or modify information using its services.

Source: Curb dissemination of porn through apps, HC tells Google, Apple (The Hindu)

Terms in News

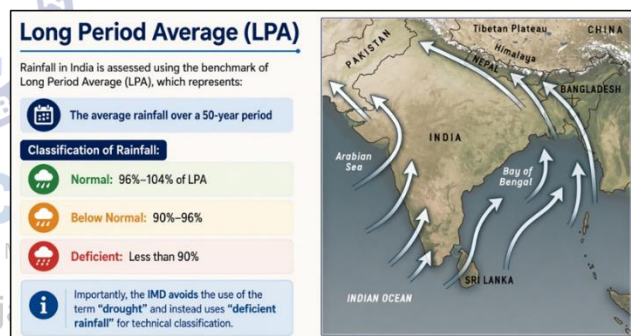
Kimberley Process



- Kimberley Process (KP) is an **international forum initiated in 2000 by Southern African countries**, to regulate the trade in rough diamonds. It aims to **prevent the flow of conflict diamonds** while helping to protect legitimate trade in rough diamonds.
 - Conflict diamonds are rough diamonds used to finance armed conflicts.

- KP is **not a formal international organisation or a legally binding treaty**. Its rules are **implemented through national laws**, not international legal obligations.
- The KP has 86 member countries, that together account for approx. **99.8% of global rough diamond production**.
- Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)** was launched in 2003 and outlines the rules that govern the trade in rough diamonds.
- India is one of the founding members of the KPCS.
- India has assumed the **chair of the Kimberley Process for 2026**, placing it at the forefront of global diamond governance.

Long Period Average (LPA)



- It is the **averages of rainfall received between 1951 and 2001**. This comes to **89 cm of rainfall**.
- This is the average rainfall recorded during June to Sept, calculated during the 50-year period, and is kept as a **benchmark while forecasting the quantitative rainfall for that region for a specific month or season**.
- The Indian Meteorological Dept. has prepared this value based on the data for the period of 50 years and is **updated periodically once every decade** by

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incorporating the latest data from rain gauge stations.

- There are 5 rainfall distribution categories on an all-India scale:
 - **Excess:** Rainfall is >110 % of LPA.
 - **Above Normal:** Rainfall is between 104 and 110 % of LPA.
 - **Normal:** Rainfall is between 96 and 104 % of LPA.
 - **Below Normal:** Rainfall is between 90 and 96 % of LPA.
 - **Deficient:** Rainfall is < 90 % of LPA.

Why is LPA needed ?

- Because **annual rainfall can vary greatly** not just from region to region and from month to month but also from year to year in a specific region or month, an LPA is needed to smooth out trends so that a reasonably accurate prediction can be made.
- A 50-year LPA **balances large variations in either direction** caused by years of unusually high or low rainfall (as a result of El Nino or La Nina), periodic drought years, and increases in extreme weather events caused by climate change.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



Investing in rural people

- The Government of India, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched a new **eight-year Country**

Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP).

- It is an initiative to empower rural communities by proven development models and strengthening grassroots institutions.
- IFAD is an international financial institution and a **specialized agency of the United Nations**.
- It was established in 1977 and is one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.
- It is headquartered in **Rome, Italy**.
- It brings out the **Rural Development Report** every year.
- Any **country that is a member of the United Nations**, its agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency can become an IFAD Member State.
- It has membership of **180 countries**, categorized into three lists:
 - **List A** - primarily high-income countries that contribute to IFAD's resources.
 - **List B** - contribute to IFAD's resources, with some eligible for IFAD financing and services.
 - **List C** - primarily developing countries that receive IFAD financing and services, and also contribute to IFAD resources.
- India is a **founding member** of the IFAD.

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Places in News

Chile



- A high-level delegation from Chile is visiting India for bilateral engagements aimed at strengthening economic & commercial cooperation between the two countries.
- Chile is a country located along the western coast of South America.
- Due to its geographical proximity to Antarctica, Chile is often referred to as the “**Gateway to Antarctica**.”
- The **Loa River**, originating from the Andes, is the longest river in Chile.
- It shares borders with **Peru** to the north, **Bolivia** to the northeast, **Argentina** to the east, and the **Pacific Ocean** to the west. Chile also has sovereignty over **Easter Island**, the **Juan Fernández Archipelago**, and several other South Pacific islands.
- Its landscape is dominated by the **Andes Mountains**, which form the longest mountain range in the world.

- Northern Chile is home to the **Atacama Desert**, the driest non-polar desert on Earth.
- Its highest peak is **Ojos del Salado** (6,893 m), an active stratovolcano located in the Atacama region.
- Due to its position along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, Chile frequently experiences earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.
- Chile is the world’s **largest producer of copper** which is a crucial metal used in electronics, renewable energy systems, and electric vehicles.
- The country is part of the “**Lithium Triangle**” (along with Argentina and Bolivia), a region essential for global battery production.
- The **Drake Passage**, which lies to the south of Chile, connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans between Cape Horn (South America) and the South Shetland Islands near Antarctica.

Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements regarding the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. It operates under the aegis of the World Bank.
2. All members of the United Nations are eligible for IFAD membership.
3. It publishes the Rural Development Report annually

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

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2. The “Kimberley Process” is related to:

- (a) Tackling animal poaching and illegal trade
- (b) Global co-operation on use of nuclear power
- (c) Regulation of global diamond trade
- (d) Tackling of cross-boundary pathogens and diseases

3. Consider the following nations located in South America:

- 1. Chile
- 2. Ecuador
- 3. Bolivia
- 4. Paraguay
- 5. Colombia
- 6. Peru
- 7. Venezuela

Which of the above nations have a coastline on the Pacific Ocean?

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6
- (b) 1, 3, 5 and 6
- (c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (d) 1, 2, 5 and 6

4. Consider the following statements regarding the IT (Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021):

- 1. Social media intermediaries are required to set up a Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) under the IT Rules, 2021.
- 2. Social media intermediaries above a certain user threshold will be

classified as significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs).

- 3. The Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC) has been set up under the IT Rules, 2021.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

5. Which of the following statements regarding the “Long Period Average” (LPA) of Indian monsoon is correct?

- (a) LPA is updated every 10 years by incorporating the latest data from rain gauge stations
- (b) LPA is the average of monsoonal rainfall received in India between 1901 and 2001
- (c) LPA classifies monsoonal rainfall received into 3 categories – excess, normal, and deficient
- (d) LPA data is prepared and released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Answers:

- 1. B
- 2. C
- 3. D
- 4. A
- 5. A

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