



मराठी

25 June 2024

National and International News

<p>Critical minerals</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Union Mines Minister launched a new auction tranche for mining rights in 21 blocks of critical and strategic minerals. <p>About Critical minerals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical minerals are natural resources essential for the economy and national security but have supply chain risks due to geopolitical, economic, or other factors.• Critical minerals and their Uses:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Phosphorite: Used in fertilizers for agriculture.○ Lithium: Essential for batteries, especially in electric vehicles and energy storage.○ Graphite: Used in batteries, lubricants, and as a refractory material.○ Manganese: Important in steel production and battery manufacturing.○ Rare Earth Elements: Used in electronics, renewable energy technologies, and defense applications.○ Cobalt: Used in batteries and superalloys.○ Nickel: Used in stainless steel, batteries, and various alloys.• Supply Chain Risks:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Geopolitical tensions and trade restrictions.○ Concentration of supply in a few countries (e.g., China, Democratic Republic of Congo).○ Environmental and ethical concerns related to mining practices.
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Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Why in the news?

- The **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** has recently been awarded the **2024 Blue Planet Prize**.

About IPBES:

- **Established:** 2012
- **Purpose:** **Strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services** for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- **Role:**
 - **Provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments** about the state of knowledge regarding the **planet's biodiversity, ecosystems, and the benefits they provide**.
 - Offers tools and methods to protect and sustainably use vital natural assets.
- **Inspiration:** Independent body inspired by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (**IPCC**) and the **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**.
- **Relation to the UN:**
 - **Not a United Nations body**.
 - **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services** to IPBES since 2013, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council.
- **Membership:** **India** is a member country.
- **Governing Body:**
 - IPBES Plenary made up of representatives of member States.
 - **Meets once per year**.
- **Secretariat:** Located in **Bonn, Germany**.



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Iberian lynx



Why in the news?

- The **Iberian lynx**, once one of the **rarest cat species globally**, has **improved its status from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.**

About Iberian lynx:

- **Endemic Species:** One of two carnivore species **endemic to Europe** (other being European mink, *Mustela lutreola*).
- **Characteristics:**
 - World's **most endangered cat species.**
 - Pointy ears, long legs, and leopard-like spotted fur.
- **Behavior:**
 - Generally **nocturnal.**
 - Activity patterns synchronized with **major prey (rabbits).**
- **Habitat:**
 - Requires variable terrain below 1300 m.
 - Prefers a mosaic of closed **Mediterranean scrubland** interspersed with open patches of grassland.
 - Often found in areas with **marsh ecotones.**
- **Distribution:**
 - Once widespread throughout the **Iberian Peninsula.**
 - Now sparsely distributed in **Spain** and **Portugal.**
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable.
 - **CITES:** Appendix II.



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<p>e-Samridhi Portal</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development has urged state governments to encourage more farmers to register on the e-Samridhi portal to avail the facility of assured procurement. <p>About e-Samridhi Portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)○ National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF)• Purpose: Registration of farmers for government procurement of pulses at Minimum Support Prices (MSP).• Portal Registration:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Can be done directly by farmers○ Can be done through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)• Payment:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Made by NAFED directly into the farmers' mapped bank accounts○ No intermediary agency involved
<p>Indus Water Treaty (IWT)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Pakistani delegation recently arrived in Jammu for ongoing discussions about the 1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT). <p>About IWT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date of Signing: The Indus Water Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960.• Signatories: The treaty was signed by India and Pakistan, with the World Bank acting as a third-party guarantor.



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- **Rivers Covered:** The treaty **governs the use of waters from the Indus River system**, which includes **six rivers**:
 - The Indus,
 - Jhelum,
 - Chenab,
 - Ravi,
 - Beas, and
 - Sutlej.
- **Allocation of Rivers:**
 - **Eastern Rivers: India** has **exclusive rights** over the waters of the **Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej**.
 - **Western Rivers: Pakistan** has **control over the waters of the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab**, although **India is allowed limited use for agricultural, transport, and power generation purposes**.
- **Permanent Indus Commission:**
 - The treaty established the Permanent Indus Commission, comprising **one commissioner from each country**.
 - The commission is **tasked with the administration of the treaty and the resolution of disputes**.
- **Duration:** The treaty has **no expiration date** and is intended to **remain in force unless both countries agree to amend or terminate it**.

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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia
