



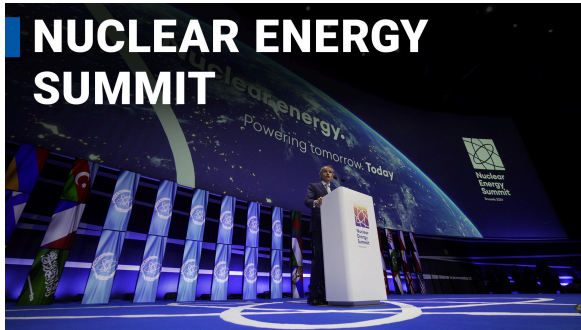
বাংলা



30 March 2024

National & International News

Nuclear Energy Summit



Context:

- World leaders convened in **Brussels** on 21st March for the **inaugural Nuclear Energy Summit**, emphasizing nuclear energy's role in tackling global challenges like **reducing fossil fuel usage, enhancing energy security, and stimulating economic development.**

Key points:

- Organised jointly by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Belgium.**
- Co-chaired by the **Prime Minister of Belgium Alexander De Croo** and the **Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi**, the Summit will be the highest-level meeting to date exclusively focused on the topic of nuclear energy.
- The Summit follows **nuclear energy's landmark inclusion** in the Global Stocktake during the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai in December 2023.**
- Aligned with the launch of the **IAEA's Atoms4NetZero initiative.**

India's Statement:

- India is set to have nuclear energy a significant share in the electricity mix **by the year 2047** when India celebrates **100 years of independence.**
- As a medium-term target, it is set to achieve **tripling nuclear power generation capacity by 2030** from around **7.5 GW at present.**

Samudra Paheredar



Context:

- Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, a specialized pollution control vessel, arrived at Manila Bay, Philippines on Sunday for a three-day visit.**

Purpose of Visit:

- Demonstration of **ICG Marine Pollution Response capabilities.**
- Shared concern and resolve towards **marine pollution in the ASEAN region.**
- Bolstering bilateral cooperation with the **Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).**
- The ICG ship is on an **overseas deployment to ASEAN countries** namely the **Philippines, Vietnam, and Brunei** from 25 March to 12 April 2024.



বাংলা



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- The deployment is the **third in a row** by the **Indian Coast Guard to ASEAN countries**.
- Earlier in the year 2023, ICG **pollution control vessels visited Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Indonesia** as part of the initiative.

Samudra Paheredar Overview:

- Stationed on the **East Coast of India in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Under the Command of Deputy Inspector General **Sudhir Ravindran**.
- Successfully undertaken various **Coast Guard operations including Pollution Response, IMBL/EEZ surveillance, counter-transnational crimes, and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR)**.

CoViNet



Context:

- WHO has launched **CoViNet, a global network for coronaviruses**, to coordinate **global expertise and capacities for early and accurate detection**, monitoring, and assessment of SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV, and other novel coronaviruses.

Key points:

- CoViNet is a network of **36 global laboratories from 21 countries across all 6 WHO regions**, with expertise in **human, animal, and environmental coronavirus surveillance**.
- CoViNet expands on the **initial focus of the WHO COVID-19 reference laboratory network**, established during the early days of the pandemic, to now include a broader range of coronaviruses such as MERS-CoV and potential new coronaviruses.
- Representatives of the laboratories met in **Geneva on 26 – 27 March to finalize an action plan for 2024-2025**, aimed at better equipping WHO Member States for early detection, risk assessment, and response to coronavirus-related health challenges.
- The CoViNet meeting brings together **global experts in human, animal, and environmental health**, using a comprehensive One Health approach to monitor and assess coronavirus evolution and spread.
- **Impact on WHO's Work:** Data generated through CoViNet will guide the **work of WHO's Technical Advisory Groups on Viral Evolution (TAG-VE) and Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC)**, ensuring that global health policies and tools are based on the latest scientific information.

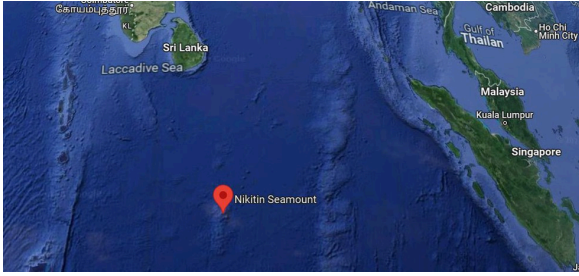


বাংলা



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Afanasy Nikitin Seamount



ISA:

- The **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** is an autonomous international organization established in 1994.
- It regulates **mining and related activities in the international seabed** beyond national jurisdiction, covering most of the world's oceans.
- The ISA was **established upon the entry into force of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, which sets out international law regarding territorial waters, sea lanes, and ocean resources.
- The ISA is **responsible for granting licenses for the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources** in the international seabed, regulating activities related to these endeavors, and ensuring compliance with international standards and guidelines.
- It also promotes **fair and efficient utilization of mineral resources, ensuring benefits for all stakeholders involved.**

Context:

- India has applied to the **International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Jamaica for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed.**
- One of these regions, the **Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount)**, is rich in **cobalt** and is also claimed by Sri Lanka under different laws.
- India's application is partly motivated by reports of Chinese vessels conducting reconnaissance in the same area.

About:

- The AN Seamount is a **structural feature in the Central Indian Basin, located approximately 3,000 km from India's coast, and contains rich deposits of cobalt, nickel, manganese, and copper.**
- Countries have exclusive rights up to 200 nautical miles from their borders, including the underlying seabed.
- Regions beyond this limit are considered **'high sea' and open for exploration with ISA permission.**
- The ISA is currently reviewing India's application for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crust, seeking clarification due to the overlap with Sri Lanka's claim.
- India presented **scientific evidence in Jamaica to support its exploration claims, with a decision expected later this year.**
- India has also applied for permission to explore the **Carlsberg Ridge for polymetallic sulphides, which are rich in copper, zinc, gold, and silver.**
- India has staked a claim for its **continental shelf up to 350 nautical miles** but awaits approval, having previously secured exploration rights in the Central Indian Ocean.

Seamounts

- Seamounts are **underwater mountains with pointed summits** that rise from the **seafloor but do not reach the ocean's surface.**
- They are **volcanic in origin** and can be **3,000-4,500 meters tall.**
- The Emperor Seamount, an extension of the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean, is a well-known example.

Guyots:

- Guyots are **flat-topped seamounts that show evidence of gradual subsidence** through stages to become flat-topped submerged mountains.
- It is estimated that more than **10,000 seamounts and guyots exist in the Pacific Ocean alone.**



বাংলা



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Mid-oceanic ridge

- A mid-oceanic ridge is composed of **two chains of mountains separated by a large depression**.
- The mountain ranges can have peaks as high as **2,500 meters**, and some even reach above the ocean's surface.

Southern Africa's SEAMA Ecoregion



Context:

- The **South East Africa Montane Archipelago (SEAMA)** is a **newly recognized ecoregion in southern Africa**.
- Recent studies reveal a **rich biodiversity in SEAMA**, yet it **faces urgent conservation challenges**.

Life in SEAMA:

- SEAMA is a **newly recognized ecoregion stretching from northern Mozambique to Mount Mulanje in Malawi**.
- The region is home to **numerous previously undocumented species, including 127 plants, 45 vertebrates, and 45 invertebrates**.
- SEAMA boasts of **two endemic genera of plants and reptiles and 22 strictly endemic reptile species, mostly threatened by habitat loss**.

Conservation Challenges:

- Despite its ecological significance, SEAMA is experiencing **one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa**.
- Since 2000, SEAMA has **lost 18% of its primary humid forest cover, with rates reaching up to 43% in some areas**.
- The major causes of deforestation include **slash-and-burn agriculture and charcoal production**, necessitating conservation agriculture and sustainable livelihood alternatives.

Conclusion:

- SEAMA's diverse ecosystems and species highlight its **global biological importance, warranting immediate conservation efforts to mitigate threats and preserve its rich biodiversity**.

Copyright © by Adda247

All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of Adda247.