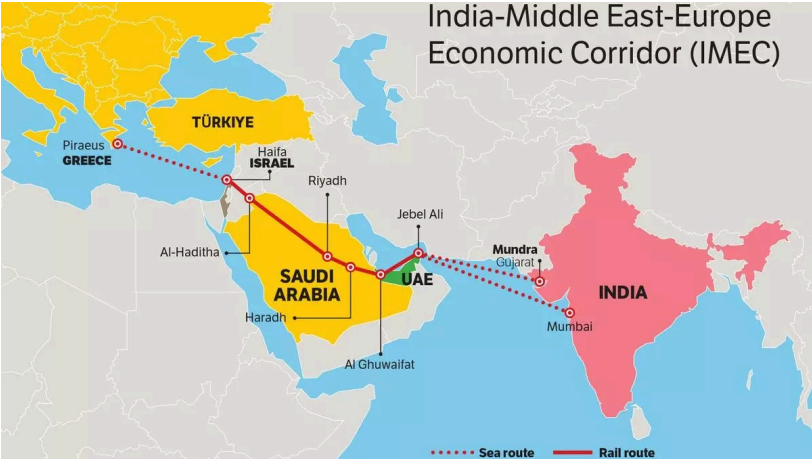





20 May 2024

**National and International News**

<p><b>India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Indian delegation recently visited the UAE to hold discussions with key entities regarding the <b>India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About IMEEC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance connectivity and economic integration between India, the Middle East, and Europe.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Key Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Railways</li> <li>○ Highways</li> <li>○ Maritime routes</li> <li>○ Energy infrastructure</li> <li>○ Digital connectivity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Participating Regions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South Asia (India)</li> <li>○ Middle East</li> <li>○ Europe</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Strategic Importance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Facilitates trade and investment flows.</li> <li>○ Reduces transit times and costs for goods and services.</li> <li>○ Promotes economic cooperation and development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> 
<p><b>Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p>



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is “seriously considering” starting talks for a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).</li> </ul> <p><b>About EAEU:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Formation:</b> Established on January 1, 2015.</li> <li><b>Members:</b> Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To create a single market for goods, services, capital, and labor.</li> <li><b>Headquarters:</b> Located in Moscow, Russia.</li> <li><b>Languages:</b> Russian is the official working language.</li> <li><b>Customs Union:</b> EAEU operates as a customs union, eliminating customs duties and controls at internal borders.</li> <li><b>Single Market:</b> Aims to allow free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor among member states.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Endangered Species Day</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Endangered Species Day celebrated on May 17.</li> </ul> <p><b>About National Endangered Species Day:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To create awareness about the consequences of human activities and actions to save endangered species.</li> <li><b>Date:</b> Observed annually on the third Friday of May.</li> <li><b>History:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 2006 by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> To urge people to contribute to the safety and protection of endangered species.</li> </ul> </li> <li>According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 40% of animals, insects, and plants are at risk of extinction.</li> <li><b>Theme for 2024:</b> "Celebrate Saving Species"</li> </ul>
<p><b>Iberian lynx</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endangered Iberian lynx population doubles in 3 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Iberian lynx:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Endemic Carnivore Species:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of two carnivore species endemic to Europe (the other being European mink, <i>Mustela lutreola</i>).</li> <li>The world's most endangered carnivore.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



- **Sexually dimorphic:** males are heavier and longer than females.
- **Behavior:**
  - Generally **nocturnal**.
  - Activity patterns **closely synchronized with those of their major prey, the rabbit**.
- **Distribution:**
  - Once distributed throughout the **Iberian Peninsula**.
  - Now sparsely distributed in **Spain and Portugal**.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List: Endangered**.
  - **CITES: Appendix II**.

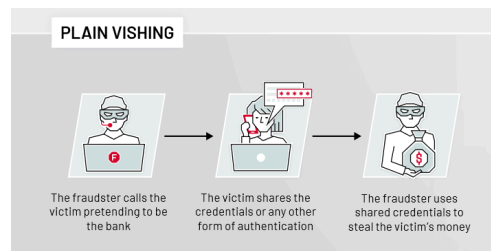
### Vishing

#### Why in news?

- The government has recently released a **circular** about a **sophisticated cybercrime**.
- The specific cybercrime mentioned is **vishing**.

#### About Vishing:

- Vishing, or "**voice phishing**," is a **type of scam where attackers use phone calls to trick individuals into providing personal, financial, or confidential information**.
- **Techniques Used:**
  - **Caller ID Spoofing:** Attackers disguise their phone number to appear as if they are calling from a legitimate source, such as a bank or government agency.
  - **Pretexting:** Scammers create a plausible scenario to convince the victim to share sensitive information.
  - **Urgency and Fear Tactics:** Vishing calls often involve a sense of urgency, such as threats of legal action or account suspension, to pressure victims into compliance.





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