



18 June 2024

**National and International News**

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| <p><b>EU nature restoration plan</b></p>            | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, <b>European Union countries</b> approved the <b>Nature Restoration Plan</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Nature Restoration Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To <b>enhance the protection and restoration of nature</b> across the European Union.</li> <li><b>Approval Date:</b> Final approval given on <b>June 17, 2024</b>.</li> <li><b>Member States:</b> <b>All 27 EU member</b> countries.</li> <li><b>Key Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration of degraded ecosystems.</li> <li>Improvement of biodiversity.</li> <li>Sustainable management of natural resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>It includes <b>binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species</b>, covering at least <b>20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030</b>, and aims for all ecosystems in need of restoration by <b>2050</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Joint Communique on a Peace Framework</b></p> | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>India</b> stated that <b>only proposals acceptable to both Russia and Ukraine can lead to peace</b>.</li> <li><b>India</b> chose to <b>disassociate itself from the final document</b> issued on June 16 at the conclusion of a Peace Summit in Switzerland.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Peace Framework:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Commitment to International Law:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendees reaffirmed <b>dedication to international law and the UN Charter</b>.</li> <li>Referenced UN General Assembly Resolutions <b>A/RES/ES-11/1</b> and <b>A/RES/ES-11/6</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Nuclear Safety:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ensuring safe operation of Ukraine's nuclear power plants</b>, including Zaporizhzhia.</li> <li><b>Compliance with IAEA principles</b> under Ukraine's sovereign control.</li> <li>Any threat or use of nuclear weapons in the conflict is deemed unacceptable.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Global Food Security:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance of <b>uninterrupted food production and supply</b>.</li> <li>Emphasis on <b>safe navigation and access to sea ports</b>.</li> <li>Attacks on merchant ships and port infrastructure are unacceptable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ukrainian agricultural products should be freely available to other countries.</li> <li>● <b>Humanitarian Issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Call for the release of all prisoners of war through a complete exchange.</li> <li>○ Demand for the return of all unlawfully displaced Ukrainian children and civilians.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Deep Sea Mission</b></p>                   | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>India</b> is set to become the <b>6th country to launch its own Deep Sea Mission.</b></li> <li>● The <b>first stage of the harbor trial</b>, reaching depths of <b>40-50 meters</b>, is planned for September 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Deep Sea Mission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ministry:</b> Ministry of Earth Sciences.</li> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> To explore and harness deep-sea resources for sustainable use.</li> <li>● <b>Key Areas of Focus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Development of Manned Submersible:</b> To explore depths up to <b>6,000 meters.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining:</b> Mining of polymetallic nodules from the central Indian Ocean.</li> <li>○ <b>Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services:</b> Providing services related to ocean climate.</li> <li>○ <b>Development of Marine Biodiversity:</b> Studies and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity.</li> <li>○ <b>Development of Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration:</b> Mapping and exploring deep-sea resources.</li> <li>○ <b>Energy and Freshwater from the Ocean:</b> Developing technologies to harness ocean resources for energy and freshwater.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MATSYA 6000:</b> Manned submersible capable of reaching depths of 6,000 meters.</li> <li>○ <b>Robotics and Artificial Intelligence:</b> Utilized for deep-sea exploration.</li> <li>○ <b>Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services:</b> Enhancing the understanding of the impact of climate change on the ocean.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024</b></p> | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The recently released <b>SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024</b> reveals that the <b>world is still off track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7</b> for energy by <b>2030.</b></li> </ul>  |



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|                                      | <p><b>About SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Aim of SDG 7:</b> Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.</li> <li>● <b>Custodian Agencies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International Energy Agency (IEA)</li> <li>○ International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)</li> <li>○ United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)</li> <li>○ World Bank</li> <li>○ World Health Organization (WHO)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Report Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Tracks progress on energy access, energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean cooking,</b> and international cooperation to advance SDG 7.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Key Findings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Number of people without access to electricity increased</b> for the first time in over a decade.</li> <li>○ In 2022, 685 million people lacked electricity, 10 million more than in 2021.</li> <li>○ <b>Population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa outpaced new electricity connections.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Exercise Red Flag 2024</b></p> | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An <b>Indian Air Force (IAF)</b> contingent participated in the <b>Exercise Red Flag 2024</b> conducted at <b>Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska</b> of the <b>United States Air Force</b>, from 04 Jun to 14 Jun 24.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Exercise Red Flag 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Event:</b> <b>Second edition</b> of Ex Red Flag 2024, an advanced aerial combat training exercise.</li> <li>● <b>Frequency:</b> <b>Held four times a year</b> by the <b>US Air Force</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Participants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indian Air Force (IAF)</li> <li>○ Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF)</li> <li>○ Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom</li> <li>○ Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf)</li> <li>○ German Luftwaffe</li> <li>○ US Air Force (USAF)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Exercise Structure:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Red Force:</b> Simulating Air Defence, primarily with USAF Aggressor Squadron's F-16 and F-15 aircraft.</li> <li>○ <b>Blue Force:</b> Simulating Offensive Composite elements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



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