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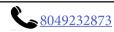


# Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### 25 June 2024

### **National and International News**

Critical minerals	Why in the news?  • The Union Mines Minister launched a new auction tranche for mining rights in 21 blocks of critical and strategic minerals.
	About Critical minerals:  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:  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:  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.
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









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- 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.

#### **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







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	<ul> <li>(rabbits).</li> <li>Habitat:         <ul> <li>Requires variable terrain below 1300 m.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Prefers a mosaic of closed Mediterranean scrubland interspersed with open patches of grassland.</li> <li>Often found in areas with marsh ecotones.</li> </ul> <li>Distribution:         <ul> <li>Once widespread throughout the Iberian Peninsula.</li> <li>Now sparsely distributed in Spain and Portugal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Conservation Status:         <ul> <li>IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.</li> <li>CITES: Appendix II.</li> </ul> </li>
e-Samridhi Portal	<ul> <li>Why in the news?         <ul> <li>The Union Minister of Agriculture &amp; 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>About e-Samridhi Portal:         <ul> <li>Launched through:                 <ul> <li>National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)</li> <li>National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Purpose: Registration of farmers for government procurement of pulses at Minimum Support Prices (MSP).</li> <ul> <li>Portal Registration:</li></ul></ul></li></ul>
Indus Water Treaty (IWT)	Why in the news?  • A Pakistani delegation recently arrived in Jammu for ongoing discussions about the 1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT).





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#### **About IWT:**

- 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.
- Rivers Covered: The treaty governs the use of waters from the Indus River system, which includes six rivers:
  - o The Indus,
  - o Jhelum,
  - o Chenab,
  - o Ravi,
  - o Beas, and
  - o Sutlei.
- 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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