



Current Affairs of the Day

GS III

- FII bats for subsidy on e-vehicles to combat pollution.
- Time to reset our relationship with nature: UN ahead of 5th Environment Assembly.



FII bats for subsidy on e-vehicles to combat pollution

News: Ahead of the State budget next month, the Haryana chapter of the Federation of Indian Industry (FII) has demanded focused attention for the promotion of electric vehicles and special allocation to control pollution and provide basic amenities to the industries in the unapproved areas. It wants installation of smog towers, regulation of unapproved industrial units ahead of the Haryana budget.

Highlights:

1. The FII demanded a subsidy to electric vehicles on the pattern of the Delhi government that offers a subsidy of ₹1.5 lakh and has also waived off the registration charges.
2. Also, the installation of gas lines in all industrial areas be expedited and provisions for subsidy on gas-operated gensets be made to further motivate industries to switch to this alternative fuel at the earliest.

Time to reset our relationship with nature: UN ahead of 5th Environment Assembly

Bottom Line: Addressing environmental crises will also help reach sustainable goals such as poverty-alleviation, food and water security and good health, says a new UN report

Highlights:

1. Climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation should be tackled together by transforming the world's relationship with nature, said a new report released by the United Nations ahead of its fifth Environment Assembly.
2. The assembly will be held February 22-23, 2021 on the theme 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'.
3. It calls for strengthened action to protect and restore nature and nature-based solutions to achieve the sustainable development goals in its three social, economic and environmental dimensions.
4. The new report called 'Making Peace with Nature' presents a strong case for innovation and investment to tackle climate, biodiversity and pollution —the three environmental emergencies within the framework of sustainable development goals.



Growing triple crisis

1. The three self-inflicted planetary crises are closely interconnected and put the well-being of current and future generations at unacceptable risk warned the report.
2. The report delves into the 'triple crisis' by drawing on global assessments, including those from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
3. It also refers to UNEP's Global Environment Outlook report, the UNEP International Resource Panel and new findings on the emergence of zoonotic diseases such as the novel coronavirus diseases (COVID-19).
4. It advocates for advancements in science and bold policymaking for a carbon-neutral world by 2050 while bending the curve on biodiversity loss and curbing pollution and waste.
5. By innovating and investing in those activities that protect both people and nature, it will be possible to reap success in the form of restored ecosystems and healthier lives, as well as a stable climate.
6. The report highlights the importance of changing mindsets and values and finding political and technical solutions that measure up to the Earth's environmental crises.

For a sustainable future

1. Natural capital can be included by governments to measure economic performance. Nations are advised to put a price on carbon and shift trillions of dollars in subsidies from fossil fuels, non-sustainable agriculture and transportation towards low-carbon and nature-friendly solutions
2. There is a need for setting ambitious international targets for biodiversity, such as expanded and improved protected area networks.
3. New variants of coronavirus have made the fight against COVID-19 challenging and the pandemic may soon turn endemic in many countries.
4. In the context of this, the report cautions how ecosystem degradation heightens the risk of pathogens making the jump from animals to humans. It has strongly advocated for the importance of a 'one health' approach that considers human, animal and planetary health together.