

UPSC 2017: Comprehensive News Analysis – June 18

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Category: SOCIAL ISSUES

1. [Refugees take out cycle rally to highlight issues concerning them At UNHCR event, they thank T.N. government for support](#)

Topic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources, issues relating to poverty and hunger.

Context

- A fragment of refugees from diverse countries took out a demonstration in Chennai to emphasize concerns of the community of refugees.

About the Issue

- The rally included diplomats, government officials, academicians, students and staff of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which organised the rally in connection with the World Refugee Day (June 20).
- According to UNHCR data, the count of refugees approximates to 2.08 lakh in India.
- This figure includes Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, Rohingya refugees from Myanmar; Iraqi refugees; Sudanese; Somalian and from South Sudan.
- Refugees praised the role being played by the Union and Tamil Nadu governments for the welfare of refugees.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations System inter-governmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
- The UNHRC is the successor to the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR, herein CHR), and is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly.
- The UNHRC addresses human rights-related situations in all UN member states.
- The UNHRC also addresses important thematic human rights issues such as freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion, women's rights, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.

Category: ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

1. [First chair on Guru Jambheshwar suggests tree plantation strategy On-field and practical strategies to involve rural folks as stakeholders](#)

Topic: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Context

- The first-ever chair entitled after Guru Jambheshwar, who founded the Bishnoi sect in the 15th century, at Jai Narain Vyas University in Jodhpur has made proposals for a new tree plantation strategy in the rural areas of Rajasthan.

About the Issue

- This new strategy lays emphasis on enrichment of the desert State's ecology.
- The Chair for Environmental Conservation, has recommended on-field and practical strategies with the involvement of the rural folk as stakeholders.
- "Beneficial species" should be planted in the rural areas (Because trees like Ashoka, planted in the desert landscape, absorbed more water and gave lesser shade. Instead, the species such as Khejri, Neem, Peepal, Bar, Peelu, Kair, Jamun and Ber should be promoted).

Recommendations to the state government

- The chair has proposed punitive action in contradiction of private companies engaged in road construction and infrastructure projects, which do not take up plantation notwithstanding the decree to plant uprooted trees.

About the personality in news

- Guru Jambheshwar was a contemporary of Mughal Emperor Babur.
- Guruji was born at Pipasar village in Nagaur district and had established the Bishnoi sect in 1485.
- He taught to protect the flora and fauna in the medieval age, highlighting their importance for peaceful co-existence with nature.

2. [Tiger numbers swell in Karnataka Census shows Bandipur and Nagarhole have the most cats in south India](#)

Topic: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Context

Karnataka is graceful to secure its position as the "Tiger State of India" with key reserves indicating intensification in the tiger population as per the annual census finalized recently.

About the Issue

- The latest population estimate strengthens Bandipur and Nagarhole sites as having the highest tiger statistics in south India and can be ranked among the top three or four national parks in the country along with Jim Corbett, Kanha and Kaziranga.
- The general rise in tiger population is credited to widespread fortification of national parks for decades, paired with high prey density.

Facts for prelims

The State has five tiger reserves.

1. Bandipur
2. Nagarhole
3. Bhadra
4. Anshi Dandeli
5. BRT Tiger Reserve

Identification methods employed: The unique stripes through the camera trap method adopted for intensive monitoring of the source population.

3. [Purveyor of plastic Study finds river Ganga is the world's second biggest carrier of plastic waste](#)

Topic: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Context

- Every year 1.15 and 2.41 million tonnes of plastic waste make their way into the sea via riverine systems, massively impacting marine life.

Issue with respect to India

- Ganga is the world's second largest riverine donor to plastic pollution in the oceans, sacking 1,20,000 tonnes annually.
- Yangtze in China transports 3,30,000 tonnes.

- An average Indian breeds moderately little “mismanaged plastic” (3.2 kg/year) competed with the rest of the world (17 kg/year per person), “with half a billion people living within the Ganges catchment, the overall burden on the river is very huge.
- Utmost top contaminating rivers round the world are detected in Asia, accounting for 86% of the global annual input of plastic debris.

Category: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. [ISRO may use semi-cryogenic engine for heavy lift rockets It hopes to complete engine development by 2019](#)

Topic: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology

Context

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has grown to the challenging of subsystems in the enlargement of a semi-cryogenic engine for rockets with heftier payload capability.

About the system

- The testing facilities at the ISRO Propulsion Complex are being amplified for the engine being advanced by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre here under a project designated SCE 200.
- The semi-cryogenic engine uses a blend of liquid oxygen (LOX) and refined kerosene (Isrosene) as propellants.
- Replacement of the liquid core (L110) engine (GSLV Mark 3) with the SCE-200 will boost the payload capacity of the rocket from four to six tonnes.

Objective: To power the future heavy lift launch vehicles and reusable launch vehicles as well as human spaceflight missions.

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