Prelim Bits 20-06-2018

UN Human Rights Council

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- United States has recently withdrawn from UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
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- UNHRC is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system and successor to the UN Commission on Human Rights.
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- It is a separate entity from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), but the council works closely with the OHCHR.
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- It is headquartered in Geneva.
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- It consists of 47 seats with tenure of 3 years.
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- It is a subsidiary body to UN General Assembly (UNGA), which elects the members to UNHRC.
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- No member may occupy a seat for more than 2 consecutive terms.
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- Currently, US occupy a seat in UNHRC and it is half-way through a three-year term.
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- If a country has persistently committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during its term of membership, UNGA via a **two-thirds majority**, can suspend the rights and privileges of any council member.
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- United States has quit the UN cultural agency UNESCO, cut UN funding and announced plans to quit the UN-backed Paris Climate agreement.
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National Digital Library

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- Ministry of Human Resources and Development has launched National Digital Library.
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- It is a repository of millions of academic texts from around the world which will be **open for all to use**.
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- The earlier version of digital library was limited to schools and other educational institutes.
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- The digital library at present hosts 17 million-plus books, audiobooks, images etc in 200-plus languages from more than 170 institutions.
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- It has been built by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.
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National Testing Agency (NTA)

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- It is being setup by Union Human Resource and Development ministry.
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- Its main purpose is to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
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- Union HRD has recently proposed that NTA will also train paper setters to set better question papers and provide better model answers.
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- It will take over all examinations from the CBSE such as JEE, NEET except the 10^{th} and 12^{th} board examination.
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- It will be registered as a society under the Indian Societies Registration Act.
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- The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, giving adequate opportunity to candidates.
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- It will be given a one-time grant of Rs.25 crore from the Government to start its operation in the first year. Thereafter, it will be financially self-sustainable.
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- It will relieve CBSE, AICTE and other agencies from responsibility of conducting the entrance examinations.
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Automation of Crime Records Bureau

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- Andhra Pradesh has become the **first state** in the country to complete automation of the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB).
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- IT-based web/mobile application “i-App cloud” helps the police access the entire information of crimes under various IPC sections.
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- The data is collected from District Crime Records Bureau (DCRB).
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- It is further integrated into the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) data banks.
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- It provides comparative analytics of gender violence, bodily offences and property offences in each unit, range, region and State using data charts.
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Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme

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- The GSP programme provides for the **duty-free treatment** of designated articles when imported from beneficiary developing countries to USA.
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- United States Trade Representative (USTR) is currently viewing India’s eligibility under the programme.
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- USTR had accused India of implementing a wide array of trade barriers in dairy sector that create serious negative effects on U.S. commerce.
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- India requires that dairy products be derived from animals which have never consumed any feeds containing internal organs, blood meal, or tissues of ruminant origin.
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- This has been treated as trade barriers after complaints from bodies representing the dairy industry.
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- However, India is trying to defend it by saying that its position is based on religious, cultural and moral grounds.
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- India imports dairy products from countries such as Australia and

Switzerland.
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Rare Spider

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- Scientists have rediscovered a rare species of spider after 150 years, which was believed to be extinct.
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- Last time, it was sighted from Periyej Lake in Gujarat in 1868, but subsequently vanished.
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- Recently it is spotted in Wayanad wildlife sanctuary in the Western Ghats region of Kerala.
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- It belongs to the family of jumping spiders (Salticidae) and scientifically named as Chrysilla volupes.
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Helicopter parenting

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- It describes an over controlling behaviour of parents which can negatively affect children’s ability to manage their emotions and deal with the challenging demands of growing up.
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- In a recent research, it was found that children with helicopter parents may be less able to deal with the challenging demands of growing up, especially with navigating the complex school environment.
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Source: The Hindu

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