Prelims Bits 24-06-2018

Swachh Survekshan Ranking - 2018

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- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has released the Swachh Survekshan 2018 ranking for clean cities across the country.
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- Its objective is to encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of making towns and cities a better place to live in.
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- The ranking was done separately for cities with a population of one lakh or more (national ranking) and cities below one lakh (state and zonal rankings).
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- Survey was based on six parameters – \n
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1. By Collecting and Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste
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2. Processing and Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste
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3. Sanitation-related progress
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4. IEC (Information, Education, and Communication)
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5. Capacity Building
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6. Innovation and Best Practices
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- Based on the rankings, Indore is India's cleanest city for second year in a row, followed by Bhopal.
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Rhino habitat under threat of mining

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- Two adventure enthusiasts were recently lynched near the Kaziranga National Park, home to the largest population of one-horned rhinos in the world.
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- This incident has brought into focus the rampant mining, quarrying and stone crushing activities that are threatening the ecology of the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape.
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- The mining and quarrying activities are still going on despite the recommendations of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to the Assam State government.
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- It was found that such activities were hampering the survival and conservation of the tiger, its habitats, co-predators, prey, including mega herbivores, and their transit routes during the annual flood season.
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Indian Contingent awarded for 'Selfless Service'

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- The 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry Battalion Group was awarded the United Nations Medal for ‘Selfless Service’ in the peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.
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- India has the legacy of supreme service and numerous operational tasks with utmost professionalism and dedication to the UN mandate.
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- And it is a largest cumulative troop contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions mandated to maintain stability and negotiate peace settlement in turbulent regions of the world.
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- So far India has provided almost 200,000 troops in nearly 50 of the 71 UN peacekeeping missions over the past six decades, including 14 of the current 16 missions.
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India’s First Robotic Telescope

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- The telescope located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh is the India's first robotic telescope.
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- It is also the first telescope designed through a multi-country collaborative initiative known as 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH) to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe.
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- The fully robotic optical research telescope will capture cosmic events occurring in timescales much shorter than light years -years, days and even hours.
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MPEDA to boost farming of black tiger shrimp

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- The Marine Products Export Development Authority has initiated efforts to revive black tiger shrimp farming.
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- A Multi Species Aquaculture Complex was built in Vallarpadam, Kerala is the first of its kind in India and has production capacity of 20 million disease-free shrimp seeds per annum.
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- This complex will cater to the high demand for good quality tiger shrimp in the international markets, especially Japan and the European Union.
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- The multi species hatchery and nursery for aquaculture will also produce seeds/fingerlings of 6-7 commercially important species, which are of high export demand.
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Source: The Hindu, Business Line, Times of India

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