



**Daily Current Affairs Dated On 12-July-2018**

### **General Studies-2**

#### **Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puruskar Pao**

##### **What is it?**

In an attempt to engage with the people of India on the important issues of water conservation and water management, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has launched a video contest titled "Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puruskar Pao".

The Ministry has joined hands with MyGov portal of the Government of India to run the contest.

##### **Who are Eligible?**

In the contest, any Indian citizen can upload their video entries on YouTube and enter the publicly accessible link on the Video link section of MyGov contest page [www.mygov.in](http://www.mygov.in).

##### **How will it Work?**

The participants will be judged on the basis of elements of creativity, originality, composition, technical excellence, artistic merit, quality of video, content and visual impact. The prize amount is Rs 25,000/-, Rs 15,000/- and Rs 10,000/- for first, second and third positions respectively.

Any innovative advertisement/commercial on Water Conservation are also welcome.

#### **India Cuts Oil Import from Iran**

Indian refiners cut imports of Iranian oil last month as they started weaning their plants off crude from the country to avoid sanctions by the United States that are set to take effect in November.

India's monthly oil imports from [Iran](#) declined to 5,92,800 barrels per day (bpd) in June, down 16% from May, according to data from industry and shipping sources.



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### **Reasons for Cut:**

The United States in May said it would reimpose the sanctions after withdrawing from a 2015 agreement with Iran, Russia, China, France, Germany, and Britain, where Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear activities in return for the lifting of earlier sanctions.

The Government of India, Iran's top oil client after China, asked refiners last month to prepare for drastic reductions or even zero Iranian oil imports.

The first set of sanctions will take effect on August 6 and the rest, notably in the petroleum sector, following a 180-day "wind-down period" ending on November 4.

### **Buyers concerned**

U. S. officials said in June they would push countries to reduce their Iranian oil imports to zero.

The Indian refiners will want to comply with the limits to maintain their access to the U.S. financial system.

### **Startup India Yatra**

The Startup India Yatra van will travel to 10 cities of Madhya Pradesh, starting from the capital Bhopal, to spread awareness about Startup India and Madhya Pradesh Startup Policy.

The vehicle, with experts on board, will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurial talents to pitch an idea and get incubated, scaling it from idea to enterprise.

### **Aim of Yatra:**

Startup India Yatra aims to scout grass root level entrepreneurs in the smaller towns of India, providing a platform for budding entrepreneurs to realize their Startup dream.



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### **How will it Work?**

Startup India Yatra's technology partner, [Shrofile](#), a video-based personality evaluation platform headquartered in Gurugram, will record ideas of entrepreneurs from Madhya Pradesh via the Startup India mobile van.

Entrepreneurs will record their ideas on the Startup India App screens, which will be shared with the Startup India team for evaluation and selection.

Prior to Madhya Pradesh, the Yatra had travelled to the States of [Gujarat](#), [Uttar Pradesh](#), Odisha and Uttarakhand.

To promote job creation in tier 2 and tier 3 towns and cities, Startup India organizes the **Startup India Yatra** in one state every month.

### **Benefits of Yatra:**

The Yatra conducts boot camps where students are taught lessons in business planning followed by a pitch fest where ideas are invited.

Shortlisted business ideas get incubated in State run incubators.

A total of 19,000 students across 40 districts have benefitted from the Yatra through the boot camps, with over 90 received grants or incubation offers from the State governments.

The Startup India initiative of the Government of India envisages to build a robust startup ecosystem in the country for nurturing innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.

The **States Startup Ranking Framework** was launched by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in February 2018, with the aim to foster competitiveness and to propel the states and union territories to work proactively towards promotion of their startup eco-systems.



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This was also targeted at facilitating states and UTs to identify, learn and replicate good practices from each other and for bringing to the fore, their own progress.

### **General Studies-3**

#### **Workshop On Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia**

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Inaugurates 16<sup>th</sup> Workshop On Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia.

#### **About WGIA:**

WGIA is an initiative of Government of Japan to improve the quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories of Asian countries by building capacities through training and exchange of experience.

A reliable and robust inventory is the backbone of climate action.

Such efforts will contribute towards meeting the requirements towards enhanced reporting and transparency as required under the Convention and its Paris Agreement.

#### **Member Nations:**

15 countries including Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are WGIA members and around 100 GHG inventory experts from these countries participated along with representatives from UNFCCC, IPCC, FAO and other specialized agencies. India is hosting WGIA for the first time.

#### **Nilgiri Tahr:**

#### **Why in News?**

The antics of the sure-footed Nilgiri tahr are a treat to watch, but these endangered wild mountain goats – found only in high altitudes in India's Western Ghats — could be losing their footing with increasing climate change.



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Even under moderate scenarios of future climate change, tahrs could lose approximately 60% of their habitats from the 2030s on, predict scientists in their study in *Ecological Engineering*, an international journal that emphasises the need for ecological restoration.

Scientists tried to predict how [climate change](#) can affect tahr habitat in the Ghats by mapping tahr distribution (using existing information and field surveys) and then using climatic factors of these locations to see where tahrs would be able to survive, given current and future climate change scenarios.

### **Details of Study:**

They found that tahr strongholds such as Chinnar, Eravikulam and Parambikulam in Kerala will still be stable habitats under different climate change scenarios.

However, other regions, including parts of Tamil Nadu's Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve and the [wildlife](#) sanctuaries of Peppara, Neyyar, Schenduruny and Srivilliputhur, could experience severe habitat loss in future; in total, approx. 60% of tahr habitat could be lost across the Ghats from 2030s onwards.

There are only around 2,500 tahrs left in the wild and their population — “small and isolated, making them vulnerable to local extinction” — shows a “decreasing” trend, as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

### **Local threat**

According to the report, only the Eravikulam and Mukurthi National Parks stress on tahr-centered conservation activities in their management plans.

Though the recovery plan identified “conservation units” and made site-specific recommendations, how much of it has been implemented is unclear.



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**About Nilgiri Tahr:**

The **Nilgiri tahr** (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) known locally as the **Nilgiri ibex** or simply **ibex**, is an ungulate that is endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in Southern India.

It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

Despite its local name, it is more closely related to the sheep of the genus *Ovis* than the ibex and wild goats of the genus *Capra*.