

UPSC Daily Current Affairs | Prelim Bits 04-12-2020

AIPA

- India has constituted the Apex Committee for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (AIPA).
- The AIPA will have the secretary, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as the chairperson.
- AIPA has been constituted with the purpose of ensuring a coordinated response on climate change matters that protects the country's interests.
- It will also ensure that India is on track towards meeting its climate change obligations under the Paris Agreement.
- It has the responsibility of regularly communicating and reporting the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It will define the responsibilities of the ministries that would be crucial in achieving the country's climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.
- The AIPA will also act as a national authority for the regulation of carbon markets in India under the Paris Agreement.

NDCs

- NDCs are the accounts of the voluntary efforts to be made by countries as a part of Paris Agreement, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic climate change.
- The three quantitative goals in the Indian NDCs are:
- 1. A 33-35% reduction in the gross domestic product emissions intensity by 2030 from 2005 levels
- 2. A 40% share of non-fossil fuel based electricity by 2030
- 3. Creating a carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide through afforestation programmes
- Apart from these, there are 5 non-quantitive goals in the Indian NDCs.
- The NDCs are to be implemented in the post-2020 period. India had submitted its NDCs in 2015.
- Now, the AIPA, with its 17 members, has the responsibility of formulating policies and programmes for implementing them.

World Malaria Report

- This report was released by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Nineteen countries in sub-Saharan Africa and India accounted for 85% of the global malaria burden in 2018.
- While Africa and India saw the maximum dip in malaria cases between 2017 and 2018, they still accounted for 85% deaths.
- India also has one of the lowest funding per person at risk of being inflicted with malaria at just US\$0.2.
- Despite being the highest burden country in the South-East Asia region, India showed a reduction in reported cases of 51% compared to 2017.
- In the South-East Asia region, the major challenges remain decreased funding, treatment failures and vector resistance to pyrethroids, the insectides used against the vectors.
- WHO says more and more countries are on the verge of eliminating malaria.

BSE Municipal Bond Listing

- Bonds issued by the Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) listed on the BSE, raising a capital of Rs 200 crore for Uttar Pradesh's capital.
- It's the ninth city in India to raise capital through municipal bonds.
- LMC's bond issuance offered coupon of 8.5% and had tenure of 10 years.
- The issuance had garnered 4.5 times subscription.
- LMC bond were rated AA and AA (CE) Stable by Brickwork Ratings.
- The money raised using such bonds is typically used for infra projects such as roads, water and housing.
- Among the key eligibility criteria for issuing these bonds is that,
 - 1. The local body shouldn't have negative net worth in any of the three preceding financial years and
 - 2. The local body shouldn't have defaulted on payments in the last one year.

USCC Report

- The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) report says that the Chinese government planned the Galwan Valley clash with 'fatalities' on the Indian side in mind.
- It told that just weeks before the June 15 faceoff, China had signalled its intent to escalate tensions with India along the Line of Actual Control.
- The report says that the exact motivations behind the China's behaviour on the LAC this year remain unclear.
- But, it said that the close cause of the clash appeared to be India's construction of a strategic access road to support troops stationed in the border.

• The report also says that the Chinese forces have secured access and potential naval basing facilities in Pakistan.

USCC

- The USCC was formed in 2000.
- It investigates national security and trade issues between China and US.
- It also provides recommendations to US Congress for legislative and administrative action on Beijing.

NMR Test for Honey

- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) can ascertain the composition of a product at the molecular level.
- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) researchers subjected 13 brands of raw and processed honey to NMR tests, only 3 passed.
- The NMR test, a key test of purity, is not required by Indian law for honey that is being marketed locally but is needed for export.
- The CSE also said some Indian companies were importing synthetic sugar syrups from China to adulterate honey.
- These were capable of passing off as honey, even up to half of which were mixed with sugar, as 'pure honey'.
- Now, among the tests employed as per Indian regulations is one to check whether the honey is adulterated with C4 sugar (cane sugar) or C3 sugar (rice sugar).

Nisarg Gram

- Ministry of AYUSH will develop Nisarg Gram campus at Pune as the 21st Century abode of Naturopathy.
- "Nisarg Gram" will be the name of the upcoming new campus of National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) at Pune.
- This will invoke recollections of Mahatma Gandhi's Nature Cure campaign of 1946 at the "Nisarg Upchar" Ashram a village near Pune.
- Nisarg Gram will have many innovations and novelties incorporated in the project per se and the curriculum of the Naturopathy course.
- It is a future-orientated institute which has a science-based approach, Gandhian spirit and social relevance.

NIN

- NIN, Pune is an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- It is the inheritor of a Gandhian heritage, having been developed out of a Nature Cure institution of which the Mahatma was one of the founders.

- The institution was called All India Nature Cure Foundation.
- It was set up under Gandhi's leadership in 1945 at the same premises where the NIN presently functions.
- It was subsequently taken over by the Central Government and structured into the present National Institute of Naturopathy.

Source: The Hindu, PIB, Down To Earth, Business Standard, Economic Times

