Prelim Bits 09-03-2019

India Cooling Action Plan

- It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The thrust of the ICAP is to look for synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.
- It seeks to

    1. reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,
    2. reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38
    3. reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
    4. recognize “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Program
    5. training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission

- Cooling is linked to human health and productivity.
- Linkages of cooling with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are well acknowledged.

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019 Global Report

- It is prepared by the Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD).
- Sweden tops the chart by having low gender discrimination.
- According to it, gender-based discrimination, including female genital mutilation, reproductive rights, pay gaps, and gender violence, were estimated to cost $6 trillion, or 7.5 percent of the global economy.
- Women also occupy less than a third of senior positions in the civil service on average.
- But they make up 75% of part time workers in the public sector.

Purple frog

- It is endemic to the Western Ghats of India.
- It has been evolving independently for around 100 million years.
- It is listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List.
- It is threatened by deforestation from expanding cultivation, in addition to consumption and harvesting by local communities.

- The tadpoles of this species are rheophilic, which means they thrive in running water.
- It was found that the speed with which water flows down the streams is one of the main factors that determine the presence and aggregation of these tadpoles.
- The damming effect is also slowing down the streams feeding water to the river.

Flood Management and Border Areas Program

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Flood Management and Border Areas Program (FMBAP) recently.
- It will be implemented throughout the country for effective flood management, erosion control and anti-sea erosion.
- The catchment area treatment works will help in reduction of sediment load into rivers.
- It is framed by merging the components of two continuing XII Plan schemes titled "Flood Management Program (FMP)" and "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA)"

Bolo App

- It is an app launched by Google
- It aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English.
- It uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology.
- It features an animated character Diya, who encourages children to read stories aloud and helps if the child is unable to pronounce a word.
- It was piloted in about 200 villages in Uttar Pradesh.
- The early results are very encouraging with 64 per cent of children showing an improvement in reading proficiency in just 3 months.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- The 50th Raising Day of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) was celebrated recently.
- It is one of the Central Armed Police Forces of the country.
- It was raised under an Act of Parliament namely Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- It provides security to various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other critical infrastructure installations both in public and private sectors across the country.
- For instance it provides security to nuclear installations, airports, seaports, power plants, government buildings, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation etc.,

- It is under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

- It has observed water molecules moving around the dayside of the moon.
- It was launched by the NASA.
- It helps to identify

1. sites close to potential resources with high scientific value,
2. favorable terrain
3. environment necessary for safe future robotic and human lunar missions.

- It was the first deep space precision orbit determination by laser ranging from Earth.

Source: PIB, The Hindu, Down to Earth

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