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05 December 2018**Daily News Pedia****Kandhamal Haldi likely to get GI tag**

Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi is likely to receive GI tag as the Geographical Indications Journal has advertised its application seeking objections.

Kandhamal Haldi is a member of the Curcuma botanical group, which is a part of the ginger family whose botanical name is Curcuma Longa. It is known for its medicinal values. The crop is cultivated in Kandhamal, a district in Odisha which is centrally located and whose geographical area is hilly and covered with forest.

Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing (KASAM) in its application had stated that turmeric is the main cash crop of the poor tribal farmers of the district. Further Kandhamal turmeric is organically produced and is sustainable in adverse climate conditions.

Source: The Hindu.

Tiger in the snow

Wildlife Institute of India has found Royal Bengal Tiger in the snow-capped regions of the Eastern Himalaya.

IUCN Red List status: Endangered

Tiger only have one species in the world but it is divided into six subspecies: Bengal (Indian), Sumatran, Amur (Siberian), Malayan, Amoy (South China) and Indochinese. Bengal tiger habitats usually are tropical rainforests, marshes, and tall grasses however recently they have also been traced in the snow-capped region of Eastern Himalaya in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley.

A large part of the Dibang Valley is home to the Mishmi tribes who have found to co-exist with the animals. The mangroves of the Sundarbans shared between Bangladesh and India—are the only mangrove forests where tigers are found. Smaller populations are also found in Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar. It is the most numerous of all tiger subspecies.

Source: The Hindu.

**Project Tiger**

Tiger conservation programme was initiated in 1973 in the Corbett national park of Uttarakhand by the government of India with the help of World Wildlife Fund. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body of the Ministry, with an overarching supervisory / coordination role, performing functions as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

There are 50 tiger reserves in India which are governed by Project Tigers.

In 2005, The Prime Minister of India set up the Tiger Task Force to strengthen the conservation of Tigers in the country.

WWF is world's largest international non-governmental organization for conservation founded in 1961. The Living Planet Report is published every two years by WWF since 1998; it is based on a Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculation. Currently, their work is organized around these six areas: food, climate, freshwater, wildlife, forests, and oceans.

Source: Internet.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

The Act replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

It fulfils the obligations to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory. The Act came into force during December 2016.

Salient Features:

- Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept.
- The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21. It includes Speech and Language Disability, Specific Learning Disability, Acid Attack Victims, Dwarfism, muscular dystrophy. It also included three blood disorders: Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Sickle Cell disease have been added for the first time.
- Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased from 3% to 4% for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability.
- In addition benefits such as reservation in higher education, government jobs, reservation in allocation of land, poverty alleviation schemes etc. have been provided for disabilities.
- The Act claims that every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education. The government will fund educational institutions as well as the government recognized institutions to provide inclusive education to the children with reasonable accommodation to disables.
- Special Courts will be designated in each district to handle cases concerning violation of rights of PwDs.
- The Act provides for penalties for offences (imprisonment of 6 months to 2 years along with fine of 10000 to 5 lakh) committed against persons with disabilities and also violation of the provisions of the new law.
- The Act provides power to government to notify additional disabilities, a clear recognition of the need to factor in conditions that may arise as a result of an ageing population, an inevitable part of the demographic transition.
- The new law will not only enhance the Rights and Entitlements of Divyang-Jan but also provide effective mechanism for ensuring their empowerment and true inclusion into the Society in a satisfactory manner.

Source: The Hindu.

Editorial

To Read

Shift to low carbon

India's stakes in a low carbon world economy are among the highest as it is on the front line of climate disasters

Both rich and poor countries have faced extensive damage from storms and heatwaves this year. As climate representatives meet in Poland for the Conference of the Parties 24, the crucial question is whether carbon emissions will be reined in to avert further damage due to climate change.

In India, rains, floods and landslides in Kerala have killed 373 people since May 30. Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Assam were battered by floods this year, as was Chennai in 2015. Meanwhile, Delhi, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, among other States, experienced heatwaves.

Greenhouse gas emissions, of which carbon dioxide is the biggest component, make the earth warmer and lead to more heatwaves. A study in the journal *Scientific Reports* found that the decadal mean of daily maximum temperature for April and May in the 2010s is 40-42°C over large parts of India. Warmer air holds more moisture, which results in more intense rainfall and provides more energy for storms. Climate scientists attribute the rising trends in flooding and heatwaves to human-induced climate change.

In the absence of a shift to a low carbon economy worldwide, the average temperature could rise by more than 2°C by the end of this century. Hotter, longer summers and excessive rainfall in some areas and droughts in others will damage crops. Warm coastal waters will turn unsuitable for certain species of fish.

Adapting to a changing climate is one part of the agenda. Japan has invested a lot of money on coastal defences. It has built the world's largest underground flood water diversion facility. But with a coastline of about 7,500 km, most of which is low-lying, India cannot make such colossal investments. Better early warnings and timely evacuations have had huge pay-offs, the most striking example being the massive relocation of people from the coasts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha before Cyclone Phailin struck those areas.

But adaptation will not suffice unless mitigation takes central stage among the world's leading emitters, including India. The country has committed to cuts in carbon emissions consistent with a 2°C temperature rise. But plans to build new coal-fired power plants need to be abandoned and replaced with a massive ramp-up of wind and solar power. India's stakes in a low carbon world economy are among the highest as it is on the front line of climate disasters and is also a leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Apart from taking steps to adapt to climate change, India's voice in decarbonizing the world economy is vital.

Mains Question

Q: Considering the jobless growth in Indian economy and almost stagnant Industrial and agricultural growth, there is need to bring back Planning in India. Critically analyze.