

Daily News Monitor: 3 December 2020

1. Centre forms high-level ministerial panel for implementation of Paris Agreement

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA). This committee is under the chairmanship of Secretary, MoEFCC. An official statement said that this move re-affirms India's seriousness to 'walk the talk' on climate change. The purpose of AIPA is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

2. After e-commerce, CCI looks at pharma sector to unlock competition

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has launched a study to identify and address anti-competitive practices in the pharmaceutical sector as the country grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic that has accelerated household spending on health care. Ashok Gupta, chairperson of the CCI, told Business Standard that identifying mechanisms that lock competition in the pharmaceutical markets and addressing them through proper instruments becomes all the more important during a pandemic. While the Covid-19 pandemic made the study more pertinent, the CCI decided to launch it in the light of the huge number of cases relating to trade practices in the sector.

3. India to see \$66 bn investment in gas infrastructure, says Pradhan

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

India will see a massive \$66 billion investment in the building of gas infrastructure as the government pushes for greater use of the cleaner fuel with a view to cutting down carbon emissions, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on 2 December. The government is targeting raising the share of natural gas in its energy basket to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.3 per cent. This will entail gas consumption rising manifold from current 160-170 million standard cubic meters per day. To cater to this, liquefied natural gas (LNG) import capacity is being raised, new pipelines laid to transport the fuel, and city gas infrastructure expanded to take the fuel to users, he said at KPMG India's annual energy conclave ENRich 2020 here.

4. India sets up committee for implementation of climate change targets

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

The Centre has set up a committee which will oversee the implementation of climate change targets that India has committed to under the 2015 Paris Agreement. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on 3 December issued a Gazette notification on forming a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA). "The purpose of the AIPA is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters which ensures that India is on track to meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement, including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)," said the public statement by MoEFCC. At the G20 summit last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said India was not only meeting its Paris Agreement targets but was exceeding them.

5. India looks to resume Iran, Venezuela oil imports under Joe Biden

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

India wants to diversify its oil imports, including the resumption of supplies from Iran and Venezuela, after Joseph Biden becomes president of the United States, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on 3 December. "As a buyer I would like to have more buying places. I should have more destinations to go for purchasing (oil)," Pradhan said in response to a question about his expectations for the resumption of oil imports from Iran and Venezuela under a Biden presidency.

6. Centre working on major interventions to position India as global textiles hub: Secy

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

The Centre is working on major interventions to position India as a global hub in the manmade fibre and technical textiles segments, including setting up five integrated mega textiles parks, a state-of-the-art world class testing lab and bringing a Focused Product Scheme, a top official said on Wednesday. Emphasising that India must explore the USD 150 billion global manmade fibre (MMF) market, Textiles Secretary Ravi Capoor also said he is in talks with the Department of Higher Education for introduction of courses in universities and technical institutions like engineering colleges for creation of specialised manpower in the MMF and technical textiles segments.

7. China buys Indian rice for first time in decades as supplies tighten: India trade officials

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

To carve out a national policy on flying drones, the government has invited public comments from stakeholders on this. The policy proposal was aimed to use drones to fly

alongside manned aircraft (scheduled and non scheduled and other aircraft flying in the sky). The draft National Unmanned Aircraft Traffic Management policy paper has sought comments from various stakeholders. The Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) system plans to provide flight planning capabilities, facilitate flight authorisation, provide real-time situational awareness, provide weather and terrain data apart from managing the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) traffic. The need for UTM Systems is now being felt as drones will soon need to fly alongside manned aircraft so there is a need to maintain high levels of aviation safety in such scenarios, apart from which integrating drones in current Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems may be complex and expensive.