

### NATIONAL

#### **India extends a ban on import of Chinese milk products**

- The Union government has extended the ban on import of milk and its products, including chocolates, from China.
- Food regulator FSSAI had recommended extending the ban until all labs at ports are modernised to test the chemical.
- The ban was imposed on apprehensions of the presence of melamine in some milk consignments from China.
- Melamine is a toxic chemical used for making plastics and fertilisers.

#### **Maruti will stop making diesel cars from April 2020 in India**

- According to the country's largest car maker Maruti, it will phase out diesel cars from its line-up from April 2020.
- The reason of stopping is higher manufacturing cost on account of stricter BS6 emission norms that would make diesel vehicles significantly expensive for customers, pricing them out of the market.
- For Maruti, the share of diesel variants is 23% in total sales that stood at 17.5 lakh units last fiscal.

#### **Union Ministry of Home Affairs distributed 3100 special kits 'SAECKs' to states and union territories to collect evidence on sexual assault cases**

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has distributed around 3,100 special kits among states and union territories.
- The kits are termed 'SAECKs' (The Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits) and are also called 'rape investigation kits' that help to collect blood and semen samples for carrying out immediate effective medico-legal investigations on sexual assault cases.
- The kits consist of a set of test tubes and bottles, which indicates contents and specifications of the collected evidence.
- The kits also contain directives on collection of evidence from the crime scene, after which the kits would be sent to the closest laboratory and the results would be declared within two months.
- The Directorate of Forensic Sciences (DFSS) under the home ministry has issued 2 guidelines for sexual assault cases: for investigators and prosecutors for collecting, storing and transporting forensic evidence and for medical officers in dealing with the cases.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### **Israel Names New Settlement in Golan Heights After US President Donald Trump**

- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to name a new community in the occupied Golan Heights after United States President Donald Trump.
- This decision has been taken as an expression of gratitude towards Mr Trump for his historic decision to recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

#### **ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness Began in Nepal**

- The 5th edition of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness began in Kathmandu, Nepal on April 25, 2019.
- The two-day summit is based on the theme Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities.
- The Summit aims on deliberating of how to utilize media's potential of accelerating climate action and disaster preparedness and connect stakeholders to media professionals for collaboration and joint practical projects.

### ECONOMY

#### **RBI to introduce new Rs 20 banknote**

- The Reserve Bank of India will soon issue new Rs 20 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing signature of Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das.
- Motif of Ellora Caves on the reverse
- Base colour of the note is Greenish Yellow
- Dimension of the banknote will be 63 mm x 129 mm
- All the bank notes in the denomination of Rs.20 issued by the RBI in the earlier series will continue to be legal tender.

**Finance Ministry ratifies 8.65% interest on EPF for 2018-19**

- Ministry of Finance has approved 8.65% interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2018-19 as proposed by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- The interest rate on EPF for 2017-18 was 8.55 per cent.

**RBI first central bank in APAC to start interest rate easing cycle: Fitch Rating**

- Fitch Ratings has said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the first central bank in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region to have begun explicit interest rate easing cycle by cutting the policy twice, amounting to a cumulative 50 bps, in the last two monetary policy reviews in 2019.
- This is the first back-to-back rate cut since the MPC was formed in late 2016.
- Fitch has predicted GDP growth rate of 6.8% in FY20 for India.

**NCLT Approves Merger of IndusInd Bank with Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL)**

- The IndusInd bank has received the approval of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL).
- The entire merger process will be completed within 2-4 weeks.
- Post merger, the BFIL will become a subsidiary of the IndusInd Bank.
- The merger has already received the 'No Objection' from regulators like RBI, SEBI, CCI, NSE and BSE.

**Indian Crypto Exchange 'BuyUcoin' Launches Wholesale Trading Platform**

- BuyUcoin, a Cryptocurrency Exchange in India, has launched a new and unique platform for wholesale cryptocurrency trading also known as OTC (Over-the-counter) desk.
- Users can trade abundance of cryptocurrency through the platform on a large scale with low price fluctuations.
- Initially, the platform is working on a free trading model that means no fees are charged on trades through the model.

**Reserve Bank of India divests its share in NABARD and NHB**

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it has divested its entire stake in NABARD and NHB on February 26, 2019 and March 19, 2019 respectively.
- RBI has a share of Rs 20 Crore in NABARD and Rs 1450 Crore in NHB.
- With this, the Government of India now holds 100% stake in both the financial institutions.

**Mudra loans miss target by Rs. 27,000 crore in FY19**

- Loans disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) have fallen short of the target set for 2018-19.
- The loans disbursed under PMMY in FY19 was Rs 2.73 lakh crore against the target of Rs 3 lakh crore.
- This is the first time that the target was missed in the last three years.

**Jio races ahead of Airtel to become India's 2nd largest telecom company**

- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio (from September 2016) is reportedly the second-largest telecom company in the country.
- Jio overtaken Bharti Airtel in terms of customer base and now trails only Vodafone Idea.
- According to a Times of India report, Jio presently has 306 million customers, Vodafone Idea continues to lead the industry with 387 million subscribers, Airtel has 284 million subscribers.

**PERSON IN NEWS****Former Army Chief Dalbir Suhag appointed Indian envoy to Seychelles**

- Former Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag has been appointed as India's next high commissioner to the island nation 'Seychelles'.
- Seychelles is a country which is of strategic importance to India in the Indian Ocean region.

**Javier Perez Tasso named new CEO of SWIFT**

- The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) has named Javier Pérez-Tasso as its new CEO and he will replace the present CEO Gottfried Leibbrandt on July 01, 2019.

**Mini Ipe becomes first woman Zonal Manager of LIC**

- Mini Ipe has been appointed as the Zonal Manager of Life Insurance Corporation of India for South Central Zone.
- With this, she has become the first woman zonal manager (in-charge) of LIC.
- Before this, she has worked as Executive Director (International Operations) of LIC.

**Assocham Secretary General Uday K Varma Resigned**

- Former bureaucrat, Uday Kumar Varma, has resigned from the post of Secretary General of Assocham.
- Varma took over the charge in August 2018 succeeding D S Rawat who held the position for nearly 14 years.
- Currently, Assocham Deputy Secretary General Saurabh Sanyal is the interim secretary general.
- The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) is one of the apex trade associations of India.

**CPWD constitutes 8-member committee to chart out design policy for buildings and infrastructure development**

- ✓ The largest construction agency of the central government, Central Works Public Department (CPWD) has set up an expert 8-member committee under M K Sharma, CPWD's Additional Director General, Chairman for developing a design scheme to construct buildings and develop infrastructure.

**AWARDS AND HONOURS****Benny Antony conferred with the National IP Award 2019**

- Benny Antony (co-founder of Kochi-based Arjuna Natural Ltd) has been honoured with the National Intellectual Property Award for 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization.
- Antony has over 80 international patents to his credit.

**Pakistan Journalist Cyril Almeida wins Press Freedom Hero award by IPI**

- Pakistan Journalist at the Dawn Assistant has been named as the 71st World Press Freedom Hero by the International Press Institute (IPI).
- IPI's World Press Freedom Hero Award honours journalists "who have made significant contributions to the promotion of press freedom, particularly in the face of great personal risk".

**Salim Khan, Bhandarkar and Helen felicitated with Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award**

- Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan, Pune, felicitated legends from the fields of music, drama, art and social work with the Deenanath Award among other awards.

**The Winners includes:**

- *Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Lifetime Award* – Salim Khan (father of superstar Salman Khan).
- *Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Special Award*- Madhur Bhandarkar for his contribution to Indian Cinema.
- *Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Special Award* – Helen for her contribution to Indian Cinema.

**Rana Dasgupta wins 2019 Tagore Literary Prize**

- The second edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 has been announced and author Rana Dasgupta has won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 in Literature for his literary novel "Solo".
- Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 (for Social Achievement) - Yohei Sasakawa. He is from Japan and has won the prize for his great contribution to world peace.
- Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 (for Social Achievement Community)- Madame President of Taiwan, Ms. Tsai Ing-Wen and Taiwanese people, as being a Beacon of Democracy, Human Rights and Freedom.

**IIM-Bangalore becomes only Indian institute to feature in QS EMBA Rankings 2019**

- The Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B) has once again made a mark at the global level.
- The institute's post-graduate programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has secured the 12th rank in APAC listing and came 61st globally in the QS Executive MBA Rankings 2019.
- The QS Rankings identify the world's top universities in individual subject areas so that students who know what subjects they are interested in can find suitable universities.

**SPORTS AND GAMES****India Bagged 17 Medals including 3 Golds at 2019 Asian Athletics Championships**

- The 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships was held at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar.
- India secured fourth position in the overall medal table by winning 17 medals including 3 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze.
- Bahrain topped the medal table with 22 [11-7-4] medals.

**India bag two gold at ISSF World Cup**

- India opened its medal account with gold each in 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team and 10 metres Air Pistol Mixed team events on the third day of ISSF World Cup in Beijing.
- Young shooters 'Manu Bhaker' and 'Saurabh Chaudhary' took the top spot in the 10 metres Air Pistol Mixed Team event.

**Asian Wrestling C'ships: Divya, Manju win bronze medals**

- India's Divya Kakran and Manju Kumari bagged bronze medals for the country in the women's competition of the Asian Wrestling Championships in Xi'an, China.

**Pankaj Advani wins Asian Snooker Tour title**

- India's Pankaj Advani defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4 to win the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title. It was held in Bengaluru.
- The Tour was held in three parts and played in Doha (Qatar), Jinan (China) and Bengaluru (India).

**MISCELLANEOUS****World's first Malaria vaccine launched in Malawi**

- The world's first malaria vaccine RTS known as 'Mosquirix' has launched in Malawi.
- This vaccine has created by British Pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 1987 and after that vaccine has undergone 30 years of testing which was supported by many organizations including a non-profit organization PATH.
- Etihad Airways, UAE based flag carrier, has become the first major airline in the gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board.
- The 70 MW 'Akademik Lomonosov', world's first floating nuclear power plant successfully tested by Rosenergoatom, operator subsidiary of Rosatom, state owned atomic energy cooperation of Russia.
- Japanese scientists have successfully created the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid, which gave some clue on how the solar system evolved.
- Mars InSight lander of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has recorded first "marsquake," quake on the mars due to volcanic eruptions or land tides.
- Zoologists at Trinity College Dublin have discovered two new bird species named as the Wakatobi white-eye and the Wangi-Wangi white-eye in the Wakatobi Archipelago of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

**DAY&DATE****World Malaria Day: 25th April**

- The 'World Malaria Day' being observed every year across the world on 25th April to create awareness among the people about this vector-borne disease.
- The Day was established in May 2007 by the 60th session of the World Health Assembly, WHO's decision-making body.
- This year's global theme for World Malaria Day is "*Zero malaria starts with me*".

**World Intellectual Property Day: 26th April**

- The 'World Intellectual Property Day' is observed annually on 26th April to learn about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- The Day is organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- This year's theme of the day is '*Reach for Gold: IP and Sports*'.

**World Immunization Week 2019: April 24-30**

- The theme for 2019 World Immunization Week is *Protected Together: Vaccines Work*.

**ONE LINER**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched the 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) India' – a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control from India by 2030.
- The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on April 26 to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general.
- Microsoft becomes world's third company to be worth \$1 trillion (APPLE & AMAZON)