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## **BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS**

### **India begins anti-dumping probe into plastic processing machine imports from China**

India has begun an anti-dumping investigation on imports of plastic processing machines imported from China on the basis of a complaint filed by the Plastics Machinery Manufacturers Association of India to the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) alleging that dumping is causing injury to the domestic industry.

### **India in no mood to concede defeat in Cairn Energy tax case, to appeal against arbitration award**

India will appeal against the arbitration award issued to Cairn Energy by the international tribunal on the grounds of contesting its sovereign right to tax, while strongly contesting other cases filed by Cairn in other international courts, sources said. The appeal against the award is likely to be in the government in the Netherlands, while India will contest its right to tax in the case filed by Cairn in a US court to implement the award.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

NO MAJOR UPDATES

## **SPORTS**

NO MAJOR UPDATES

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

### **Mahender Singh Kanyal: Ambassador to Syria**

Senior diplomat Mahender Singh Kanyal has been appointed as the next Indian Ambassador to Syria. Kanyal, who is presently Ambassador of India to Suriname, is expected to take up the assignment shortly. India is also gifting 2,000 metric tonnes of rice to Syria following a request from the Arab republic.

## **SCHEMES AND POLICIES**

### **Maharashtra's caravan policy aims to promote tourism, generate jobs**

The Maharashtra government's 'caravan tourism' policy aims not only to provide a different experience to travel enthusiasts, but also promote tourism in the state's remote areas and create job opportunities, an official has said. The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday approved the caravan tourism policy that seeks to give incentives to tour operators and at the same time boost employment opportunities in the pandemic-battered sector.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Andhra CM conferred Skoch CM of the Year award

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year award. The award was presented to him by the Chairman, Skoch Group, Sameer Kochhar, at the CM's camp office on 16 Feb 2021. The award selection was based on a study of project-level outcomes in various states.



## NATIONAL

### India contracts 41% of the sugar export quota for 2020-21 sugar season, says ISMA

Indian sugar mills have contracted 41% of the sugar export quota allocated for the 2020-21 sugar year that began October 1, said industry body Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) in a release. The progressive year-on-year sugar production of the country during the 2020-21 sugar season till February 15 is higher by 23%.

### Employability of women in India higher than men, shows Wheebox National Employability Test survey

The employability of women in India stands higher than men, with 46.8% employable women versus 45.91% employable men, according to The Wheebox National Employability Test (WNET) survey analysis for 2021. The trend of more employable women has seen a steady climb over the past three years, an indication that the women of the country are the biggest resource pool for industries to leverage in the coming years.

### PM Modi to inaugurate projects in Kerala

PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of key projects of the power and urban sector in Kerala on 19 February 2021. He will inaugurate the 320 KV Pugalur - Thrissur Power Transmission Project. It is a voltage source convertor-based High Voltage Direct

Current (HVDC) Project and has India's first HVDC link featuring state-of-the-art VSC technology.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Argentina receives 5,80,000 doses of vaccine**

Argentina received 5,80,000 doses of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine from India's Serum Institute on 17 Feb 2021. The delivery of the shot will raise the country's total vaccine count to nearly 1.8 million. The vaccine was developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University but produced by the Serum Institute, the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines.

### **3rd India-Australia-Japan-USA ministers Meet**

The 3rd India-Australia-Japan-USA Ministerial Meeting will be held with the participation of the respective Foreign Ministers on 18 Feb 21. The Ministers will exchange views on regional and global issues especially practical areas of cooperation towards maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The previous meeting was held in October 2020.

## **DEFENCE**

### **Indian and Indonesian navies conduct exercise in Arabian sea**

The Indian and Indonesian navies carried out a military exercise in the Arabian sea on Thursday to enhance operational interoperability and overall cooperation. Indian naval ship INS Talwar and Indonesian Navy's multirole corvette KRI Bung Tomo were part of the exercise, the Indian Navy said. "Enhancing Interoperability & strengthening Bilateral Maritime Cooperation Indian Navy Ship INS Talwar and Indonesian Navy's multirole Corvette KRI Bung Tomo, conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Arabian Sea today,"

### **Indian Army deploys K-9 Vajra howitzers in Ladakh for high altitude operations, more orders possible**

As Indian Army chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane inducted the last of the 100 K-9 Vajra guns ordered, three of these howitzers have been deployed for trials in high altitude mountainous area of Ladakh. Three guns arrived in Leh yesterday and are being transported to a high altitude base to be tested if they can be used in high altitude areas against the enemy, top government sources told ANI on Thursday.

### **INS Karanj delivered to Indian Navy**

The Indian Navy is all set to get its third Scorpene-class submarine in March 2021, with the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) handing over the sub to the force in Feb 2021. The submarine has been handed over to the Navy three years after sea trials began in January 2018. INS Kalavari was the first such submarine which was commissioned into the Indian Navy in October 2017.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Govt's new instant messaging platform: Sandes**

The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called Sandes on the lines of WhatsApp. Like WhatsApp, the new NIC platform can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id. Further, as an additional safety feature, it allows a user to mark a message as confidential.

## **OBITUARIES**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd made foray in Cattle Feed supplements segment**

West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (WAMUL), popularly known as Purabi Dairy made foray in Cattle Feed supplements to augment its drive towards increasing milk productivity and reducing production cost for dairy farmers. The range of Cattle Feed supplements shall reinforce WAMUL's efforts in improving milk productivity of cattle and thus reduction in cost of production. Productivity improvement is identified as one of the key areas of interventions required for dairy development in Assam.

### **India supplied corona vaccines to 25 countries**

Made in India COVID vaccines were supplied to 25 nations and 49 countries across the world will be added soon. This was announced by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while speaking at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Open Debate on Implementation of Resolution 2532. 2 lakh doses will be given as a gift to UN Peacekeepers as well.

## **IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES**

DGTR = Directorate General of Trade Remedies

WNET = Wheebox National Employability Test

HVDC = High Voltage Direct Current

PASSEX = Passage Exercise

MDL = Mazagon Dock Limited

WAMUL = West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd.

UNSC = United Nations Security Council



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