

**November 19<sup>th</sup> news:**

**International:**

**UN-led ministerial conference in Moscow agrees universal commitment to end tuberculosis**

On 17<sup>th</sup> November, 75 ministers announced a landmark agreement to take urgent action to end tuberculosis (TB) by 2030 at the conclusion of a World Health Organization (WHO) conference in Moscow, Russia, on eradicating the world's deadliest infectious disease.

Together with UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Mr. Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Russian President Vladimir Putin opened the Conference on 16 November. The gathering brought together delegates from 114 countries.

The newly-minted Moscow Declaration to End TB is a promise to increase multisectoral action as well as track progress, and build accountability. It will also inform the first UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on TB in 2018, which will seek further commitments from heads of State.

Since 2000, global efforts to combat the disease have saved an estimated 53 million lives and reduced the TB mortality rate by 37 per cent. However, progress in many countries has stalled, global targets are off-track and persistent gaps remain in TB care and prevention.

As a result, TB still kills more people than any other infectious disease. There are also major problems associated with antimicrobial resistance, and it is the leading killer of people with HIV.

More than 1,000 participants took part in the two-day conference, which was attended by ministers and country delegations, as well as representatives of civil society and international organizations, scientists and researchers. The end result was a collective commitment to ramp up action on four fronts.

The first pledge was to rapidly move to achieve universal health coverage by strengthening health systems and improving access to people-centred TB prevention and care so no one is left behind.

Secondly, was the assurance that sufficient and sustainable financing would be mobilized through increased domestic and international investments to close implementation and research gaps.

The third commitment was to advance research and development of new tools to diagnose, treat, and prevent TB.

Finally, the ministers vowed to build an accountability framework to track and review progress on ending TB, including multisectoral approaches.

They also promised to minimize the risk and spread of drug resistance and do more to engage people and communities affected by, and at risk of, tuberculosis.

**National:**

**Telangana and Patanjali Group join hands together to establish Food Park**

Telangana government inked an MoU with the Patanjali group with an aim to set up 'Food Park'. The Patanjali Group will set up a large food park in Telangana with units for processing edible oil, fruit pulp and spices.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Telangana government. Patanjali Group also expressed interest in developing indigenous seed varieties and animal feed value chain in the state.

The MoU between the Group and Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) was signed at Haridwar in the presence of Baba Ramdev and Telangana Rashtra Samithi Member of Parliament K Kavitha.

## **Bilateral:**

### **India and France Agree to Deepen Security Co-operation**

India and France have agreed to deepen security cooperation, bilaterally and in the multilateral fora, and strengthen strong commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. After holding delegation-level talks with Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Jean Yves-Le Drain, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj stated both countries have vowed to get rid of the menace of terrorism.

## **Economy:**

### **Centre hikes import duty on edible oils to protect farmers**

The Centre has raised import duty on crude palm oil to 30% from 15% and on refined oil to 40% from 25 (rpt) 25% in a bid to curb cheaper shipments and boost local prices for supporting farmers and refiners, according to a notification.

Import duty on soyabean oil, sunflower oils, canola/mustard oils - both crude and refined format - has been raised, the notification released by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)

CBEC said import duty of crude palm oil has been doubled to 30%, while the refined crude palm oil been increased to 40% from 25%. Import duty on crude soyabean oil has been increased to 30% from 17.5%, while refined soyabean oil has been raised to 35% from the current 20%.

Similarly, import duty on crude sunflower oil has been increased to 25% from 12.5%, while that on refined sunflower oil has been increased to 35% from 20%.

India, the world's leading cooking oil buyer, imported 154.50 lakh tonne of both edible and non-edible oils in 2016-17 marketing year (November-October), up by 4.75% from 147.38 lakh tonne in the previous year. India imports palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia and a small quantity of crude soft oil, including soyabean oil from Latin America.

## **Environment**

### **Maharashtra bans Plastic Bottles at Government Offices, Hotels**

Maharashtra government announced a ban on plastic bottles, with effect from 18 March 2018, which will cover government offices, functions and state educational institutes before it is extended to private institutes. They announced the new measures on plastic bottles ban, at a meeting with municipal officials in Mumbai on 16th November 2017.

They that, plastic bottles will be prohibited at the Mantralaya – the state government headquarters, before the statewide ban comes into effect on Gudi Padwa, the Maharashtrian New Year, in March 2018.

The state government is to hold meetings with beverage manufacturers and industry leaders and urge them to shift to environment-friendly options such as compostable plastic.

**Persons in news:**

**Manushi Chhillar:** Haryana-born Manushi Chhillar on 18<sup>th</sup> November was crowned Miss World 2017 a grand event held in Sanya in China. Miss World 2016 winner Puerto Rico's Stephanie Del Valle passed on the crown to Ms Chhillar.

The crown was last won by an Indian 17 years ago. Chhillar is the sixth Indian woman to win Miss World, and the first since Priyanka Chopra who won Miss World 2000.

The coveted title was last won by Priyanka Chopra for India in 2000, a year after Yukta Mookhey had made the country proud. In 1997, Diana Hayden had bagged the title, while Aishwarya Rai had the honours in 1994. Reita Faria was the first Indian to win the crown in the 1966.