

## **March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **ADB, ISA inks pact to promote solar energy deployment in Asia & Pacific**

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the African Development Bank (AfDb), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Green climate fund (GCF), and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed Joint financial partnership Declarations on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) also signed a Joint partnership Declaration with the ISA. The agreements were signed in the presence of Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs and Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of State (I/C) for Power and New and Renewable Energy.

The objective of the agreements is to deepen their cooperation in support of Renewable Energy. The previous three partnerships were signed by ISA with the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) will sign a Joint Partnership Declaration on 11th March 2018.

ISA is working for deployment of over 1000 GW of solar energy and mobilising more than US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by the year 2030.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank finalized an Energy Sector Strategy that emphasizes proactive support to client countries to develop intermittent renewable energy, including solar. AIIB and ISA both have joined hands for promotion of Solar Energy in prospective ISA member countries where AIIB operates.

The Green Climate Fund's Strategic Vision includes financing innovative projects and programmes, inter alia supporting the application and dissemination of cutting-edge climate technologies. Both ISA and GCF promote the development of affordable, reliable and sustainable solar energy as an important way towards a sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

### **National:**

#### **SC allows passive euthanasia, recognises 'living will' of terminally ill patients**

The Supreme Court on 9<sup>th</sup> March allowed the 'living will' made by terminally-ill patients for passive euthanasia. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra on a petition seeking recognition of the 'living will', allowed passive euthanasia for patients with terminal-illness, with guidelines and procedures.

The bench, comprising justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan also laid down guidelines as to who would execute the will and how the nod for passive euthanasia would be granted by the medical board.

The top court said that directions and guidelines laid down by it and its directive shall remain in force till a legislation is brought on the issue. The 'living will' is a concept where a man or woman decides in much advance whether he or she wants to be kept on life support or vegetative condition, in case of a terminal illness.

### **PM inaugurates two-day National Legislators Conference on 'We For Development'**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 10<sup>th</sup> March inaugurated a two-day National Legislators Conference at the Central Hall of Parliament House.

The motive of the conference is to bring MPs and MLAs on a single platform where ideas and plans for development can be exchanged. Role of public representatives in development and optimum use of resources will be the subjects on agenda for discussions.

The conference will hold discussions on how women help in the development work being done for the country where ideas on projects and plans can be debated.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will give a presentation on the first day and the plenary will be presided over by Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M Thambidurai while Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will preside over the conference on the second day. Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu will address the concluding session.

### **Bilateral:**

#### **Modi, Macron ink 14 pacts to boost India-France ties**

India and France exchange 14 agreements in key strategic areas including defence, maritime security and technology following bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron

Both the leaders hold joint press briefing highlighting joint vision for Indian Ocean. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the warmth of relations between the two countries.

Both countries entered agreements in various fields including curbing illicit trade in narcotics, agreement on migration and Mobility Partnership, Agreement to facilitate mutual recognition of academic qualifications, Technical Co-operation in the field of Railways, creation of Permanent Indo-French Railway Forum, logistic Support between Armed forces, Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Cooperation for Urban Development, exchange and reciprocal protection of Classified or protected information, Space Research & Co-operation, Industrial way forward agreement in Nuclear Field, Marine Hydrography and Cartography, Credit Facility Agreement worth 100 billion Euro for Smart Cities and Solar Energy.

The agreements were exchanged in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting French President Emmanuel Macron. PM Modi appreciated France's commitment for Make in India programme. Besides, he also stressed that people to people contacts play important role to strengthen this bond.

## **Economy:**

### **CCI approves acquisition of RCom infrastructure assets by Reliance Jio**

Debt-laden Reliance Communications' (RCom) proposal to sell infrastructure assets including towers, optic fibre cable and spectrum to Reliance Jio has been cleared by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). In December 2017, Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio had signed a pact to acquire the mobile business assets that includes spectrum, mobile towers and optical fibre network of RCom-owned by Anil Ambani.

### **GST Council recommends introduction of e-way bill**

GST Council recommends introduction of e-way bill for inter-State movement of goods across the country from 1st April 2018. For intra-State movement of goods, e-way bill system will be introduced w.e.f. a date to be announced in a phased manner but not later than 01<sup>st</sup> June, 2018. Major improvements over the last set of rules

- Value of exempted goods has been excluded from value of the consignment, for the purpose of e-way bill generation.
- Public conveyance has also been included as a mode of transport and the responsibility of generating e-way bill in case of movement of goods by public transport would be that of the consignor or consignee.
- Railways has been exempted from generation and carrying of e-way bill with the condition that without the production of e-way bill, railways will not deliver the goods to the recipient.
- But railways are required to carry invoice or delivery challan etc.
- Time period for the recipient to communicate his acceptance or rejection of the consignment would be the validity period of the concerned e-way bill or 72 hours, *whichever is earlier*.
- In case of movement of goods on account of job-work, the registered job worker can also generate e-way bill.

## **Sports:**

### **Australia wins Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**

Australia defeated England 2-1 in the final to lift the 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia. The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup is an annual international men's field hockey tournament held in Malaysia. It began in 1983 as a biennial contest. The 2018 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup was the 27th edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. It was held in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia from 3 to 10 March 2018

## **Persons in news:**

**Biplab Kumar Deb:** In Tripura, the first ever BJP-led government headed by Biplab Kumar Deb assumed office on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Chief Minister Deb and eight other ministers were administered the oath of office

and secrecy by Governor Tathagata Roy at a ceremony, held at Assam Rifles ground in Agartala. Jishnu Debbarma took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister.

**Suresh Prabhu:** Commerce and Industries Minister Suresh Prabhu has been assigned the additional charge of the Civil Aviation Ministry. The post had fallen vacant after President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignation of Telugu Desam Party's Ashok Gajapathi Raju.

**Prakriti:** In another first for women, 25-year-old Prakriti has been inducted as the first direct-entry combat officer in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. The ITBP is the last of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to induct women officers in combat roles after the government first allowed it to enroll them in 2016.

**Sanjeev Gupta:** Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta appointed by Britain's Prince Charles as an official ambassador for the Industrial Cadets programme designed to nurture manufacturing skills. Mr. Gupta was appointed to the flagship programme to give children and young people the direct structured experience of the industry while still at school or college. The Industrial Cadets annual awards ceremony was held in London. Mr. Gupta is an Executive Chairman of UK-based GFG Alliance.