

## **International:**

### **WHO calls for elimination of trans fat in foods by 2023**

The World Health Organization wants to eliminate artificial trans fats from the global food supply and has a step-by-step strategy on how to do so by 2023.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May, the WHO launched an initiative called REPLACE that will provide guidance for all countries on how to remove artificial trans fats from their foods, possibly leading to a worldwide eradication.

Artificial trans fats, or trans fatty acids, are made when vegetable oil hardens in a process called hydrogenation. Those hydrogenated fats are often used in processed foods or baked goods, because they don't spoil as quickly as other fats, but they can have some harmful health effects, such as raising levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol and increasing risk of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes.

REPLACE stands for review dietary sources, promote use of healthier fats, legislate, assess changes, create awareness and enforce.

The REPLACE package is the first time the WHO is calling for the elimination of something other than a noncommunicable disease, said Dr. Tom Frieden, president and CEO of the public health initiative Resolve to Save Lives

Resolve to Save Lives, a partner of the WHO and a part of the nonprofit Vital Strategies, plans to provide assistance to countries to support the REPLACE strategies in eliminating artificial trans fats.

## **National:**

### **Hung Assembly formed in Karnataka**

Karnataka is headed for a spell of political instability as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged the single-largest party with 104 seats after the just-concluded Assembly elections, but could not reach the halfway mark of 112. The Congress, with 78 seats, acted with swiftness and agility, contacted the H D Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular), or JD(S), with 38 seats

### **4 states ink MoUs with Centre on health protection mission**

The states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttarakhand agreed on 14<sup>th</sup> May to implement the ambitious national health protection mission, which aims to provide an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family.

The four states and the Union Territory of Chandigarh inked MoUs with the Union Health Ministry for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission.

The centrally-sponsored scheme, which will provide a coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family annually and benefit more than 10 crore families belonging to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society, is likely to be launched in August.

The scheme will target poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational categories of urban workers' families 8.03 crore in rural and 2.33 crore in urban areas, as per the latest Socio-Economic and Caste Census data, and will cover around 50 crore people.

It will be cashless and paperless access to services up to Rs 5 lakh per year will be available for the beneficiary families at the point of service in both public and private empanelled hospitals across India.

The beneficiaries under the scheme can avail of services anywhere in India and it is expected to bring a visible relief to the target families by mitigating the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.

Through these MoUs, the states formally committed to implement the program. The MoU clearly outlines roles of central and state governments/UT administrations for the implementation of the scheme. Similar regional workshops are also planned in due course of time across India to sign MoU with other states.

## **Economy**

### **Govt unveils National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) unveiled a National Wind-solar Hybrid Policy that which seeks to promote new projects as well as hybridisation of the existing ones.

The MNRE is also in the process of launching a scheme for new hybrid projects under this policy, which are 10 to 15 percent cheaper than 100 percent solar or wind projects

The scheme, the government would bid out wind-solar hybrid projects on tariff-based competitive bidding and these projects can be set up anywhere across the country depending on feasibility and land availability with bidders.

The efficiency of such projects ranges from 40-45 percent as the two clean sources complement each other while 100 percent solar or wind projects have an efficiency of 20 to 30 percent. Elaborating further on the lower cost of a hybrid project, the official said that common land, transmission system to evacuate power and equipment reduce costs by as much as 15 percent.

The ministry had initially planned for 10 GW of such hybrid projects in the country, but now it depends on the response of bidders in view of merits over 100 percent solar or wind projects. The objective of the policy is to provide a framework for promotion of large grid-connected wind-solar PV hybrid system for efficient utilisation of transmission infrastructure and land

The policy is also aimed at reducing the variability in renewable power generation and achieving better grid stability. On technology front, the policy provides for integration of both the energy sources i.e. wind and solar at AC (alternate current) as well as DC (direct current) level.

The policy also provides for flexibility in share of wind and solar components in hybrid project, subject to the condition that, rated power capacity of one resource be at least 25 percent of the rated power capacity of other resource for it to be recognised hybrid project.

The policy seeks to promote new hybrid projects as well as hybridisation of existing wind/solar projects. The existing wind/solar projects can be hybridised with higher transmission capacity than the sanctioned one, subject to availability of margin in the existing transmission capacity.

The policy provides for procurement of power from a hybrid project on tariff based transparent bidding process for which government entities may invite bids. It also permits use of battery storage in the hybrid project for optimising the output and further reduce the variability.

The policy mandates the regulatory authorities to formulate necessary standards and regulations for wind-solar hybrid systems. With significant capacity additions in renewables in recent years and with hybrid policy aiming at better utilisation of resources, it is envisaged that the hybrid policy will open up a new area for availability of renewable power at competitive prices along with reduced variability. A scheme for new hybrid projects under the policy is also expected shortly, it added.

### **Nirav Modi and 22 others named in CBI charge sheet**

Billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi, Allahabad Bank MD and CEO Usha Ananthasubramanian and 20 others have been charge-sheeted by the CBI in connection with the alleged issuance of fraudulent guarantees of Rs 6,498.20 crore to Modi's companies by the PNB. These fraudulent guarantees enabled Nirav Modi to secure loans from overseas banks which he siphoned off, the CBI alleged.

The scam pertains to the alleged issuance of fraudulent Letters of Undertakings of more than USD 2 billion to companies of Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi by the Punjab National Bank's Brady House branch in Mumbai during 2011-17.

The agency will file supplementary charge sheets for the remaining amount in which it will detail the role of other accused such as Mehul Choksi, his companies, and Nirav Modi's wife Ami Modi

### **India 3rd largest solar market in world: Mercom**

India emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017 behind China and the US, Mercom Communications India said in a report.

As of 2017-end, large-scale project development accounted for 92 percent of the all-time cumulative solar installations in India with 19.6 GW, and 2017 alone made up 90 percent of such installations with 8.6 GW.

Of the total 1.6 GW cumulative solar rooftop installations in India by 2017, 995 MW was installed last year. Mercom Communications India is an arm of global clean energy consulting firm Mercom Capital Group

### **Persons in news:**

**Shashank Manohar:** Former BCCI president Shashank Manohar will serve a second term as the independent chairman of the International Cricket Council after he was elected unopposed by the governing body's Board.

Manohar, who became the first independent ICC Chairman in 2016, will continue for a second two-year term following his unopposed election. According to the election process, ICC Directors were each allowed to nominate one candidate, who had to be either a present or a past ICC Director. Nominees with the support of two or more Directors would have been eligible to contest an election.