

Headlines at a Glance - 7th May 2021

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155 million people faced severe hunger last year: UN's Global Report on Food Crises

At least 155 million people faced acute hunger in 2020, including 133,000 who needed urgent food to prevent widespread death from starvation — and the outlook for 2021 is equally grim or worse, a report by 16 organizations said Wednesday. The report, which focuses on 55 countries that account for 97% of humanitarian assistance, said the magnitude and severity of food crises last year worsened as a result of protracted conflicts, the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, and weather extremes that exacerbated pre-existing fragilities. The 155 million people faced crisis, "emergency" or catastrophe/famine" levels of food needs, an increase of around 20 million people from 2019, it said.

SOURCE: Business Standard

NDDB signs MoU with EESL to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry

The National Dairy Development Board on Thursday said it has signed an agreement with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on May 5 at Ananda, Gujarat by NDDB Executive Director Meenesh Shah and EESL Director (Projects) Venkatesh Dwivedi in the presence of senior officials, it said in a statement.

As per the agreement, EESL will conceptualise, propose and design technically sound alternate energy generation solutions for plants in the dairy cooperative sector across the country. It will also arrange necessary technical and funding support for the design, development and operation of the non-conventional energy generation models.

SOURCE: The Indian Express

Labour Ministry to collect Aadhaar details of informal workers for social security schemes

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has now been mandated to seek the 12-digit unique identification number Aadhaar from people like employees and unorganised sector workers seeking registration, benefits, availing services or receiving any payment under various schemes under the Social Security Code 2020. Aadhaar would not be made mandatory for delivery of services under various social security schemes under the purview of the ministry because Social Security Code 2020 has not been fully implemented so far. The rules under the Code are finalised by the ministry but those rules are yet to be notified. The main purpose of the latest mandate given to the ministry is to facilitate database creation, mainly covering people in informal sectors like migrant workers.

SOURCE: The Indian Express

Centre retains 12% GST on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use

The Central government should review its resistance to exempting the Goods and Services Tax (GST) levied on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use, the Delhi High Court observed on Thursday after the Finance Ministry conveyed its inability to accept the Court's order issued on Wednesday. Late on Thursday, the Delhi High Court appointed senior Counsel Arvind Datar as amicus curiae to assist the court in a case where the Government has not complied with its May 5 order to exempt oxygen concentrator imports for personal use, from 12% GST. The petitioner in the case, a senior citizen whose nephew has shipped him a concentrator, had invoked Article 21 of the Constitution to question the tax on an item needed to ensure the right to life.

SOURCE: The Hindu

Cabinet approves India-UK MoU on migration and mobility partnership

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and the United Kingdom on migration and mobility partnership. The MoU is aimed at liberalising issuance of visas promoting mobility of students, researchers and skilled professionals and strengthen cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking between the two sides, read an official release. It would benefit Indian students, academics, and researchers, migrants for professional and economic reasons and those willing to contribute through various projects to the economic development of both countries.

SOURCE: Business Standard