

PNB Housing Finance rights issue worth ₹2,500 crore gets Sebi's approval

New Delhi, Focus News: PNB Housing Finance has received capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval to raise up to ₹2,500 crore through rights issue of shares. The housing finance firm had filed draft papers with Sebi in December 2022 regarding the rights issue. In March 2022, PNB Housing Finance's board approved the ₹2,500-crore rights issuance and in November last year, the board cleared the draft letter offer that was to be filed with the Sebi. It obtained its 'observations' on March 6, 2023, which is necessary for any company to launch the issue, an update the markets regulator showed on Monday, reported PTI. PNB Housing will issue fully paid-up equity shares of the company by way of a rights issue to its existing shareholders for an amount not exceeding ₹2,500 crore. The company intends to utilise the net proceeds from the issue towards augmenting its capital base. Post the rights issue, the shareholding of Punjab National Bank (PNB) as a promoter of the company would come down from the current level of 32.53 per cent to below 30 per cent but it would be higher than 26 per cent so that the bank retains promoter status. For the quarter ended December 2022 (Q3), PNB Housing Finance reported 43% jump in net profit at ₹269 crore whereas its net interest income jumped 67% to ₹734 crore during the quarter. The mainstay retail loan book inched up by 6.6% to ₹53,123 crore. Overall asset quality improved with gross bad loan ratio coming down to 4.87% from 6.06% and net NPA ratio remaining flat at 3.22%.

Bandhan Group plans a foray into the insurance business

Kolkata, Focus News: The Bandhan Group is planning to enter the insurance business, people with knowledge of the matter told CNBC-TV18. The group is first planning an entry into the general insurance business, followed by life insurance, sources said. Officials from the Bandhan Group recently met the insurance regulator, expressing their intentions for the same. The group is looking at both organic and inorganic routes for this planned foray and is already in talks with many general insurance companies for a potential acquisition opportunity, according to the source. Bandhan Financial Holdings, which is the holding company of Bandhan Bank is currently in the banking and mutual fund business.

IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda has time and again expressed intent of bringing more companies into the insurance sector. This will be facilitated by various reforms of the IRDAI, which are in the process of becoming regulations. An entity from the Bandhan Group may just turn out to be one such company. The IRDAI and the government have both put out a consultation paper which proposes to reduce the initial capital commitment to enter the insurance market.

Rajdhani Besan Forays into the Healthy Breakfast Cereals and Snacking Segment

New Delhi, Focus News: After ruling the Indian household with Rajdhani Besan the flagship product of Rajdhani Foods, the company is diversifying and enhancing its product portfolio, by further foraying into healthy breakfast cereals and snacks. This expansion is aimed at catering to the evolving demands of its consumers, who are adapting towards changed habits of picking on easy and convenient healthy snacking, to maintain their physical health in this fast-paced life, especially in the post-pandemic times. The company Rajdhani Foods is known for its trusted products like Rajdhani Besan, Sattu, and Chana dal. As a part of this move, Rajdhani Foods has rolled out a wide variety of options under its new category to offer solutions for people of all ages. The new category includes two segments- Healthy Breakfast and Snacking. The healthy breakfast range includes low-cholesterol Corn flakes, trans-fat-free Choco flakes, and fiber-rich Instant Oats. Roasted chana, protein-rich Makhana, and bleach-free, non-sticky Sabudana are under the healthy snacking range. The key highlight of all Rajdhani



products is that it uses only fresh and hand-picked ingredients, packed and processed in the most hygienic conditions with advanced equipment to ensure no impurity is left behind. On this occasion, Chetan Jain, Director of Rajdhani Foods, said, "We noticed that after COVID, the need for a nutritious breakfast is rising as people become more aware of the consequences of an unhealthy diet. However, a considerable number of people skip breakfast as their fast-paced lives do not allow them the luxury of spending time in cooking a balanced meal to begin their day with. Our chemical-free and sortex-cleaned range of nutritious and fiber-packed breakfast and

snack items thus has a large value proposition on account of being easy to eat. While the breakfast cereals require only a couple of minutes to prepare, the snacks can be eaten on the go." As a part of its expansion plans, Rajdhani Foods has announced that it will roll out the products and make them available in the market in a phased manner. In the first phase, the products will be available in the Delhi/NCR area and other top metros in northern India. Thereafter, the range will be expanded to over Tier 2 cities and will be made available, even in the smallest general stores, in the next few years. All products are available at an affordable price range starting from Rs. 99/- only.

Bhupender Yadav calls for coordinated actions by all the stakeholders for effective implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

New Delhi, Focus News: Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav in his inaugural address to the meeting of National Apex Committee under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), today highlighted the importance of the implementation of NCAP and emphasised coordinated actions from the Union Government, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, Urban Local Bodies and State Pollution Control Boards for taking air quality improvement measures. The Union Minister appreciated the performance of 95 cities which have improved air quality and 20 cities which met the National Ambient Air Quality Standard in FY 2021-22 under the Programme. He spoke on the significance of Airshed approach adopted in Indo-Gangetic Plain and stressed on the need for regional cooperation to address the issue of air pollution. Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey congratulated the nine cities viz. Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Moradabad, Firozabad, Amravati, Dewas, Sunder Nagar and Nagalgarh that have received cash award under Swacchh Vayu Sarvekshan conducted for FY 2022-23. He urged all cities to take air quality improvement measures and participate in the ranking framework. He requested States/Union Territories to submit proposals under Nagar Van Yojana and AMRUT for increasing the green cover in NCAP cities. During the meeting the importance of Mission LiFE launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for taking citizen centric actions to protect and conserve environment was emphasised. It was stated that on 15th August 2020, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi assured Government's commitment to ensure clean air to all the people of the country, announced the intent and plan to improve the air quality in more than 100 cities through holistic approach.

M Jagannath appointed as Managing Director of LIC



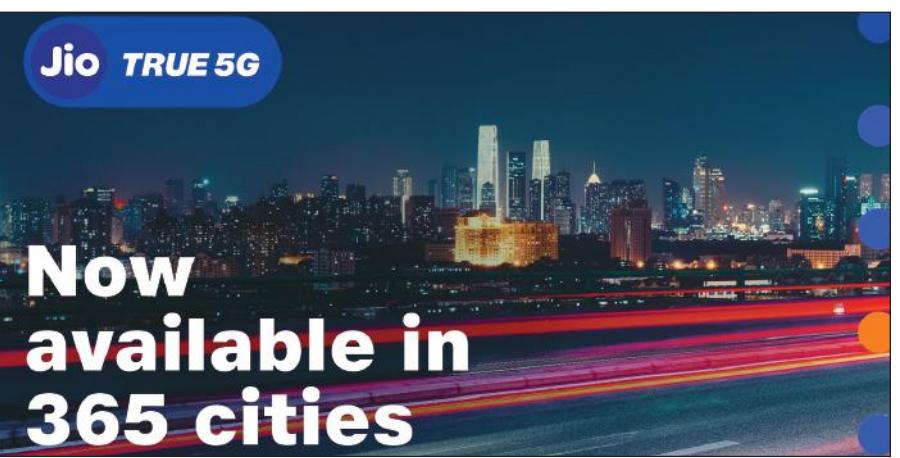
New Delhi, Focus News: The Life Corporation of India (LIC) on Tuesday appointed M Jagannath as the Managing Director, the company stated in a press release. "Pursuant to the Government of India's Notification F. NO. A-11011/11/2022-Ins.I dated 13th March 2023, Shri M Jagannath, Zonal Manager (In-Charge), South Central Zone, Hyderabad, has been appointed as Managing Director, LIC of India vice Shri Raj Kumar with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the office and upto the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Shri M Jagannath, has taken charge of the position of Managing Director of the Corporation on 13th March 2023," the press release stated. He had taken the charge from March 13. Jagannath had joined the organisation as a Direct Recruit Officer in 1988.

Government promotes environment protection and nature education through curricula on conservation of forest, water and soil

New Delhi, NEP 2020 stresses upon appropriate integration of environmental awareness and sensitivity towards its conservation and sustainable development in school curricula. Some of the recommendations of NEP 2020, to make environment education an integral part of school curricula, are inclusion of environmental awareness including water and resource conservation; introduction of environmental education as a contemporary subject at relevant stages; incorporation of traditional Indian knowledge systems and India's future aspirations with regard to environment; inculcation of respect for environment; appropriate integration of environmental awareness and sensitivity towards its conservation and sustainable development in all B.Ed programmes. NCERT has initiated the process of development of National Curriculum Frameworks where in inputs are invited from various stakeholders including various Ministries/Departments, States and UTs drawing from grass root levels. Mission LiFE has been launched, which focuses on mindful and deliberate utilization of resources and its philosophy is to promote sustainable lifestyles. As part of the activities undertaken in this Mission, CBSE and NCERT are organizing various activities such as quiz competitions, webinars, exhibitions, poster/painting contests, rallies, seminars, workshops and expert talks celebrating various important events such as International Day of Forest, World Water Day, Earth Day, International Day for Biodiversity, World Environment Day etc.

The newly appointed MD comes with a wide experience in marketing. He is a Commerce graduate, his academic qualifications include CA (Inter), PG Diploma in Marketing, International PG Diploma in Life Insurance, General Insurance & Risk Management from the Institute of Insurance and Risk Management (IIRM), Hyderabad and Associate Member of the Insurance Institute of India, Mumbai. He has worked as Senior Divisional Manager in-charge of Ernakulam, Dharwad and Bangalore I Divisions. He also served as Chief Executive Officer and Manager Director of LIC (Lanka) Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka between 2009 and 2013 for a period of 4 years. His previous assignment was as Zonal Manager, South Central Zone, Hyderabad, which comprises of three states i.e., Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

JIO LAUNCHES TRUE 5G IN 34 MORE CITIES TAKING THE BENEFITS OF TRUE 5G TO 365 CITIES ACROSS THE NATION



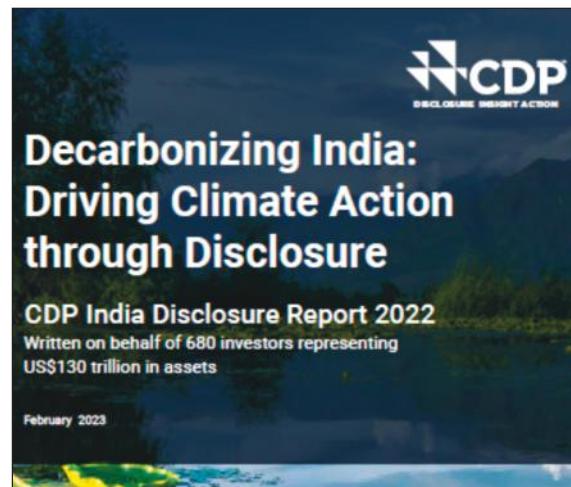
Mumbai, Focus News: Reliance Jio today announced the launch of its True 5G services in 34 new cities across the country. Jio is working towards India's digital transformation by becoming the first telecom operator to extend futuristic and pioneering True 5G services to most of these cities. Starting today, the technological advantages of high-speed, low-latency, stand-alone True 5G services shall be made available to the people and businesses of these cities, opening new growth opportunities in the areas of tourism, manufacturing, SMEs, e-governance, education, healthcare, agriculture, automation, artificial intelligence, gaming, and IT. Commenting on the launch, Jio Spokesperson said, "We are proud to rollout Jio 5G in these 34 cities. This is a tribute to millions of Jio users in these cities who will start enjoying the benefits of Jio 5G technology. Jio engineers are working round the clock to deliver True-5G to every Indian, so that the transformational power and the exponential benefits of this technology can be experienced by every citizen of the country."

By December 2023, Jio 5G will reach every town in the country. This is testimony to Jio's commitment towards transforming India into a Digital Society. We continue to remain grateful to the State Governments and Administrators for their support to digitize their regions."

Jio True 5G has a three-fold advantage that makes it the only TRUE 5G network in India:

1. Stand-alone 5G architecture with advanced 5G network with Zero dependency on 4G network
2. The largest and best mix of 5G spectrum across 700 MHz, 3500 MHz, and 26 GHz bands
3. Carrier Aggregation that seamlessly combines these 5G frequencies into a single robust "data highway" using an advanced technology called Carrier Aggregation. Starting 15th March 2023, Jio users in these 34 cities will be invited to the Jio Welcome Offer, to experience Unlimited Data at up to 1 Gbps+ speeds, at no additional cost.

700+ Financial Institutions make largest ever request for Environmental disclosure from corporates



of CDP's capital markets signatories. Disclosing to CDP helps companies drive climate ambition trajectory that can deliver sustainable returns, manage environmental risk effectively, identify cost saving opportunities and reduce reputational risks. This is a crucial year for disclosure in India with mandatory disclosure in the form of the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) coming into place. CDP's experience in the disclosure process can help to support the increasing number of Indian companies coming forward to disclose and act on climate. This can also drive investors and financial institutions in India to include environmental disclosure from the companies in their portfolios so that they can understand and manage their financed environmental impact".

Paul Dickinson, Founder Chair of CDP, commented: "Despite suggestions that investors are deprioritizing ESG considerations, this year's Letter to the Board shows the complete opposite. Capital markets understand the necessity for comprehensive corporate environmental data in informing investment and lending decisions across markets. This, coupled with a record 18,700 disclosures last year – a 38% increase, demonstrates corporate ambition on meeting the mid-century goals of the Paris Agreement." "What is more, regulation is coming. Disclosure is already mandatory or soon to become so in most major economies including the UK, EU, Brazil, Japan, and the US. Companies still lagging behind are simply out of touch with market reality and are overestimating their own resilience."

Bangesh Chakrabati, Managing Director, Everstone Capital, said: "As the world works to build a future that is safe for the climate, free of deforestation, and secure in terms of water, ambitious business action is more crucial than ever. This is supported by the disclosure made possible by CDP. The data from CDP, which comprises the largest dataset in the world, both supports and tracks the progress of the world's economies in developing genuinely sustainable economies for both people and the environment."



a national record in cycling by covering 5,374 kms in just 37 days in six South East Asian Nations. The Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt commended the NIMAS team for displaying extreme endurance & resilience and making the cycling expedition a great success. He hoped that the NIMAS would continue to bring laurels to the nation through more adventurous journeys. The team commenced the expedition from Hanoi in Vietnam and culminated it at INA Memorial in Singapore. It was carried out in extreme weather conditions where the team members cycled on an average of 9-10 hours a day. The team visited over 10 monuments/memorials and interacted with the heroes of Azad Hind Fauj, revisiting the stories of sacrifice and bravery of Indian National Army. In addition, the team scaled the highest peak of Vietnam Mount Fansipan (3,143m). On March 03, 2023, High Commissioner of India to Singapore Shri P Kumaran had felicitated the team for successful completion of the expedition. It was part of the events organised to mark India's G-20 presidency and in line with the country's theme of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Narender Singh Tomar inaugurates "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru; says, Youth Energy will help in India's development

New Delhi, Focus News: Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has said that India is a huge democracy, whose characteristics are population and secondly 60 percent of our population is youth. Together, these two forces are so great that India can not only meet any challenge, but is also fully capable of winning over these challenges if we complement each other. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has named the next 25 years from Amrit Mahotsav to Amrit Kaal, if it is properly utilized and if the energy of the young population of our country is also utilized, then by the year 2047, we will definitely be able to see, our country as a developed India. Union Minister Tomar said this at a 5-day cultural program "AgriUnifest" organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).



More than 2500 talented students from 60 State Agricultural Universities/Deemed Universities/Central Universities have participated, showcasing their skills in 18 events under 5 disciplines (Music, Dance, Literature, Theatre, Fine Arts). The All India Inter Agricultural University Youth Festival was conceptualized and initiated by ICAR during 1999-2000 with the objective of integrating Indian agriculture by connecting various Indian cultures, so that the talents of the youth of agricultural universities can be nurtured and they can

appreciate Indian cultural diversity. Depict the beauty of. The chief guest in the program Shri Tomar said that the need of the hour is to make full use of every moment of our lives. Study is one side for the students but when a person develops overall then he can contribute more in the development of his family, society, institution, state and country. Prime Minister Modi always emphasizes that the thinking and vision of every citizen of our country should be holistic and together they should take their country forward on the path of development. Mr. Tomar said that in the era we are in today, technology has great importance. Use of technology in agriculture is also the need of the hour. There is a great need for technology in order to bring transparency in all areas and work which was not being done for years can be done within a few days.

APEDA entrusted to promote Indian millets in international market



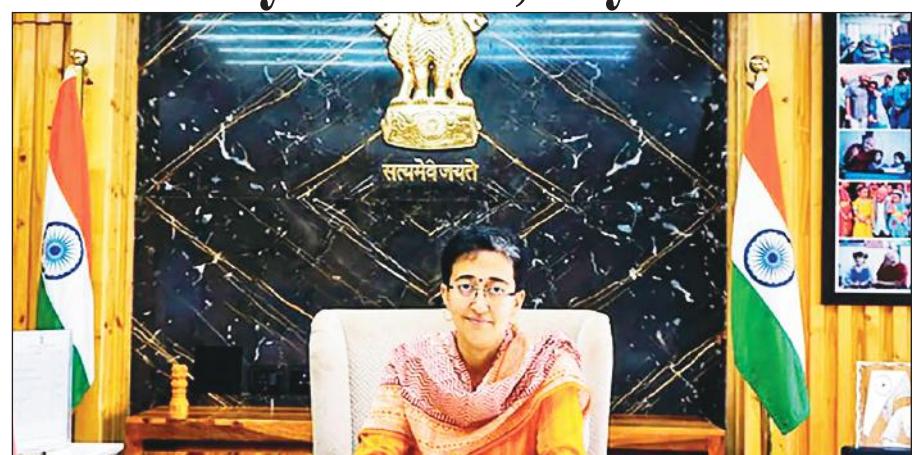
New Delhi, The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been entrusted with the task of promoting Indian millets in the international market, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Smt. Anupriya Patel said in reply to a parliamentary question today. The following steps, inter-alia, are being taken to meet the export demand during International Year of Millets 2023: APEDA has published e-catalogues for 30 major millet importing countries and for 21 millet-producing Indian states. The e-catalogues have information on individual country profile; Indian millets and millet value-added basket; millet production scenario, India's export of millets; international standards of millets; and contact list of exporters, startups, FPOs, importers, and Indian missions in the country. APEDA has identified three knowledge partners - Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR); Centre of Excellence on Millets — University of Agriculture Sciences, Bengaluru; and Yes Bank. These knowledge partners collaborate for preparation of content for publication of millet promotion material; identification of participants for the millet-promotion events to be organized by Indian Missions abroad; and millets value chain development.

APEDA has planned promotion of Indian millets across international trade fairs and hold B2B (business-to-business) meetings for the year 2023. A millet-specific web portal has also been launched. The portal contains information about millets, their health benefits, production and export statistics, millet exporters' directory, and other relevant information.

APEDA has been conducting capacity-building programs throughout the country to facilitate export of millet and millet products. Start-ups on millets are being mobilized for export promotion of value-added products such as Ready to Eat (RTE) and Ready to Serve (RTS) categories, including noodles, pasta, breakfast cereal mix, biscuits, cookies, snacks, sweets, and other millet-based products.

A knowledge book titled "Superfood Millets: A USD 2 Billion Export Opportunity for India" has been published by APEDA, in association with a knowledge partner. This book will help the prospective exporters of millets. An e-platform for Virtual Trade Fairs (VTFs) has been created specifically for millets. This platform is designed to invite buyers and visitors from across the globe to interact with exhibitors showcasing millet-based products.

No plans to change Delhi power subsidy scheme, says Atishi



New Delhi, Focus News: The Delhi government has no plan to revise its power subsidy scheme and it will continue without any restrictions of sanctioned load to consumers, Power Minister Atishi said on Monday. She told reporters the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission had issued a statutory advice to the Delhi government in 2020, asking it to consider restricting electricity subsidy to the poor and needy consumers. The DERC withdrew the advisory on January 6 this year, saying the issue did not fall under its jurisdiction. Last week, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena asked Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to direct the power department to place the DERC advisory before the council of ministers and take a decision within 15 days. "The Delhi government is committed to ensure round-the-clock power supply. There is no plan to revise the subsidy scheme as was reported recently. The LG was perhaps briefed incorrectly because the DERC has withdrawn its statutory advice," Minister Atishi said. She also said the government will "simplify" the process for consumers applying for subsidy or giving it up. Last year, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal declared that only those who apply for the subsidy will get it. She said the DERC has stated that its advice was legally "incorrect" and it could give advice to the government only on 4 matters excluding subsidy. The consumers have to apply online as well as offline to get a 100 per cent subsidy on consumption of 200 units per month and 50 per cent subsidy (up to ₹ 800) on monthly consumption of 201 to 400 units. The LG's instruction was based on a report by the chief secretary that said the DERC had advised the Delhi government in October 2020 to extend the power subsidy to consumers with a sanctioned load of either up to 3KW or up to 5KW, as it will cover almost 95 per cent of the total domestic consumers and save the government up to ₹ 316 crore. Minister Atishi alleged that the LG's instruction hinted at "malafide intent" to create hurdle in CM Kejriwal government's work. She added that around 95 per cent domestic power consumers who earlier availed subsidy have applied for it so far. She justified the power subsidy, saying the government's revenue has increased and its budget size has gone up from ₹ 30,000 crore in 2015 to ₹ 75,000 crore at present. "Also, it's not right in principle that government decides consumption by the people and what electronic gadgets they use and puts restriction on it. The government has just given an opportunity to those who want to give up subsidy," she said. She said the DERC has also withdrawn its advice for direct benefit transfer to power consumers instead of subsidy disbursal to discoms. She said the government was not in favour of it as it was unfeasible. She said the current system of application by consumers to avail subsidy will be re-launched in April making the process simpler so that they could do so in a 'yes' or 'no' method or likewise. The power minister also said the government will soon come up with a summer plan for uninterrupted power supply with a common dashboard for micro observation of power cuts.

Lorembam Beino Devi
Manipur

77-year-old Lorembam Beino Devi of Manipur has been conserving the Liba textile art of Manipur for decades

Episode 85 | 30 Jan. 2022

Tune in to the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat & get inspired by nation-building stories

