

Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurates National Consultation meeting of the State Secretaries and Controllers of Legal Metrology in New Delhi



Ram Vilas Paswan, the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said that right measurement is a powerful instrument for a sustainable growth of the industry and trade, and it also contributes towards the social progress of the country.

- Shri Paswan that the wrong or imprecise measurement builds mistrust, and is often a source of safety hazard. Shri Paswan stated it in his inaugural address on the occasion of National Consultation meeting of the State Secretaries and Controllers of Legal Metrology.
- National Consultation meeting was convened by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi today.
- Shri Paswan further stated that common consumer is still finding that accuracy of some of the critical instruments used in daily lives suffer from inaccuracies.
- There are doubts expressed sometimes regarding the accuracy of the petrol pumps, and weigh bridges used in agricultural mandis.
- Some manufacturers still disregard the provisions of packaged commodities rules. While appreciating the efforts of the state's, Shri Paswan advised the Department of consumer Affairs and States in coordination to enhance their efforts to improve consumer confidence in the system and create deterrence in the minds of the manufactures who indulge in unfair practices or pushing substandard products into the market.
- Shri Paswan also mentioned some of the significant steps taken by the Ministry In the last two years in a proactive manner to strengthen legal metrology.
- Some of the recent initiatives focused on action against charging more than MRP, declaring dual MRP and we are also contemplating changes to our packaged commodities rules.

**NATIONAL
NEWS**

Trivendra Singh Rawat sworn in as Uttarakhand chief minister



BJP leader Trivendra Singh Rawat was sworn in as Uttarakhand chief minister on Saturday after a massive victory in the assembly elections last month.

- Governor K K Paul administered the oath of office and secrecy to 56-year-

old Rawat, and nine ministers at a ceremony at the Parade Grounds in Dehradun. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah and other national and state party leaders.

- Rawat, a former RSS pracharak, is the fifth BJP chief minister in Uttarakhand.
- Satpal Maharaj, Harak Singh Rawat, Madan Kaushik, Arvind Pandey, Subodh Uniyal, Yashpal Arya and Prakash Pant have been made Cabinet ministers.
- Rekha Arya and Dhan Singh Rawat took oath as ministers of state.
- The BJP decimated the Congress in the Assembly election, winning 57 of the 70 seats.
- Coupled with his administrative and organisational skills and experience, Rawat's loyalty to the party and RSS ideology catapulted him to the top post in the state.
- Rawat was appointed the BJP's national secretary in 2013. He was later made joint in-charge of the party's affairs in Uttar Pradesh in 2014.
- He was BJP in-charge of Jharkhand ahead of the crucial assembly election, a responsibility he discharged well to further strengthen the party leadership's trust in him.

**NATIONAL
NEWS**

New Zealand river becomes first in world to be given legal status of a person



A river in New Zealand has become the first in the world to be recognised as a living entity with its own rights and values and given the legal status of a person.

- The Whanganui River, located in the north island of New Zealand, has a special and spiritual importance for the Maori people.

- The New Zealand

Parliament has just passed a bill which gives the river the ability to represent itself through human representatives, one appointed by a Maori community, known as Iwi, and one by the Crown, New Zealand news service Newshub reports.

- The new status of the Whanganui River, or Te Awa Tupua, is believed to be unique in the world.
- The Maori people recognise the river as part of the living mountains and the sea.
- Chris Finlayson, who negotiated the treaty, said the Whanganui Iwi had fought for recognition of the people's relationship with the river since the 1870s.

Jwala Gutta appointed SAI governing body member



India's most successful doubles specialist Jwala Gutta has been appointed a member of the governing body of Sports Authority of India (SAI).

- The 14-time national champion said she is looking forward to play her role in the development of sports in the country.

- The two-time Olympian Jwala, who has won the bronze medal at the 2011 World Championship, said: "The first meeting will be held on March 28th in Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in New Delhi and I am really looking forward to it. I don't yet know the details of my responsibilities but I will do my best."

GLOBAL NEWS**APPOINTMENTS**

- Jwala is a 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games champion and a silver medallist at the 2014 Glasgow Games in women's doubles.

Indian Oil to sell 24 percent stake in India JV to Lubrizol Corporation



The Cabinet today approved sale of state-owned Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) 24 per cent stake in Lubrizol India Pvt Ltd to Lubrizol Corporation, USA for an undisclosed sum.

- "The sale will enable IOC to have long term association with its joint venture partner and...Lubrizol India Pvt Ltd (LIPL)

to have access to the latest global additive technologies developed by Lubrizol Corporation, USA," an official statement said.

- LIPL, where the US firm holds the remaining 76 per cent stake, is in the lube additives business.
- "The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today gave its in-principle approval to permit IOC to sell its 24 per cent equity in one of its joint venture companies, Lubrizol India Private Limited (LIPL) to Lubrizol Corporation, USA (LC), the other joint venture partner," the statement said.

Mercer released the results of the 19th annual Quality of Living Survey



Mercer on 14 March 2017 released the results of the 19th annual Quality of Living Survey. In the survey, while Vienna occupies the first place for overall quality of living for the 8th year running, Hyderabad was adjudged as the best Indian city in terms of living standards.

- The European cities that figured in the top 10 list are Zurich (2), Munich (4), Düsseldorf (6), Frankfurt (7), Geneva (8), Copenhagen (9) and

NATIONAL NEWS

GLOBAL NEWS

Basel, a newcomer to the list, in 10th place.

- The only non-European cities in the top ten are Auckland (New Zealand) and Vancouver (Canada). They were placed at the 3rd and 5th position respectively.
- The survey also includes a city infrastructure ranking that assesses each city's supply of electricity, drinking water, telephone and mail services.
- Singapore tops the city infrastructure ranking, followed by Frankfurt and Munich. Baghdad (230) and Port au Prince (231) rank last for city infrastructure.
- In the infrastructure rankings, Mumbai was ranked the highest at 141, which was followed by Kolkata (149) and Pune (151).

First fluorescent frog found in Argentina



The first naturally fluorescent frog was discovered recently in Argentina -- almost by chance.

- Argentine and Brazilian scientists at the Bernardino Rivadavia Natural Sciences Museum made the discovery while studying the metabolic origin of pigments in a tree-frog species common to South

America.

- Under normal light the frog's translucent skin is a muted yellowish-brown color with red dots, but when the scientists shone an ultraviolet light on it, it turned a celestial green.
- According to one of them, Carlos Taboada, the case is "the first scientific record of a fluorescent frog."
- It also "generates new questions about visual communication in amphibians," he said.
- The team studied some 200 more examples to ensure the phenomenon was not due to the frog's captivity, and detected the fluorescent properties in all the specimens.

DISCOVERY

India to push use of LNG for vehicles



India will start using liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a vehicle fuel after the Transport Ministry gave its approval.

- The Road, Transport and Highways Ministry has given a green light to the use of LNG as fuel for vehicles with dispensers at gas stations expected to be installed soon, reports New India

Express.

- "We have given approval to LNG as an automobile fuel and now its standards would be defined by different Ministries including the Petroleum," said Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- He also said that the Indian government considered LNG as a "clean and future" fuel and that it would promote its use, as it would be good for the environment and it would reduce India's oil imports.

**NATIONAL
NEWS**