

Former homes secretary Rajiv Mehriishi takes over as CAG

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25/- Former home secretary Rajiv Mehriishi took over as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India today. Mehriishi succeeded Shashi Kant Sharma, who demitted office on Friday officials said.

President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mehriishi (62) at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan, which was attended by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi among other dignitaries, they said. According to the officials, Mehriishi's appointment was

Sharma had taken over as the CAG on May 23, 2015. He was defence secretary prior to his appointment as the CAG.

Mehriishi will have a tenure of about three years. The CAG is appointed for a term of six years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. As a constitutional functionary, the CAG is primarily entrusted with the responsibility of auditing the accounts of the Union government and of the state governments. CAG reports are laid before Parliament and legislatures of the states. Mehriishi, who hails from Rajasthan, holds

Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (UK). He also possesses Master of Arts (MA) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees from Delhi University. Mehriishi has held several posts in both his home state of Rajasthan and in the Centre.

Before his appointment as the home secretary, he worked as economic affairs secretary and chief secretary of Rajasthan. Mehriishi also worked as secretary in departments of chemicals and fertilisers, and Overseas Indian Affairs. (PTI)

Govt pegs 2.77% fall in kharif foodgrain output at 134.67 mt

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25/- India's foodgrain production is estimated to decline by 3.86 million tonnes to 134.67 mt this kharif season on account of poor rains as well as floods in some parts of the country. According to the first advance estimate released on Monday by the agriculture minister, production of all kharif foodgrains—rice, pulses and coarse cereals— is projected to decline by 3.86 million tonnes to 134.67 mt this kharif season, compared to 138.52 mt last kharif. In cash crops, production of cotton, oil seeds and jute is estimated to fall and that of sugarcane to go up. Harvesting will start from next month. As per the latest data, rice output is likely to fall by 1.9 million tonnes (mt) to 94.48 mt in kharif season this year, from the record 96.39 mt in the previous kharif.

Pulse output could drop to 8.71 mt, from the record 9.42 mt, due to depressed prices and poor rains. The production of tur is estimated to be lower at 3.99 mt from 4.78 mt while urad output may rise to 2.53 mt from 2.17 mt in the last kharif season. Coarse cereal output is also expected to fall at 31.49 mt, against 32.71 mt in the gone-by kharif season. Maize output is pegged at 18.73 mt in this kharif as against 19.24 mt a year ago. Oilseed output is estimated to be

down at 20.68 mt in the kharif season of this year compared to 22.40 mt in the year-ago period. Soyabean output has been pegged at 12.22 mt as against 13.79 mt last kharif. Among cash crops, cotton output is estimated to be slightly lower at 32.27 million bales (of 170 kg each) in the 2017-18 crop year (July-June) from the earlier 33.09 million bales. However, sugarcane output might rise to 337.69 mt, from 336.72 mt last kharif. Production of jute and mesta is estimated to decline to 10.33 million bales from 10.60 million bales last year.

The fall in kharif output is attributed to dry spell as well as floods in some parts of the country. The overall South-West monsoon is crucial for rain-fed kharif crops, was projected normal, but till the first week of this month, it was less by 5 per cent. Assam, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan have received less rain. Besides, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu faced a dry spell. NIPIC is currently one of the company's products which are referred to as IRS.

QNET launches Nutriplus EDG3

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KOLKATA, SEPT 25/- QNET, direct selling company has launched Nutriplus EDG3 in the Indian market through its network. EDG3 is an addition to QNET'S basket of products in the health and wellness segment which are being sold through its online channel.

Nutriplus EDG3 is powdered drink which is designed to be consumed daily. It helps in activating the production of Glutathione in the body which is a blend of three amino acids (L-Cysteine, Glycine, L-Glutamine and Selenium) and is very essential for the human immune system. It is said that Glutathione is the master of antioxidants which works at an intracellular level and helps to protect the cell from damage. Glutathione has the unique ability to regenerate other antioxidants like Vitamin C and E. Regular consumption of Nutriplus EDG3 optimises good health and well-being.

The launch of Nutriplus EDG3 is expected to strengthen QNET'S overall product offering in the health and wellness space in India. QNET has been sourcing close to 10% of its products it sells through its network of committed liking amongst school and college going students. Taking the next step in its evolution, the iconic noodle brand brings to you Wai Wai City, made to eat noodle bar—giving your favourite noodles an appetizing makeover in various styles, flavours and toppings to choose from. This brings the brand closer to the consumer, giving them multiple options along with making the space a preferred nook for friends to catch up and enjoy their favourite snack.

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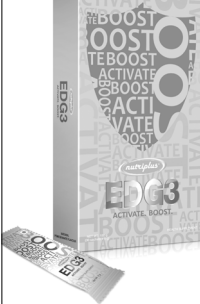
KOLKATA, SEPT 25/- The noodle bar brand has opened an outlet in Kolkata on Prince Anwar Shah Road opposite South City Mall. For years, Wai Wai's instant noodles have had a popular and

Independent Representatives (IRs) from local manufacturers, which includes a lot of SMEs. This is perfectly in sync with the Government's stated objective of promoting 'Make in India'. EDG3 is currently one of the company's products which are referred to as IRS.

Available in a pleasant-tasting pomogranate and mixed berry flavour, Nutriplus EDG3 is suitable for adults as well as children above 6 years of age. It is available in a box of 30 single-serve sachets at INR 6830 per box. Commenting on the launch of the new product in the health and wellness segment Trevor Kuna, Global CEO, QNET said "QNET is aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative of the government and supports several SMEs in India who develop exclusive products for them. Around 70 per cent of QNET'S product portfolio comprises products made in India. QNET are in a process of introducing 6-10 new products in its upcoming year."

According to report from IDSA which in collaboration with the PHD Chamber, as an ongoing process, has been benchmarked monitoring the Direct Selling Industry in India the direct selling industry is estimated to reach up to INR 2,36,543 million by 2019-20 on account of conducive policy framework in our country.

flavours, giving noodle lovers a host of new ways to consume this cult snack. The live kitchen has four types of noodles such as Classic Chop suey, Roasted and Pan Fried, seven customised sauces, which are Soy Garlic, Kung Pao, Masala Fusion, Hot Garlic, Pepper Soya, Spicy Teriyaki, Schezwan Chilli, eighteen vegetables, ten toppings and five add-ons to choose from. It is an aromatic experience as well as a visual treat to see each dish being prepared with fresh ingredients right in front of your eyes. The menu takes you through an Oriental journey with its Signature Selection for you



to binge on, such as Bang Bang, with spicy Schezwan Chilli sauce and Kung Pao Delight—served with pan fried noodles and piquant Kung pao sauce. Other highlights from the menu include flavourful fusions like the momosa, the Wai Wai Bhel, and the delectable zucchini masala fries. But that's not all. Staying close to their tagline of 'Keep Discovering', 'Make Your Own Dish' lets you create your own favourite noodle bowl just the way you like it.

Wai Wai City will be spread across the following formats—food courts, self-standing kiosks, standalone outlets, highway formats and an launch. Varun Chaudhary, Executive Director, CG Corp Global said, "Wai Wai City is an endeavour to bring the brand closer to its customers in a more tangible manner. We wanted to come up with something that evokes nostalgia in people, taking them back to their school and college days when Wai Wai noodles was their favourite snack. The biggest strength of Wai Wai is undoubtedly its taste, with this new format, we offer our fans a whole new world of taste and flavours. For us this is the beginning of an exciting pan India journey."

Govt holds workshop with states to fill gaps in MSP scheme for tribals

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25/- The government today held a workshop with the states to identify and fill the gaps due to which a scheme to help tribals get a fair price for 'minor forest produce' remained a non-starter in many states after its launch in 2014. The 'Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce' scheme was launched in nine states in 2014, has now been introduced in all the states. The MSP's form of market intervention by the government through which the price is fixed to protect tribals from the market, excessive fall in prices during bumper production years.

"This workshop is a step towards expanding the horizon of the scheme which is being implemented in nine states. Today it is expanded nationwide," said Union Tribal Minister Jai Oram. The scheme, which has been implemented properly due to the lack of participation from the state agencies, a senior ministry official said. "The aim is to recalibrate the programme by identifying the gaps and have a pan-India coverage to provide a fair and equitable deal to tribals in their trade," the official said. Oram further said that the MFP collection centres should also be depots of daily requirements to sell items of daily needs to the tribals. He said that after minerals, MFP could be the largest generation of revenue. He expressed his confidence on the use of social media and new technology to help the tribals sell their produce at best prices. On the occasion, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TCMDFI) and a tribal organisation under the tribal affairs ministry, also inked an MoU with e-commerce giant Amazon to expand the market for tribal handicrafts via the online retail space. (PTI)

SBI lowers min balance to Rs 3,000; exempts pensioners, minors

MUMBAI, SEPT 25/- Country's largest lender State Bank of India today lowered the minimum average monthly balance (MAB) requirement in a savings account to Rs 3,000 from Rs 5,000 and also revised downwards penalties for non-adherence.

The revised MAB requirement and charges will become applicable from October the bank said in a statement. The public sector lender also decided to exempt pensioners, beneficiaries of social benefits from government and minors from the requirement of minimum balance. In April, the bank had re-introduced MAB and charges for non-maintenance of balance after a gap of five years. In metropolitan areas the minimum balance requirement was Rs 5,000. For urban and semi-urban

branches, it was fixed at Rs 3,000 and Rs 2,000, respectively, and for rural branches it was Rs 1,000. "We have decided to treat the metro and urban centres in the same category and the requirement of MAB in metro centres stands reduced to Rs 3,000," the bank said.

Last week, managing director for national banking group, Rajnish Kumar, had said the lender was reviewing the average monthly balance requirement. The lender also revised downwards the penalty for non-maintenance of MAB. "For non-maintenance of MAB, the charges have also been revised downwards ranging from 20-50 per cent across all population groups and categories," the bank said. Now, the charges at semi-urban and rural centres range from Rs 20 to Rs 40 and at urban and metro

centres from Rs 30 to Rs 50, the bank said. Earlier, in the metros, the bank was charging Rs 100 plus GST if the balance fell below 75 per cent of the MAB of Rs 5,000. If the shortfall was 50 per cent or less, the penalty charge was Rs 50 plus GST.

Any shortfall in maintaining minimum average balance in rural areas was attracting a penalty in the range of Rs 20 to Rs 30 plus GST. The bank reiterated that basic savings bank deposit and PM'S Jan-Dhan accounts are not required to maintain the minimum balance. The lender has 42 crore savings bank accounts of which 13 crore are below to this category. "It has now been decided to exempt the pensioners, beneficiaries of social benefits from government and accounts of minors. The revision is likely to benefit another 5 crore account holders," the bank said. (PTI)



Indonesian Minister for Trade, Mr. Enggartiasto Lukita meeting the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, in New Delhi—PIB

Renault opens bookings for Captur

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI, SEPT 25/- Renault unveiled its globally successful premium SUV with crossover DNA - Renault Captur. Built on the global Renault Captur platform, Renault Captur has been designed and developed leveraging the production of CAPTUR and preparing for a festive season launch, with bookings open from September 22 on the Renault Captur App and Renault India website at an initial booking amount of Rs. 25,000. Over the last 5 years, Renault has taken significant steps to grow its presence in India, enabled by a progressive strategy across its corporate, product and network fronts. The launch of Renault Captur is a significant step in Renault's growth journey in India. Renault Captur exemplifies Renault's product strategy for India, which is to launch products

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that create a unique vehicle class, while ticking all the right boxes in terms of design, features, technology and value.

Speaking at the unveiling, Sumit Sawhney, Country CEO and Managing Director, Renault India Operations said, "Our growth strategy hinges strongly on launching products that cater to the volume and growing segments of the Indian automotive industry, representing evolving customer preferences. Over the last few years, SUV sales are growing exponentially, making it the fastest growing segment in India. Renault Captur is a globally successful premium SUV and is widely acclaimed for its stunning expressive design, premium & class-leading features and the high levels of personalization that can be achieved with this car. Renault Captur will further strengthen our position in the fast-growing SUV segment and will set new benchmarks with its global styling and unmatched road presence."

Speaking on the launch, Varun Chaudhary, Executive Director, CG Corp Global said, "Wai Wai City is an endeavour to bring the brand closer to its customers in a more tangible manner. We wanted to come up with something that evokes nostalgia in people, taking them back to their school and college days when Wai Wai noodles was their favourite snack. The biggest strength of Wai Wai is undoubtedly its taste, with this new format, we offer our fans a whole new world of taste and flavours. For us this is the beginning of an exciting pan India journey."

Balraj Joshi takes over as CMD, NHPC

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KOLKATA/SILIGURI, SEPT 25/- Balraj Joshi has taken over as Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited, hydropower utility and a Schedule 'A' Enterprise of Government of India recently. Prior to his appointment as CMD, he held the position of Director (Technical), NHPC, born on 21st December 1959. Shri Joshi holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Govt. Engineering College, Kharagpur, Maharashtra. He also holds PG qualification in Hydropower Development and Planning from the prestigious Norwegian Technical Institute, Trondheim, Norway under NORAD Scholarship. Shri Joshi joined NHPC in October 1982 as a Probationary Executive (Engg.) at Salal Project (J&K).

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During his distinguished career spanning over 35 years, Shri Joshi scaled new heights and contributed to NHPC'S development by serving many projects namely Salal, Dul Hasti, Kurichu Project (Bhutan), Teesta-V, Teesta Low Dam-III & IV, Parbati-III, Chutak, Chamara-III, Parbati-I etc. and rose to the position of Director (Technical) in April 2016. He has also been associated with NHPC'S Consultancy assignments for many projects as 1200 MW Tamara and 880 MW Shwezay in Myanmar, 720 MW Mangdechhu, Bhutan & Bakreswar Thermal Power Project of M's West Bengal Development Corporation etc. He has been instrumental in the development of generic document for developing Disaster Management Plan for Hydropower Stations which is being adopted by CEA at National level. He has also represented NHPC at International Council of Arbitration at 'The Hague' for Kishanganga Project and recently participated in Government level meetings at Washington DC on the issues of Indus Water Treaty. He has widely travelled number of countries namely Sweden, England, Norway, USA, China, Finland, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal & Pakistan on official visit for corporation's business and also with the Government delegations.



Wai Wai City launched in city

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