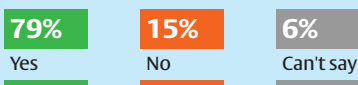


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Maharashtra curbs sale of tobacco

Mumbai, January 24
The Maharashtra government on Wednesday banned the sale of tobacco at merchant establishments selling FMCG items to prevent consumption by children. "Children tend to get influenced a lot by the presence of tobacco and other items while they are out shopping for food items like chocolates and chips," Pallavi Darade, Commissioner, Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said here. The FDA has also extended ban on 'scented supari' by six months till July 2018, she said.

PM to lay foundation of UP highway

Lucknow, January 24
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the 340-km Purvanchal Expressway in March to connect Lucknow with Ballia, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday. Adityanath said the project, costing ₹23,000 crore, was expected to be completed by 2020. The eight-lane expressway will be built on the lines of the 304-km Agra-Lucknow Expressway.

Fadnavis wants to make Mumbai global fintech hub

To announce State Maharashtra's fintech policy at showcase event on February 18

PRİYANKA PANI

Mumbai, January 24

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis plans to develop Mumbai as a global fintech hub. He made the announcement at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday.

Fadnavis will announce the State Fintech Policy 2018 at the inaugural session of 'Magnetic Maharashtra: Convergence 2018' on February 18.

A snapshot of the policy document was unveiled by the Chief Minister along with Maharashtra Fintech Committee member and MD of Yes Bank, Rana Kapoor, at WEF, according to a tweet by Yes Bank, today. According to sources, Rana Kapoor is the only private sector representative on the panel to draft the policy.

The Fintech Policy builds on the recently launched Start-up Policy and endeavours to lighten regulatory and administrative hurdles, augment infrastructure, create an enabling ecosystem and environment and also



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

build partnerships with global hubs.

Amit Shah, Head of Strategy at Yes Bank had told *BusinessLine* in a recent interview that the bank's endeavour is to support the creation of a comprehensive support ecosystem – a fintech hub in Mumbai that will help in the creation of future skills, technology and jobs and bring the future into the present.

The bank had conducted a survey and presented its findings to the policymakers to take forward the ongoing dialogues among the government, the regulators and corporates, he had mentioned.

The country's fintech seg-

ment, according to a McKinsey report, is expected to create 21 million jobs and boost GDP by \$700 billion by 2025.

With the fintech hub in place, the target, over a period of five years, is to scale and nurture over 5,000 fintechs across India, while creating over 2.5 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities and bringing in ₹5,000 crores of investment into the sector.

The Maharashtra government will also create innovation labs in Nashik, Nagpur and other key locations and centers of excellence in collaboration with industry and academia to provide support to the start-ups.

Start-ups combine serious work with exotic vacation to woo whiz kids

VIRENDRA PANDIT

Ahmedabad, January 24

Looking for a job that merges work and vacation? Until last year, start-ups were wonderful workplaces with free or subsidised food and drinks for the employees.

The New Age firms are offering the millennials joining them exotic vacations in Goa and Kodaikanal.

Workcation

"The trend was set in the Silicon Valley and is an evolution of the work-from-home concept," Shubh Bansal, Co-founder and Marketing Head, Truebil, used car marketplace, said.

"We introduced the 'workcation' concept eight months ago for those staffers whose physical presence is not required at a location. So 13 out of 30 employees were chosen for 45 days of work-cum-vacation a year.

"The beneficiaries can go to a place of their choice, which has good connectivity, in India. They are required to report to their supervisor every day," he said.

There is a catch, however. The beneficiary is paid 80 per cent

of his/her salary while the company deducts 20 per cent for "low productivity."

HappyLoans, which offers small loans to individuals and firms, introduced workcation on the New Year Day.

"It envisages a 10-day paid leave to the employee to enable him/her to work from home or elsewhere. The leave they enjoy is over and above their normal leave. They foot all the other bills and can spend time with their family and friends while working from the comfort of their homes or a place of their choice," said Manish Khera, Founder-CEO.

It works

He said those who opted for it have achieved their targets and delivered results on time. The staffers are allowed to choose vacation any time of the year.

YourQuote, an App for writers and a content-generation platform, has a workcation policy which sponsors its technical team members' trips to Goa or Kodaikanal from where they can work. "They can go on workcation once in three months," said Harsh Snehanshu, CEO.

Green tribunal fiat to MoEF on thermal power plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, January 24

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) not to grant clearance to any new thermal power plant till they comply with the standards set by it, after a plea alleged that many of them were flouting norms and causing pollution.

A bench headed by acting Chairperson Justice UD Salvi said the failure of the thermal power plants to adopt techniques to reduce emissions would affect the environmental scenario.

"We direct the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities not to grant environmental clearance to any new thermal power plant unless they show that every mechanism/technique to achieve the standards set out in the notification dated December 7, 2015 is in place/adopted," the bench said.

Counsel Divya Prakash Pandey, appearing for the MoEF, told the bench that the ministry was aware of the situation and a plea seeking extension of time for implementing the MoEF's notification was pending in the Supreme Court.

-Advertisers' Feature

LIGHTING UP LIVES, THE LED WAY

The energy conservation week is observed from 15th January, to 31st January every year. The initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of introducing LED bulbs has been the highest contributor in the energy conservation saga of India. The scheme was launched in 2015. At that time the Prime Minister said, "It is much more difficult to conserve power, than to produce power, because while one producing entity can produce a large quantity of power, it requires the active participation of crores of people to conserve that amount of power. Therefore, he called for generating awareness among people for the same."

As per the latest information, under the government's energy efficiency programme, 28 crores LED bulbs were distributed in the country which resulted in a saving of Rs 14,000 crore for the consumers. Due to the efforts of the government, LED bulb prices which were hovering over Rs 350 earlier, were reduced to ensure affordability of these less energy-consuming units. LED lights can reduce tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year and save billion units of electricity per annum.

GEDA, one of the premier organizations and a forerunner in India has been working in the field of renewable energy development and energy conservation.

Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) which fosters the development of sustainable and equitable energy systems suitable for our developing economy. GEDA has played a pioneering role in the development of a long-term renewable policy and implementing of sustainable energy programmes across the state and it works for Initiation of change from energy deprivation and dependence to energy autonomy through use of renewable technologies and energy conservation measures. GEDA is shouldering the responsibility of a state nodal agency (SNA) for the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources (MoNRE) and the state designated agency (SDA) for Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is an Indian government organization created in 2002 responsible for promoting energy efficiency and conservation. With the primary objective to reduce energy intensity of the Indian economy, it helps in developing policies and strategies in order to reduce energy use.

GEDA has taken up a village demonstration project in which it has endeavoured to change from the traditional lighting systems to LEDs. GEDA has been instrumental in replacing 7000 street light fixtures from 40W to 18W energy efficient LEDs in about 60 villages. This initiative has saved 875 tonnes of carbon emission. The electricity saving, by replacement of 40W fluorescent tube light with 18W LED Street Light fixtures is about 125 units per street light per annum resulting in electricity savings of 8,75,000 units per annum.

These LED fixtures have gone through performance testing. In this special initiative by GEDA, experts from the NABL lab fixed the specifications for the LED street lights. These lights conform to all the specifications. The project is indeed being done with a lot of care.

GEDA has also taken up a mammoth task to replace 2.5 lakh indoor tubelights and fans to

LED and energy efficient fans across Gujarat's primary government schools. In the first phase 45,000 indoor tubelights and 10000 nos of fans have been replaced by LED Tube lights and with energy efficient star rated fans. Earlier, the traditional tubelights were of 40 watts, consuming high energy to the tune of 54 W alongwith the choke, while the replaced LEDs are of 20 watts and consume much less energy. By replacing these tube lights and fans around 55 lakhs units of electricity will be saved per annum resulting into reduction of 5500 tonnes of carbon emission. In the first phase of this project, in 2017-18, 5 tribal districts have been covered. GEDA plans to change the rest of the indoor tubelights and fans in the coming years.

LED lights have a very large potential of growth as it can be used for all sectors. Energy conservation should be rooted in the behaviour of every human being to move towards creating Green Nation.

GERMI:

GERMI's vision and core competency is to further the cause of energy conservation and efficiency throughout the country. Being an autonomous body under Government of Gujarat and a recognized 'Scientific and Industrial Research Organization' by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Govt. of India. GERMI has won many awards including the Earth Care Award that celebrates organizations that have shown excellent capabilities in climate change mitigation and adaptation. GERMI has been actively involved with the Govt. of Gujarat's renewable energy initiatives. GERMI has been an integral part of pioneering show-case projects in the solar sector namely; Asia's largest Solar Park in Gujarat (now replicated all over India), World's first canal-top solar project and its replication (for which GERMI received the Prime Minister's Award, now replicated all over India), 5 MW Gandhinagar Rooftop Solar Programme (top-10 PPP of Asia-Pacific by Infrastructure Journal, Earth Care Award, replicated in various cities of India),

Formulating and drafting of several policy and regulations for the state government, undertaken 1000+ MW of solar PV power projects through extensive project management consultancy (PMC) for megawatt-scale ground-mounted PV projects and solar park projects, canal top projects etc. for government and private organizations alike

Through its Advisory and Consulting services, GERMI advises governments and private institutions and other companies to adopt energy efficient practices through policies and regulations that align with the state level and national level goals of the country. GERMI's R&D group's vision is to work as an industry oriented and sponsored research center. The group has undertaken futuristic projects and developed low cost composite structures for canal-top and floating solar power plants, automatic robotic cleaning for solar plants, software for solar and wind energy forecasting, solar powered air-conditioning for malls, smart pressure cooker, solar powered crematorium and cold storages for villages, MSW and ETP solutions for industry etc. The group has developed light weight and more efficient materials with better durability, multifold conversion efficiency or LEDs, solar cells, batteries, industrial filtration, energy transmission

and conversion devices. The technologies are ready to demonstrate and license to industries.

GERMI Training & Development Centre has developed a world class training curriculum in terms of knowledge base, training structure and has equally good infrastructure facilities. GERMI has received recognition as a Centre of Excellence from Skill Council for Green Jobs, an initiative of the GoI. GERMI is

currently amongst one of the best training imparters in the energy domain. GERMI has been awarded the Best Solar Training Centre' across India by SCGJ, GoI in December 2017 at Intersolar. GERMI has trained 1200+ individuals and has conducted 37 training programs. GERMI is one of the leading energy management organizations providing strategic solutions and catering to the needs of the industry and the community at large.

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Why LED lights:

- * Less energy consumption, saving more than 50% of electricity
- * Longer lifespan than other lighting solutions
- * Recyclable & Free of Mercury
- * Eco friendly as less production of CO2 than other lighting solutions
- * Less Maintenance.

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