

## INBRIEF



## ZEE shareholders approve appointment of 3 directors

Zee Entertainment Enterprises' shareholders have approved the appointment of three independent directors to the company's board. Special resolutions for approval of the appointment of Uttam Prakash Agarwal, Shishir Babubhai Desai and Venkata Ramana Murthy Piniseti were passed with majority by shareholders through postal ballot. All three special resolutions received more than 75% of the total number of valid votes. PTI

## IDBI Capital settles case with SEBI on payment of ₹13 lakh

IDBI Capital Markets & Securities has paid settlement charges of ₹13 lakh to SEBI in a case related to violation of stock broker regulations. The order came after the applicant proposed to settle the instant proceedings without "admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusions" of law. SEBI conducted a probe into the trading activities of Kajal Ilesh Savla and observed that trades were being front-run and were placed through IDBI Capital Markets & Securities. PTI

## Real estate sector may touch \$1.3 trillion by 2034: CREDAI

The real estate sector is estimated to reach a market size of \$1.3 trillion by 2034 and \$5.17 trillion by 2047, according to a report by realtors body CREDAI. The current market size of Indian real estate is ₹24 lakh crore (\$300 billion), split between residential and commercial segments in the ratio of 80% and 20%, respectively, CREDAI said in a statement on Saturday, releasing a report 'Building Viksit Bharat-Transformative role of the real estate sector in India.' PTI

## French envoy seeks Steel Ministry help to resolve 14-year Air Liquide-RINL row

Abhishek Law  
NEW DELHI

The French Ambassador to India Thierry Mathou has written to Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, seeking to resolve a nearly 14-year dispute between the Indian arm of a French industrial gas company, Air Liquide India Holdings, and CPSU Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL).

The dispute pertains to a 2010 contract that the CPSU entered with Air Liquide for the "supply of oxygen, nitrogen gases, and liquid primarily for captive consumption" of RINL.

Air Liquide's letter to the French Embassy in January viewed by business-



line, claimed it had installed the cryogenic air-separation unit to meet the need for industrial gases required for metal production through blast furnaces. But it was not commissioned due to a failure to resolve differences. Since the contract was terminated in 2014, it was ultimately referred to an arbitration tribunal.

The French company claimed it continued carrying out the Tribunal's directions, which included performance tests, health checks on all equipment, and refurbishing them. COVID and the delayed commissioning of the third blast furnace delayed operationalising the air-separation unit.

Alternatively, Air Liquide has offered a "mutual settlement" proposal which, according to an official of the Steel Ministry, is yet to be accepted by the RINL board. The settlement talks of takeover terms to enable revival of the third blast furnace.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

## 'Indian patent office granted 1 lakh patents in past year'

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

The Indian patent office has granted more than 1 lakh patents in the past year on account of the steps taken by the government to further strengthen the intellectual property rights ecosystem, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Saturday.

There had been a notable surge in Geographical Indication (GI) registrations, demonstrating a threefold increase compared with the previous year, the Ministry said in a statement. As on date, 573 GIs are registered in India.

In 2023-24, 98 new GIs have been registered and another 62 will be registered by March 31.

## Omron pivots from hypertension focus to detection of Atrial Fibrillation

Lalendu Mishra  
MUMBAI

Japanese company Omron Healthcare, which specialises in solutions for hypertension management is now foraying into detection of Atrial Fibrillation (AFib), which is a major risk factor for strokes.

"Hypertension is a future risk factor for stroke, but it's not acute, it is a chronic disease," Omron Healthcare India MD Tetsuya Yamada said in an interview. "Clinical studies suggest more than 220 million people in India suffer from hypertension," he noted, adding that hypertension elevates AFib risk



Tetsuya Yamada

by threefold, which in turn significantly raises the risk of stroke by fivefold.

Mr. Yamada said this revelation propelled the company's transition from hypertension management to AFib detection, recognising the urgent need to address AFib's impact on stroke risk.

To address this, Omron was foraying into home ECG monitoring in collaboration with AlivCor, a U.S. based company which develops medical devices.

These devices can detect AFib, normal heart rhythm, tachycardia, and bradycardia – they mean the heart rate is either faster or slower than the regular heart rate, respectively.

Besides this, the company is collaborating with Tricog, a Bengaluru-based entity in remote cardiac diagnosis providing AI based ECG interpretation services, to expand access to ECG readings at home, which could help doctors and nurses make informed

and quicker decisions.

Despite technological advancements, many Indian are unaware of AFib, and the shortage of cardiologists impedes timely diagnosis and treatment, the company said.

Omron is planning further innovation in ECG technology and expansion into under-served regions to make cardiovascular health monitoring accessible to all.

With a three-pronged approach on geographical expansion, product diversification, and technological innovation, the company aims to make its monitoring solutions affordable and accessible to all.

## MeiTY drops 'permission' rule for AI models

Ministry replaces March 1 advisory that had come under fire for requiring Artificial Intelligence firms to seek permission from govt. in order to avoid legal liability from chatbot responses, other generative AI content; policy expert Kumar says episode highlights the need for procedural safeguards

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) has withdrawn a contentious 'advisory' that had required Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies to obtain government permission to make their products available to users online in India. A revised advisory withdrawing the original March 1 missive, also withdrew the requirement of an action taken report from tech firms that was due on Friday. The advisory had drawn sharp

criticism from tech firms.

Apar Gupta, who wrote in an article for *The Hindu* on March 15 that the earlier advisory "demand[ed] vague censorship without citing any legal authority", said that its replacement remained problematically along the same lines, minus the requirement to get government approval on AI models online. "There is no legal power for MeiTY to issue advisories," Mr. Gupta stressed. "There is a continued use of an illegal administrative practice" by the Ministry, he added.

Both advisories warn AI firms against "bias or dis-



**Tough line:** Minister of State Chandrasekhar had earlier taken issue with Google's AI chatbot Gemini's response to a query. PTI

crimination or threaten[ing] the integrity of the electoral process". With the advisory's withdrawal,

"momentary accountability has emerged due to the interests of diverse private sector interests" from large

tech firms to Indian ones, Mr. Gupta remarked.

**Google Gemini's reply**  
The initial advisory appeared shortly after Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar took issue with the response of Google's Gemini chatbot to the query, "Is [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi a fascist?" Screenshots of Gemini's response had gone viral on social media. After resistance to the advisory emerged, Mr. Chandrasekhar said that it would not apply to start-ups, though the advisory

did not make that clear.

Rohit Kumar, founder of The Quantum Hub, a policy think tank that has worked with large Artificial Intelligence start-ups, welcomed the reversal.

The March 1 advisory "would have severely reduced speed to market and dented the innovation ecosystem," Mr. Kumar said. "While the revision is definitely a positive step, the whole episode highlights the need for procedural safeguards – to avoid quick reactions to incidents and instead adopt a more consultative approach to policymaking."

## DGCA reaffirms June 1 date for new pilot duty norms, rejects airlines' request for more time

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has turned down a request from airlines seeking to postpone the implementation of new norms on pilot duty hours, which would provide for more rest. The norms would come into force from June 1, the DGCA reiterated, pointing to recent pilot deaths as the reason for urgency.

Underlining the importance of addressing fatigue among flight crew, the DGCA wrote to the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) on March 14, saying that



**Pilot safety:** DGCA says recent pilot deaths due to punishing roster schedules 'is an urgent wake-up call to address the issue'. REUTERS

"the unfortunate instances of pilot deaths in the recent past, ostensibly due to punishing roster schedules and consequent cumula-

tive attendant impact on flight crew health and well-being, is an urgent wake-up call to address the issue without further delay."

The regulator reiterated that the airlines must take all necessary steps to implement the revised rules from June 1, and also submit their internal company schemes conforming to the new norms by April 15.

## More pilots needed

The FIA, which represents IndiGo, Air India, and SpiceJet, had earlier written to the DGCA, warning that implementing the new norms from June 1 "will have immediate and significant impact on businesses and customers alike" as airlines will require 15-25% more pilots.

In its January 8 notifica-

tion, the DGCA had revised pilot duty hours to provide for more rest time and to restrict night flying. Pilots claim that night flying disturbs their circadian rhythms and alertness levels and contributes to mounting levels of fatigue.

The DGCA expanded the definition of night duty, earlier counted from midnight to 5 a.m., by raising the ceiling to 6 a.m.

It also restricted the maximum number of landings a pilot could carry out during the night hours to two, from the earlier six, and reduced flight time during night duty shifts from 10 hours to eight.

## 'Google misquoted exchange rate a second time'

Reuters  
KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia's central bank said on Saturday that Google had misquoted the ringgit's exchange rate, undervaluing the currency against the dollar, and that it would seek an explanation from the tech giant.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said in a statement that Alphabet Inc.'s Google published "inaccurate" information on Friday and had also done so on Feb. 6.

Google was not immediately available for comment outside of U.S. business hours.



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