

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The government has tightened norms for endorsers, including celebrities and sportspersons, as they are now required to make material connection disclosures and undertake due diligence while doing advertisements. According to new guidelines released by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, endorsements must reflect the honest opinions, belief or experience of the endorsers. The endorsers have to make material connection disclosures and failing to do so will attract penalty under the Consumer Protection Act (CPA). Material disclosures mean any relationship that materially affects the weight or credibility of any endorsement which a reasonable consumer would not expect.

Senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill has been appointed by United Nations Secretary General as his Envoy on Technology. Mr. Gill, who was India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 2016 to 2018, is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (IDAIR) project, based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

The James Webb Space Telescope has been hit by a micrometeoroid. NASA says the strike to one of the telescope's primary mirror segments will not affect its performance. The space telescope was engineered to withstand micrometeoroid impacts, although the micrometeoroid strike was larger than scientists had modelled.

Surgery performed on the nose is called rhinoplasty. In the modern era, it is popularly called a 'nose job' and is often associated with vanity — the cosmetic improvement of "facial symmetry". Functional improvements to the airways is also a good reason for surgery, or less frequent causes such as birth defects (cleft palate) falls, cancers, etc. India ranks fourth in the world in rhinoplasties performed annually.

Researchers at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine think they've found that a neural circuit involving spinal neurons and a signalling pathway are

RAMSAY HUNT SYNDROME

1. A famous Canadian pop singer is suffering from 'Ramsay Hunt Syndrome'. Ramsay Hunt Syndrome (herpes zoster oticus) is a rare neurological disorder which usually leads to paralysis of the facial nerve and a rash that generally affects the ear or mouth or face. Causes - The condition is caused when the varicella zoster virus infects a nerve in the head.

2. It is the same virus that causes chickenpox in children and shingles in adults. Generally with chickenpox, the virus continues to live in your nerves. Years later, it may reactivate and affect your facial nerves, resulting in Ramsay Hunt Syndrome.

3. The illness can occur in anyone who has had chickenpox, and is most common in older adults, particularly people over 60.

4. Symptoms - Two main symptoms of Ramsay Hunt syndrome are, A painful red shingles rash with fluid-filled blisters on, in and around one ear, and Facial weakness or paralysis on the same side as the affected ear. Ear pain, hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), dry mouth and eyes, difficulty closing one eye, and vertigo (sensation of things spinning) are the common symptoms.

5. In more serious cases, the syndrome can also cause facial paralysis and hearing loss. Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is not contagious, but reactivation of the virus can cause a bout of chickenpox in people who haven't previously had the illness or been vaccinated for it. Treatment - The illness almost always goes away, except in rare instances.

6. People suffering from Ramsay Hunt are generally prescribed anti-viral medication (such as acyclovir or valacyclovir) and in more serious cases, steroids (such as prednisone). Connection - Some studies have suggested that there may be links between the Covid-19 vaccine and the Ramsay Hunt Syndrome. Only about 5 to 10 out of every 100,000 people will develop Ramsay Hunt Syndrome each year.

SANT TUKARAM SHILA TEMPLE

1. Prime Minister will inaugurate the Sant Tukaram Shila Mandir in the temple town of Dehu in Pune district. The Shila Mandir is a temple dedicated to a slab of stone (shila) on which Bhakti saint Tukaram had meditated for 13 days, when the authenticity of the Abhyangs he had written was challenged.

2. Prior to this, he had immersed his entire work in the Indrayani River; the work miraculously reappeared after 13 days, proving their authenticity. The very rock where Sant Tukaram Maharaj sat for 13 days is pious and a place of pilgrimage for the Warkari sect.

3. The Shila is currently on the Dehu Sansthan temple premises, and that for centuries has been the starting point of Wari, the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur. The Sansthan decided to replace the silver cast covering with an image of Sant Tukaram Maharaj on the Shila, with a temple housing both.

4. Warkari Sect Sant Tukaram and his work are central to the Warkari sect spread across Maharashtra. His message about a casteless society and his denial of rituals had led to a social movement. Sant Tukaram is credited with starting the Wari pilgrimage.

5. During the Wari, devotees congregate in the temple towns of Dehu and Alandi to accompany the padukas of Sant Tukaram and Sant Dyaneshwar respectively as they start for Pandharpur. Participants finish their sowing before they set off. The pilgrims reach Pandharpur on the day of Ekadashi.

VALE DO JAVARI

1. British journalist went missing from Vale do Javari in Brazil. Vale do Javari is the western section of the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. It is named after the Javari River, which forms the country's border with Peru. The region is home to the greatest concentration of isolated tribal groups in the Amazon and the world.

2. The area is home to 14 indigenous tribes with nearly 6,000

responsible for how burning pain is sensed. They believe their discovery (Neuron), could lead to more effective treatment for chronic, pathological pain — such as shooting, stabbing and burning pain — because it may involve the same signalling pathway. The neurons encoding the heat signals in the spinal cord were unclear. The study identified a group of interneurons in the spinal cord required for heat sensation.

Scientists have found microplastics — plastic pieces smaller than a grain of rice — in freshly fallen Antarctic snow for the first time, which they said has the potential to influence the climate by accelerating melting of ice. The findings, published recently in *The Cryosphere* journal, brought to light a serious threat to the Antarctic region.

The Indian pharma packaging industry has been urged to come up with effective solutions towards child safety and elder friendly packaging of pharmaceutical products to safeguard their interest and to aid the growth of the pharma industry. “Pharma packaging is one of the important stakeholders of pharma industry.

The number of income tax returns had increased in FY22 over the previous fiscal, Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman Sangeeta Singh said on Saturday. Ms. Singh said the number of IT returns last fiscal was 7.14 crore against 6.9 crore in the preceding financial year. “There is an increase in the base of taxpayers and the filing of revised returns,” she added. The Board is witnessing an increase in tax collection, which usually happens if the country is showing an upward trend in economic growth, the chairman said, adding “if the economic activities are going high, purchases and sales will also increase”.

A newly described species of giraffoid that lived millions of years ago suggests how the giraffe might have got its long neck. Discovery of *xiezhi* had a thick headpiece optimised for head-bashing fights. Its discovery adds weight to the theory that giraffes evolved longer necks for sexual competition.

An app that turns research ethics into a thought-provoking game aims to get scientists talking about issues they might previously have had to grapple with alone. The *Dilemma Game* presents a thorny scenario and asks players to choose from four solutions during the game, with new

inhabitants, who are known to reject contact with the outside world. The communities living in the Vale do Javari have been granted exclusive territorial rights in Brazil’s 1988 constitution and then in 2001 under the demarcation of indigenous territory.

3.Threats - Among the main threats to the well-being of these groups are illegal fishing, hunting, logging, mining, cattle ranching, missionary actions and drug trafficking. The area has been witnessing increasing illegal gold prospecting and poaching.

4.Vale do Javari forms part of an international cocaine trafficking route, with gold being exchanged for drugs and arms, consequently making it a hotspot for violent crimes.

PFMS(PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

1.The Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Dashboard of PFMS (Public Financial Management System) was recently launched by the Union Ministry of Finance. What is SNA Dashboard? It is a major reform initiated in 2021 with regards to the manner in which funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are released, disbursed and monitored. Under this system, each state is required to identify and designate an SNA for every scheme. All funds for that State in a particular scheme are now credited in this bank account and all expenses by all other Implementing Agencies involved are affected from this account.

2.Significance of SNA Model: Ensures timely allocation of funds. Brought in greater efficiency in CSS fund utilization. Tracking of funds has become easier.

3.About PFMS: It was previously known as Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System (CPSMS). It is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance. Objective: To facilitate a sound Public Financial Management System for the Government of India (GoI) by establishing an efficient fund flow system as well as a payment cum accounting network. Coverage: At present, the ambit of PFMS coverage includes Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as other expenditures including the Finance Commission Grants.

COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT(CAQM)

1.The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has issued directions to ban the use of coal in industrial, domestic and other miscellaneous applications in the entire Delhi-NCR region from 1st January 2023. Need for: This step is taken to bring down greenhouse gas emissions in Delhi NCR. Delhi is among the world’s most polluted capital cities. It will help save 1.7 million tonnes of coal annually. It will also help reduce pollutants including particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxide (NOx), CO₂ and CO.

2.About the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM): The Commission was first formed by an ordinance in October 2020. The erstwhile Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, or EPCA had been dissolved to make way for the Commission. The Commission will be a statutory authority. The Commission will supersede bodies such as the central and state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan. In 2021, the Parliament approved the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill.

3.Composition: Chairperson: To be chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary. The chairperson will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years. It will have members from several Ministries as well as representatives from the stakeholder States. It will have experts from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Civil Society.

4.Powers and functions: It will have the powers to issue directions to these state governments on issues pertaining to air pollution. It will entertain complaints as it deems necessary for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the NCR and adjoining areas. It will also lay down parameters for control of air pollution. It will also be in charge of identifying violators, monitoring factories and industries and any other polluting unit in the region, and will have the powers to shut down such units. It will also have the

questions added each month.

Researchers are starting to piece together why the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption in the South Pacific on January 15 was so explosive. Evidence gathered by two groups suggests that when the Tongan volcano's centre collapsed, it spewed an enormous amount of magma that reacted violently with water.

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and Iran's hardline president signed a 20year cooperation agreement on Saturday, a day after Mr. Maduro praised the Islamic Republic for sending badly needed fuel to his nation despite U.S. sanctions.

powers to overrule directives issued by the state governments in the region, that may be in violation of pollution norms.