

POLICY CHANGES make India attractive investment destination: WEF official



NEW DELHI, Mar 24 (PTI)

A COMBINATION of policy changes such as bankruptcy law

and taxation code and the enabling environment created by the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has made India an attractive investment destination for the financial technology sector, a senior World Economic Forum (WEF) official said.

In a video interview with PTI, Matthew Blake, Head of the Centre for Financial and Monetary Systems at the WEF said India has been one of the best-performing markets in the world and investors have made money here.

Blake also struck a word of caution saying that since markets do not move in a purely linear fashion and were prone to “ups and downs”, there was a need to educate investors. “So this idea of being an informed investor, a diversified investor, and having access to educational resources to do that is really fundamental artificial intelligence (AI),” he said. “I think a combination of different policy choices that have been made make India quite an attractive investment destination. In addition to the digital public infrastructure that creates an enabling environment from a technological standpoint, you also have changes in the bankruptcy law and taxation code adding clarity,” he said.

UCC to be implemented in U'khand soon: Dhami

DEHRADUN, Mar 24 (ANI)

CHIEF Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that a committee has been formed to examine all aspects of the Uniform Civil Code, and it will be implemented at the earliest in the State.

Speaking to ANI, more than a week after President Droupadi Murmu approved the bill, CM Dhama said, "We had promised the Uniform Civil Code to the people of Uttarakhand. When we went to the people during the 2022 election, we promised that we would implement the UCC soon after the new government was formed. We



have kept that promise."

"The President has also given her assent. The process is underway. A committee has also been formed at the departmental level. It is examining all aspects. We will implement it at the earliest," CM Dhama said.

"All the difficulties or challenges are going to come to an end," he said.

CM Dhama said that they have enacted the law for the "convenience of everyone."

"It is a good law for everyone. It is about women's empowerment; for elders, it is about their security; care has been taken for the future of the children," he said.

189TH RAISING DAY **Assam Rifles committed to modernise equipment profile: Director General**



Assam Rifles DG Lt General Pradeep Chandran Nair poses for a group photo on the occasion of Raising Day of Assam Rifles in Shillong. (PTI)

SHILLONG, Mar 24 (PTI)

ASSAM Rifles Director General Lt General Pradeep Chandran Nair on Sunday asserted that the force is committed to modernise its equipment profile and upskill manpower.

Nair also lauded the Assam Rifles personnel for their contribution in counter-insurgency operations in the region and in Kashmir.

The force remains committed to modernise its equipment profile in terms of acquisition of state-of-the-art weapons, surveillance and protective equipment," he said here during an address on the 189th Raising Day of the Assam Rifles.

Nair said the Assam Rifles is making efforts to safeguard its networks from cyber intrusions, and has also signed an MoU with universities to upskill manpower and accredit the academic and training programmes.

"The force continued to prove its mettle during 2023-24. During the past year, three battalions received the 'Chief of the Army Staff Unit Citation' and five battalions received the 'General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Unit Citation,'" he said.

The Assam Rifles has contributed immensely in bringing peace in the northeast states, the DG said.

It was originally formed as 'Cachar Levy', established by the British in 1835 as a police force to protect settlements against tribal raids.

EARTH HOUR: Public places, prominent sites go DARK

NEW DELHI, Mar 24 (ANI)

LIGHTS at public places and prominent sites in various cities of India, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad, were turned off between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm on Saturday as part of the global 'Earth Hour' event.

The annual event is observed to raise awareness about energy conservation.

Lights at India Gate and also the famous Akshardham temple in the National Capital were turned off in support of nature and the planet on Saturday between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm.

According to power distribution company BSES, 206 MW of electricity was saved on account of the Earth Hour in Delhi as a whole.

Last year, Delhi saved 279 MW of electricity during this hour, as per BSES data.

Similarly, visuals from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus showed



Combo image shows lights of the India Gate before (Left) and during the Earth Hour in New Delhi on Saturday. (PTI)

lights being switched off for an hour to mark Earth Hour.

In Kolkata, too, the lights of the iconic Howrah Bridge were turned off to mark the annual event observed globally to promote awareness about climate change.

As part of observing Earth Hour, the lights of the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat will be switched off. Candles were lit in the shape of the number '60' symbolising 60 minutes of an hour

at the state secretariat during this time.

Raj Bhawan in Hyderabad also joined the nationwide Earth Hour initiative by turning off all lights in its iconic premises, staff colony, officer's quarters, and administrative building for one hour.

In Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) also observed Earth Hour at the Napier Museum by lighting candles in the shape of the

number '60' symbolising 60 minutes of an hour.

The lights at the Assam Legislative Assembly in Guwahati were also turned off to conserve energy, marking Earth Hour. On the occasion, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma switched off the lights in his office.

Through Earth Hour, WWF encourages people worldwide to turn their lights off for 60 minutes to raise awareness about environmental issues.

HOLI | Rajnath Singh celebrates with soldiers in Leh

FERVOUR | Calls Ladakh India's 'CAPITAL OF BRAVERY'

LEH, Mar 24 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday celebrated Holi with Army jawans in Leh and lauded them for protecting the country from enemies while braving extreme weather conditions. Singh was earlier supposed to celebrate Holi with soldiers in Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, but his visit was cancelled due to inclement weather. The minister was accompanied by Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande and General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps, Lt Gen Rashim Bali.

The Defence Minister applied tilak with 'gulaal' on soldiers' foreheads. He



also laid a wreath at the War Memorial here to pay tributes to soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing the soldiers after celebrating the festival of colours, Singh said Ladakh is the national capital of courage and bravery. "Like we have the national capital in Delhi, the economic capital in Mumbai, and the technological capital in Bengaluru, Ladakh is India's capital of courage and bravery."

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◀ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande celebrate Holi festival with Armed Forces personnel, in Leh on Sunday. (PTI)