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2024

Road To 2024: Modi magic intact, Rahul's ratings improve, economic concerns

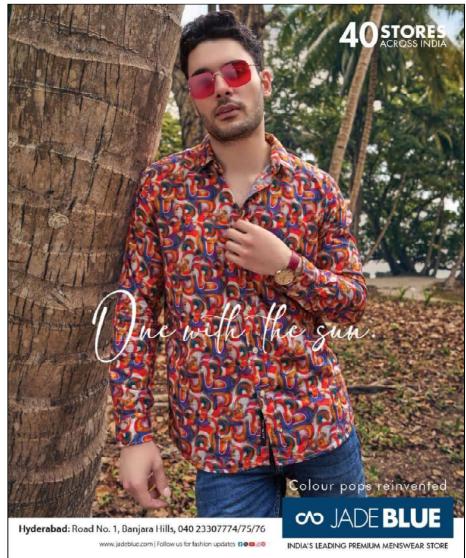
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed nine years in office this month. With one year to go for general elections 2024, discussions on whether he still enjoys the confidence of the voters have begun. Is anti-incumbency, which is natural to develop for such a long tenure in government, creeping in?

The debate has gathered momentum especially after the Karnataka elections, where Modi despite carrying the BJP's campaign on his shoulders was not able to save the party from a disastrous defeat. The opposition jumping the gun has claimed that the results are an indication of waning popularity of Modi.

Modi By A Distance

CSDS has conducted a detailed poll on nine years of Modi. 43 percent respondents said they wanted to see Modi as their PM if elections were to be held today. This is a marginal drop of 1 percent compared to the 2019 elections. He enjoys a lead of 16 percent versus Rahul Gandhi, who has improved his position from 23 percent to 27 percent.

In increasingly presidential style elections for Lok Sabha, popularity ratings are very important as they approximately represent the vote share/support enjoyed by parties.





Appointments

- · Vivek Kumar Singh (CWES: 2012) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Delhi for a period of four years.
- · Reena Ashis Dash (IRS C&CE: 2009) was appointed as Director in the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Delhi for a period of five years.
- · Additional charge of CVO, Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd (BRCIL), Kolkata was extended to Chandrani Gupta (IES: 2007), CVO, The Braithwaite, Burn & Jessop Construction Company Ltd (BBJ), Kolkata, for a period up to 15.12.2024.
- Usha Venugopal (IRAS: 1987), Principal ED (Revenue), Railway Board, was appointed as Additional Member (Finance), Railway Board.
- · Aparna Garg (IRAS: 1987) was appointed as Director General, Indian Railways Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM), Secunderabad.
- Dr N K Srivastava (IRAS: 1988), Principal Finance Advisor, North Central Railway (NCR), was appointed as Additional Member (Revenue), Railway Board.
- · Sita Ram Meena (YOA: 2008), presently Director in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Niger.
- · Usha Venugopal (IRAS: 1987) was appointed as Additional Member (Finance), Railway Board.
- · Aparna Garg (IRAS: 1987) was appointed as Director General, Indian Railways Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM), Secunderabad.
- · Dr N K Srivastava (IRAS: 1988) was appointed as Additional Member (Revenue), Railway Board.
- Vikash Kumar (IA&AS: 2012) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Delhi for a period of four years.
- Dinkar Asthana (IFS: 1990), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Senegal, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of The Gambia.
- Tenure of Sagar Mehra, CSS, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries was extended for a period of two years beyond 10.03.2024.
- · Shahnawaz Alam (IP&TA&FS: 1994), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, was prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre.
- $\,\cdot\,$ S Suresh (IPS: 1995: KL) was appointed as ADG in SPG by temporarily upgrading one post of IG to ADG level.
- · Unmesh Sharad Wagh (IRS C&CE: 2000), Deputy Chairperson, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, was entrusted with additional charge of the post of Chairperson (JS level), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority for a period of six months w.e.f. 03.01.2024.
- · Tenure of Pankaj Naresh Agrawal (IOFS: 2007), Director in the National Medical Commission, was curtailed under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- · Maneesh Kumar (IFoS: 2011: MH) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Mines for a tenure up to 13.01.2027.
- Tenure of Rakesh Kumar, Bihar Administrative Service, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh was curtailed.
- · Pradeep Singh Kharola, Chairman & Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organization, was entrusted with additional charge Chairman, Staff Selection Commission with effect from 01.05.2024 till the appointment of regular incumbent.
- · Rachna Tanwar (IRS C&CE: 2009) was appointed as Director in the DMEO, NITI Aayog, Delhi for a period of five years.
- Rajeev Ranjan Kumar (IDAS: 2009) was appointed as Director in the Ministry of Textiles, Delhi for a period of five years.
- · Jitender Singh (IES: 2008) was appointed as Director in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Delhi for a period of five years.
- · Sameer Pandey (IRS C&CE:2010) was redesignated as Joint Commissioner (Director level), NVS in the Department of School Education & Literacy for a period up to 05.11.2025 i.e total tenure of five years. He counts his central deputation tenure w.e.f. 06.11.2020.
- $\,\cdot\,$ L Prashant Pise (IFS: 1995) was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Slovenia.
- Nikhil Saraswat (IRS IT: 2014) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Delhi for a period of four years.
- Syed Zubair Husain Naqvi (IES: 2011) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Delhi for four years.
- · Hansha Mishra (IA&AS: 2010) was appointed as Director in the UPSC, Delhi or a period of five years.
- Neelam Agrawal (IRS IT: 2008) was appointed as Director in the Department of Financial Services, Delhi for a period of five years.
- · Siva Sankar Bandi (IDAS: 2012) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Central Vigilance Commission, Delhi for four

IAS

- · Ravinder Kumar (IAS: 2012: AGMUT) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Delhi for a period of four years.
- · Dharmendra Sharma (IAS: 1988: AGMUT) was given extension of re-employed as Director General, India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the Government of India on contract basis for a period of six months beyond 30.09.2024 i.e. up to 31.03.2025.
- T K Ramachandran (IAS: 1991: TN), Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, was entrusted with additional charge of the post of Secretary, Ministry of Tourism from 30.03.2024 to 07.04.2024 during the period of absence on leave of V Vidyavathi (IAS: 1991: KN).
- · Tenure of Sandhya Bhullar (IAS: 2003: GJ), Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade was extended for a period up to 23.02.2025.
- · Chinmay Pundlikrao Gotmare (IAS: 2009: AM) was appointed to the post of Director in Department of Expenditure for a tenure up to 12.04.2028.
- *The central deputation tenure of V Radha (IAS: 1994: MH) was extended beyond 29.03.2024 till 30.04.2024 or until further orders. Currently, she is Additional Secretary, NITI Aavog.
- · Asangba Chuba Ao (IAS: 2003: BH), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, was entrusted with additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director, Al Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL) for a period of six months w.e.f. 01 01 2024
- · S C L Das (IAS: 1992: UT), Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, was entrusted with additional charge of Secretary, Ministry of Steel from 18.03.2024 to 28.03.2024 during absence on leave of Nagendra Nath Sinha (IAS: 1987: JH).
- · Govind Mohan (IAS: 1989: SK), Secretary, Ministry of Culture, was entrusted with additional charge of post of Secretary, Department of Sports from 27.03.2024 to 16.04.2024 during absence on leave of Sujata Chaturvedi (IAS: 1989: BH).

IPS

- · Satish Shriramaji Khandare (IPS: 1995: AGMUT), Inspector General, BSF was appointed as Additional Director General, BSF up to 11.07.2028 for a combined tenure of five years.
- Padmakar S Ranipse (IPS: 1995: OD), Inspector General, CRPF was appointed as Additional Director General, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) from the date of assumption of charge.
- · Rajesh Kumar (IPS: 1995: AGMUT), Inspector General, CRPF was appointed as Additional Director General, CRPF up to 18.03.2025 for a total tenure of seven years.
- Ravi Joseph Lokku (IPS: 1995: UP), Inspector General, BPR&D was appointed as Additional Director General, BPR&D up to 31.08.2026 i.e. date of his superannuation.
- · Tsewang Namgiyal Kalon (IPS: 1995: UP), Inspector General, SSB, was appointed as Additional Director General, Border Security Force (BSF) up to 15.08.2027 for a combined tenure of five years.
- · Tenure of Sudha Singh (IPS: 2006: OD), DIG, CBI, was extended for a period of two years i.e. up to 28.07.2026.
- Tenure of A Jayadevan (IPS: 2008: MP), DIG, CBI, was extended for a period of two years i.e. up to 02.06.2026.
- Tenure of Dr Navdeep Singh Brar (IPS: 2012: AGMUT),
 SP, CBI was extended for a period of three years i.e. up to 29.07.2027.
- · Ajay Bhatnagar (IPS: 1989: JH), DG (Investigation) in NHRC, was granted Apex pay scale (Level-17 in the pay matrix).
- · Dr Vivek Gogia (IPS: 1991: AGMUT), Director, NCRB, was entrusted with additional charge of Director General, Bureau of Research & Development (BPR&D) upon superannuation of Balaji Srivastava (IPS: 1988: AGMUT), Director General, BPR&D on 31.03.2024, for a period of one month or till joining of Rajeev Kumar Sharma (IPS: 1990: RJ).
- · Sadanand Vasant Date (IPS: 1990: MH) was appointed as Director General, National Investigation Agency for a tenure up to his superannuation on 31.12.2026.
- · Rajeev Kumar Sharma (IPS: 1990: RJ) was appointed as Director General, Bureau of Police Research & Development for a tenure up to his superannuation on 30.06.2026.
- Piyush Anand (IPS: 1991: UP), Special DG, CISF, was appointed as Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) by temporarily upgrading the post of DG, NDRF to the level of DG on personal basis for a period of two years.

Vivek Sahay appointed as new DGP of West Bengal



Vivek Sahay (IPS: 1988: WB) has been appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) for West Bengal replacing Rajeev Kumar (IPS: 1989: WB). The appointment was made within hours after the poll panel removed Rajeev Kumar as DGP. Sahay

was the Director General and Commandant General (Home Guards). In 2021, the EC had suspended Sahay, then acting director of security for Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee. The decision to shift Rajeev Kumar was taken as he was removed earlier too from active election management-related duty during the 2016 assembly election in Bengal and in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The EC has asked the state chief secretary to post Rajeev Kumar to a "non-election" related assignment, and, as an interim arrangement, post an officer immediately junior to him as DGP.

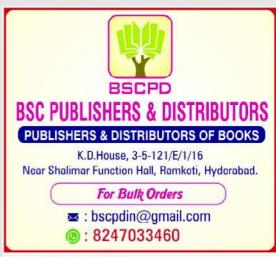
ECI rejects proposal to appoint Saunik as CS; extension for Kareer sought



The Maharashtra government has sent a proposal to the Centre asking three-month extension for Chief Secretary Nitin Kareer (IAS: 1988: MH) after the Election Commission of India (ECI) rejected its proposal to make Sujata Saunik (IAS: 1987: MH) as the CS.

The concurrence of the EC is needed because elections in every state are held under the supervision of the CS and Director General of Police. Kareer, who is retiring on March 31, did not get a proposal for his extension by the state. Generally, senior officers get an extension till the election process is completed.

Reportedly, the state government sent a proposal seeking the appointment of Sujata Saunik as the CS. However, the EC was not satisfied and asked for a panel of three officers. Later, the state sent names of Saunik, Rajesh Kumar (IAS: 1988: MH) and Iqbal Singh Chahal (IAS: 1989: MH).





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Corridors of Power

No Worries, Sufficient Drinking Water Is Available



Reiterating that there will not be any drinking water issues in the summer, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari said there is sufficient water available in the three main reservoirs of the state this year. She said the "summer action plan" has already been formulated to address the problem of drinking water in the state, apart from sanctioning funds to the districts for repairs. The chief secretary chaired a video conference meeting with district collectors and took stock of the drinking water situation in their respective districts. She noted that while the flushing of bore wells and repairs of pipes have already been completed, the collectors were advised to correct the management errors immediately and pay special attention to the continuous water supply. Reiterating that there will not be any drink-

Best Performance By Anti-Narcotics Bureau



The Telangana State Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TSNAB) has scheduled 5 days ToT Course for perfection in Investigation of NDPS Cases through 25 Mandatory CD Files Documents to the Police Officers of different ranks including Probibition & Excise Posts including Prohibition & Excise Dept., SRP Secunderabad and Addl. PPs/Asst. PPs.As part of it the Director General of Police, TS, Ravi Gupta, IPS has graced the inaugural session of the aforementioned ToT Course and the aforementioned ToT Course and released a book titled "25 Compul-

Mandatory CD File Documents in NDPS ACT – 1985 Cases" and a Poster on "Ganja & Adulterated Toddy". While addressing, the DGP, TS has stated that the global issue of drug addiction and substance abuse is one that effects millions of individuals and committees worldwide. In the picture TSNAB DG Sandeep Sandilya, IPS can



A Run For Peace

The second edition of IIFL JITO 'Ahimsa Run for Peace and Non-violence' was held at JalaVihar, PV Narasimha Rao Marg, Hyderabad. Vikas Raj, Chief Election Officer flagged off the 2nd Edition of IIFL JITO Ahimsa Run for peace & non-violence. 2000 runners from the Jain community and outside their community participated in the run. The Run was organised in three different categories such as 3 3K, 5K and 10K. The total prize money is Rs 90,000(ninety thousand) given away. The Route for the run was from Jala Vihar towards Sanjeevaiah Park.



All Set For The Smooth Conduct Of Elections

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena said certain measures were aimed at curbing the unethical practices in the election campaigns. He said that the seizures should not affect the common man and their daily routine. He further said that the cases pertaining to seizure of money should be addressed within 24 hours Another news is Ram Mohan Mishra, a retired IAS officer of 1987 batch, has been

appointed as the Special General Observer. Deepak Mishra, a retired IPS officer of 1984 batch, has been the Special Police Observer, while Neena Nigam, a retired IRS officer of 1983 batch, has been appointed as the Special Expenditure Observer. The Central Observers will ensure the effective implementation of the Election Commission guidelines in smooth conduct of elections. They will focus on inter-State borders and vulnerable areas, besides keeping a tight vigil to prevent distribution of cash, liquor and gifts to induce voters.

Endowments commissioner tells officials to protect temple lands



Commissioner of Endowments department M Hanumantha Rao has directed the officials to work in collaboration with the revenue department to protect temple lands, set up boundaries, recover the lands under encroachers, and file cases against the en-

He issued there directions during a review meeting with higher officials and executive officers of major temples in Telangana.

He also told the officials to ensure availability of cool drinking water, juices, *prashad* of good quality,

and set up canopies for shade on all temples premises, as there will be a rush of devotees at all major temples during summer vacations.

He made it clear that any irregularities in the income and expenditure in the temples, or negligence in the duties will not be tolerated.



Shri CP.Radhakrishnan assumed office as the Governor of Telangana

Shri CP.Radhakrishnan assumed office as the Governor of Telangana at the Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad. Chief Justice of the High Court of Telangana, Alok Aradhe, administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Governor. The presence of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at a ceremony held in the Raj Bhavan. "I am humbled and blessed to be given the additional responsibility to serve as the Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry." In a tweet the former Governor Dr.Tamilisai Soundararajan congratulated and best wishes to the newly appointed Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.



Festive Greetings

On this auspicious occasion of Utkal Diwas, the U.S. Consulate General in Hyderabad Jennifer Larson extends heartfelt greetings to esteemed Odia friends. In the post the diplomat said "May the spirit of unity and cultural richness continue to flourish in Odisha. Wishing you all joy and prosperity."



Meeting Of The Month

UK Dy.High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen meets Actor Nani. "Absolute pleasure to meet Actor Nani to talk about his career behind and in front of the camera and how we can strength the links with Tollywood .He suggested a couple of his movies to watch." Amazing meeting! Meeting of the



Daawat-e-Iftar

Turkish Consulate organized Iftar in the town. Turkey Consul General Orhan Yalman Okan welcomed the guests. Diplomats and whos who is the city participated in the lftar. The dine was delicious and the some Turkey dishes were high light.



Award Time

H.E. Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, the Honorary Con-sul of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, re-ceived the prestigious Medal of Honor from Thiru R N Rayi the Honorable Gov-R.N Ravi, the Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu. The award ceremony took place during Consular Day 2024, celebrated by the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique-India (HCCD-India) at the ITC Grand Chola in



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Responsive Websites



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Festive greetings

Happy Ugadi ! IAS Officer Smita Sabharwal is on screen.In her post she mentioned "Got it all on my plate! Love Ugadi for the bitter-sweet reminder that life with all its flavors is to be savoured."
Yes agree with the quote as life is full of flavors and every flavor has its own speciality. Awesome click! Picture of the



Festival of Colors

Holi, the festival of colors was in news all over the country. From streets to palaces the colors have reached all the doors. The news is of diplomat and the officers, who have also had played holi with joy. In the picture Dr. Andrew Fleming, Dy. High Commissioner for UK in Kolkata with family and friends and one beautiful selfie of IAS officer Dr. Priyanka Shukla from Raipur is on screen.



Karimnagar **District**

Poshan Abhiyan Utsav concluded at Karimnagar District, whereas district takes first place in organizing the said event. And the credit goes to hard core Dis-trict Collector Pamela Satpathy and team.



Warangal District

Warangal district Collector P.Pravinya is on screen She started Pulse Polio Pro gram by administering po-io drops to the children at the primary health center in Desaipet, the district headquarters.Program is quite success.



Medak District

Bharati Hollikeri ,IAS , District special officer for Medak district visited Medak and had a meeting with various department officers.The Medak district Collector Rahul Raj wel-comed the lady officer.The meeting focused on mission bhagiratha, power, drinking water, sanitation other subjects.

Rich Tributes To IPS Rajiv Ratan



Director General of Vigi-ance and Enforcement Rajiv Ratan,IPS passed away due to a heart attack while undergo-ing treatment at the AIG Hos-pital in the Rayadurgam Police Station area of Hyderabad. IPS officers visited the hospital to pay their respects to their col-league who passed away sud-

denly while on duty.

The news of his passing has deeply saddened many IPS officers, as he was known for his capability, soft-spoken demeanor, and dedication to his

Despite his impending re-tirement in the next six months, his untimely demise

peers. Upon learning of the tragic event, IPS officers promptly visited the AIG hospital to offer their condolences to the bereaved family members. State DGP Ravi Gupta, Intelligence Additional DGP B Shivadhar Reddy and others paid their

respects.

Rajiv Ratan,is 1991 batch IPS batch, served as SP of Karimnagar District, IG of Hyderabad Region, Director General of Fire Department, Additional DGP of Organization in State DGP Office, Managing Director of Police Housing Corporation, and most recently as Director General of Vigilance and Enforcement of Telangana State. He was scheduled to retire next October but tragically passed away from a heart attack.

CM Revanth Reddy Condolence Message
Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed shock over the sudden demise of senior IPS officer Rajiv Ratan. In his condolence message, Revanth Reddy said, "Rajiv Ratan is sincere and efficient in discharging his duties in his entire career in the police department. Recently, the senior police official headed the vigilance and en-

Medigadda barrage. During his stint, the IPS officer worked as Karimnagar Spannagar Sp **Director General of State Fire** Services, Inspector General to Hyderabad Region and Police Housing Corporation

The Chief Minister remembered the remarkable services rendered by the departed IPS officer to the police department in the state

for a long time.

Revanth said that the
Telangana will remember
the senior police official who
performed the duties efficiently and honestly. He conveyed deep sympathies to the grieving family mem-

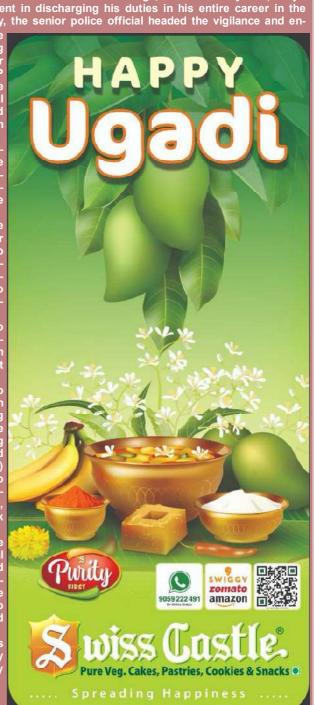
In his tweet KTR also conveyed his heartfelt con-dolences to Sri Rajiv Ratan Ji's family. May his soul rest

ACB, DG CV.Anand , who also belongs to 1991 batch got shocked after knowing the sad news. In his post he said "I got up today morning to very shocking and sad news that my IPS (1991) batchmate Rajiv Ratan, who is presently the DGP of Vigilance and Endorcement, had a massive heart attack and passed away .

Not what one would like to hear on this Ugadi festival day. Just last month we had gone to Shillong to participate in the All India police Golf tournament and two sundays ago , we had played at Boulder Hills .

My deepest condolences to his wife and son . Finally

,life is so brittle and only memories remain."



MIDNIGHT REPORTER 5 April, 2024

Public Sector

SAIL achieves highest ever annual production and sales in FY'24



Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a Maharatna Public Sector Unit under the Ministry of Steel, has achieved its highest-ever annual production milestones in hot metal, crude steel and saleable steel during the Financial Year 2023-24. SAIL recorded a 6% surge in hot metal production, 5% increase in crude steel output and 7% rise in saleable steel output in FY'24 as compared to FY'23. For the fiscal year 2023-24, SAIL achieved production figures of 20.5

Million Tonnes (MT) of hot metal, 19.2 MT of crude steel and 18.4 MT of saleable steel. The company achieved its highest-ever sales volume of 17.1 MT during FY'24, registering a growth of more than 5% over CPLY. Shri Amarendu Prakash, Chairman, SAIL attributed this outstanding performance to the company's strategic alignment with the increasing demand in the steel market. He emphasized SAIL's commitment to enhance the company's production capabilities further while remaining responsive to the changing market requirements.

NMDC unveils Ex-Employee portal "Samman"



In an embodiment of its ethos - 'Naukri ke sath bhi, Naukri ke baad bhi' - The Responsible Miner NMDC has taken a significant leap in digital innovation by launching the Ex-Employee Portal "Samman." This initiative was launched at the company's Head Office in Hyderabad, by the CMD (Addl. Charge) Shri Amitava Mukherjee in presence of Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical), Shri B Vishwanath, CVO, Heads of Projects, Head

Office department heads. As India's largest iron ore producer, NMDC is not just committed to industrial excellence but also deeply values the human resource that drives its success. "Samman" is a testament to this commitment, offering a seamless, digital platform for ex-employees to manage various medical claims, view personal profiles, dependent details, and application status, all online. This user-friendly portal is designed to ensure on-time reimbursements and easy access to all retiral services, bringing comfort and convenience to the doorstep of NMDC's former employees.

Speaking at the launch, Shri Amitava Mukherjee CMD (Addl. Charge) expressed, "We are happy to contribute towards making the lives of our ex-employees easier. 'Samman' represents our pioneering spirit in extending hassle-free benefits to our NMDC family, even after retirement. This initiative reaffirms our belief in respecting and honouring the contributions of those who have been an integral part of our journey."

PFC pays the highest-ever Interim dividend of Rs. 2033 crore to Gol



Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC), a Maharatna CPSE and the country's leading NBFC in the power sector, has paid Rs 554 crore to Govt. of India as the third Interim Dividend on equity shares held by Govt. of India for the financial year 2023-24. This is in addition to Rs. 832 crore and Rs. 647 crore paid as first and second interim dividend respectively to the Government of India.

The interim dividend RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement) intimation advice was presented to

R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister (Power, New & Renewable Energy) and Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Powerby Smt. Parminder Chopra, CMD, PFC in the presence of, Rajiv RanjanJha, Director (Projects) and Manoj Sharma, Director (Commercial), PFC. The third interim dividend @ 30% i.e. Rs. 3 per equity share of face value Rs. 10 each was declared by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 11th March 2024. With this, PFC has so far paid interim dividends amounting to Rs 3630 crore to its shareholders @110% i.e. Rs. 11 per equity share of the face value of Rs.10 each for the financial year 2023-24, which is the highest ever interim dividend paid by PFC.

BEL turnover rises to record Rs 19,700 crores

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has achieved a record turnover of around Rs 19700 crore during the Financial Year 2023-24, registering a growth of 13.65 per cent over the previous year's turnover of Rs 17,333 crore, according to a company statement issued on Monday. In the fiscal year 2023-24, BEL successfully secured orders worth around Rs 35,000 crore. With this, the total order book of BEL as on April 1st, 2024, stands at around Rs 76000 crore. Among the notable defence orders obtained during the year were Electronic Fuzes, EW Systems, Communication Systems for naval warships, Fire Control Systems, Akash Prime Weapon System, Radars, Sonars, Software Defined Radios, Night Vision Devices, Tactical Communication Systems and other projects in the non-defence sector.

BEL also achieved export sales of around US\$ 92.98 million during FY 2023-24, as against the previous year's export turnover of US\$ 48.33 million, registering a growth of 92 per cent.

Major products exported include Transmit & Receive (TR) Modules, Compact Multi-Purpose Advanced Stabilisation System (CoMPASS), Radar & Electronic Warfare Systems, Medical Electronics, Communication equipment, etc.

As on April 1st, 2024, BEL's export order book stands at USD 407 million, with export orders acquired during the fiscal year amounting to USD 211 million.

REC CMD Vivek Kumar Dewangan launches 'Vigilance Handbook'



An updated 'Vigilance Handbook' was launched by Sh. Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD – REC Limited in the presence of Director(Projects), CVO and other senior officials at REC Corporate Office in Gurugram. Vigilance set-up is an essential part of the machinery set up by the government to enforce compliance with the rules and regulations. The updated handbook, which includes circulars and orders of the government and Central Vigilance Commission on vigilance-related issues, would help employees learn about systems, procedures, and guidelines on vigilance aspects. During the launch, CMD – REC highlighted that the book would act as a guide not only to the vigilance officials but also to other officials and would help them discharge their duties in a more effective manner.

NHPC organizes Hindi Kavi Sammelan



NHPC organized a grand Hindi Kavi Sammelan on March 14th 2024 at its Corporate Office, Faridabad for the purpose of promotion of Rajbhasha throughout the company. R.P. Goyal, CMD, NHPC inaugurated the Kavi Sammelan by lighting the traditional lamp. Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC, R.K. Chaudhary, Director (Technical & Projects), NHPC and other senior officers and employees were also present on the occasion. Smt Gayatri Goyal and other members of Ladies welfare association were also present during the Kavi Sammelan.

Speaking on the occasion, R.P. Goyal, CMD, NHPC extended a warm welcome to all the poets and said that NHPC employees come from various backgrounds and speak different languages and Hindi plays the crucial role of uniting everyone towards a common goal. He also said the Kavi Sammelan has been organized to welcome the joyous and fun-filled festival of Holi. During the Kavi Sammelan, renowned poets including Pratap Faujdaar, Smt. 'Anamika Amber, 'Praveen Shukla, 'Deepak Gupta, Smt. 'Mumtaz Naseem, 'Gaurav Chauhan and 'Rajesh Aggarwal enthralled the audience with various poetic recitals based on different poetic 'rasas' and also dealing with patriotic and social issues.

Defence Ministry, HAL sign Rs 8,073 crore deal for Dhruv Mk III choppers for Army, Coast Guard



The Indian Army and the Coast Guard will get 34 Dhruv Mk III helicopters under a Rs 8,073 crore deal signed on Wednesday, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Following the Cabinet Committee on Security's (CCS) approval, the Defence Ministry signed two contracts, for a combined value of Rs 8,073.17 crore, with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for acquisition of 34 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Dhruv Mk III, along with the operational role equipment, for the army (25) and the Coast Guard (9) under Buy (Indian-IDDM – Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category.

The ALH Dhruv Mk III UT's (Utility) army version is designed for search & rescue, troop transportation, internal cargo, recce/casualty evacuation etc. It has proved its performance in high-altitude regions like the Siachen Glacier and Ladakh.

The ALH Mk III MR (Maritime Role), the Coast Guard version, is designed for maritime surveillance and interdiction, search and rescue, rappelling operations, as well as cargo & personnel transportation, pollution response – using the external cargo-carrying capability and medical casualty evacuation.

It has proved its mettle even in adverse atmospheric conditions over sea and land.

The project will generate employment of an estimated 190 lakh man-hours during its duration. It will also entail the supply of equipment from more than 200 MSMEs and 70 local vendors will be involved in the indigenisation process which is likely to have a positive impact on employment generation in this sector, thus furthering the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

NLC India Limited signs MOU with Rajasthan for formation of JV for adding Thermal and Renewable capacity

In line with the vision of Prime Minister for Energy Security of the Nation and supply of cheap, sustainable, affordable and 24×7 Power Supply to all and with guidance of Honourable Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi ji and the Ministry of Coal, NLC India Limited has signed MOU with the Government of Rajasthan today for Formation of Joint Venture to set up 125 MW Lignite Based Power Plant and 1000 MW Solar Power Plant.

The distinguished Chief Guests at the event are Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Minister, Rajasthan; Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines; RK Singh, Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy; Smt Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister, Rajasthan; Heeralal Nagar, Energy Minister, Govt of Rajasthan; Sudhansh Pant, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan; and Amrit Lal Meena, Coal Secretary, Government of India.



How to Protect Your Eyes During the Total Solar Eclipse



On Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse of 2024 will sweep across a large swath of North America.

During this astronomical event, the moon will pass between the sun and Earth, darkening the sky in significant portions of the United States from Texas to Maine.

If the conditions are clear, viewers may also get a glimpse of Venus and Jupiter.

More than half the U.S. population lives within 250 miles of the 115-mile

wide path of totality, including major cities like Austin, Dallas, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, and Burlington, VT. The duration of totality will be up to 4 minutes and 27 seconds, nearly double that of The Great American Eclipse of August 21, 2017, which drew an estimated 20 million spectators. According to NASA, the next total solar eclipse visible in the U.S. won't occur until August 23, 2044. When viewing solar eclipses, it's important to view solar eclipses through specialized protective eyewear to prevent eye damage. Looking directly at the sun without eye protection could result in immediate and irreversible eye damage. Here's what you need to know to protect your eyes during the total solar eclipse. How do you know if your eclipse glasses are safe?

Reminiscent of cardboard 3D viewing glasses, eclipse glasses are essential for protect-

ing your eyes while viewing a solar eclipse.

There are countless options of eclipse glasses available online and it may be difficult to determine which ones are safe and legitimate. When choosing eclipse glasses, look for reputable sources that have been certified with the solar filter ISO 12312-2, which is the international standard for eclipse viewing glasses. If you plan to take pictures of the eclipse or view it through any type of lens, such as a telescope or binoculars, you should cover the lens with a special solar filter to avoid eye injury.

You should never look directly at the sun without proper protective eyewear, even during solar eclipses. Eclipse glasses should be worn while viewing an eclipse. Sunglasses or homemade eclipse glasses do not provide sufficient protection.

Although the moon obscures the sun's brightness during an eclipse, it does not mini-

mize the effects of the sun's energy.

Eclipse glasses that meet the ISO 12312-2 standard limit the ultraviolet and infrared wavelengths that reach the retina and filter most of the sun's energy to prevent damage to the retina. Benjamin Bert, MD, board-certified ophthalmologist at MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley, CA, told Healthline the biggest danger of looking at the sun without proper protective eyewear is solar retinopathy, which essentially burns the retina. He said he's seen a spike in patients with eye damage following prior solar eclipses.

Bert compared solar retinopathy to using a magnifying glass to focus the light on a sheet of paper until it catches fire. "You're basically doing that to your eye," he said. "And that burn is permanent. You can lose a spot in your vision if it gets burned like that. Once the damage

is done, we currently don't have any way to reverse it." Is it safe to reuse solar eclipse glasses?

Your safest bet for eclipse viewing is to purchase a new pair of eclipse glasses with the certified ISO 12312-2 filter. If you've been hanging onto your old eclipse glasses from 2017's Great American Solar Eclipse, you'll want to ensure they're in good condition before reusing them. Check for defects and damage and make sure there are no scratches, punctures, or tears in the filters. If the frames are bent or appear anything less than brand new, it's time for a new pair.

Can you remove eclipse glasses during totality?

When the moon completely blocks the face of the sun during totality, what remains is the glowing halo of the sun's corona, or atmosphere.

Eclipse viewers should keep their glasses on during the partial phases of the eclipse,

roughly 75 minutes before and after totality.

You can determine when the partial phase will begin in your observing location with an eclipse calculator. According to NASA, it is safe to remove eclipse glasses only when the sun is completely obscured by the moon during totality, but only if you are in the path of 100% totality. Astrophysicist Jamie Lombardi, PhD, professor of physics at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, explained that during totality, eclipse viewers are shielded from the sun's intense visible light, ultraviolet radiation, and infrared radiation.

"Although the corona is still visible, it is much dimmer than the disk of the sun and is safe to view with the naked eye," Lombardi told Healthline.

Bryan Brewer, author of "ECLIPSE: Experience Awe in the Path of Totality," agreed it's

safe to remove your eclipse glasses during totality to view this celestial spectacle.

"The eerie daytime darkness — punctuated by the magnificent view of the solar corona for just a few minutes — illustrates the awesome and relentless forces of the cosmos in a dramatic and accessible way," Brewer told Healthline.

Yehia Hashad, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Bausch + Lomb, explained that when the sun's rays are fully blocked by the moon during totality, it's OK to view the corona with the naked eye, but you should do so with caution.

"If there is any portion of the sun visible, the rays can be very damaging," Hashad told Healthline. "If you are at all uncertain if the sun is 100% covered, always revert to leaving your protective glasses on. The safest course of action is to wear your protective glasses throughout the event — you will still have quite a show," Hashad noted.

Bert echoed this sentiment, and advised against looking at the corona during totality

altogether without protective eyewear.

"Even if you're in truly complete totality, the safest thing to do is just to leave them on. You can take them off, but just don't gaze at the sun," Bert said. "If you're planning on looking at the sun, wearing the glasses the whole time is certainly the safest option. That's probably an extreme opinion, but when the risk is the potential for permanent retinal damage, you want to take every precaution that you can. It's not worth the potential harm that can be done for the 5 minutes you would be able to see it," Bert cautioned.

E-Cigarettes Can Increase Heart Failure Risk by 19%



New research has found a possible connection between ecigarette usage and heart failure. Researchers harnessed data from the All of Us research program, funded by the National Institutes of Health, which is an effort to garner more insights into the health of Americans. This particular study included 175,667 people located in the U.S. of which 28,660 reported using e-cigarettes. The research will be presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session, taking place April 6-8, 2024, in Atlanta. The

findings have not yet been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The researchers were from MedStar Health Baltimore and MedStar Georgetown University

In the study, the individuals who reported using an electronic nicotine product had a 19% increase in the risk of heart failure.

In breaking down the risk of heart failure, the study noted a 21% increase in the risk of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF), a form of heart failure where the heart muscle fails to relax

Of the 28,660 people who reported e-cigarette use, those who also said they used regular nicotine products saw their risk of heart failure jump by 59%. This study adds to the growing body of evidence that shows risks for smoking both traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

Of those included, just over 60% were women and the average age was 52 years old. Study could help experts understand the risks of ecigarettes-

Michael Broman, MD, PhD, director of non-invasive cardiology at the OSF Cardiovascular Institute and a former assistant professor at the University of Chicago, says this research can help experts understand the risks of vaping.

The NIH study "is looking at everything, all medical problems, and all types of behavioral components, including e-cigarette use and vaping use. So my first thoughts are, it's good that somebody is doing [a] deep dive into real patients, and looking to see how outcomes might change in people who are using these e-cigarette and vaping products," Broman said.

Yu-Ming Ni, MD, cardiologist and lipidologist at MemorialCare Heart and Vascular Institute at Orange Coast Medical Center, said that the results "raise an eyebrow" about the potential dangers of e-cigarettes.

"It does make me concerned that what we've suspected about ecigarettes may be true, that they have some harm to themselves related to the nicotine consumption," Ni said.

More research on e-cigs is needed

While the data presented is concerning, experts who spoke to Healthline for this story said that people should be cautious about making any conclusions about the linkage between heart failure and ecigarette use.

Ni said that more research needs to be done in order to better understand what might be causing this increased heart failure risk.

"With studies like this where they made observations about people who are e-cigarette users and the development of heart failure, we can never know for certain what the relationship is between those two things," Ni said. "And we cannot be sure about how it is that new cigarettes predispose someone to heart failure, all we can say is that there is an association between those two things."

The MD, a resident physician at MedStar Health in Baltimore and one of the study's lead authors, said in a release that he feels this research is filling a gap in knowledge. "I think this research is long overdue, especially considering how much e-cigarettes have gained traction, Bene-Alhasan said. "We don't want to wait too long to find out eventually that it might be harmful, and by that time a lot of harm might already have been done. With more research, we will get to uncover a lot more about the potential health consequences and improve the information out to the public." However, how to do that research is another area that needs exploring. According to Broman, traditional trials using humans are ethically impossible due to the nature of e-cigarettes and their risks. His suggestion is for researchers in future studies to look at the amount of e-cigarette use and the relative risk of heart failure with exposure levels. In comparison, the research that is currently available looked at a strict binary between those using these products and those who were not.

How e-cigarettes can affect overall health- Experts said that it's important to remember that medical issues stemming from e-cigarette use involve multiple parts of the body, including the lungs, not just the heart. Past research has found that e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury is of increasing concern for medical experts. Broman said that his advice is to not use e-cigarettes or to vape, due to potential heart and lung issues.

'The fact that we see the elevation in blood pressure and the heart failure...means that regular vaping and e-cigarette use probably most likely, over time will lead to the same types of things that we see with tobacco use," Broman said.

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Delicious Dining

Dawat-e-Iftar! Saif Quadri planned a marvelous Iftar Party held in city star hotel. Who's who of the town participated in the party, in the picture Hamed Saberi and Aamer Javeed can also be seen with Saif with other friends. The delicious dining and the arrangement was just superb.



Just A Bowl Of Water

Yes 'just a bowl of water' is enough to save the birds during this hot-hot summer. Kishan Pedhapally, the Founder of Asav Vineyards has started a drive, which hit the social media platforms. Good initiative ! "Let's show each other that we are humans for a reason! This summer, birds need us much more than they ever did. Because temperatures are likely to go beyond 45° degrees. The fact is, many birds die due to lack of water sources to quench their thirst. Please do keep a bowl of water in you balcony, terrace, or a place you know birds will sip water from.Let's save them, save the nature, and help preserve humanity." Let's all support the cause and let's do it immediately, it's a matter of just a bowl of water.



Band Baaja Baraat!

The wedding season is still on cards. Colorful atmosphere all around, the music, dance and the masti. Indian marriages are really lovely happenings. In the picture Sonia Majumdar, Rhea Melwani and others can be seen, attending a marriage ceremony in the town. Badhaai-badhaai !



Birthday Wishes Dear Ali

The handsome chap Ali Saberi celebrated his birthday. His friends and dear friends has posted wishes on social media on this occasion in large number.Can say great following ! In the is out with a bang released by well-picture the big brother Hasnain Saberi can known Doctor Kavya Priya Vazrala, Conbe seen with Ali. Love and blessings.



The BEST

When it comes to best biryani, Hyderabad city is the place and one more delicious food also shines in the menu, that's haleem. Yes during Ramzan haleem had added more joy to the festival.And especially Pista House haleem, which is quite famous not just in the city, also in the globe for its best taste & quality. News is Pista House has been awarded as 'Best Haleem 2024' award and the young entrepreneur Mohammed Abdul Mohsi received it. Best wishes to the team.



Dr.Kavya releases MR's March Edition

Midnight Reporter's March edition sultant Obstetrician, Gynaecologist, Laparoscopic Surgeon, Infertility Specialist & Cosmetic Gynaecologist from KIMS CUDDLES Mother & Child Centre, Gachibowli. Click the link for epaper:

https://midnightreporter.com/ March_2024.pdf



Zindagi Ka Naam Dosti!

Zindagi ka naam dosti, dosti ka naam zindagi....! When it comes to dosti, that too jaan-jigri dosti, nothing comes upon and no comparison. Age ka koi lena-dena nahi hai, khub jamedi jab miltey hai char dost aur char yaar. Versatile lady Janaki Rajagopal Lagadapati recent post has been dedicated to best friends. With tag lines #PositiveVibes #HighEnergy **#EndlessLove #MemorableMoments.**



Good Initiative

In the list of active NGOs, Mounika Charitable Foundation is the one, which is doing a great job for the poor & needy. In the picture Foundation founder Mounika Reddy.G is been seen with the cement workers. She has inspected the RO water plant construction work at Venkatagiri town, Tirupati. Mounika, best wishes for the project and keep doing good things for the society.

hub n home



These 5 Interior Design Trends Will Reign Supreme in 2024

We're never ones to shy away from minimalist, modern spaces, but we're ready to live it up a little bit more in 2018. We're anticipating a year that luxuriates on the sophisticated side of modern, complete with plush fabrics, dashes of deep colors, unexpected greenery, abstract furniture-and to

keep things interesting, a constant interplay between textures, patterns, and solids.

It's not just Pantone—whose color of the year is Ultra Violet—that's feeling the jewel tones. Deep reds, teals, purples, and turquoises are the perfect colors to create a sense of depth and sophistication in a space. Want to make the jewel tones shine without overwhelming? Set them against a crisp, white canvas so that they pop-but just the right amount.

Succulents have been around in a big way for a while now, but we can definitely see hanging plants in our near future. The dynamic display of plants hanging from the ceiling, in concert with their more free-form shape, means that they fill unexpected corners and create a bit of drama in a room.

Few fabrics say luxe as much as the silky, plush feel of velvet. While it may initially conjure images of dark, ornate Victorian homes, rest assured: the velvet of 2018 is versatile enough to work in a modern interior, so long as it is used as an accent fabric or in tandem with more modern silhouettes. A tactile throw pillow, velvety drapes framing a window, or an elegant, contemporary sofa clad in velvet could be the right way to go.

Abstract, sculptural furniture is another item we're keeping our eyes on for 2018. With their unusual form, sculptural furniture is a functional piece of artwork that rarely requires any additional accessories in a space. The feeling is anything but neutral, and veers towards eclectic or even avantgarde, but can be brought back down to earth through smart pairings. For example, try a sculptural sofa next to a more streamlined coffee table.

Hardwood flooring has been a hallmark of quality for decades, if not centuries, and we're starting to enjoy some of its more intricate designs and patterns—on ceilings as well as floors. Herringbone, chevron, and parquet are some of the classic layouts for flooring that can easily extend beyond wood to brick, tile, and other materials, and we're looking forward to seeing more creative treatments of both floor and ceiling surfaces this year.











GEBE MG CADI Rest



April, 2024 MIDNIGHT REPORTER

अमेरिका में सूर्य ग्रहण से 13 बाइडेन की इफ्तार में नहीं आए मुस्लिम हजार करोड़ का कारोबार



मैक्सिको, उत्तरी अमेरिका और कनाडा ८ अप्रैल को पूर्ण सूर्य ग्रहण के गवाह बनेंगे। 'पाथ ऑफ टोटैलिटी' (ग्रहण मार्ग) में पड़ने वाले अमेरिका के कम से कम 12 राज्यों में इस दौरान करीब 4 मिनट तक दिन में अंधेरा छा जाएगा।

इस अद्भुत घटना को देखने के लिए आसपास के इलाकों से करीब 50 लाख लोगों के पहुंचने की संभावना है। इसे देखते हुए होटलों की मांग भी 12 गुना तक बढ़ गई है। एम्स्टर्डम में IT सलाहकार डो ट्रिन इस अद्भुत घटना को

30 हजार फुट की ऊंचाई से देखेंगे। इसके लिए उन्होंने चार महीने पहले से रिसर्च करके उन विमानों के रूट पता किए, जो ग्रहण मार्ग से होकर गुजरेंगे। तीन गुना अधिक कीमत देकर दाईं ओर की विंडो सीट ली। ट्रिन ग्रहण देखने के लिए 8 अप्रैल को सेंट एंटोनियो से डेट्रॉयट तक 30 घंटे का सफर करेंगे। लोगों की बेताबी को देखते हुए डेल्टा एयरलाइंस ने दो विशेष उड़ानों का ऐलान किया, तो 83 हजार रुपए की टिकटें हाथोंहाथ बिक गईं।

वहीं, कई विमान कंपनियां सरकार से घुमावदार रूट की मंजूरी में जुटी हैं, ताकि दाईं और बाईं दोनों ओर की विंडो सीट पर बैठे लोग इस मनोरम दृश्य को आराम से देख सकें। इन सबको मिलाकर अगले 4 दिन में अमेरिका में सूर्य ग्रहण के लिए 13 हजार करोड़ रु. का कारोबार होने की संभावना है।

4.4 करोड़ लोग ग्रहण देखेंगे, पिछली बार से 3 गुना ज्यादा– विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, इस बार ज्यादा उत्साह है। दरअसल, 2017 में लगे ग्रहण से इस बार 'पाथ ऑफ टोटैलिटी' 60 प्रतिशत अधिक चौड़ा और इतना ही अधिक लंबा है। अमेरिका में अगला सूर्य ग्रहण 2045 में

सूर्य ग्रहण के रूट में पड़ने वाले विमानों में टिकट की मांग 1500 तक बढ़ गई है। ISO प्रमाणित चश्मों की बिक्री भी बढ़ गई है। ये आंखों को सुरक्षित रखते हैं। पाथ ऑफ टोटैलिटी में पड़ने वाले इलाकों में 4.4 करोड़ लोग घटना के साक्षी बनेंगे। रैफिक जाम से निपटने की तैयारी, लोगों से अपील-एक साथ न निकलें- वर्जीनिया के स्ट्रैसबर्ग में रहने वालीं मेलिसा 2017 में पूर्ण सूर्य ग्रहण को देखने के लिए 643 किलोमीटर दूर पहाड़ियों में गई थीं। तब 2 घंटे की दूरी तय करने में 6 घंटे लग गए थे। प्रथासन की ओर से इंतजाम में जुटे रिचर्ड कहते हैं, यह 30 'सुपर बॉल' या पार्टी एक साथ होने जैसा है। हजारों की भीड़ जुटेगी। हम लोगों से अपील कर रहे हैं कि ग्रहण के बाद एक साथ न निकलें।

50 करोड़ का टॉयलेट चुराने वाले ने जुर्म कबूल



जेम्स शीन नाम के शख्स ने 5 साल बाद ब्रिटेन के ब्लेनहेम पैलेस से सोने का टॉयलेट चुराने का जुर्म कबूल लिया है। 18 कैरेट गोल्ड से बना यह कमोड 2019 में चोरी हो गया था। इसकी कीमत करीब 50 करोड़ रुपए है।

अमेरिकी मीडिया हाउस CNN के मुताबिक, सोने के इस टॉयलेट को पहली बार 2016 में न्यूयॉर्क के गुगेनहेम म्यूजियम में रखा गया था। इसे 2017 में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प को व्हाइट हाउस में रखने के लिए उधार पर भी दिया

2016 में कमोड को देखने लोग 2 घंटे लाइन में लगे थे-

मीडिया रिपोर्ट के मृताबिक 2016 में जब न्यूयॉर्क के गुगेनहेम म्यूजियम

में आर्टवर्क प्रदर्शनी लगी थी तब लोगों को इसे देखने के लिए दो घंटे लाइन में लगना पड़ा था। इस दौरान सफाईकर्मी हर 15 मिनट में टॉयलेट सीट को साफ करते थे। एक आंकड़े के मुताबिक 1 लाख लोगों ने इस टॉयलेट सीट को देखा।

विंस्टन चर्चिल के कमरे के पास लगाया गया था टॉयलेट-

ऑक्सफोर्डशायर स्थित ब्लेनहेम पैलेस में इस टॉयलेट को उस कमरे के पास लगाया गया था, जिसमें विंस्टन चर्चिल का जन्म हुआ था। चर्चिल 1940 में विश्व युद्ध के दौरान ब्रिटेन के प्रधानमंत्री थे। दरअसल, सितंबर 2019 में पैलेस में इटली के आर्टिस्ट मौरिजियो कैटेलन की आर्ट एग्जिबिशन लगी थी। इस प्रदर्शनी का नाम 'विक्टरी इज नॉट एन ऑप्शन' था। इसमें सोने से बने कमोड को भी दिखाया गया। कुछ दिनों बाद ही यह चोरी हो गया था।

कमोड का नाम 'अमेरिका' था-

CNN की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, इटली के आर्टिस्ट कैटेलन ने इस कमोड का नाम 'अमेरिका' रखा था। उन्होंने कला, धन, लालच और पूंजीवाद पर व्यंग्यात्मक टिप्पणी के तौर पर इसे 'अमेरिका' नाम दिया था। चोरी के समय पैलेस में पानी भर गया था

चोरी के दौरान टॉयलेट को उखाड़ा गया था, इसलिए पैलेस के फ्लोर को नुकसान पहुंचा और ब्लेनहेम पैलेस में पानी भर गया। हालात ऐसे हो गए थे मानो बाढ़ आ गई हो। पुलिस ने आशंका जताई थीं कि चोरों ने इसे चुराने में दो गाड़ियों का इस्तेमाल किया होगा।

चोरी करने के 5 साल बाद यानी 3 अप्रैल 2024 को 39 साल के आरोपी जेम्स शीन ने ऑक्सफोर्ड क्राउन कोर्ट में चोरी की साजिश रचने का जुर्म कबूला। शीन पहले से ही एक अन्य चोरी के मामले में 17 साल की सजा काट रहा है। उसने नेशनल हॉर्स रेसिंग म्यूजियम से टैक्टर और ट्रॉफियां चुराई थीं।

तीन और लोग चोरी में शामिल थे-

CNN के मुताबिक, मामले में शीन के अलावा तीन अन्य आरोपी भी थे, जिन्होंने चोरी में खुद का किसी भी तरह का हाथ होने से इनकार किया है। सभी आरोपियों पर अगले साल फरवरी में मुकदमा चलाया जाएगा।



गाजा में चल रही जंग में इजराइल का समर्थन करने से अमेरिका के मुस्लिम नेता बाइडेन प्रथासन से नाराज हैं। इसका असर व्हाइट हाउस के रमजान सेलिब्रेशन पर भी पड़ा है। अमेरिका के मुस्लिम नेताओं ने बाइडेन की इफ्तार पार्टी का न्योता ठुकरा दिया। इसके चलते बाइडेन को रमजान सेलिब्रेशन कैंसिल करना पड़ा।

जबिक पिछले साल व्हाइट हाउस में हुई रमजान पार्टी में लोगों ने बाइडेन को आई लव यू कहा था। इस बार हालात बिल्कुल उलटे हैं। मुस्लिमों ने विरोध जताते हुए व्हाइट हाइस के बाहर नमाज पढ़ी। बाइडेन को अपने रमजान डिनर के लिए व्हाइट हाउस में ही काम करने वाले मुस्लिम अधिकारियों को जुटाना पड़ा।

हालांकि, इन अधिकारियों के साथ डिनर से पहले बाइडेन ने कुछ मुस्लिम नेताओं से मीटिंग की। न्यूज एजेंसी रॉयटर्स के मुताबिक इस मीटिंग में मुस्लिम नेताओं ने गाजा में जंग पर अपनी बात रखी। कुछ तो मीटिंग को बीच में ही छोड़कर निकल गए।

'डिनर करते हुए भुखमरी की बातें कैसे करते'

बाइडेन से मुलाकात करने वालों में फिलिस्तीनी मूल के अमेरिकी डॉक्टर थायर अहमद भी थे। उन्होंने कहा कि डिनर टेबल पर खाना खाते हुए आप भुखमरी की बात कैसे कर सकते हैं। डॉक्टर अहमद ने बाइडेन से कहा कि इजराइल गाजा में कत्लेआम मचा रहा है।

उन्होंने अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति को राफा में रह रही एक 8 साल की बच्ची का खत दिखाया। जिसमें उसने लिखा है कि वो रोज रात इस डर में सोते हैं कि न जाने कब इजराइली टैंक उनके टेंटों को कुचल देंगे। लेटर में बच्ची ने लिखा था कि गाजा के बच्चे भी दुनिया के बच्चों की तरह शांति में जीना चाहते हैं। बाइडेन से 6 मिनट की चर्चा के बाद ही अहमद मीटिंग से निकल गए।

अहमद के अलावा फिलिस्तीनी में लोगों का इलाज कर आए 3 और डॉक्टरों ने बाइडेन से मुलाकात की। बाइडेन के अलावा मुस्लिम नेताओं के साथ हुई मीटिंग में अमेरिका की उप राष्ट्रपति कमला हैरिस और अमेरिका की फर्स्ट लेडी जिल बाइडेन और अमेरिकी नेशनल सिक्योरिटी एडवाइजर जेक सुलिवन भी मौजूद थे। बुधवार को जब सुलिवन से मीटिंग के अपडेट्स के बारे में पूछा गया तो उन्होंने कुछ भी बताने से इनकार कर दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि वो मीटिंग प्राइवेट थी।

पृथ्वी की सतह से 700KM नीचे सबसे बड़ा महासागर



धरती की सतह से 700 किलोमीटर नीचे सबसे बड़ा महासागर मौजूद है। अमेरिका के इलिनॉय राज्य के रिसर्चर्स ने इसकी खोज की है। इसमें सभी महासागर के कुल पानी से तीन गुना ज्यादा पानी मौजूद है। धरती पर पानी कहां से आया, इसकी खोज करते वक्त वैज्ञानिकों को इस महासागर के बारे में

यह महासागर पृथ्वी की सतह के नीचे एक नीले रंग की चट्टान में छिपा है। खोज करने वाली टीम के वैज्ञानिक स्टीव

जैकोब्सन ने बताया कि यह चट्टान एक स्पंज की तरह है जो पानी को सोखता रहता है। 2 हजार सीस्मोमीटर के जरिए 500 भूकंप की स्टडी के बाद इस महासागर का पता चला है। दरअसल, पृथ्वी के नीचे उठने वाली तरंगें जब किसी नमी वाली चट्टान से होकर ग्जरती तो इनकी गति धीमी पड़ जाती है। सीस्मोमीटर के जरिए इन्हीं तरंगों की स्टडी के बाद

महासागर की खोज की गई।

क्या धरती पर सतह के नीचे से ही आया पानी-

इस खोज के बारे में पहली बार साल 2014 में जानकारी दी गई थी। इसे एक साइंटिफिक पेपर 'डीहाइड्रेथन मेल्टिंग एट द टॉप ऑफ लोअर मैंटल' में बताया गया था। हालांकि अब यह रिसर्च वायरल हो रही है। इस महासागर के सामने आने के बाद धरती पर पानी की उत्पत्ति को लेकर नई थ्योरी मिली है।

दरअसल, कई रिपोर्ट्स में इस बात का दावा किया जाता है कि कॉमेट (धूमकेतू) के धरती से टकराने के बाद उसके प्रभाव से पानी उत्पन्न हुआ। हालांकि पृथ्वी की सतह के नीचे मौजूद महासागर से यह संभावना जताई जा रही है कि समुद्र समय के साथ धरती के नीचे से ही बाहर निकले हैं। वैज्ञानिक जैकोब्सन ने बताया कि इस महासागर का धरती के नीचे रहना इसलिए जरूरी है क्योंकि अगर यह सतह से बाहर आ गया, तो पृथ्वी पर सिर्फ पानी ही होगा। जमीन के नाम पर सिर्फ पहाड़ों की ऊंची चोटियां ही बच पाएंगी।

पानी यानी हाइड्रोजन के 2 और ऑक्सीजन का 1 परमाणु- झमाझम होती बारिश हो, केतली से निकलती भाप हो या सिल्ली घिसकर तैयार बर्फ का रसीला गोला। पानी के इन तीनों रूपों को केमिस्ट्री में H, O कहते हैं। H, O यानी पानी का अणु। अणु किसी भी पदार्थ यानी सब्सटेंस की इकाई है।



Japan Launches e-Visa For Indian Tourists. Here's How To Apply

Japan has officially launched its e-Visa program for several countries, including India. This single-entry visa grants a validity of up to 90 days and is specifically designed for travellers planning to enter Japan by air and holding an ordinary passport. For individuals seeking short-term tourism in Japan, the process of obtaining a visa has been streamlined through the introduction of electronic visas (e-Visas) via the Japan e-Visa system.

Who is Eligible - The following countries and regions are eligible: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA.

The eligibility also extends to Indian citizens and foreign nationals residing in India. Residents of these countries or regions, excluding those exempt from short-term visas, can apply for an e-Visa via the Japan e-Visa website.

Uttarakhand tourism dept launches helicopter services for Adi Kailash



A group of 16 tourists from Delhi, Maharashtra, Orissa and Gujarat among other states completed the first trip of Adi Kailash and Om Parvat worship on Monday through a helicopter package launched by the Uttarakhand tourism department.

The initiative is aimed at promoting Winter Tourism in the Himalayan hinterland under the Vibrant Village program, and providing employment opportunities to the locals, according to a press release. The tourism department hailed the completion of the first trip as a "pioneering initiative to promote tourism in the remote areas of the State, thereby creating employment opportunities for the local population." "Through this novel tourism product, the State envisions to promote 'High Value Low Volume' tourism on the area, also aligning with the Government of India's Vibrant Village Program (VVP)," the department stated, according to the release.

The package includes pickup and drop services from hotels in Pithoragarh, a 2-hour helicopter ride covering aerial darshan of Adi Kailash, Om Parvat and other peaks followed by breakfast, the release stated. A 4 nights/5 days package is also scheduled to commence from April 15, which will include stay at Pithoragarh for a night, at Gunji/Nabhi/Nepalchu for 3 nights, six helicopter rides and transfers by All Terrain Vehicles.

Kaziranga National Park breaks revenue records amidst tourism surge

UNESCO Heritage site, The Kaziranga National Park Tiger Reserve in Assam has achieved a remarkable milestone, reporting its highest-ever revenue of Rs 8,81,84,161 for the fiscal year 2023-24, a significant increase from the previous year's revenue of Rs 8,33,85,383 during the same period in 2022-23. Renowned for its iconic one-horned rhinoceros, Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve attracted a total of 3,27,493 tourists in the last fiscal year.

Among them, 3,13,574 were domestic tourists, and the rest 13,919 foreigner

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However, Sonali Ghosh, the field Director of KNP, talking to The Statesman mentioned that the actual number of visitors to Kaziranga might be higher as some tourists prefer to stay in the surrounding areas rather than visiting the park itself.

Kaziranga National Park Tiger Reserve comprises three administrative divisions: Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bishwanath Wildlife Division, and Nagaon Wildlife Division.

Ghosh highlighted the increasing popularity of tourism in all three divisions, emphasising the rise of non-conventional tourist sites which helped in generating additional revenue.

The post-monsoon tourism season, which commenced in mid-October 2023, witnessed a surge in attractions such as jungle safaris and elephant safaris.

Additionally, new opportunities such as cycling trails in Karbi-Anglong and trekking routes in Panbari forest range and Chirang were introduced, further enhancing the visitor experience. Ethnic restaurants led by community representatives, including Choran-Ahem (Karbi) and Ajun Ukum (Mising), gained popularity, while Bwisag-Na (Bodo), a women-led restaurant at Bura Chapori, made modest beginnings, a statement said.

How to Apply - Visit the Japan e-Visa website and follow the following steps:

Verification of necessary visa and documents - Choose the right visa for your trip, and the documents to submit.

Application information entry. Enter the information necessary for the online visa application. Notification of examination result. The results of your visa application will be sent to your registered e-mail address.

Visa fees payment- Pay the visa fees notified to you by e-mail to Japanese overseas establishments where you are applying.

e-Visa issuance procedure - e-Visa will be issued after the payment. During the application process, one may be requested to appear in person at the Japanese overseas establishment with jurisdiction over the place of the applicant's residence for an interview.

Sri Lanka sees huge tourist boom in April 2024



In April 2024, the tourism sector of Sri Lanka achieved a significant landmark, highlighted by the Tourism Minister, Harin Fernando, who noted that the first quarter of the year saw the arrival of over 635,000 tourists. This milestone signifies the country's ongoing recovery and growth in the post-COVID era, with March 2024 alone witnessing 209,181 visitors. The continuous increase in tourist arrivals each month, surpassing the 200,000 mark, points towards a promising year for the nation's tourism industry.

Record-Breaking Start to 2024 The initial quarter of 2024 has established a new benchmark for Sri Lanka's tourism industry, with the country welcoming 635,784 visitors by the end of March. This surge in tourism is attributed to factors such as the winter travel season, enhanced global connectivity, and an increase in flight services. Although the figures for February were slightly below the 2018 records, the industry has seen a year-on-year growth of 103%, showcasing a solid recovery and a growing global appeal.

Strategic Moves and Future Ambitions The strategic initiatives undertaken by Sri Lanka Tourism have been crucial to this achievement. The efforts to promote the island as a premier destination, leveraging its diverse attractions, have paid off. With ambitious plans for 2024, Sri Lanka aims to attract 2.3 million tourists and generate more than \$4.5 billion in revenue, reflecting the sector's optimism and the wider economic recuperation efforts after the pandemic.

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead While the start has been positive, challenges persist. The global economic situation and competition demand continuous innovation and enhancement of Sri Lanka's tourism offerings. Addressing infrastructure needs and adopting sustainable practices will be vital to sustain this growth. However, the impressive first quarter lays a solid foundation for achieving the ambitious targets set for 2024, indicating a hopeful year for Sri Lanka's tourism sector.

As Sri Lanka moves towards achieving these goals, the early successes of 2024 not only affirm the country's attraction but also illuminate the path for a sector aiming for a bright future amidst recent challenges. With strategic planning and dedication, the tourism industry in Sri Lanka is well-positioned for continued success.

Uzbekistan eyes on UK tourists to boost tourism



In a significant event that marked a celebration of cultural exchange and tourism potential, Uzbekistan's Embassy in London played host to an enlightening presentation aimed at introducing the Central Asian country's rich offerings to the British travel sector. This gathering not only served as a bridge between cultures but also underscored Uzbekistan's commitment to positioning itself as a key player in the global tourism

industry. The event saw the participation of representatives from leading British travel companies and publishing houses, who were offered a comprehensive overview of Uzbekistan's opportunities in the realm of tourism. The presentation encompassed a wide array of attractions, from traditional crafts and jewelry that reflect the nation's rich artistic heritage to the unique flavors of national cuisine that promise an unforgettable gastronomic journey.

At the forefront of this initiative were the managers from Uzbek travel companies, "Shehrezada Travel" and "Bo'ston Travel." They detailed their array of services and introduced new destinations that promise to captivate the adventurous spirit of travelers. Their presentations highlighted the untapped tourist potential of Uzbekistan, opening doors to experiences that blend the ancient with the modern in seamless harmony. Adding to the allure was an exhibition showcasing the exquisite craftsmanship inherent in Uzbek national crafts and jewelry. This display not only highlighted the meticulous artistry and centuries-old traditions of Uzbek artisans but also illustrated the country's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage while sharing it with the world. A masterclass on preparing Uzbek pilaf, led by masters from Uzbekistan, offered a taste of the country's culinary heritage. This interactive session not only allowed participants to engage directly with the rich flavors of Uzbek cuisine but also served as a symbol of cultural exchange, fostering a deeper appreciation for the country's traditions and lifestyle.