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Padma Vibhushan Awardees



The government on the eve of Republic Day 2024 announced the winners of Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awardees. According to the list, 17 people have been honoured with Padma Bhushan, five have honoured with Padma Vibhushan and 110 have been awarded Padma Shri.

Legendary actress Vyjanthimala, Former Vice President M Venkiah Naidu and Telugu superstar K Chiranjeevi were among the recipients of the Padma Vibhushan award for 2024.

Sulabh Foundation founder and Chairman Bindeshwar Pathak (posthumous) and artist Padma Subrahmanyam were the other two recipients.

Supreme Court's first woman judge M Fathima Beevi (posthumous), actor Mithun Chakraborty, Foxconn Chairman Young Liu, former Union Minister and BJP leader Ram Naik, singer Usha Uthup, and Tamil actor and DMDK founder Vijayakanth (posthumous) were among the 17 recipients of the Padma Bhushan.

A total of 110 people were conferred the Padma Shri. The Bharat Ratna, the topmost civilian award, was already announced for socialist leader and former Bihar Chief Minister, the late Karpooori Thakur. Check the complete list of Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan awardees here.

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Appointments

Extension in down gradation of the post of Saurabh Kumar Tiwari (IP&TA&FS: 1993) from Additional Secretary to the level of Joint Secretary in the Direct Benefit Transfer Mission for the term up to 10.12.2025.

Extension in upgradation of the post of Praveen Vashista (IFS: 1991: BH) from Joint Secretary to the level of Additional Secretary in Department of Home up to 14.01.2025.

Extension in upgradation of the post of Sunil Paliwal (IAS: 1993: TN) Chairperson, Chennai Port Authority from the level of Joint Secretary to that of Additional Secretary for a term up to 15.09.2024.

Extension in upgradation of the post of Sandip Pradhan (IRS IT: 1990) Director General, Sports Authority of India, Department of Sports. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from the level of Joint Secretary to Additional Secretary up to 30.09.2024.

Tenure of Manish Kumar Garg (ITS: 1994), Director in the National Intelligence Grid under the ministry of Home Affairs, was extended for a period of two years i.e. up to 27.01 .2026. He counts his central deputation w.e.f 28.01.2019.

Extension of R Lakshmanan (IAS: 2004: BH), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, was extended for a period of two years.

Tenure of Richa Misra (IDAS: 1996), Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, was extended for a period of one year.

Tenure of Subrat Kumar Pradhan (IES: 2008), Director in the Department of Higher Education, was extended for a period up to 16.03.2026. He counts his central deputation w.e.f 18.05.2018.

Anil Kumar Lahoti (IRSE: 1984), former Chairman and CEO, Railway Board, has been appointed as Chairman Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for a period of three years.

*Amrendra Pratap Singh (ISS: 2010), Private Secretary (Deputy Secretary level) to the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh, was re-designated as Private Secretary (at Director level) to the same Minister for a period up to 25.10.2028 or on co-terminus basis. Singh counts his Central Deputation tenure w.e.f. 26.10.2023.

Tenure of Nazneen Banu (IDSE: 2001), Director, National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA) under the Ministry of Culture, was extended ex-post facto from 19.11.2023 to 19.12.2023.

Tenure of Vishwajeet Kumar (ISS: 2002), Director in the Department of Higher Education, was expended for a period of two years from 20.02.2024 to 19.02.2026. Kumar counts his Central deputation w.e.f 20.02.2019.

Nischal B was empanelled for promotion to the grade of Commissioner of Income Tax (CIT) in the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) against the panel year 2023.

Manish Mohan was empanelled for promotion to the grade of Commissioner of Customs & Indirect Taxes in the Indian Revenue Service (Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs), for the panel year 2017-18.

Rakesh Kumar was empanelled for promotion to the Senior Administrative Grade (designated as Additional Director General Foreign Trade/Development Commissioner Special Economic Zone/Trade Advisor) of the Indian Trade Service (ITS) in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, for the panel year 2023.

Deepika Lohia Aran (IOFS: 2002), CVO, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), was entrusted with additional charge of CVO, Handicrafts & Handlooms Export Corporation Ltd. (HHEC) & Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd (CCIC) for a period up to 21.09.2026.

Prem Prakash's (IOFS: 1998), CVO, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVNL), Shimla, additional charge of CVO, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation of India Ltd. (THDC) was extended for a further period of six months beyond 07.11.2023.

Virender Kumar Adhana's (IOFS: 1998), CVO, Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC), Delhi, additional charge of CVO, National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) was extended for a further period of 6 months beyond 07.11.2023.

Aruna Narayan Gupta (IRS C&IT: 1989) was appointed as Member, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC). Currently, she is working as Principal DG (Vigilance) & CVO, CBIC.

Jayant Sinha (IA&AS: 1990) was repatriated to his parent cadre to avail the benefit of promotion in the cadre. Currently, he is Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Prashant Shukla (IRS IT: 2010), Deputy Secretary in the Department of Personnel & Training, was re-designated as Director in the same department for a period up to 29.02.2024 i.e. till G-20 Secretariat is functional. He counts his central deputation tenure w.e.f. 28.10.2022.

Abs Shalini (IRS IT: 2010), Deputy Secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs, was re-designated as Director in the same department for a period up to 05.04.2028 i.e total tenure of five years. She counts her central deputation tenure w.e.f. 06.04.2023.

IAS

Extension in upgradation of the post of Arvind Shrivastava (IAS: 1994: KN) Joint Secretary to the level of Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office up to 24.03.2025.

Richa Sharma (IAS: 1994: CG), Additional Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, was repatriated to her parent cadre to avail his promotion.

Kapil Meena (IAS: 2010: SK), Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation, was re-designated as Director in the same ministry for a period up to 17.01.2027 i.e total tenure of five years.

Srikant Walgad (IAS: 1991: HY), CVO, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), Bengaluru, was prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre to avail his promotion benefits.

Suman Chandra (IAS: 2010: MH), Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, was re-designated as Director in the same ministry for a period up to 22.01.2028 i.e. total tenure of five years. She counts her central deputation tenure w.e.f. 23.01.2023.

Shyam Lal Poonia (IAS: 2010: MN), Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, was re-designated as Director in the same ministry for a period up to 07.12.2026 i.e. maximum admissible tenure of seven years. He counts his central deputation tenure w.e.f. 08.12.2019.

Central deputation tenure of Vipul Bansal (IAS: 2005: KN), Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, was extended for a period of three months beyond 18.01.2024.

Central deputation tenure of Sanjay Kumar (IAS: 1992: NL) was for a period of three months beyond 17.01.2024 i.e. up to 17.04.2024 or until further orders. Currently, he is Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

The post of Private Secretary (Deputy Secretary level) to the Minister for Culture, Tourism and DONER (G Kishan Reddy) held by Ashutosh Salil (IAS: 2010: MH) was re-designated as Director as a measure personal to him for a period upto 23.08.2026 or on co-terminus basis with the Minister.

Harmit Singh Pahuja (IAS: 2010: MN), Deputy Secretary in the Department of Personnel & Training presently, was re-designated as Director in the same department for a period up to 17.11.2024 i.e total tenure of five years. Pahuja counts his central deputation tenure w.e.f. 18.11.2019.

S S Nakul (IAS: 2010: KN), Private Secretary at Deputy Secretary level to the Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, was re-designated at Director level to the same Minister for a period up to 24.01.2026 on coterminous. He counts his central Deputation tenure w.e.f. 25.01.2021.

Ashutosh Niranjana (IAS: 2010: UP), Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, was re-designated as Director in the same ministry for a period up to 11.10.2028 i.e total tenure of five years. He counts his central deputation tenure w.e.f. 12.10.2023.

IPS

Makrand Deoskar (IPS: 1997: MP) was appointed as Inspector General in Border Security Force (BSF) for a period of five years.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has got six new Deputy Inspector General (DIGs). One IPS officer has been appointed as DIG while five IPS officers serving as SP have been promoted as DIG. The names of these officers are as follows. Sumedha (IPS: 2005: HP) has been inducted as Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) in the CBI for a period of five years.

Dr Gagandeep Singhla (IPS: 2020: RJ), SP, CBI, has been inducted as DIG for a period of five years up to 11.01. 2029.

K Siva Subramani (IPS: 2010: OD), SP, CBI, has been appointed as DIG for a period up to 28.11.2026.

Dhurat Saayali Savlaram (IPS: 2010: BH), SP, CBI has been appointed as DIG for a period up to 26.10.2027.

P Murugan (IPS: 2010: JH), SP CBI, has been appointed as DIG for a period up to 16.03.2025.

Rajeev (IPS: 2010: AM), SP CBI, has been appointed as DIG for a period up to 10.10.2027.

Jai Singh Meena (IPS: 2010: TR), SP CBI, has been appointed as DIG for a period up to 18.07.2026.

*Jatin Narwal (IPS: 2006: AGMUT), Director, Department of Sports, has been prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre to avail the benefit of promotion.

Sulochana Gajraj (IPS: 2010: HY) was appointed as DIG, BPR&D for a tenure of five years. Currently, she is SP, BPR&D.

Sanjay Kundu reinstated as state DGP

The Himachal Pradesh government has reinstated Sanjay Kundu (IPS: 1989: HP) as director general of police (DGP) of the state in compliance with the Supreme Court (SC) orders of January 12, 2024 that sat aside the December 26 order of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

While disposing of a petition filed by a Palampur-based businessman, the HC, on December 26, 2022, had directed the state government to remove Kundu and Kangra superintendent of police from their posts and move them to positions where they would not have any opportunity to influence the investigation in the FIRs referred to in the order. Kundu had challenged the HC order by filing a petition before the SC. While setting aside the December 26 order of HC, the SC had said that the order was passed without compliance with the principles of justice. SC bench headed by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud had made the above observation on the petition filed by Kundu challenging that January 9 order of the HC.




CBI files closure report: Ex Mumbai police chief given clean chit

The CBI has filed a closure report in one of the five criminal cases against former Mumbai police chief Param Bir Singh (IPS: 1988: MH).

The closure report was presented before Chief Judicial Magistrate, Thane on January 18, 2024 which says except oral statements by the complainant, Sharad Agarwal, there was no evidence to corroborate allegations.

The complainant has challenged the report in the Thane court, which has posted the matter for hearing on February 12. The case was filed in July 2021 when 18 criminal sections were invoked against Singh, Parag Manere and others. They were booked for allegedly extorting Rs 2 crore from a businessman as a payoff in a case involving violations of the Urban Land Ceiling Regulation Act.




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Corridors of Power



I&PR Plays Important Role

2013 batch IAS official M.Hanumantha Rao has been appointed as Special Commissioner to I & PR (Information and Public Relations) department. Earlier, Hanumantha Rao was holding the post of Commissioner of Panchayat Raj and Rural development wing.He also worked as Collector of Sangareddy district. Mr.Rao said “He observed that the Information department plays a key role in disseminating information on the various welfare and development activities taken up by the government, particularly at the grass-roots level.” The officer met Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari soon after taking the charge.

Sanjay Jaju takes over as I&B Secretary



Sanjay Jaju, IAS officer of 1992 batch takes charge as Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from Apurva Chandra who has been appointed Health Secretary, in New Delhi. Sanjay Jaju, a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official from Telangana cadre, on assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Upon his assumption of charge, he was welcomed by the outgoing Secretary, Apurva Chandra, and other officials of the Ministry and various media units. Mr. Chandra has been assigned the charge of Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Mr. Jaju has previously served as Additional Secretary to the Government of India from 2018 to 2023 and Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, from October 2014 to March 2018. He has also served as Secretary to the Andhra Pradesh government (Electronics, IT and Communications Department) from May 2011 to October 2014.



Emphasizes the crucial role of sports

DGP Ravi Gupta attended as chief guest during the 6th Annual Sports and Games Meet-2024 hosted by Cyberabad Police.The closing ceremony celebrated the triumphs in diverse sports competitions, with CAR Headquarters emerging as the overall champion. DGP emphasizes the crucial role of sports in alleviating stress and ensuring the physical well-being of police personnel. Cyberbad police commissioner Avinash Mohanty welcomed DG. What's happening in his regime ! Every ones knows the working style of Mr.Mohanty, his sincerity, his toughness and commitment.



Fitness Comes FIRST

Home Secretary Dr.Jitender attended Sports meet as a chief guest hosted by Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. Many sports competitions were held, in which police personals showed their ability, talent and strength. Mr.Jitender focused on fitness and told the khakis to maintain it on priority to serve the best. Sudheer babu, Rachakonda Police Commissioner can also be seen in the picture, the officer who is known for his best performance and working hard.

INTERPOL congratulated Drugs Control Administration



Spurious drugs are a major threat to public health. Hence Drugs Control Administration, Telangana officers are working relentlessly to detect Spurious Drugs movement in the market and making every effort to make the State of Telangana free of spurious drugs. Since IPS officer V.B.Kamalasan Reddy took over as Director General the DCA is working out standing to catch hold spurious drugs on large scale. Till date lakhs of spurious drugs has been caught, which was shipped from different states to Hyderabad for sale. INTERPOL which carries out major operations to crackdown on counterfeit medicines across several countries in the world, came to know about spurious drug rackets busted by Drugs Control Administration,Telangana. INTERPOL through their letter congratulated, Drugs Control Administration, Telangana for successful detection and seizure of Spurious Drugs in Hyderabad.

Spiritual VIBES



Telangana State Governor and LG to Puducherry Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan visited Manakula Vinayagar Temple. During the visit she met the foreign tourists and interacted with them. “Tourists from Italy are enchanted by the spiritual vibes at Manakula Vinayagar Temple in Puducherry. Exploring our rich heritage & scenic spots left them mesmerized. Snippets of tourists visit Manakula Vinayagar temple Puducherry and interact with our culture and tradition.”



Meeting Of The Month

It was a busy month for US consul general in Hyderabad Jennifer Larson.As per her recent post, “delighted to meet with new Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu and IVLP alumnus of the U.S. Department of State. So great to learn more about his vision to facilitate Hyderabad’s continued growth. I look forward to working with him to strengthen U.S.-India business ties in Telangana State.



Cricket Mania

UK Dy. High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen visited Andhra Pradesh and during his visit he reached stadium and enjoyed cricket at Vizag. And during the match he met one cricket lover and took a picture to make the moment memorable. That’s fantastic !



Türkiye Tourism Roadshow

Türkiye Tourism Roadshow successfully held in Hyderabad. Around 40 Turkish travel agents interacted with around 150 Indian travel agents. It’s now the time to go to Türkiye , said Orhan Yalman Okan, the Turkey Consul General in Hyderabad. The diplomat who is very active to promote trade and good realtions between both the countries.



Mr.Baybars Altuntas Visited Hyderabad

Mr. Baybars Altuntas ,Chairman of the Board of Directors, WBAF Former Senior Advisor of the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) for the Elite Program, Chairman of the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) – an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFII) visited at Dr.Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan,Honorary Consul of Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh India.

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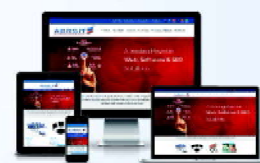
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Former DGP Mahender Reddy apptd. as TSPSC chairman

The State government has appointed former Director General of Police (DGP) M Mahendar Reddy as chairman of the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) and five others as members. A 1986 batch IPS officer, Mahender Reddy had served as the DGP during the past. He retired in December 2022. Along with the former DGP, other members, including Anita Rajendra (retired IAS officer), retired Indian Postal Service Officer Amir Ullah Khan, Palavai Rajani Kumari, Narri Yadaiah and Y. Ram Mohana Rao were appointed as members in the Commission. The Chairman and members will hold the office for a term of six years or till they attain 62 years, whichever is earlier, the government said in the order.



DS Chauhan selected for Indian Police Medal

Senior IPS Officer and Commissioner for Civil Supplies DS Chauhan bagged two awards. Chauhan was selected for the prestigious Indian Police Medal announced by the Centre every year on the occasion of Republic Day.

In addition to this, he was also awarded the Best Electoral Practices Award (2024). He was selected for this award by the Election Commission for the smooth and efficient conduct of the Legislative Assembly elections as Rachakonda Police Commissioner. Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan presented the award to Chauhan at a function held on the occasion of Voters Day Celebration at JNTU.



N. Balaram Took Over As CMD of SCCL

SCCL Senior Finance Director Mr. N. Balaram took over as the CMD of Singareni. He told in his statement that we all team will work hard to make Singareni a leading organization in the country in all fields, open new mines and expand thermal and solar power.

He added that we are ready to supply all the thermal power stations in Telangana state even during peak power consumption without any shortage of coal. Mr. Balaram said that as per the special direction of the state government, we will lay great emphasis on the welfare of the workers, and we will also pay more attention to the protection and take measures without sparing the cost.



Neetu Prasad On Central Deputation

Ms. Neetu Kumari Prasad, IAS has been appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying for the tenure of five years. She is a 2001 batch IAS officer of Telangana cadre. Earlier to the posting the lady officer served at Commercial department and also as a Collector for East Godavari and Karimnagar district where she has done a tremendous work. She is known for her sincerity and dedication.



Chandana Deepthi new SP of Nalgonda dist

2001 batch IPS officer Chandana Deepthi took charge as new Superintendent of police of Nalgonda district. She worked as North zone DCP at Hyderabad city police and SP, Medak. Speaking to media persons, she informed that curbing cyber crimes, ensuring women and child safety, road safety, crack-down on anti-social elements and drugs would her top priorities to keep the district peaceful. Meanwhile, former SP Apoorva Rao has been transferred to CID women protection cell, Hyderabad.

Appointments

IAS Officers

Telangana Government has transferred 10 IAS officials and posted them in different departments. The incumbent I and PR Commissioner K Ashok Reddy has been transferred as Director to Horticulture department. Chief Rationing Officer, Hyderabad, B. Bala Maya Devi was transferred and posted as Commissioner, BC Welfare, in the existing vacancy. Anita Ramachandran, Secretary, Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) was transferred and posted as Commissioner to Panchayat Raj and Rural development.

Director to Agriculture B Gopi was placed in FAC of the post of Commissioner, Fisheries vice Lachiram Bhukya, IRSME, was transferred. On relief, Lachiram Bhukya would stand repatriated to his parent cadre. TS Christian Minorities Finance Corporation MD A Nirmala Kanthi Wesley was transferred and posted as Director, WCD & SC Development duly relieving Vakati Karuna from the said post. Wesley will also hold the post of Managing Director, Women Finance Corporation. Dr. E. Naveen Nicolas, Secretary to Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) & Secretary, Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institution Society (TTWREIS) was transferred and posted as Secretary, Telangana State Public Service Commission.

IAS official K. Seetha Lakshmi, who is waiting for posting was posted as Secretary, Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) and Secretary, Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institution Society. G. Phaneendra Reddy, IAS, who is waiting for posting was posted as Chief Rationing Officer, Hyderabad. Nehru Zoo park Director VSNV Prasad was transferred and posted as Director of Civil Supplies department.

IPS Officers

V V Srinivasa Rao, IPS (RR: 1995), Chairman, Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board, Hyderabad, is transferred and posted as Addl., DGP, Technical Services, in the existing vacancy, duly relieving Shika Goel, IPS, (RR: 1994) from Full Additional Charge.

The MoS is also placed in Full Additional Charge of the Chairman, Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board, Hyderabad, until further orders.

Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS (RR: 2008), DIG, who is waiting for posting, is posted as DIG, Coordination, O/o DGP, Telangana, Hyderabad.

On transfer, Rema Rajeshwari, IPS (RR: 2009), is posted as DIG, Women Safety Wing, Telangana, Hyderabad.

On transfer, L S Chowhan, IPS, (SPS: 2009), is posted as Commissioner of Police, Ramagundam vice Smt Rema Rajeshwari, IPS, transferred.

D Joel Davis, IPS (RR: 2010), Deputy Commissioner of Police, SB, Hyderabad City, is transferred and posted as DIG, Zone-VII (Jogulamba). Vice L S Chowhan, IPS, transferred.

On transfer, Vishnu S Warriar, IPS (RR: 2013), is directed to report in the O/o DGP, Telangana, Hyderabad.

P V Padmaja, IPS (SPS: 2013), Superintendent of Police, Women Safety Wing, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner of Police. Malkajgiri Vice Janaki Dharavath, IPS, transferred.

Dr. G Janaki Sharmila, IPS (SPS: 2013), Deputy Director, TSPA, Hyderabad, is transferred and posted as Superintendent of Police, Nirmal vice Ch Praveen Kumar, IPS, transferred.

Janaki Dharavath, IPS (SPS: 2013), Deputy Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri Zone, Rachakonda, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner of Police, South East Zone, Hyderabad City Vice Birduraju Rohit Raju, IPS, transferred.

Sunil Dutt, IPS (RR: 2014), Deputy Commissioner of Police, East Zone, Hyderabad City, is transferred and posted Commissioner of Police, Khammam vice Sri Vishnu S Warriar, IPS, transferred.

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Public Sector

HPCL Shines with three Prestigious SCOPE Awards



In a momentous ceremony, Pushp Kumar Joshi, HPCL's esteemed Chairman and Managing Director, and Ritwik Rath, Executive Director (I/C) – ERP, on behalf of HPCL, proudly received three coveted awards from the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar. The awards ceremony, organized by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), celebrated HPCL's outstanding achievements in various domains.

The distinguished awards bestowed upon HPCL are as follows:
SCOPE Eminence Award for Human Resource Management: This accolade recognizes HPCL's commitment to fostering an exemplary work environment and its innovative approach to human resource management.

SCOPE Eminence Award for Digital Transformation: HPCL stands out for its visionary approach to embracing digital transformation, contributing significantly to the organization's growth and efficiency. SCOPE Meritorious Award for the effective implementation of the RTI Act: HPCL's dedication to transparency and accountability is underscored by this meritorious award, emphasizing the effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

These prestigious recognitions are a testament to HPCL's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, people centric approach, transparency and adherence to the highest standards of corporate governance. The awards were adjudicated by an eminent jury, chaired by Justice T S Thakur, former Chief Justice of India, and comprised a distinguished panel of experts. The selection process was rigorous, with stringent criteria devised and evaluated by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Limited. The accolades received underscore HPCL's position as a trailblazer in the industry, showcasing its ability to adapt to evolving challenges and set new benchmarks for excellence.

GAIL and ADNOC Gas ink a Long-term LNG contract



GAIL (India) Limited, India's largest Natural Gas company, has successfully concluded a long-term LNG purchase agreement for purchase of around 0.5 MMTPA LNG from ADNOC Gas. This is pursuant to an MoU between GAIL and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) P.J.S.C wherein Parties agreed that, in potential areas of collaboration both parties shall explore opportunities including purchase of LNG by GAIL from ADNOC for a tenure ranging from short term to medium and long-term.

This significant development between GAIL and ADNOC will reinforce the robust cultural and economic bonds between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Under this agreement, the deliveries will commence from 2026 onwards for a duration of 10 years, across India.

This arrangement is believed to further aid in India's rising energy security requirements and, simultaneously, also fuel GAIL's strategic growth objectives to cater to its downstream customers in the rapidly evolving Natural Gas landscape of the country.

Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited said on this long-term LNG deal that this long-term LNG deal with ADNOC by GAIL will contribute to bridging gap in India's demand and supply of natural gas and will open more avenues of strategic partnership between GAIL and ADNOC in other areas of energy domain.

Underlining the broader impact of the agreement, Sanjay Kumar, Director (Marketing), GAIL stated that this long-term LNG transaction by GAIL will help India in moving towards Government of India's objective of enhancing share of natural gas in India's energy basket to 15%. Further, this deal will also help GAIL to augment its significantly large LNG portfolio to serve its diverse consumer profile.

The long-term LNG purchase agreement with ADNOC Gas is anticipated to fortify India's energy security, foster economic collaboration, and propel both GAIL and ADNOC into new realms of strategic partnership.

Indian Oil posts big jump in net profit at Rs 8,063 cr for Q3



Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on Wednesday announced a massive jump in net profit for the third quarter of FY 2023-24 to Rs 8,063 crore from the corresponding figures of Rs 448 crore in the same quarter of FY 2022-23 on higher refining margins.

The leading oil marketing company's revenue from operations worked out to Rs 2,23,012 crore in Q3 2023-24 as compared to Rs 2,28,168 crore in the same quarter of the previous financial year.

For the third quarter of FY 2023-24, Indian Oil's product sales volumes, including exports, was 24.621 million tonnes. The refining throughput was 18.502 million tonnes and the throughput of the Corporation's countrywide pipelines network was 25.212 million tonnes during the quarter, according to a company statement.

The net profit for the nine months ended December 31, 2023 of the current financial year is 34,781 crore as compared to a net loss of Rs 1,817 crore during the corresponding period last fiscal mainly on account of higher marketing margin and lower exchange losses during current period, the company said. Indian Oil Chairman S.M. Vaidya said, "The company sold 72.272 million tonnes of products, including exports, during the period April-December 2023. Our refining throughput for first nine months of FY 2023-24 was 55.026 million tonnes and the throughput of the Corporation's countrywide pipelines network was 74.033 million tonnes during the period. The gross refining margin (GRM) during the period April – December 2023 was \$13.26 per bbl as compared."

NTPC and NRL to build strategic partnership for Green Chemicals & Green Projects



NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated power utility, today signed a non-binding MoU with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), a subsidiary of Oil India Ltd engaged in the business of Refining and Marketing of petroleum products, for partnership opportunities in the proposed bamboo-based Bio-Refinery at NTPC Bongaigaon and other Green projects.

The two CPSEs, through this MoU, intend to enhance their footprint in green chemicals and foray into sustainable solutions to advance the efforts towards achieving the nation's Net-Zero targets and be partner in development of North-East Region.

The MoU was signed in the august presence of Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC, Dr Ranjit Rath, CMD OIL & Chairman NRL, and Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan, MD NRL.

NTPC is committed to achieve 60 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2032 and be a major player in Green Hydrogen and Energy Storage domain. The company is taking up several initiatives towards decarbonization such as Green Hydrogen, Biofuels, Carbon Capture & Hydrogen Mobility.

MRPL becomes India's first AS 9100: D certified Refinery



Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) is certified with AS9100:D, standard prepared by International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) to assure customer satisfaction in Aviation, Space and Defence Organisations, under the scope of : "Production, Storage, Testing and Distribution of Aviation Turbine Fuel". MRPL IS India's first Refinery to get this new aerospace standard.

The aerospace industry demands the utmost precision, reliability, and safety in its supply chain. As a certified organization, MRPL is now well-positioned to serve as a trusted partner to aerospace companies within India and globally. The standard ensures the interaction and configuration of various processes, from sourcing raw materials to the final product certification.

The certification process involves a stage audit of the entire life cycle of ATF, involving production criticalities like the addition of qualified additives and catalysts, standardization of production processes, transfer through a dedicated pipeline network, ensuring fuel devoid of Foreign Object Detection (FOD) in storage tanks, followed by certification and distribution to customers. MRPL's newly acquired certification is expected to give it leverage to expand its presence in the aerospace sector.

NMDC Records Best Ever Cumulative Volumes upto Jan'24

Navratna mining company, NMDC produced 4.54 million tonnes and sold 4.56 million tonnes of iron ore in January 2024. With an 8% growth in production and 19% uptick in sales from January 2023 volumes, NMDC has achieved its best ever January month sales since inception.

Foraying towards historic volumes this fiscal, the cumulative production and sales stood at 36.32.MnT and 36.49 MnT respectively, upto January 2024. From the corresponding period last year, the cumulative production is 17% higher while the cumulative sales figure climbed by 23%. This also marks the highest ever cumulative production and sales in company history during a ten month period.

Congratulating his team on the stellar growth run, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge) said, "In its standing as the largest iron ore producer of India commanding one-sixth

share of the domestic market, NMDC's sustained growth tells of the booming iron and steel sector. As the Economic Budget for next fiscal continues to lay emphasis on infrastructure development, we are heavily investing to build up our production and evacuation infrastructure, while enhancing our technical and digital strength. NMDC has aligned its targets to meet the escalating demand for iron ore and is headed for milestone production in FY24."



Taking a Daily Multivitamin May Help Slow Cognitive Aging and Boost Memory



It also helps to maintain similar wake-up times and bedtimes. Aim to adjust for no more than 2 hours of extra sleep on weekends.

“It is critical that future treatments and preventions are effective in all populations,” Sexton added. “COSMOS-Clinic, for example, had less than 2% non-White in the multivitamin group and 5% non-White in the placebo group.” She noted, however, that multivitamins are easy to obtain and relatively affordable. “With confirmation, these promising findings have the potential to significantly impact public health — improving brain health, lowering health care costs, reducing caregiver burden — especially among older adults.” Sexton further advised that people speak with their healthcare providers about the benefits and risks of any dietary supplements they are taking, including multivitamins, noting that, although it’s preferable to obtain nutrients through a balanced diet, this is not always possible for people.

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Dr.Naina Jaiswal : The Youngest Female Ph.D Holder

Dr.Naina Jaiswal, received Doctorate in Micro-finance and Women Empowerment. She is the youngest female PhD holder in the country. The prestigious honor was presented by the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Syed Abdul Nazeer Ji, during the XIII, XIV & XV Convocation Ceremony of Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamahendravaram Andhra Pradesh.

In her post Dr.Naina said "It was truly an honor to share this moment with Smt. Sudha Murthy Ji, the chairperson of Infosys Foundation, who was conferred with an honorary doctorate at the ceremony.

This achievement is particularly meaningful as it reflects a commitment to advancing financial inclusion and empowering women. Looking forward for contributing further to these vital fields and inspiring others on this transformative journey."



Jaya Kishori ji enthralled the devotees

The popular Bhagwat Katha Vachak Jaya Kishori ji was at the town, she participated in the spiritual event hosted by Prabhudayal panch Pariwar. She is also known as 'Meera of the modern world' in today's era, her sayings and quotes and off course the bhajans mesmerized the devotees. Kishori ji hails from Sujangarh in the Churu district but was born and brought up in Kolkata, West Bengal. She is an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna, and her bhajans are also very famous on YouTube.



Dr.Nikhil releases Midnight Reporter's Jan edition

Midnight Reporter's Jackpot January edition is out with a bang released by well-known Mr.Dr.Nikhil S Ghadyalpatil, Director Medical Oncology, MD (Gen.Med), DNB (G.Med), DM (Medical Oncology)- Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Sr.Consultant Medical Oncologist and Hemato Oncologist, Yashoda Hospital, Somajiguda.

Click the link for epaper :
<https://midnightreporter.com/January-2024.pdf>



JITO Youth & JITO

Hyderabad jointly planned a conversation with well-known CA Sarthak Ahuja to initiate new business horizons. The young chaps had learned many tips and useful updates from the conversation. As known that JITO is a platform to incarnate and create a pool of young, ignited, honest and talented generation that would serve the cause of Humanity, Brotherhood and Non Violence.

Kabeer Ke 'Quotes' Ka Jawab Nahi

Kabeer Khan, the socialite who is a favorite 'dost' of many of the people in the town is making rounds with his quotes and sayings. As said earlier that Kabeer has a habit of posting good & effective sayings which are appreciated on the social media. In one of his post he mentioned. "Prestige comes when, you feel you have done something well, But, honour comes when others feel you have done something well" Amazing lines !



Awareness Is Mandatory

When it comes to menstrual, the awareness is mandatory by maintaining the hygiene and using organic pads. A well-known young doctor Dr.Kavya Priya Vazrala, Gynecologist & Laparoscopic surgeon has started a drive to aware the girls and womens through various platforms. Recently Dr.Kavya invited as a guest doctor to Telangana State Police Academy for an awareness talk. She also clear the doubts of the female trainees. Good job Dr.Kavya ! In the picture Police officer Narmada and Rohini Naidu can also be seen.



Click Of The Month

Presenting stunning picture of Imran Shalimar.The gentleman who always steals the show and will be in the talk for his apparels and unique style. Kuch baat tho hai !

Kya Baat Hai

When it comes to traditional wears, sherwani is the most loveable attire in the modern time.In the picture Abdur Rahman is seen wearing sherwani during an occasion. Amazing pose ! When goes to details, the name Sherwani is derived from Shirvan or Sherwan, a region of Azerbaijan where the folk dress resembles a sherwani.



What Is Interior Design - And Why Can It Really Make You Feel Better !

If you don't like a specific musical style, the theater bores you, or you're not attracted to works of art, you can almost always avoid them. Architecture, however, is different. A poorly thought-out project will affect the lives of many people consistently and for a long time. With interiors, this effect is even more amplified. Humanity is spending more and more time indoors, which directly impacts our well-being and health. In periods of compulsory retirement. We gain a sense of how important interior spaces are for our well-being and even for the prevention of diseases. Designing an indoor environment is a huge responsibility for a professional. An interior designer must plan, research, coordinate, and manage these projects to obtain an adequately healthy and aesthetically pleasing environment for the people who use the space. But what, in fact, is interior design?

Not infrequently, interior design is confused with decoration - a misconception that comes loaded with a number of prejudices and misunderstandings. The choice of coverings, colors, and finishes is, in fact, one important aspect of interior design. But it is not its only characteristic.

First, it is essential to understand user behaviors and desires to create functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces. The organization of movement is a starting point, which can be achieved through basic layout manipulation. This division of space can be accomplished through walls, but also through furniture and even objects. At the same time, interior design must pay attention to comfort conditions (whether thermal, lighting or acoustic), as well as ergonomics, which dictates the best dimensions for furniture and objects. Finally, the specification of coatings and materials constitutes the most visible and superficial part of interior design, but is no less important. This final touch composes the face of the project, transmitting the designer's vision as well as the desires and needs of the users.

Below, we discuss the main issues that interior design must take into account in more detail:

The layout of a project is, briefly, the positioning of equipment, furniture, and objects, whether fixed or mobile, in the space that is being designed. An adequate distribution can organize the flow of space, create places of permanence, and generate hierarchies of space. It is especially in open architectural plans, where the designer has more freedom, that interior layouts are most essential for the proper functioning of the project. Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe were the first to challenge conventionally hierarchical plans by reducing large areas of circulation and using structural elements, furniture, and movable panels to divide space rather than walls.

In order to develop a good layout, the interior designer must, of course, consider accessibility standards, fire escape routes, and minimum dimensions for rooms. There is a vast amount of literature delineating the appropriate dimensions for each type of space use. Ernst Neufert's book "Architects' Data" was originally published in 1936, and has been collecting best practices for dimensions of various different spaces from industrial kitchens to train cars. With cities growing increasingly dense and properties increasingly expensive, however, micro-apartments and tiny houses are beginning to defy these minimum standards, showing that the rules can be carefully broken. The most essential thing to understand is therefore the needs of the space and its user in order to propose functional and appropriate layouts for each different scenario.



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ट्रम्प कैंडिडेट बने तो बाइडेन जीतेंगे, निक्की हेली बोलीं



रिपब्लिकन पार्टी की तरफ से प्रेसिडेंशियल कैंडिडेट बनने की कोशिश कर रही भारतीय मूल की निक्की हेली ने पूर्व राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के चुनावी वादों पर फिर सवालिया निथान लगाए हैं। निक्की ने कहा— ट्रम्प अमेरिका को फिर महान बनाने की बातें कर रहे हैं, हमें अमेरिका को ग्रेट नहीं, नॉर्मल बनाने की जरूरत है। अगर ट्रम्प फिर हमारे कैंडिडेट बनते हैं, तो बाइडेन आसानी से 2024 का इलेक्शन जीत जाएंगे। रिपब्लिकन और डेमोक्रेट्स दोनों पार्टियां प्राइमरी और काँकस इलेक्शन के जरिए प्रेसिडेंशियल कैंडिडेट सिलेक्ट कर रही हैं। माना जा रहा है कि मार्च से जून के बीच दोनों पार्टियों के कैंडिडेट तय हो जाएंगे। निक्की और ट्रम्प का मुकाबला 23 फरवरी को साउथ कैरोलिना प्राइमरी में फिर होगा।

जीत का भरोसा— निक्की भले ही रिपब्लिन रेस में ट्रम्प से पीछे हों, लेकिन उन्हें वापसी और जीत का भरोसा है। साउथ कैरोलिना में 23 फरवरी को होने

वाले प्राइमरी इलेक्शन से पहले समर्थकों के लिए जारी बयान में साउथ कैरोलिना की इस पूर्व गवर्नर ने कहा— तस्वीर बिल्कुल साफ है। अगर ट्रम्प ही हमारी पार्टी की तरफ से प्रेसिडेंशियल कैंडिडेट बनते हैं तो जो बाइडेन आराम से फिर चुनाव जीत जाएंगे।

UN में अमेरिकी एंबेसीटर रह चुकीं निक्की ने आगे कहा— डेमोक्रेट्स बहुत अच्छी तरह जानते हैं कि उनका चुनाव जीतना तभी मुमकिन है, जब ट्रम्प से बाइडेन का मुकाबला हो। इस बात को कुछ लोग समझ नहीं पा रहे हैं। मैं दो प्राइमरी भले ही हार चुकी हूं, लेकिन वापसी करूंगी और जीत भी मिलेगी।

अमेरिका को नॉर्मल बनाने की जरूरत— निक्की ने एक नया नारा दिया। कहा— मेक अमेरिका नॉर्मल अगेन। उन्होंने कहा— मेरे कैम्पेन को बहुत सपोर्ट मिल रहा है। बाइडेन और ट्रम्प दोनों 80 साल के करीब हो चुके हैं। मैं चाहती हूं कि इस बार किसी यंग कैंडिडेट को मौका मिले। इसलिए समर्थक पूरी तरह तैयार रहें। साउथ कैरोलिना तो मेरा होम स्टेट है। मैं जानती हूं कि यहां ट्रम्प जीत नहीं पाएंगे।

दो बार साउथ कैरोलिना की कमान संभाल चुकीं 51 साल की निक्की सर्वे में ट्रम्प से 30 पॉइंट पीछे हैं। हालांकि, उनकी कैम्पेन टीम दावा कर रही है कि जैसे-जैसे प्राइमरी इलेक्शन होंगे, निक्की वापसी कर लेंगी। निक्की ने कहा— अब अमेरिकी नागरिक ट्रम्प या बाइडेन में से किसी को नहीं चुनना चाहते। वो चाहते हैं कि कोई यंग और फ्रेश चेहरा इस महान देश का लीडर बने। ट्रम्प तो अपने हितों की सोचते हैं। बाइडेन का कोई एजेंडा नहीं होता।

माउंट एवरेस्ट बेस कैंप पहुंचने वाला यंगेस्ट पर्सन बना कार्टर : उम्र— 2 साल



स्कॉटलैंड में रहने वाला 2 साल का कार्टर डलास माउंट एवरेस्ट के बेस कैंप तक पहुंचने वाला सबसे कम उम्र का बच्चा बन गया। मिरर यूके की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, पहले यह रिकॉर्ड चेक रिपब्लिक के एक चार साल के बच्चे के नाम था।

कार्टर ने माउंट एवरेस्ट बेस कैंप तक पहुंचने का सफर मां जेड और पिता रॉस की पीठ पर बैठकर पूरा किया।

एशिया यात्रा के लिए घर किराए पर दिया

स्कॉटलैंड के रहने वाले रॉस और जेड अपने बेटे के साथ एक साल के लिए एशिया की यात्रा पर निकले हुए हैं। इसके लिए उन्होंने अपने घर को किराए पर दे दिया है। तीनों ने 25 अक्टूबर को नेपाल में समुद्र तल से 17,598 फीट की ऊंचाई पर स्थित दक्षिणी स्थल पर चढ़ाई की और बेस कैंप तक पहुंच गए।

कार्टर हमसे भी ज्यादा एक्साइटिड था

तीनों ने चढ़ाई अक्टूबर 2023 में थी। अब इसके बारे में बात करते हुए रॉस ने कहा— कार्टर हमसे ज्यादा एक्साइटिड लग रहा था। मुझे और जेड को ऊंचाई पर सांस लेने में थोड़ी तकलीफ हुई लेकिन कार्टर बिल्कुल ठीक था। बेस कैंप से पहले गांवों में दो डॉक्टर तैनात थे। उन्होंने हमारा ब्लड टेस्ट किया। हमारे मुकाबले कार्टर ज्यादा हेल्दी था।

नेपाल पहुंचने के 24 घंटे में ही चढ़ाई शुरू की थी

रॉस ने कहा— हमने ट्रेकिंग के लिए फूड जैकेट और दो स्लीपिंग बैग खरीदे थे। काठमांडू पहुंचने के 24 घंटों के अंदर ही हमने चढ़ाई शुरू कर दी थी। हम पहले से ही तैयार थे। नियमित रूप से लंबी सांस लेने की तकनीक का अभ्यास कर रहे थे। हम घर पर बर्फ के पानी से नहाते थे। कार्टर को भी इसी पानी से नहलाते थे, जिससे बेस कैंप पर कोई दिक्कत न आए।

भारतीय पुजारियों को वीजा नहीं, ब्रिटेन के 50 मंदिर बंद



ब्रिटेन में रहने वाले हिंदुओं में भारतवर्षी प्रधानमंत्री ऋषि सुनक के प्रति नाराजगी बढ़ रही है। सुनक सरकार भारतीय पुजारियों को वीजा जारी नहीं कर रही। इससे ब्रिटेन के लगभग 500 में से 50 मंदिर बंद हो चुके हैं। तमाम मंदिरों में कई सारे काम बंद कर दिए गए हैं।

दरअसल ब्रिटेन में करीब 20 लाख भारतीय हिंदू रहते हैं, जिनके लिए पुजारी महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं। पुजारी मंदिरों में सेवा कार्य के साथ-साथ भारतीयों के गृह प्रवेश और विवाह समारोह भी संपन्न कराते हैं।

बर्मिंघम में लक्ष्मीनारायण मंदिर के सहायक पुजारी सुनील शर्मा का कहना है कि सुनक सरकार से उम्मीद थी कि वीजा जारी करने की प्रक्रिया में तेजी आएगी। हिंदू होने के नाते ऋषि सुनक हमारी समस्याओं को समझेंगे, लेकिन सरकार ऐसा करने में अब तक विफल ही रही है।

संयुक्त मंदिर समूह ने कहा— भेदभाव हो रहा है

संयुक्त मंदिर समूह ने बताया कि विदेश मंत्री जेम्स क्लेवरली के समक्ष इस मुद्दे को उठाया गया है। लेबर पार्टी के वरिष्ठ सांसद गैरेथ थॉमस ने भी गृहमंत्री को पत्र लिखकर टिचर 5 धार्मिक कार्यकर्ता वीजा की प्रक्रिया को तेज करने की मांग की है।

कहीं परमिट की गलत तारीख, तो कहीं गलत अनुवाद

राम मंदिर, बर्मिंघम: पुजारी का बायोमेट्रिक रेजिडेंस परमिट (बीआरपी) में वीजा एक्सपायरी की गलत तारीख अंकित थी। 6 लाख फीस भी चुकाई, लेकिन इसे ठीक नहीं किया गया। नतीजतन पुजारी को समयपूर्व ब्रिटेन से जाना पड़ा।

लक्ष्मीनारायण मंदिर, बर्मिंघम: पुजारी का वीजा जारी नहीं हुआ तो मंदिर को बंद करना पड़ा। शिकायत करने के बाद पुजारी का वीजा जारी हुआ, लेकिन उनकी पत्नी को बिना कारण बताए वीजा जारी नहीं किया।

श्रीजीधाम हवेली, लेस्टर: सितंबर 2023 में पुजारी का गुजराती में इंटरव्यू हुआ लेकिन वीजा दफ्तर को गलत अनुवाद भेजा गया, जिसके कारण वीजा जारी नहीं किया गया। विदेश विभाग ने मूल गुजराती में कॉपी मंगवाई है।

2 साल का होता है टिचर—5 धार्मिक वीजा

ब्रिटेन में पुजारी के लिए टिचर—5 धार्मिक वीजा जारी होता है। यह अस्थायी वीजा होता है। वीजा अवधि खत्म होने से 6 महीने पहले ही मंदिर समिति नए पुजारी के लिए वीजा ऐप्लिकेशन शुरू कर देती है, लेकिन ज्यादातर मामलों में विलयरेस नहीं मिलता। भारतीयों की मांग है कि टिचर—5 धार्मिक वीजा को दो से बढ़ाकर 3 साल का किया जाए।

US में भारतीय IT प्रोफेशनल्स के लिए वीजा रिन्यूवल शुरू: 1 अप्रैल तक चलेगा; अब H&1B वीजा रिन्यू करवाने के लिए भारत नहीं आना पड़ेगा

जनरल बाजवा चलाते थे मेरी सरकार : इमरान खान

अगस्त 2023 से जेल में बंद पाकिस्तान के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री इमरान खान को शुक्रवार को जेल में ही बनी अदालत में पेश किया गया। यहां कुछ जर्नलिस्ट्स को भी आने की मंजूरी दी गई थी। इनसे बातचीत में खान ने दावा किया कि जब वो प्रधानमंत्री थे, तब उस वक्त के आर्मी चीफ जनरल कमर जावेद बाजवा सरकार चलाते थे। इस साल 8 फरवरी को होने वाले इलेक्शन पर इमरान ने कहा— अगर किसी आसमानी या अनजान ताकत ने दखलदाजी नहीं दी तो मेरी पार्टी PTI (पाकिस्तान तहरीक-ए-इंसाफ) ही इलेक्शन जीतेगी। उन्होंने पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री नवाज शरीफ को इशारों में फौज की कठपुतली बताया।

इमरान जब प्रधानमंत्री थे तो विपक्ष के हर बड़े नेता को जेल भेज दिया गया था। अब खुद इमरान जेल में हैं। एक बात और उस वक्त इमरान ने सैकड़ों बार विपक्षी नेताओं जैसे नवाज शरीफ, आसिफ अली जरदारी या शाहबाज शरीफ को चोर और डाकू बताया था। खान अकसर कहा करते थे— मैं दुश्मन से तो बात कर सकता हूं, लेकिन चोर और डाकूओं से नहीं।

बहरहाल, पत्रकारों ने इमरान से अब विपक्ष से बातचीत के बारे सवाल किया तो उनके सुर बिल्कुल बदले नजर आए। कहा— मैं तो सबसे बातचीत के लिए तैयार हूं। मैं चाहता हूं कि देश में मजबूत सरकार बने, क्योंकि कमजोर गवर्नमेंट कभी सख्त फैसले नहीं ले सकती। आज देखिए क्या हो रहा है। 16 महीने शाहबाज शरीफ ने सरकार चलाई, वो मुल्क के लिए क्या कर पाए? इसलिए मैं कहता हूं कि कमजोर सरकार से बेहतर है कि हम विपक्ष में बैठें। चुनाव के बारे में पूछे गए सवाल पर खान ने कहा— अगले चुनाव में हम ही जीत हासिल करेंगे और आप देखेंगे कि 90 प्रतिशत फौज हमारी पार्टी के फेवर में ही वोट करेगी। हम सिर्फ एक स्थिति में चुनाव हार सकते हैं, जब कोई आसमान ताकत इलेक्शन में दखल दे और किसी एक पार्टी के फेवर में वोटिंग कराए। मैं जानता हूं कि किसके इशारे पर मुझे जेल में रखा जा रहा है।

एक सवाल के जवाब में खान ने कहा— लोग आरोप लगाते हैं कि 2018 में हमारी सरकार फौज ने धांधली करके बनवाई थी। ये सबसे गलत आरोप है। सच्चाई ये है कि धांधली की वजह से हम वो सीटें भी हार गए थे, जो हमें जीतनी चाहिए थीं और जहां जीत-हार का अंतर बेहद कम था। पूर्व आर्मी चीफ जनरल बाजवा के बारे में पूछे गए सवाल पर खान का लहजा काफी तल्ख हो गया। उन्होंने कहा— हमारे पास फुल मेजॉरिटी नहीं थी। आप इसे कमजोर सरकार भी कह सकते हैं। इसका फायदा जनरल बाजवा ने उठाया और वो सरकार चलाने लगे। मैं ये मानता हूं कि 2018 में हमारी और जनरल बाजवा की ट्यूनिंग काफी अच्छी थी, लेकिन इसके बाद वो हमें कंट्रोल करने की कोशिश करने लगे।

Tourism



Big infra push to make Lakshadweep, other islands preferred destinations

The Centre has planned to develop iconic tourist centres especially islands to boost tourism in collaboration with states by their marketing and branding at international level. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that the emphasis would be on port connectivity and sprucing up of tourism infrastructure and amenities on islands including Lakshadweep. She said that this would help in employment generation. "To address the emerging fervour for domestic tourism, projects for port connectivity, tourism infrastructure, and amenities will be taken up on our islands," said Sitharaman. The mention of Lakshadweep is significant because PM Narendra Modi had exhorted people to explore the island after his recent visit. The PM's call for development and encouraging domestic tourism in Lakshadweep drew disparaging remarks against Modi from three

Maldivian ministers. Sitharaman announced that the government will also introduce a rating system for the tourism centres based on quality of service and facilities offered by them. "States will be encouraged to take up comprehensive development of iconic tourist centres, branding and marketing them at global scale. A framework for rating of the centres based on quality of facilities and services will be established. Long-term interest free loans will be provided to States for financing such development on a matching basis," the minister stated. Referring to successful execution of G20 meetings at 60 places, the minister added that the event had presented diversity of India to a global audience and our economic strength had made the country an attractive destination for business and conference tourism. "Our middle class also now aspires to travel and explore," she added.

Uttar Pradesh targets global tourism spotlight with 'Brand UP' initiative



In a bid to position Uttar Pradesh (UP) as a premier global tourist destination, the Yogi Adityanath-led government has unveiled an ambitious plan, promoting 'Brand UP' and 'Destination UP' at 12 major international trade fairs and travel expos. Under the Chief Minister's leadership, UP aims to emerge as the 'Most Favourite Tourist Destination' nationally and internationally. The state has rolled out a comprehensive action plan that underscores the pivotal role of participation in international trade shows, travel fairs, and expos. According to the Chief Minister's office, this includes an extensive promotion strategy involving roadshows, widespread campaigns, and other channels to enhance UP's visibility on the global tourism stage. The targeted countries for this initiative are Japan, Israel, China, America, France, Singapore, Britain, Australia, Germany, Russia, and the UAE. The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department is actively implementing strategies, involving various agencies in international branding, marketing, publicity, and operational aspects. Special emphasis is placed on hosting national and international roadshows to achieve the set goals. The promotional efforts extend to approximately 50 cities across 28 countries, encompassing events in India as well. The international events in focus include ITB Asia (Singapore), IFTM Top Resa Paris (France), JATA Tokyo (Japan), WTM London (UK), and many more.

Kerala Tourism a hit at global tourism fair in Madrid



Stepping up the global outreach with its highly-rated initiatives, Kerala Tourism has made a big impact at FITUR, the global meeting point for tourism professionals and one the leading trade & tourism fairs in the world, in Madrid, Spain. Reinforcing its position as an all-season experiential tourism destination and unlocking new opportunities in the Spanish travel market in particular, Kerala's pavilion themed 'The Magical Every Day' drew a steady stream of visitors including business delegates, right from the opening day of the five-day fair on January 24. FITUR, considered to be the world's second most important tourism fair, had in the past substantially helped the state flaunt its destinations and packages before the world, leading to win-win business deals. Spain itself is an important market for Kerala, touching around 18,947 arrivals in pre-pandemic 2019. Of late, arrivals have shown a steady uptick, recouping from the global disruption wreaked by the Covid pandemic. The Kerala Pavilion stole the show with a gigantic installation of a pair of bulls seen in Kerala's temple festivals, called 'Kettukala' in local parlance. Kerala Tourism's participation in FITUR will be followed by a series of B2B meets in Barcelona, Milan, Paris and London. Significantly, Kerala's appealing presence in FITUR comes in the wake of the state Tourism Department scaling up its global campaign to bolster international tourist footfalls.

Tripura's fresh move to boost tourism



The Tripura government has announced a host of innovative measures to popularise the state's tourist destinations, including reintroducing homestays after a long gap since they ran into several problems in the iconic Jampui Hills in the early 2000s. Speaking to reporters at the Civil Secretariat in Agartala, Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said on Thursday that his government will open 11 homestays in areas around Narikelkunja and four more in North district's Jampui Hills, both of which are popular tourist destinations. With its small, scattered islands and coconut plantations around Lake Dumbur, an artificial lake, Narikelkunja's surroundings resemble backwaters, while Jampui Hills are well known for its orange plantations. Though homestays were popular 'staycation' spots in the nineties and even the early 2000s, the popularity of the Orange festival in the Jampui Hills, which attracted plenty of visitors, waned largely due to farmers' preferring to cultivate rubber, arecanut and coffee over time. Other local issues too contributed to the declining popularity of homestays in the Jampui Hills. With the reintroduction of homestays, the Tripura government is now hopeful of drawing more tourists with targeted and affordable itineraries. "The state government is contemplating to launch homestays in different districts. We also plan to have a policy in place in this regard," said the minister.

Jordan Tourism Board welcomes Indian film industry delegation

AMMAN — The Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) hosted a media delegation from India, involving 52 journalists, newspaper editors-in-chief, influencers from the film industry and magazine editors. The visit, planned from Tuesday to Friday, aligns with JTB's strategic plan to showcase Jordan's tourist and archaeological wonders to an international audience, a JTB statement said on Wednesday as reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The JTB highlighted the importance of attracting influential figures from the film industry worldwide to explore Jordan's historical, cultural and natural sites, for international film production. The media delegation's itinerary included visits to iconic locations such as Wadi Rum, Aqaba and Amman, during the filming of segments of the international Indian film "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan". The JTB, recognising the potential of the Indian market as one of the most promising for boosting tourism to Jordan, provided crucial support for the film crew. The Royal Film Commission (RFC), responsible for logistical services for international film productions in Jordan, ensured a seamless experience by offering comprehensive information on filming procedures, obtaining necessary permits, identifying suitable locations and assisting with customs clearance for technical equipment. Director General of the RFC Abdelrazzaq Arabiyat stressed that hosting the Indian media delegation underscores the joint interests of the tourism and film industries in Jordan. He highlighted the investment opportunities available in Jordan, a symbol of stability and security in the region, boasting tourism components, climate diversity, a prime geographical location and authentic hospitality. Director General of the RFC Mohannad Bakri referred to the close connection between the tourism and film sectors. Filming in Jordan showcases its picturesque locations and distinctive culture, serving as a powerful tool for marketing Jordan as a top-tier tourist destination, he added. The delegation expressed admiration for the richness of Jordan's tourism offerings and historical heritage, praising the warm and generous Jordanian hospitality.