

# MIDNIGHT REPORTER

**Bureaucracy, Public Sector, Corporate, Real Estate & Tourism**

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## Sudha Amma Reaches Rajya Sabha

Indian educator, author and philanthropist Sudha Murty nominated to Rajya Sabha under President Quota on Women's Day. She is the former chairperson of Infosys foundation & comes from an extremely humble background. UK PM Rishi Sunak is her son-in-law. PM said "Sudha Ji's contributions to diverse fields including social work, philanthropy and education have been immense and inspiring." Sudha thanks PM Modi & said she will work for India.

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## Appointments

- Naresh Kumar was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- Nidhi Khare was laterally shifted from Land Resources and appointed as OSD in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India. She will take over as Secretary (Consumer Affairs) from R K Singh on his retirement on 31.03.2024.
- Akhil Akhouri (CWES: 2010) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Delhi for a period of four years.
- Ridhima Vasisht (IRS IT: 2010) was appointed as Director in the Ministry of Defence for a period of five years
- Rajendra Kumar Soni (ITS: 1997), Director in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, was prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre to avail the benefit of promotion.
- Dhananjay Mondal (ICoAS: 2011) was appointed as Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer at Deputy Secretary level, Tea Board, Kolkata for a period of four years.
- The central deputation tenure of Esha Srivastava (IFS: 2004), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, was extended for a period of two years beyond 19.03.2024 i.e. upto 18.03.2026.
- The tenure of additional charge of the post of Development Commissioner (JS level), Santa Cruz Exclusive Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ), SEZ Mumbai to R K Mishra (IRS C&IT: 1995) was extended for a period of six months w.e.f. 13.01.2024 to 12.07.2024. Currently, R K Mishra is Additional DGFT, Mumbai.
- The central deputation tenure of Nidhi Mani Tripathi (IAS: 2001: MN) was extended for a period of one month beyond 29.02.2024. Currently, she is Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce.
- The central deputation tenure of Surendra Kumar Ahirwar (IRTS: 1997), Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, was extended for a period of one year beyond 08.01.2024.
- Satish T. J. (IDAS: 2012) was appointed as Secretary-cum-Controller of Examination in the Staff Selection Commission on lateral shift basis for the balance period of 4 years at Deputy Secretary level i.e. upto 31.08.2025.
- Mayur Murlidhar Shindekar (CES Roads: 2010) was prematurely repatriated to Cadre on personal grounds with the provision of "extended cooling off". Currently, he is Deputy Secretary in the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- The post of Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development presently held by Bhaskar (IRTS: 2010), was re-designated as Director for a period up to 26.04.2027 i.e. total tenure of five years under the Central Staffing Scheme.
- \*D Venkateswara Reddy (IRS C&CE: 1995), CVO, Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML), Bengaluru, was entrusted with additional charge of post of CVO, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL), Mumbai for a period up to 15.08.2024.
- Arkaja Das (IPoS: 2010) was appointed as Director in the Ministry of Women and Child Development for a period up to 26.10.2027. She counts her central deputation w.e.f. 27.10.2022.
- Rituraj Misra (IRPS: 2010), Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, was redesignated as Director in the same ministry for a period up to 30.03.2026. He counts his central deputation tenure w.e.f. 31.03.2021.
- The tenure of re-employment of R. K. Gupta (Retd CSS), as Deputy Election Commissioner (JS level), Election Commission of India (ECI), was extended for period of three months beyond 28.02.2024 i.e. upto 31.05.2024 on contract basis.
- Shankar Lal Bhalotia (IP&TAFS: 1992), CVO, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Kolkata was prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre.
- Tatung Padi (IRS IT: 2009) was appointed as Director in the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for a period of five years.
- Sureshwar Singh Bonal (CWES: 2004) was appointed as Director in the ministry of Heavy Industries for a period of five years.
- Nitin Jain (IRS C&CE: 2011) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Steel for a period up to 15.03.2025.
- Sunil Sharma (IRS IT: 2010) was appointed as Director in the Department of School Education & Literacy for a period of five years.
- Dileep Kumar Rajput (IRSSE: 2012) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare for a period up to 28.12.2026. He counts his central Deputation tenure w.e.f. 29.12.2022.
- Bhupinder Kumar (IAS: 2011: AGMUT) was appointed to the post of Director of Census Operations (DCO)/Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) (Deputy Secretary level), Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh for a period up to 31.12.2025.
- Vikash Kumar (IRS C&IT: 2013) was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Dpt. of Revenue for a period of four years.

## IAS

- Manoj Joshi (IAS: 1989: KL)**, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs was laterally appointed as Secretary, Department of Land Resources vice Nidhi Khare (IAS: 1992: JH).
- The additional charge of the post of Housing and Urban Affairs was assigned to **Anurag Jain (IAS: 1989: MP)** till the appointment of a regular incumbent. Currently, Anurag Jain is Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- Garima Mittal (IAS: 2010: HY)** was appointed as Director in the Department of Commerce under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years.
- Rupesh Kumar Thakur (IAS: 2006: AGMUT)**, Joint Secretary & CVO, Ministry of Labour & Employment, was entrusted with additional charge of the post of CVO, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for a period of three months.
- Anoop Khinchi (IAS: 2008: NL)**, Director, Ministry of Defence, was prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre to avail the benefit of promotion.
- Avinash Champawat (IAS: 2003: CG)**, Director, NITI Aayog, was prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre.
- A S P S Ravi Prakash (IAS: 2011: AGMUT)** was appointed to the post of Director of Census Operations (DCO)/Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) (Deputy Secretary level), Andaman and Nicobar Islands for a period up to 31.12.2025 relieving Pankaj Kumar (IAS: 2012: AGMUT) from the additional charge of the post of Director of Census Operations (DCO)/Director of Citizen Registration (DCR), Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Naveen Aggarwal (IAS: 2013: AGMUT)** was appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Health & Family Welfare for a period of four years.
- The tenure of **Vivek Aggarwal (IAS: 1994: MP)**, Additional Secretary, Department of Revenue, was extended for a period up to 10.02.2026.
- The term of upgradation of the post of Joint Secretary to the level of Additional Secretary in Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation was extended for a term up to 22.05.2025. Currently, the post of Additional Secretary & Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission is held by **Chandra Bhushan Kumar (IAS: 1995: UT)**.
- The tenure of upgradation of the post of **Member Secretary, National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** from the level of Additional Secretary to that of Secretary was extended for a term up to 01.05.2025. Presently, the post of Secretary, NCRPB is held by Archana Agrawal (IAS: 1990: UP).
- The term of upgradation of the post of Joint Secretary to the level of Additional Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat was extended for a term up to 16.08.2024. Presently, the post is held by **Ashutosh Jindal (IAS: 1995: TR)**.
- The central deputation tenure of **Anuradha Thakur (IAS: 1994: HP)**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, was extended for a period of one year beyond 24.03.2024 i.e. up to 24.03.2025.

## IPS

- Daljit Singh Chaudhary (IPS: 1990: UP)** was entrusted with additional charge of the post of Director General, National Security Guard (NSG) a period of three months.
- Amit Garg (IPS: 1993: AP)**, Addl. Director, SVP NPA, will continue to hold additional charge of the post of Director, SVP NPA for a further period of three months beyond 29.02.2024.
- R A Chandra Sekhar (IPS: 1991: KL)** was appointed (in-situ) as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau for a tenure of two years. Currently he is Additional Director (Level 15 in the pay matrix), IB.
- Piyush Anand (IPS: 1991: UP)** was appointed (in-situ) as Special Director General in CISF. Currently, he is working as ADG in CISF.
- Vivek Gogia (IPS: 1991: AGMUT)**, currently Director of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was in-situ elevated to Level 16 in the Pay Matrix for a tenure up to his superannuation on 31.07.2025.
- Central Deputation tenure of **Yogesh Mohan Dixit (IOFS: 1998)** was extended Director beyond 21.02.2024 and upto his date of superannuation i.e. 30.09.2025. He is working as Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- \***Alok Sharma (IPS: 1991: UP)** was granted the grade of DG level by temporarily upgrading the post of Director, SPG to the level of DG as a measure personal to the officer.
- Liakkiya Karunakaran (IPS: 2012: KT)** was appointed as SSP in National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for a period of five years.

## IPS officer in the race of DGP takes VRS



The Odisha government has approved the voluntary retirement of B Radhika (IPS: 1989: OD), who was one of the three contenders for the post of Director General of Police (DGP) of the state.

She was appointed as Chairperson of State Police Recruitment Board last month after returning from central deputation with additional charge State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL), Odisha, as its Director. The government has also relaxed the mandatory notice period of three months for her voluntary retirement from government service to take care of her parents. She was due to retire in July.


## CS Subhani takes VRS; Makes way for Mehrotra



Bihar Chief Secretary Amir Subhani (IAS: 1987: BH) has taken VRS two months before his retirement i.e. on April 30, 2024. Subhani will be replaced by Brijesh Mehrotra (IAS: 1987: BH) who will be retiring in August 2024. Interestingly like Subhani, Mehrotra too has been among most officers of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and remained into the helm of affairs

under Nitish Kumar's regime.

Subhani was appointed by Bihar Nitish Kumar and now his VRS suggests that the new dispensation backed by the BJP has started asserting just before 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The change of guard simply signifies realignment in the bureaucratic set up and not a visible shift of power from Nitish to alliance partner.




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# Corridors of Power



## “Shaping The Society”

Happy Women’s Day ! This is picture of the month. Appreciations to Telangana State Police for posting and sharing the complied picture of lady IPS officer from Telangana state. “ Salute to the veeranari who patiently overcome the challenges faced at every step from birth and created a meaning – paramartha for that ‘ardhanariswar’ and made a special efforts in shaping the society and marched towards success.” the post includes. Can say amazing message for the society and womens.

## Good News For Residents Of Old City



Good news for the residents of Old City. As CM A. Revanth Reddy & MP Janab Asaduddin Owaisi has inaugurated metro rail works in old city, which will be on a 5.5 km stretch from MGBS to Falaknuma. HMRL MD NVS Reddy said approximately 1100 properties will be affected by road widening at the metro rail station

locations. The metro rail project is expected to cost about Rs. 2,000 Crores, covering road widening and utilities shifting. There will be four stations, namely Salarjung Museum, Charminar, Shalibanda, and Falaknuma, stated Mr.Reddy.

## Cheers To The Winners



Cheers ! Time for award ! Telangana Police flag is flying higher as during 67<sup>th</sup> All India Police Duty Meet state police has bagged many number of awards and medals. The event was planned at Lucknow city. In the picture DG Ravi Gupta congratulating SI Vijay of Warangal Police Commissionerate for winning gold medal. Whereas the police team also bagged overall championship too.



## Celebration Time For TSRTC Staff

“Minister for Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar announced a revision of pay with a fitment of 21% to employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation. The revision, calculated every four years, and long overdue, will come into effect from April 1 this year.” Soon after the announcement the staff started celebrating. The staff with joy met their favorite officer TSRTC MD VC.Sajjanar for his endless efforts to make this possible. Staff welfare and their facilities are his priorities that’s the reason RTC staff loves and likes him more.

## “Women are competing equally with men”



Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan praised the matriarchal system that India followed for centuries. “These days women are competing equally with men,” she said. The Governor was speaking as chief guest on the occasion of the ‘International Women’s Day’ celebrations organised by Rachakonda Police in collaboration with RKSC at BITS Pilani campus in Shamirpet.

Telangana State Police Academy director Abhilasha Bisht explained how women faced challenges at home in many communities in the past. Rachakonda police commissioner Tarun Joshi congratulated all the speakers who raised their voices on ‘Women’s Day’ and said that women officers and staff were not less than men. Badminton player Saina Nehwal, Bollywood actress Tanaj Irani, and fashion designer Shilpa Reddy were part of the event.

## Women Should Achieve Their Ambitions



Jennifer Larson, Consul General of US in Hyderabad visited St. Francis, Hyderabad on the occasion of International Women’s Day. Engaged with the Entrepreneurs club at American Spaces and celebrate all of their hard work, talent and accomplishments. “When women have equal access to the resources they need to achieve their dreams and ambitions, all of society wins!” Jennifer Stated.

When women have equal access to the resources they need to achieve their dreams and ambitions, all of society wins!” Jennifer Stated.

## Lights , Camera & Action



Lights, camera & action ! Gareth Wynn Owen, Dy.High Commissioner of UK in Hyderabad visited Annapurna Studios to learn more about the technology that is helping to put Tollywood on the global map. During the visit the diplomat met Actor Naga Chaitanya and hear about his upcoming film Thandel.

## Happy Women’s Day



In the presence of Dr.Andrew Fleming , UK Dy.High Commissioner in Kolkata International Women’s Day is been celebrated at office colleagues and women staff. In the post the diplomat said “I value all out connections through our projects, partnerships, politics, trade and sports. The diversity is befitting of this year’s inspire inclusion theme.

## Musical Event Held



Turkish-Indian joint musical event in collaboration with Abhigyane Foundation is planned attended by Turkey Consul General Orhan Yalman Okan and Aslyhan Ozmen Okan. Especially the Turkish quartet from Yzmir Symphony Orchestra was highly appreciated. Amazing event !



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**New Edition**

Damodar Rajanarasimha, Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Science and Technology inaugurated advance high - fidelity tech enabled Critical care simulation skill lab at Nims Hospital.

Christina Z Chongthu, secretary in the health department and US Consul General in Hyderabad Jennifer Larson also attended the event. The government has posted a right officer at the right place. Whereas Health Dept. is known to be the crucial one and sincere officer like Christina is the best choice for it. The officer is putting all her efforts to make the health facilities standard and to make it reach out to the needy to their nearby places. Superb !



**Click Of The Month**

"Gajraj lost his mother and later rescued by our teams. Doing fine now in our camp. Some special treat on Shivratri." IFS officer Parveen Kaswan. "Do you know elephant family is all women group. Made of mother, aunts, grandmother & all other ladies .Most of the times Male leave herd early. Kids are looked by all female elephants in herd not only mother. Most experienced female makes all decision for family." Interesting reality to know on this Womens Day.



**Good ONE**

The exams are on cards and at this time students need motivation, which is mandatory. But what we parents do, increase the pressure of the students, which is not correct. Good to know that Nalgonda District Collector Hari Chandana Dasari has planned and conducted motivational classes for Intermediate & 10th students at the TSWRS School & Jr. College in Nalgonda. She emphasized the importance of hard work & setting goals & encouraged them to define goals for both exams & long-term dreams. Inspiring episode.

**Encourage the girl students**



Pamela Satpathy , Collector Karimnagar District is known to be one of the very sincere officer in the officers fraternity. All knows her brave stories ! Coming back to the news the officer attended Women's Day event at Telangana Grameen Bank, where she appeal

the women bank staff to do the best and encourage other girl students for banking exams as the right time guidance will really makes the difference.

**14 IAS will retire this year in AP**

This year around 14 IAS officers will retire after the elections. At present, there are 18 special chief secretaries level officials in the state, and Jawahar Reddy is the CS among them. Another senior officer Sumita Davra is in central services. In this list Nirabkumar Prasad, Poonam Malakoradhiah, Rajat Bhargava, K. Praveen Kumar, B. Rajasekhar, Gopalakrishna Dwivedi will retire this year. Apart from them, nine other chief secretaries and secretaries level officers are also in the list. Among them, Prasharathi was assigned to Andhra but still working in Telangana. Another officer Sivasrinivas retired last month.

B. Sridhar, Girija Shankar Chief Secretaries Houdalo, H. Arun Kumar, Dhananjaya Reddy, Karyar Darshula Houdalo, P. Koteswara Rao, Verkata Ramana Reddy, Subbara Rao will retire at other levels.

**Create A Road Map To Continue Career As Police Officers**



Sr.IPS officer Shikha Goel, ADG,CID & Women Safety Wing is known to be a good speaker. Motivates women and especially girl and trainee students. Her vast experience and best presentation always helps the various women wings. So, the lady officer has inaugurated the Women Stipendary Cadet Trainee for Police Constables 2024 Batch at the Medchal Police Training Centre. She stated the importance of gender sensitization, strength within us & our capabilities to fight crime together, penetration of women in the workforce, becoming a leader, work life balance, creating a roadmap for our lives to continue our career as Police officers. One of the most promising, prestigious & respected workforces."

**Women's Day Celebrated At CSIR**

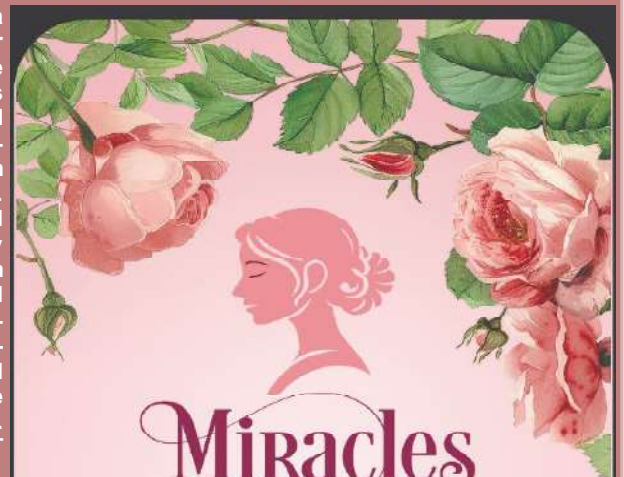


IAS officer Smita Sabharwal, the Member Secretary, Telangana State Finance Commission is known to be a versatile and visionary lady officer. Sincere and yes well-known in the power of corridors. News is she has attended International Women's Day celebration event at CSIR. In her post she stated "Women in Science & Technology, R/D are often the quietest and least celebrated people. Hats off to these amazing dedicated women".

**IPS & IAS Officers Transfers & Postings**

Additional commissioner of police (Traffic) Viswa Prasad was transferred as inspector general of police (Coordination) , whereas Addl CP (Crimes &SIT) AV Ranganath as Multi Zone -1 and DCP Central Zone Sharat Chandra Pawar as superintendent TS-NAB.

E. Naveen Nicolas, a 2018 batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC). B. Bala Maya Devi, from the 2005 batch, will now serve as the Commissioner of Backward Class Welfare. Anita Ramachandran, belonging to the 2004 batch, assumes the role of Commissioner of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development. K. Seetha Lakshmi, a 2011 batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the Secretary of Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) and Secretary of Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutional Society (TTWREIS).



**Miracles** will happen, if your Woman is **Happy** may be your mother, sister, or wife  
**Happy Women's Day**



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## Public Sector

### POWERGRID pays 2067.68 Crore to Ministry of Power, GoI



Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, paid ₹ 2067,68,20,860/- as second interim dividend for FY 2023-24 to Government of India on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Ministry of Power, New Delhi. A cheque was presented to Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh in presence of Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power),

Govt. of India, R. K. Tyagi, CMD, G. Ravisankar, Director (Finance), Abhay Choudhary, Director (Projects), Dr. Yatindra Dwivedi, Director (Personnel), Chetan Bansilal Kankariya, Independent Director, Ram Naresh Tiwari, Independent Director and Executive Directors of POWERGRID.

As on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, POWERGRID has commissioned and operating 276 Sub-stations and more than 1,76,762 ckm transmission lines and 5,22,046 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has been able to maintain average transmission system availability of 99.86%.



### NMDC Crosses 40 MT Milestone, Achieved Best Ever 11 Month Volumes

India's largest iron ore producer delivered its best ever cumulative volumes upto February 2024. NMDC produced 3.92 million tonnes and sold 3.99 million tonnes of iron ore in February 2024, taking the cumulative tally to 40.24 million tonnes production and 40.48 million tonnes sales in 11 months of FY24. NMDC's sales performance in February 2024 is the company's best ever February month sales since inception. The 3.99 million tonnes sales are 6% higher than the volume of iron ore sold in February 2023.

The company reported a growth of 13% in cumulative production and 21% in cumulative sales upto February 2024 over CPLY. Achieving its highest ever 11 month iron

ore volumes in company history, NMDC is geared up to set new milestones in FY24.

Congratulating his team for this performance, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge) said, "The first mining company in India to cross the 40 million tonne mark and to achieve this milestone three times in row, we are poised to deliver historic iron ore volumes in FY24. NMDC's growth has a multiplier effect throughout the economy. We are strategically positioning ourselves to augment this growth by ramping up production capacities, enhancing supply chain reliability and transforming towards NMDC 2.0."

### Minister, P&NG, dedicates 201 CNG stations across 17 states



Taking a significant step towards building a Natural Gas-based economy as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri today dedicated to the Nation 201 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across 17 states and India's first small-scale LNG unit at Vijapur (Madhya Pradesh).

The dedication of the stations was done through video conferencing today at a function here in the presence of Union Minister of State, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Labour and Employment Rameshwar Teli, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) Pankaj Jain, Chairman and Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited, Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Additional Secretary, MoPNG Praveen Mal Khanooja, GAIL Director (Finance) R K Jain, Director (Projects) Deepak Gupta, Director (Marketing) Sanjay Kumar, Director (Business Development) R K Singhal and senior officials of oil and gas sector companies including CGD entities.

The 201 CNG stations dedicated to the Nation today have been set up by 15 City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities of GAIL group in 52 Geographical Areas (GAs) across 17 states while India's first small-scale LNG unit has been set up by GAIL at its Vijapur LPG plant.

Out of these 15 CGD entities, 53 stations belong to GAIL Gas Limited, 50 to Indraprastha Gas Limited, 43 to GAIL and 20 to Mahanagar Gas Limited. Moreover, four belong to Avantika Gas Limited, two to Bengal Gas Company Limited, three to Central UP Gas Limited, one to Goa Natural Gas Pvt. Limited, three to Green Gas Limited, one to Haridwar Natural Gas Limited, two to Purba Bharati Gas Limited, one to Rajasthan State Gas Pvt. Limited, one to Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited and one to Vadodara Gas Limited.

### Rajendra assumes addl. charge of CMD, NHPC

Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC has taken over the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a Schedule 'A' Enterprise of Government of India on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Goyal joined NHPC on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1988 as Finance Professional and he has risen the professional ladder by virtue of utmost sense of responsibility, ethics and dedication to the Company.

Goyal is a member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and also holds a Master's Degree in Commerce from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He has vast experience of more than 35 years in NHPC in the core areas of Finance, coupled with in-depth understanding of Financial, Contractual and Regulatory issues involved in the construction and operation of hydropower projects. Goyal is also Chairman of Lanco Teesta Hydro Power Limited (LTHPL), Jai Power Corporation Limited (JPCL), Bundelkhand Saur Urja Limited (BSUL) and NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL) and Nominee Director on the Board of NHDC Limited.

### COAL SECRETARY LAUDS NLC INDIA LTD FOR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE



The Ministry of Coal, Government of India, took a significant stride towards fostering indigenous manufacturing of mining equipment with its roadshow in Chennai. Aligned with the visionary 'Make in India' initiative, the event was attended by key stakeholders from the mining and manufacturing sectors to bolster domestic production capabilities in the mining sector.

The roadshow, held on March 2, 2024, garnered a remarkable response from leading mining equipment manufacturers, showcasing a resolute commitment towards realising the objective of an 'AtmanirbharBharat.' Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt of India, graced the event as the chief guest. Other dignitaries at the event included – Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, CMD, NLC India Ltd; and Dr. B Veera Reddy, Director (Technical), Coal India Ltd.

Amrit Lal Meena lauded the dynamic leadership of Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, CMD, NLC India Ltd, stating, "Under the able leadership of PrasannaMotupalli, NLCIL has achieved over 100% enhancement in their market capitalisation in just one year. It has almost tripled in that time frame. Today, through this function, I would like to compliment Motupalli and the entire team of NLCIL for their outstanding performance and playing a pivotal role in ensuring the energy security of the country."

### OIL inked a tripartite MoU with NCS and CES & HS



Oil India Limited (OIL), National Center for Seismology (NCS) under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CES & HS), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh inked a tripartite MoU on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh to pursue applied earth science related studies in India with a focus on Arunachal Pradesh and the Northeast Region

The signing ceremony was graced by Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of Earth Sciences (MoES), Hon'ble Ministers of Legislative Assembly, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh (GoAP), senior officials of the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh and C&MD of Oil India Ltd. among other esteemed dignitaries and senior officials from MoES, GoAP and OIL. The MoU puts in place a formal framework for fostering collaboration in the field of applied seismo-geophysical & geological research, in the field of exploration & exploitation of Geothermal Energy and other aspects of earth sciences studies for driving innovation and excellence.

### Shyamprasad Kamath is new MRPL MD



Mundkur Shyamprasad Kamath, has taken charge as the Managing Director of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL). Kamath has a distinguished professional career spanning over 30 years in the downstream hydrocarbon industry. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from MIT Manipal (1989) and a Post-Graduation Diploma in Management from TA Pai Management Institute Manipal (1992).

During previous tenure as Executive Director (Refinery) at MRPL, he excelled in managing operations, maintenance, technical services, and production planning. His strategic vision prioritizes operational excellence, energy conservation, reliability, and digitalization.

Throughout his career, Kamath has held significant roles, demonstrating expertise in various areas. He possesses deep knowledge of petroleum functions, including project conceptualization, process engineering, production planning, and overall operations. He has been instrumental in steering the refinery towards cutting-edge advancements by championing the integration of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). Kamath's vision for sustained growth, operational efficiency, and technological innovation positions him as a key driver of MRPL's success and a leader at the forefront of the industry's advancement.

### Coal India, BHEL join hands to set up ammonium nitrate plant based on coal gasification technology

Public sector giants Coal India Limited (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on Wednesday signed a joint venture (JV) agreement for setting up an ammonium nitrate plant based on surface coal gasification technology, the Coal Ministry announced on Wednesday.

The plant to come up in Odisha's Lakhanpur area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, will initially produce 2,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate per day. The annual production is slated at 6.60 lakh tonnes which requires 1.3 million tonnes (mts) of coal. The coal will be supplied by CIL.

BHEL will bring to the table indigenously developed pressurised fluidised bed gasification (PFBG) technology for this purpose.

The synergy and partnership of the two corporate giants is a big step towards National Coal Gasification Mission which facilitates utilisation of chemical properties of coal, the Coal Ministry said. Ammonium nitrate is a major ingredient in manufacturing bulk explosives which CIL uses in large quantities in its open-cast mining operations, a major source of its coal production. The upcoming plant's backward integration would help in securing the raw material, reducing import dependence of ammonium nitrate and promoting Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said that with the commitment of CIL and BHEL, this project will be a role model. "Gasification is the highest priority area for the ministry of coal. In the next two to three years there will be sufficient coal. All the possible support required from the government is in place including financial support for viable gap funding."

Debashish Nanda, Director (Business Development) CIL and Jai Prakash Srivastava, Director (Engineering, R&D) BHEL signed the joint venture agreement on behalf of respective promoter companies.





## Sleep, Exercise, and Avoiding Cigarettes are Key to Reducing IBS Risk



Following healthy lifestyle habits is associated with a reduced risk of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), according to a new study. These habits included not smoking, vigorous physical activity, and getting enough quality sleep. The findings were published February 20 in the journal *Gut*.

Researchers examined five key healthy behaviors, which include never smoking, getting at least 7 hours of quality sleep

each night; a high level of vigorous physical activity each week; a high-quality balanced diet every day; and moderate alcohol intake.

They analyzed participants of an average age of 55 from the UK Biobank, which included 64,268 people, just over half of whom (55%) were women, and who had completed at least two 24-hour dietary recall questionnaires. The period of examination took place during a 12.6-year period, during which 961 (1.5%) cases of IBS were recorded.

Results showed 7,604 (12%) of participants didn't engage in any of the 5 healthy lifestyle behaviors, while 20,662 (32%) reported one; 21,901 (34%) reported two; and 14,101 (22%) reported three to five behaviors at the start of the study.

According to the results of this study, individuals who adopt an increasing number of these healthy lifestyle behaviors could see a proportional decrease in their IBS risk, with adherence to one, two, or three to five behaviors associated with reductions of 21%, 36%, and 42% in IBS risk, respectively.

Furthermore, three healthy behaviors were independently linked with a lower risk of IBS: never smoking (14% lower); high level of physical activity (17% lower); and a good night's sleep (27% lower).

### What causes IBS?

Although the exact causes of IBS are not fully understood several factors appear to contribute to its development. Dr. Anthony Lembo, a doctor at the Cleveland Clinic who specializes in gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition, provided a list:

- Increased sensitivity to pain or discomfort in the intestines.
- Altered gut microbiota: imbalances in the types and amounts of bacteria in the gut may play a role.
- Immune dysregulation: low-grade inflammation in the intestines or dysfunction in the immune system
- Food intolerances or sensitivities: certain foods or food components may trigger symptoms in individuals with IBS.
- Psychological factors: stress, anxiety, or depression can exacerbate symptoms or contribute to their onset.
- Abnormal gastrointestinal motility: irregular contractions of the muscles in the intestines can lead to symptoms like diarrhea or constipation

It is important to note that IBS is a very broad term.

"It is broad because it groups a bunch of different GI issues together because they all lead to the same symptoms (irregular bowel habits and abdominal discomfort, basically)," said Dr. Aditya Sreenivasan, gastroenterologist at Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital. "But it can be caused by a variety of different GI issues. It can be caused by hormonal irregularities leading to fluid shifts and irregularities in intestinal motion, bacterial imbalance in the colon and/or small intestine, or hypersensitive nerves in the GI tract. There are probably multiple other causes that are not well understood as well." How lifestyle factors influence IBS

Results of the study showed not smoking, a high level of vigorous physical activity, and getting enough quality sleep were linked with managing IBS symptoms.

According to Lembo, the connection likely lies in their effects on various factors such as:

- Quitting smoking may reduce inflammation in the gut and improve overall gastrointestinal health.
- Regular exercise can help regulate bowel movements, increase GI motility, reduce stress levels, and improve overall gut function, potentially reducing the severity of IBS symptoms.
- Poor sleep quality or insufficient sleep can negatively impact gut health, immune function, and stress levels.

It is important to note the multifactorial nature of IBS includes various biological, psychosocial, and environmental factors.

"Lifestyle modifications, such as not smoking, engaging in regular physical activity, and maintaining healthy sleep habits, are key components in the management of IBS," said Lembo. "The study highlighted suggests that healthy lifestyle choices could potentially reduce the risk of developing IBS. We use these same lifestyle modifications to manage symptoms in those with IBS." "These things each play a major role in influencing various factors that can increase or decrease IBS symptoms," Sreenivasan stated. "Smoking leads to generalized inflammation and also leads to a lot of swallowed air, both of which can separately exacerbate or cause various IBS symptoms."

Sreenivasan added: "Lack of exercise leads to slow intestinal motility, and likely leads to increases in stress hormone levels. Similarly with not sleeping – lack of sleep interferes with your brain's ability to regulate the signals it is getting from your visceral (or intestinal) nerves." So, if your brain usually blocks out the signals from your gut that are activated by fluid shifts, intestinal contractions, or gas, your sleep-deprived brain lets all of those signals in and perceives it as discomfort or pain, Sreenivasan explained.

### How to improve IBS symptoms

Treatment for IBS typically focuses on managing symptoms and improving overall quality of life. This may include a combination of dietary changes, lifestyle modifications, medications, and psychological interventions, Lembo stated.

### Some common approaches to treating IBS include:

- Dietary modifications: Avoiding trigger foods that exacerbate symptoms, such as certain types of carbohydrates (FODMAPs), caffeine, alcohol, and spicy foods. Increasing fiber intake or trying a low FODMAP diet under the guidance of a healthcare professional may also help alleviate symptoms.

## Eating a Plant-Based Diet May Help Reduce Snoring



According to new research, adopting a healthy plant-based diet may be an effective way to stop snoring.

A study published this week in *ERJ Open Research* found people who eat a healthy, plant-based diet that is high in vegetables, fruit, whole grains, and nuts are less likely to experience obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). People with sleep apnea often snore loudly and are frequently awakened throughout the night due to interruptions in their breathing.

In addition to fatigue, sleep apnea can increase the following health risks: • high blood pressure, • stroke, • heart disease, • type 2 diabetes

In the study, people with diets highest in plant-based food were 19% less likely to experience OSA compared with those eating diets lowest in plant-based food. Those eating a largely vegetarian diet were also at a lower risk. While making healthy plant-based choices appears to reduce instances of snoring, it seems food quality is key.

The study also found that people eating an unhealthy plant-based diet, high in refined carbohydrates, sugary drinks, high-sugar and high-salt foods, are at a higher risk of OSA. In fact, people eating a diet high in unhealthy plant-based foods were at a 22% higher risk compared to those eating low amounts of these foods.

### Snoring and a plant-based diet: what's the link?

Is eating plant-based a must if you want to reduce your risk of snoring? Dan Gartenberg, PhD, sleep scientist and the founder and CEO of SleepSpace, who was not involved in the study, isn't entirely convinced.

"These findings align with existing knowledge about the health benefits of plant-based diets, but they do not tell us whether a healthy meat-based diet would be inferior to a healthy plant-based diet when it comes to obstructive sleep apnea," he points out.

One reason a plant-based diet, rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and nuts, may positively affect sleep apnea is because of its impact on inflammation. "These foods are abundant in nutrients, antioxidants, and anti-inflammatory compounds, which can help reduce inflammation, neutralize damage-causing free radicals, and ultimately decrease oxidative stress in the body," Gartenberg explains.

In contrast, an unhealthy plant-based diet high in refined carbohydrates, sugary drinks, and high-sugar and high-salt foods can cause inflammation in the throat.

High-sugar and high-salt diets, in particular, can also disrupt the fluid balance in the body.

Gartenberg says this can lead to swelling in many parts of the body, including the head and neck, which may increase the likelihood of airway obstruction during sleep, worsened snoring, and breathing difficulties. Additionally, making healthier food choices can counteract one of sleep apnea's biggest risk factors: obesity.

"A plant-based diet addresses the risks of inflammation and obesity by promoting a healthy weight and reducing inflammation in the upper airway," says Gartenberg. "As a result, these healthy foods can reduce some of the factors that contribute to airway obstruction, thereby making it easier to breathe during sleep."

Another possible factor to consider is acid reflux, which has been linked to sleep apnea severity. "Certain foods can leave you prone to or even worsen existing cases of acid reflux," Gartenberg notes.

However, he points out that research suggests that people who eat a plant-based diet are less likely to experience chronic reflux issues, such as GERD. Given this information, he says it's possible that a healthy plant-based diet could theoretically reduce your risk of reflux-related sleep apnea. Dietary changes that may help reduce snoring

Still, it's important to remember that the findings of this study do not necessarily indicate that a healthy meat-based diet would not have a similar impact on OSA. Gartenberg says more research is needed to answer that question.

What's clear, though, is that making healthier choices seems to have a positive effect – and that could pay dividends for your overall health and well-being.

"Snoring isn't just noisy and annoying for your partner; it can mess with your health," points out Dr. Shelby Harris, director of sleep health at Sleepopolis, who was not involved in the study. "It can lead to poor or fragmented sleep, an increased risk of developing cardiovascular issues, daytime fatigue, weight gain, and hormonal imbalances."

So, where should you start if you are interested in tweaking your diet to counteract snoring?

"Focus on adjusting your diet to include foods that are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, magnesium, and lean proteins," Harris advises.



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**21-ft statue of Maharana Pratap installed**

A 21-feet statue of Rajput king Maharana Pratap was installed and unveiled at the 'Maharana Pratap Chowk' at Begum Bazaar by Maharana Pratap Jagruti Manch. It weighs about two tonnes and was made by artist Sunder Singh, stated the organisation. "The man behind this initiative and execution is Thakur Surender Singh, a youth leader from Rajput community who put in lots of efforts to install the huge statue," said a press release from the Manch. Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Makkan Singh Raj Thakur, Corporator Shankar Yadav, Social worker Dr Yogesh Srivastava and others participated along with members of Rajput community from the state.



**Treat Women As Goddess**

Forest & Environment Minister Smt. Konda Surekha said that every woman who has the power to create by giving birth to another living being is an image of God. As a guest during International Women's Day celebration planned by "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat Women's Association" Minister congratulated women and everyone who is fighting for women rights. "Woman is compared to earth goddess. As a daughter, mother, sister, wife, women have the power to lead this society in a good path. There is no discrimination against women today as in the olden days. Family is now giving children the freedom to shape their lives as they wish." She added.



**Aslihan Özmen Okan releases MR's Feb Edition**

Midnight Reporter's 'Fabulous February' edition is out with a bang released by Aslihan Özmen Okan, First lady of Turkey Consul General. Click the link for epaper : <https://midnightreporter.com/February-2024.pdf>



**Women's Day Celebrated**

Veni La, the happening & a versatile feminine attended International Women's Day organized by Women Officers of the Indian Bank, TS and AP. She stated Women Bank officers have a lot to balance with respect to work and life, they are transferred to various branches across the country just like the men, but women have a set of challenges to brace, especially when the relocation impacts the family duties and responsibilities and a lot more. Veni La also briefly spoke on Work Life Balance, Glass ceiling, Mentorship and Career progression.



**New Beginning**

New is, Syed Ghulam Afzal Biabani Khusro Pasha Elected as Chairman Telangana Haj Committee. In this connection the socialite Mohammed Khaleequr Rahman met the new chairman and conveyed his wishes. "Wishing him all very successful tenure and hope that this time the proper facilities will be offered to the Haj pilgrims, which was badly neglected during the previous government." Mr. Rahman Stated.



**Award Time For Sudha**

Sudha Jain, the happening feminine is just making rounds, as she has been honored with Women's Leadership Award by a tv channel during a recent event held in the city. In her post she told "Let's celebrate the power of leadership through creating more leaders, innovation through their own talent and empowerment through the purest helping hand towards betterment vibes, because women can handle hundreds of hormones and create harmony." Amazing!



**Women's Day @ Nizam Club**

"Truly feel blessed to be honoured by the Nizam Club as part of their International Women's Day Celebrations." One lady among the honored group of women has posted her gratitude on social media. It's good to see Nizam Club has come forward with this kind of event, which will surely motivate the women.



**Inspiring Episode**

Kudos to the Udaan Voluntary Organisation for planning such a wonderful event, donating stationary & goodies among Govt. school students is really a good initiative. Can say a inspiring episode.



# hub n home

## Every Space has a purpose & to achieve that purpose spaces has be designed

The world's recent shift towards prioritizing wellness has influenced people to seek healthier lifestyles by understanding the body and the mind collectively. External factors such as the geographic location, the environment, the community, financial status, and the relationships with friends and family have all shown to have considerable impacts on an individual's health. However, it became evident that ensuring physical and mental health was not limited to having access to medical facilities and professional treatments, but was also determined by several factors related to the quality of the built environment.

Architects have a choice to design better and consequently, help people make better choices. So what is considered a good interior design, and what are the factors that make any interior space a good one? In this interior focus, we will explore this "good" side of design, looking at how architects ensured the needs of users by acknowledging accessibility, demographic diversity, economy, and the environment, regardless of aesthetic.

In most cases, spaces that serve its designated purpose are considered to be successful. Although functionality may seem like a restriction to the creative process of designers, there's rarely a successful interior designer who doesn't fully acknowledge the need to ensure functionality when making every spatial decision; every space has a purpose, and to achieve that purpose, the space must be designed to accomplish specific functions. But as people became more aware of the importance of wellness and made choices towards having a more successful existence, it became crucial that architects design with a more holistic approach, supporting human behaviors through spaces that rehabilitate the mind, body, and soul.

Today, the World Health Organization defines health not as the absence of ill-health but as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being". Although its definition has been changing over time, the general aspect of health now includes the correlation between *social* and *psychological*, alongside the commonly known medical factors. And what that, strategies and resources for greater equity and pertinence are being evaluated and implemented.



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## भाजपा को तीसरी बार जिताने की अमेरिकी कार्यकर्ताओं की कोशिशें



भाजपा ने शनिवार 2 मार्च को 195 उम्मीदवारों की पहली लिस्ट जारी की। इसमें पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी, गृहमंत्री अमित शाह, रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह और मध्य प्रदेश के 4 बार सीएम रहे शिवराज सिंह चौहान के नाम हैं।

भाजपा देश ही नहीं, विदेश में भी चुनाव की तैयारियों में जुट गई है। अमेरिका स्थित ओवरसीज फ्रेंड्स ऑफ बीजेपी (OFBJP) ने भाजपा को तीसरी बार जिताने का बीड़ा उठाया है। तैयारियों के तहत OFBJP की तरफ से भारत में 25 लाख कॉल किए जाएंगे, जिसमें कहा जाएगा कि फिर से (तीसरी बार) मोदी सरकार बनाएं।

अमेरिका में OFBJP के प्रेसिडेंट

अडापा प्रसाद ने न्यूज एजेंसी को बताया कि हमने भी शनिवार को मैरीलैंड में मीटिंग की है। इसमें तय हुआ कि भारत में बीजेपी की जीत के लिए पूरा सपोर्ट करेंगे। इस कार्यक्रम में OFBJP के 100 कोर मेंबर शामिल हुए थे।

अगले 15 दिन में इलेक्शन कमीशन लोकसभा चुनाव की तारीखों का ऐलान कर सकता है। अप्रैल-मई में लोकसभा चुनाव होंगे।

भारत के कई राज्यों पर चर्चा-

OFBJP में भारतीय-अमेरिकियों कार्यकर्ताओं ने कई राज्यों मसलन उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, गुजरात, पंजाब, हरियाणा, दिल्ली, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक, केरल, तमिलनाडु, जम्मू-कश्मीर, आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना का एनालिसिस पेश किया।

अडापा के मुताबिक, हमने कई भारतीय राज्यों का रीयू किया और पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी के अचीवमेंट्स का प्रेजेंटेशन पेश किया। OFBJP की तरफ से 3 हजार वॉलंटियर्स भारत के लोकसभा चुनाव के लिए लगाए गए हैं। ये सभी सोशल मीडिया, फोन कॉल, वोट एनालिसिस, कैंपेन और भारत का दौरा जैसे कार्यों से जुड़े रहेंगे।

OFBJP ने भारत के चुनाव के लिए कई प्रोग्राम तैयार किए-

OFBJP ने भारतीय चुनाव के लिए कई तरह की तैयारियां की हैं। इसके लिए कॉल सेंटर्स बनाए जाएंगे। इसके अलावा मोदी की गारंटी, मोहल्ला चाय पे चर्चा, कार रैली और होली मिलन जैसे कार्यक्रम तैयार किए गए हैं।

OFBJP से जुड़ी सिख विंग के कन्वीनर कंवलजीत सिंह का कहना है- हम तैयार हैं। हर कोई आगे की ओर देख रहा है। इस बार हम प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के लिए 400 सीटों का आंकड़ा पार करेंगे। मोदी ने देश के लिए बहुत कुछ किया है। उन्हें हर जगह लोग प्यार करते हैं।

## सियासत में उतरेंगी जरदारी की छोटी बेटा आसिफा



पाकिस्तान की पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री बेनजीर भुट्टो की छोटी बेटा आसिफा भुट्टो अब पूरी तरह सियासी मैदान में उतरने जा रही हैं। 'जियो लाइव' की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक- आसिफा नेशनल असेंबली के लिए होने वाले उप-चुनाव में भाई बिलावल की शहदकोट सीट से चुनाव लड़ने की तैयारी में हैं। बिलावल ने शहदकोट के अलावा लरकाना से भी चुनाव लड़ा था। वो दोनों सीट जीते।

उन्हें एक सीट खाली करनी है। माना जा रहा है कि वो लरकाना सीट अपने पास रखेंगे और शहदकोट से बहन आसिफा की इलेक्टोरल पॉलिटिक्स में एंट्री कराएंगे।

इसका ऐलान किसी भी

वक्त हो सकता है।

एक तीर से दो शिकार - रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक- आसिफ अली जरदारी और बिलावल ने आसिफा को चुनावी सियासत में उतारने का मन बना लिया है। हालांकि, तीन साल पहले भी वो पॉलिटिकली एक्टिव हुई थीं, लेकिन इसके बाद लंदन लौट गई थीं। इस बार बिलावल और आसिफ अली के करीबी सूत्र कन्फर्म कर रहे हैं कि आसिफा की चुनावी सियासत में उतरने का ऐलान बहुत जल्द किया जाएगा।

दरअसल, जरदारी और बिलावल एक तीर से दो निशाने साधना चाहते हैं। आसिफा में कई लोग उनकी मां और पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री बेनजीर भुट्टो की झलक देखते हैं। उनकी स्पीच को भी काफी पसंद किया जाता है।

इसके अलावा वो लंदन में रहते हुए भी पाकिस्तान पॉलिटिक्स को लेकर एक्टिव रहती हैं। कहा तो यहां तक जाता है कि बिलावल इस मूड में नहीं थे कि नवाज शरीफ की पार्टी को समर्थन दिया जाए। आसिफा ने उन्हें इसके लिए तैयार किया।

अब आसिफा पाकिस्तान पीपुल्स पार्टी को शहदकोट सीट जिताकर न सिर्फ संसद में मजबूती देना चाहती हैं, बल्कि पिता आसिफ अली जरदारी के राष्ट्रपति बनने के बाद भाई बिलावल का सहारा भी बनना चाहती हैं। इसके लिए प्लान भी बिलावल और पिता आसिफ अली जरदारी ने तैयार किया है।

## भारत को MQ&9B ड्रॉन्स देगा अमेरिका, 3.99 अरब डॉलर की है डील



अमेरिका की जो बाइडेन एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने भारत को 31 MQ&9B ड्रॉन्स देने का फैसला किया है। इनकी कीमत करीब 3.99 अरब डॉलर है। अमेरिकी डिफेंस एजेंसी के हवाले से न्यूज एजेंसी पीटीआई ने गुरुवार रात इसकी जानकारी दी।

माना जा रहा है कि इन ड्रॉन्स को चीन के साथ लगने वाली लाइन ऑफ एक्चुअल कंट्रोल (LAC) और भारत की समुद्री सीमा में सर्वालांस और सिक्योरिटी बढ़ाने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा।

यह ड्रॉन करीब 35 घंटे हवा में रह सकता है। यह फुली रिमोट कंट्रोल है। पिछले साल जून में

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अमेरिका यात्रा के दौरान इस डील का ऐलान किया गया था।

डिफेंस एजेंसी ने बयान जारी किया-

अमेरिका की डिफेंस सिक्योरिटी कोऑपरेशन एजेंसी ने एक बयान में कहा- विदेश विभाग की कोशिशें रंग लाईं। वो इस डील को कामयाब बनाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहा था। यह डील 3.99 अरब डॉलर की है। डील के सर्टिफिकेशन के लिए संसद को नोटिफिकेशन भेजा गया था।

संसद को भेजे नोटिफिकेशन में कहा गया था कि भारत के साथ यह डील अमेरिका की फॉरेन पॉलिसी और नेशनल सिक्योरिटी के लिहाज से भी अहम है। इसकी वजह यह है कि भारत और अमेरिका के बीच स्ट्रेटजिक रिलेशनशिप है और हमारे लिए यह जरूरी है कि अपने अहम डिफेंस पार्टनर्स के साथ करीबी रिश्ते रखे जाएं।

अमेरिकी संसद को बताया गया कि हिंद महासागर और दक्षिण एशिया में राजनीतिक स्थिरता, अमन और इकोनॉमिक प्रोग्रेस के लिहाज से भी यह डील अमेरिका के लिए जरूरी हो जाती है। इस डील से भारत वर्तमान और भविष्य की रक्षा जरूरतों को पूरा कर सकेगा। वो अपनी सरहदों पर पैनी नजर रख सकेगा इनमें से 15 ड्रॉन इंडियन नेवी और 8-8 आर्मी और एयरफोर्स को मिलेंगे।

इसी ड्रॉन ने किया था अल-जवाहिरी का स्वात्मा-

MQ&9B ड्रॉन MQ-9 'रीपर' का दूसरा वर्जन है। पिछले साल इसका इस्तेमाल काबुल में हेलफायर मिसाइल के एक मॉडिफाइड वर्जन को दागने के लिए किया गया था। इसमें अल-कायदा नेता अयमान अल-जवाहिरी की मौत हो गई थी। माना जाता है कि अमेरिका ने ओसामा बिन लादेन को खोजने के लिए भी इसका इस्तेमाल किया था। हालांकि तब इसका ओल्ड वर्जन इस्तेमाल किया गया था। भारत जिस वर्जन को खरीदने जा रहा है उसे दुनिया का मोस्ट एडवांस्ड ड्रॉन कहा जाता है।

यह ड्रॉन करीब 35 घंटे हवा में रह सकता है। यह फुली रिमोट कंट्रोल है। इसके लिए दो लोगों की जरूरत पड़ती है। यह एक बार उड़ान भरने के बाद 1900 किलोमीटर क्षेत्र की निगरानी कर सकता है। यह एक घंटे में 482 किलोमीटर उड़ सकता है। इसके पंखों की लंबाई 65 फीट 7 इंच और इसकी ऊंचाई 12 फीट 6 इंच होती है।

2020 में इंडियन नेवी को समुद्री सीमा की निगरानी के लिए अमेरिका से दो 'MQ&9B' सी गार्डियन ड्रॉन एक साल के लिए लीज पर मिले थे। बाद में लीज टाइम बढ़ा दिया गया। इसे निगरानी, खुफिया जानकारी जुटाने और दुश्मन के ठिकानों को बर्बाद करने सहित कई चीजों के लिए तैनात किया जा सकता है।

## मालदीव में भारतीयों से ज्यादा हुए चीनी पर्यटक

भारत और मुहज्जू सरकार में जारी विवाद के बीच मालदीव में चीनी पर्यटकों की संख्या भारतीयों से ज्यादा हो गई है। मालदीव की टूरिज्म मिनिस्ट्री ने सोमवार को पर्यटकों का डेटा जारी किया है। इसके मुताबिक मालदीव में 4 फरवरी तक आए पर्यटकों में सबसे ज्यादा चीन के 23,972 लोग रहे। जबकि 2023 में मालदीव में चीनी पर्यटकों की तादाद तीसरे नंबर पर थी। वहीं, मालदीव में पिछले साल सबसे ज्यादा भारतीय पर्यटक गए थे, ये इस साल फरवरी तक पांचवें नंबर पर आ गए हैं। इस साल 16,536 भारतीय ही मालदीव घूमने गए हैं। यहाँ फरवरी तक कुल पर्यटकों में भारत की हिस्सेदारी 7.7 प्रतिशत है, जबकि चीन की हिस्सेदारी 11.2 प्रतिशत हो गई। पीएम मोदी 3 जनवरी को लक्षद्वीप के दौरे पर गए थे। उन्होंने वहाँ की खूबसूरती से जुड़ी तस्वीरें शेयर कर कहा था- प्राकृतिक सुंदरता के अलावा लक्षद्वीप की शांति भी मंत्रमुग्ध कर देने वाली है। इसके बाद लक्षद्वीप और मालदीव की तुलना होने लगी। इस पर मालदीव के कुछ मंत्रियों ने पीएम मोदी और भारत के खिलाफ अपमान टिप्पणी की थी। मुहज्जू ने चीन से कहा था- ज्यादा पर्यटक भेजिए-

भारत पर आपत्तिजनक टिप्पणियों के बाद सोशल मीडिया पर बॉयकॉट मालदीव ट्रेंड करने लगा था। इस वक्त मालदीव के राष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद मुहज्जू चीन के दौरे पर थे। उन्होंने चीन के राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग से ज्यादा से ज्यादा पर्यटक मालदीव भेजने की मांग की थी। मालदीव लौटने के बाद उन्होंने कहा था कि कोई देश उन्हें धमका नहीं सकता है।

मालदीव-भारत के बिगड़ते रिश्तों का सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान वहाँ की टूरिज्म इंडस्ट्री पर ही होगा। इस बीच मालदीव की टूरिज्म इंडस्ट्री MATI ने मंगलवार को भारत और पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी के खिलाफ की गई अपने मंत्रियों की अपमानजनक बयानबाजी की आलोचना की थी।

MATI ने प्रेस रिलीज जारी कर कहा था कि भारत हमारा साझेदार है, मुसीबत के वक्त हमारी मदद के लिए सबसे पहले आगे आता है। मालदीव की टूरिज्म इंडस्ट्री में भारत सबसे बड़ा सहयोगी है। हम चाहते हैं कि ये साझेदारी सदियों तक बनी रहे। हम हर उस एक्शन की कड़ी निंदा करते हैं जिससे दोनों देशों के संबंध बिगड़ सकते हैं।

जिनपिंग ने कहा था- मालदीव की आजादी की रक्षा करेंगे-

भारत से विवाद के बीच चीन के राष्ट्रपति ने मालदीव से सहयोग बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया था। शी जिनपिंग ने मालदीव को अपना पुराना साथी बताया था। शी जिनपिंग ने कहा था कि चीन मालदीव के राष्ट्रीय हित में किए जा रहे विकास के एजेंडे में उनकी मदद करेगा। मालदीव की संप्रभुता, स्वतंत्रता, क्षेत्रीय अखंडता और राष्ट्रीय गरिमा की रक्षा करने में चीन उनके साथ खड़ा है। दोनों देशों ने 20 अहम समझौते किए थे।



## Tourism



## Kerala sets record with 21.8 mn domestic tourist arrivals in 2023

Kerala has set a new record in domestic tourist arrivals in 2023 with 2.18 crore tourist footfalls, a 15.92 per cent increase from the previous year, Minister for Tourism and Public Works P A Mohamed Riyas said on Monday. In 2022, Kerala witnessed 1,88,67,414 domestic tourist footfalls.

Significantly, domestic tourist arrivals recorded an increase of 18.97 per cent compared to 2019, the minister told a press conference here.

In 2023, Ernakulam district witnessed the highest influx of domestic tourists with 44,87,930 visitors, followed by Idukki (36,33,584), Thiruvananthapuram (35,89,932), Thrissur (24,78,573), and Wayanad (17,50,267).

The state also witnessed a healthy increase in international tourist arrivals with 6,49,057 visitors in 2023, as compared to 3,45,549 tourists in 2022, indicating a remarkable growth of 87.83 per cent.

Ernakulam district was visited by 2,79,904 tourists from abroad, followed by

Thiruvananthapuram (1,48,462), Idukki (1,03,644), Alappuzha (31,403), and Kottayam (28,458).

"This is a testament to Kerala Tourism's vigorous efforts based on well-crafted policy initiatives and meticulously implemented promotional strategies within and outside the country," Riyas said. As for the number of visitors from abroad, the minister pointed out that despite a significant uptick, it was still 45.45 per cent lower when compared to international tourist arrivals before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though there has been a steady increase in the arrival of foreign tourists, which was adversely impacted by the pandemic, it will take some more time to reach the pre-pandemic level, he said.

"The conflicts in some parts of the world also affect international tourism. Despite these challenges, there has been good progress in foreign tourist footfalls in Kerala. Adventure tourism events planned for this year will help us regain much of the lost ground. We are also working on plans to attract more tourists to the Malabar region," the minister added.

## Saudi Arabia seeks \$80 billion investments. Aim? More tourists



"I want the private sector to represent the majority of investment," Tourism Minister Ahmed Al Khateeb said. Saudi Arabia is seeking to attract as much as \$80 billion in private investment into the tourism industry as the kingdom looks to share the financial burden of plans to become one of the world's most visited destinations.

"I want the private sector to represent the majority of investment," Tourism Minister Ahmed

Al Khateeb said in an interview in Riyadh on Sunday, adding that the goal is to raise \$60 billion to \$80 billion by 2030. "This is a very ambitious target."

The government plans to spend some \$800 billion on tourism over the next decade as it prepares Saudi Arabia for a post-oil future that includes becoming a major hub for everything from metals mining to sporting events. The goal is to have 150 million tourists a year by 2030, with about 70 million coming from abroad.

While the state and its sovereign wealth fund have been the cash lifeline for tourism development thus far, getting foreign direct investment — particularly from the private sector — will be critical to the Vision 2030 time line as mega projects ramp up and spending needs balloon, said James Reeve, chief economist at Jadwa Investment Co.

## Assam introduces 'Tourist Police' to ensure visitor security



Assam to enhance the safety and security of tourists by introducing "tourist police." This decision comes as the number of visitors to the state has significantly increased post-Covid last year. The state tourism department plans to establish tourist police units, stations and other necessary infrastructure to ensure the well-being of tourists. The introduction of the "tourist police" scheme was included in the new Assam Tourism (Development and Registration) Bill, 2024 recently passed by the state assembly. This move aims to provide a proper framework for the tourism sector requiring every accommodation facility to register with the tourism department according to a senior official. Several other states in India including Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh, have already implemented tourist police. While the implementation is in its initial stage in Assam, the official assured that it will be put into action soon. The tourist police will inspect various tourist places and ensure a safe and secure environment for visitors. The tourist police scheme was first introduced in the country in 2022, following directives from the Union Ministry of Tourism to all states and Union territories. This initiative involves collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) to create standard operating procedures, design training programs, and recommend uniforms for tourist police officers.

## Kenya Offers Incentives to Indian Travel Agents



The Kenya Tourism Board has launched a marketing campaign in India. Under the campaign, the tourism board will provide travel agents with incentives to promote Kenya as a tourism destination to the Indian travelers. The campaign highlights the importance of India for Kenya's tourism. John Chirchir, Ag CEO, Kenya Tourism Board, said that India stands as a pivotal market for Kenya in terms of travel and tourism. "We

believe that this initiative will significantly contribute to strengthening our foothold in this dynamic landscape," he added. Visa-free entry in Kenya: In January 2024, Kenya became a visa-free country for international tourists, including for Indian passport holders. The move aimed to boost the country's tourism sector, while also streamlining the entry process in the country with a new digital portal. Travelers to Kenya only need to apply and pay for an electronic travel authorization in order to enter the country. In 2022, Kenya received more than 81,000 tourists from India, an increase of more than 93% over the 2021 figure. India was also the fifth largest source market for the country in 2022. During the first eight months of 2023, Kenya attracted most Indian visitors among all African nations.

## Turkey Tourism Shines at ITB Berlin 2024



Turkey shines at ITB Berlin, highlighting its rich culture and innovative tourism with insights from officials of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Amid the hustle and bustle of ITB Berlin, one of the world's premier travel industry events, Turkey stood out as a beacon of cultural heritage and natural beauty. Our on-site correspondent from Travel and Tour World had the privilege of

meeting with officials from the Republic of Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Turkey's strategic vision for its tourism sector, emphasizing the country's rich tapestry of history, culture, and the diverse experiences it offers to global travelers. This engagement underscored Turkey's commitment to showcasing its unique offerings on the international stage.

The dialogue with Turkey's tourism officials revealed the nation's innovative approaches to promoting travel and preserving its heritage. At ITB Berlin, Turkey demonstrated its prowess in bridging continents, civilizations, and modernity, making it a focal point for those seeking an immersive travel experience. The event served as an ideal platform for Turkey to highlight its appeal as a destination that combines adventure, relaxation, and cultural depth, appealing to a wide audience of travel enthusiasts and professionals alike.

A Showcase of Diversity and Culture- Turkey's presentation at ITB Berlin captivated attendees with its vibrant display of cultural heritage and stunning natural landscapes. From the ancient, winding streets of Istanbul to the tranquil beaches of the Mediterranean, Turkey showcased its ability to blend centuries-old traditions with contemporary attractions. This showcase was not just about visual appeal; it represented Turkey's deep-rooted history and its ongoing narrative as a crossroads of cultures and histories.

Embracing the Future of Travel- Highlighting its forward-thinking in the realm of tourism, Turkey's exhibition at ITB Berlin focused on sustainable tourism practices, digital innovations, and personalized travel experiences. These initiatives reflect a broader strategy to adapt to the ever-changing demands of today's travelers, who increasingly value sustainability, technology, and tailored experiences in their journeys. Turkey's commitment to these areas signals its readiness to lead in the global tourism sector, offering insights into the future of travel where conservation, technology, and personalization play pivotal roles.