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INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

International Mother Language Day: History, Significance, and Celebration

International Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. First announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999, it was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly with the adoption of UN resolution 56/262 in 2002.

Mother Language Day is part of a broader initiative “to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by people of the world” as adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 May 2007 in UN resolution 61/266, which also established 2008 as the International Year of Languages. The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh

Historical Context

The origins of International Mother Language Day go back to India’s partition in 1947, which separated Bengal into West Bengal (Indian part) and East Bengal (the later East Pakistan). The new Pakistani government made Urdu the only national language, ignoring the Bengali linguistic majority in East Pakistan. The move caused immense discontent and demonstrations among Bengali speakers. A peaceful student-organized demonstration on February 21, 1952, at the University of Dhaka ended in disaster when police fired at the crowd, killing four students. It became a turning point in the battle for Bengali linguistic rights and cultural identity.



THE LEADMEN

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Rajesh Nirwan Appointment as Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)

IPS officer Rajesh Nirwan has been appointed as Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for appointment of IPS officer Rajesh Nirwan as Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

With the order now, a year 1992 batch IPS officer Rajesh Nirwan (RJ) is going to work as Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) from the date of assumption of charge and until further orders.

Namrata S Kumar posted as next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Latvia

IFS officer Namrata S Kumar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Latvia.

Following a recently issued directive by the competent authority, name of IFS officer Namrata S Kumar has been mandated for the appointment as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Latvia. The Ministry of External Affairs in an official statement has announced the appointment, where it states "Officer Namrata S. Kumar, currently serving as Ambassador of India to Slovenia, has been posted as the next Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia."

Jai Prakash Dwivedi Assumes Additional Charge as SECL CMD

Jai Prakash Dwivedi, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Western Coalfields Limited Nagpur has been given additional charge of SECL CMD. The Ministry of Coal issued the order, and he will continue to serve as the CMD of SECL until a permanent CMD is appointed.

J P Dwivedi reached the headquarters in Bilaspur today and assumed charge. On his arrival at the headquarters, he was welcomed by the Functional Directors, CVO and Heads of Departments and a Guard of Honour was also given by the security contingent. He held a meeting of Area General Managers and Heads of Departments at the headquarters today.

Raj Kumar Chaudhary, SJVN Additional CMD gets Extension

Power Ministry in its order dated January 31, 2025, has extended the additional charge of the post of Chairman & Managing Director to Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary the CMD of NHPC Limited with effect from today i.e., 01.02.2025 for a period of three months or till a full-time incumbent is appointed or until further orders, whichever is earliest.

On November 1, 2024 Shri Chaudhary took additional charge as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN.

Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary (59 years) is a graduate in Civil Engineering from BIT (Sindri) and has also done Advance Diploma in Management. He joined NHPC in 1989 as a Probationary Executive (Civil) at Koel Karo HEP, Jharkhand. Shri Chaudhary steadily rose in his career to the post of Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC. Earlier, he was also Director (Technical) of NHPC. Shri Chaudhary has worked at various positions in Cost Engineering department, Design & Engineering department and four Construction Projects of NHPC, Koel Karo, Kalpong, Teesta-V and Subansiri Lower HEPs and two construction projects in Bhutan, Mangdechhu & Punatsangchhu-II HEPs.

Dr. Hemant Sharad Pande assumes charge as Director (Personnel) of Western Coalfields Limited

Dr. Hemant Sharad Pande assumed charge as Director (Personnel) of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), a PSU under the Ministry of Coal, on 27.01.2025. On assumption of the charge, Dr Pande met CMD WCL Shri J. P. Dwivedi, who congratulated him and wished him the best in his future endeavors. WCL Directors & CVO too wished him on the occasion.

Before assuming charge as Director (Personnel), Dr. Hemant Sharad Pande was serving as Area General Manager of the Raigarh Area of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary company of Coal India Limited. Dr. Pande was recommended for the post of Director (Personnel) of WCL by the PESB selection panel from the pool of 10 candidates.

Achyut Ghatak assumed Director (Technical) charge on Coal India Board

Ministry of Coal has appointed Shri Achyut Ghatak as Director (Technical) on the Board of Coal India Limited (CIL) w.e.f the date of his assumption of charge of the post till the date of his superannuation i.e. 31.03.2028 or until further orders, whichever is the earlier. Shri Achyut Ghatak assumed the charge of Director (Technical), CIL on 23rd Jan'25.

Achyut Ghatak, Director (Tech) obtained his Degree in Mining Engineering in 1989 from Govt College of Engineering & Tech, Raipur & obtained his first-class Mine Managers Certificate of Competency in 1993.

Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman, NHAI, Got Extension



Central deputation tenure of IAS Santosh Kumar Yadav as Chairman, NHAI has been extended. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in central deputation tenure of IAS Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

The approval of the extension to IAS SK Yadave has been approved in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, for a period of 02 years beyond 17.02.2025 i.e. up to 17.02.2027 or until further orders whichever is earlier.

SJM Jilani & Suleman Chaudhary now in changed role in J&K



SJM Jilani & Suleman Chaudhary will now be seen in changed administrative role in Jammu & Kashmir.

As per a recently issued notification by the state administration of Jammu & Kashmir, names of two IPS officers SM Jilani & Suleman Chaudhary now in changed role in J&K.

Currently IPS officer SJM Gillani is serving as the Director General of Police (DGP) and Managing Director of the Police Housing Corporation. Now he will be holding an additional charge of Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & SDRF, Jammu and Kashmir.

On the other hand until further notice IPS Suleman Choudhary has been given additional duties and will now oversee the roles of IGP (POS) PHQ, IGP (Hqrs) PHQ, IGP (Technical Services), and IGP (Telecom).

Samir Chandra Saxena: New Chairman & Managing Director of Grid-India



IAS officer Samir Chandra Saxena has been selected as Chairman & Managing Director of Grid-India.

In accordance with a recently issued directive by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), name of IAS officer Samir Chandra Saxena has been mandated for the position

of Chairman & Managing Director of Grid-India.

After getting appointed to the post of Chairman & MD, Grid India, SC Saxena will receive vigilance clearances and approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Samir Chandra Saxena is currently serving as Director (Market Operation) at Grid-India,

Ministry of Skill Development: Re-designation of the post of Amit Meena



IAS officer Amit Meena has been re-designated in the Ministry of Skill Development.

The Competent Authority has approved the proposal for re-designation of the post of Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship presently held by IAS Amit

Meena. Now he will be serving in the Ministry as a Director as a measure personal to him. A year 2011 batch IAS officer Amit Meena (KL) is currently serving as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry. With the order now he will be working with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the re-designated post and for a period up to 30.03.2026 i.e total tenure of five years under the Central Staffing Scheme.

CRPF: Extension of deputation tenure to Rajesh Kumar

IPS Rajesh Kumar has been given extension of deputation tenure.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for extension of deputation tenure of IPS Rajesh Kumar.

Currently a year 1995 batch of AGMUT cadre IPS officer Rajesh Kumar is working as Additional Director General, Central Reserve Police Force. With the extension order now he is to work on his position for a period of one year beyond 18.03.2025, in relaxation of the IPS Tenure Policy.

Shweta Teotia designated as Deputy Secy, LBSNA, Mussoorie

IAS officer Shweta Teotia has been designated as Deputy Secretary, (Sr) LBSNA, Mussoorie.

Following a recently issued directive by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), name of IAS officer Shweta Teotia has been mandated for designation as Deputy Secretary (Sr), LBSNA, Mussoorie.

A year 2011 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, Shweta Teotia has been appointed under Staff Selection Scheme. Now with the new order she is going to work till year 2030 or until further orders.



Namrata Gandhi Appointment as Deputy Secy in Cabinet Sec., Delhi



IAS officer Namrata Gandhi has been posted as Deputy Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, Delhi. As per the recently issued notification by the Competent Authority name of IAS Namrata Gandhi has been approved for the appointment as Deputy Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, Delhi. A year

2013 batch Chhattisgarh cadre IAS officer after being appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, Delhi under the Central Staffing Scheme she will be serving for a period of four years from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders.

Rajeev Singh Thakur Deputed as Adviser, NITI Aayog

IAS officer Rajeev Singh Thakur has been appointed as Adviser, NITI Aayog. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved appointment of IAS Rajeev Singh Thakur as Adviser, NITI Aayog in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary by temporarily upgrading the post.



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Corridors of Power

'We Will Make Telangana No. 1 In Cyber Security'



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy flagged cyber security as a challenge to the country as there has been an unbridled growth in cybercrimes. Mr Reddy while speaking at the Cyber Security Conclave SHIELD 2025 held said: "Cyber criminals looted 22,812 crore in the country last year, posing a big threat to the country's economy as well as the citizens. My government has been working with experts and IT companies, allocating sufficient resources to build a robust cyber security system. We will make Telangana the number one State in cyber security in India." Speaking at the event,

Minister for IT D. Sridhar Babu revealed the roadmap of the State to fight cybercrime, including the launch of a new digital security policy in line with India's personal data protection policy. In the picture DGP Dr. Jitender is handing over the memento the Chief Minister. DGP CID and Director TG Cyber Security Bureau Shikha Goel said with 900+ experts, the event focused on AI-driven security, cyber resilience and digital defense.

Harish Kumar Gupta New DGP Of Andhra



The Andhra Pradesh government has officially appointed Harish Kumar Gupta as the new Director General of Police (DGP) under full additional charge. Gupta, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has taken over from D Tirumala Rao, who retired from the services. Harish Kumar Gupta has had an illustrious career spanning over three decades in various capacities in law enforcement, administration, and security management. Prior to this appointment, Gupta was serving as the Director General of Vigilance and Enforcement and played a

crucial role in implementing anti-corruption measures and enhancing police vigilance in AP. Interestingly, this is not Gupta's first time holding the DGP post. During the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed Gupta as the DGP of Andhra Pradesh to ensure smooth law and order management during the electoral process.

Unauthorized Sand Lifting Will Not Be Tolerated



Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari directed the collectors to ensure that sand is available in sufficient quantity at reasonable price for the consumers. CS held a Video Conference with District Collectors of Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Peddapalli, Mancherial and Karimnagar. She directed the collectors to maintain round the clock vigil of the reaches and stockyards and ensure that there is no unauthorised lifting of sand from these reaches and stockyards. Collectors were told to constitute joint teams and intensify road patrolling with the involvement of police and transport department officials. Principal Secretary Mines Sridhar informed that meetings with stakeholders and transporters was held and they were briefed about the government's decision to free sand from the clutches of unwarranted elements so as to ensure that sand is available for the common man at a reasonable price. He also informed that TGMDC will leverage technology to control pilferage of sand.

Sach Mein , CP Ho Tho Anand Jaisa

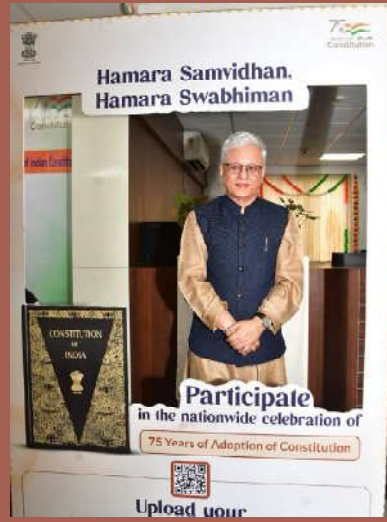


Hyderabad mein shanti hi shanti hai ! Law & order is in order and the policing and the patrolling has been tighten, khakis are available 24/7 and people are feeling safe and secure in the town. Who is behind this safe atmosphere ! Aur koun , Cv.Anand, the DG & Hyderabad Police Commissioner, no doubt in this that today shehar mein aman hai tho sirf Kotwal Mr.Anand ke efforts sey ! One strange update is , he the first CP who spare time for petitioners and police personals.He attends each and every petitioner and does his best to solve the same. His commitment is really commendable and inspiration for the entire officers fraternity. Sach mein , CP ho to Anand jaisa !

Tirumala Rao's New Role at APSRTC



Meanwhile, the outgoing DGP D Tirumala Rao will continue his association with the state administration in a different capacity. After his superannuation on January 31, Rao has been re-employed as the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) for a period of one year, beginning February 1, 2025. This move aligns with the government's efforts to strengthen the transportation sector while utilizing Rao's extensive experience in public administration.



'Art & Calligraphy of Constitution' Exhibition Inaugurated

H.E. The Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurated Exhibition on "Art & Calligraphy of Constitution" (Org. by Ministry of External Affairs, Hyderabad) at Regional Passport - a part of 'Mera Sambidhan Mera Swabhimaan'. Another news is Governor also participated at Swami Vivekananda Day Celebrations at Mahbub College.

Hyderabad's Model United Nations Event Organized



"Delighted to inaugurate the American Corner Hyderabad's Model United Nations event. MUNs provide such a valuable opportunity for young leaders to learn and practice global collaboration and problem-solving, helping both the United States and India become safer, stronger, and more prosperous in the world." Said US Consul General Jennifer Larson.

She told thank you, St. Francis College, for partnering with the Consulate in hosting this. Best of luck to all the participants!

Focusing On Women's Health



UK Dy.High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen attended the launch of India UK partnership focusing on women's health which will see Fernandez Hospital and LivUni work with AP & Telangana to address maternal health challenges, improving healthcare outcomes for women across



Turkish Food , Always Delicious

Turkey Consul General in Hyderabad Orhan Yalman Okan is with Aslihan Özmen Okan attended the International Day of International School. During the event the couple also visited Turkish stall with delicious Turkish Food. When it comes to Turkish food, these days food lovers are preferring it because of its adorable taste, in fact many restaurants of the town has also offering Turkish food.

Young Chef Olympiad 2025 Competition Held




"I had the distinct honor of being the Guest of Honor at the Young Chef Olympiad 2025, the world's largest culinary competition, held at the IIBM Campus in Hyderabad."


This prestigious event brought together young chefs from 10 countries, including Kazakhstan, Australia, Greece, and Nigeria, providing them with a platform to demonstrate their culinary expertise and creativity. Their dedication and passion for the culinary arts were truly commendable. Said Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana and

Andhra Pradesh Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan.


The Young Chef Olympiad is not just a competition but a celebration of global culinary talent, cultural exchange, and international unity. It fosters learning, collaboration, and excellence in the culinary arts while bringing together aspiring chefs from diverse backgrounds. During the event picture Valmiki Hari Kishan and Surya Ganesh Valmiki can also be seen.




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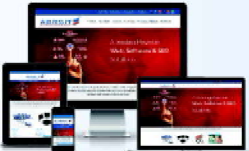
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IAS (Retd.) Gopala Krishna's Book "Life of a Karma Yogi" Released



Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy has released above book. The book contained retired IAS officer M Gopala Krishna's valuable experiences. Very much delighted to release the book. The big task before the retired officer is to put together his six decades of experience in the book. We can buy anything in the world but not experience. Hope this

books helps as a guide to all serving civil servants. Gopala Krishna is a live witness to the rapid changes that witnessed the country from decades to till the date. Earlier, IAS officers mingled with people and people also remembered the efficiency of officials more than politicians. Collectors are not leaving their AC rooms and stayed away from meeting people in recent times. Need a change in thinking and decision making of the officials.

IPS Mahesh Bhagwat : The Hero Of The Republic



This Republic Day, The Better India has celebrated the real #HeroesOfTheRepublic — the ones who live and breathe the values enshrined in our Constitution. Sr. IPS Officer Mahesh Bhagwat has dedicated his career to rescuing children trapped in bonded labour and human trafficking. He has been instrumental in Operation Smile, an initiative to rescue child labourers from hazardous industries and trace missing children. Since its launch, Operation Smile has rescued over 7,000 children from dire conditions like brick kilns, tea stalls, and traffic intersections. Bhagwat and his team conduct raids to free these children, ensuring their safety and well-being. In

23 large-scale operations, Bhagwat and his team freed over 900 bonded labourers, including children, while ensuring traffickers faced strict action under the Child Labour Act and the Indian Penal Code. Beyond rescues, Bhagwat pioneered worksite schools with NGOs like Aid et Action, offering rescued children—many from Odisha—education in their native language.

With Odia-medium teachers, midday meals, and study materials, these schools help children catch up before returning home

"Within six months, over 300 students were able to catch up on their studies, making their transition to regular schools smoother," Bhagwat told.

ABV.Rao as APPHCL Chairman & RP Thakur as Advisor to the Govt.



The Andhra Pradesh government appointed two retired IPS officers to key positions. Retired IPS officer A.B. Venkateswara Rao was named chairman of Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation Limited (APPHCL) for a two-year term. Rao, who was suspended during the previous YSRC government, was recently reinstated by the current administration. His suspension period has now been regularised, making him eligible for full pay and allowances. In another development, the government appointed RP Thakur, a 1986-batch IPS officer, as an advisor to the state government for two years. A former Director General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh, Thakur will be based at AP Bhavan in New Delhi. The specific terms of his advisory role will be issued separately.

Hats Off To The Prajavani Team



Prajavani is one of the happening and the beneficial initiative of the State government. Petitioners and the common public in large are visiting Praja Bhavan with their various grievances. Lady IAS officer D.Divya is the State Nodal Officer of Prajavani, who is making all efforts to make this routine much easier and more flexible. Not easy to make this kind of initiative smooth, hats off to all the officers and team for continuing it without any mess.

Quote Of The Month



Take it on a lighter note ! "A 'Good' employee is one who can give good answers for the good work done by him. A 'Very Good' employee is one who can give 'very good' answers for narrating the not so good work/ No work done by him". Above very good hilarious quote/lines is posted by none other than Pamela Satpathy, the DM of Karimnagar district. Can say one of the very sincere officer, who strictly follows rule book.

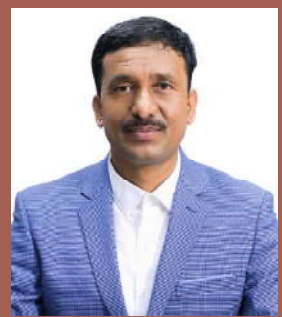
Telangana to host Miss World pageant in May



The world's most prestigious beauty festival, Miss World, returns to India for its 72nd edition, with Telangana proudly hosting the global event in 2025. Spanning four weeks from May 7 to 31, the festival will be held across various locations in Telangana, a state known for its rich heritage and modern dynamism. The grand opening and closing ceremonies, including the finale, will take place in Hyderabad.

Following the success of the 71st Miss World in New Delhi and Mumbai, the event now moves to Telangana—a place

where tradition meets innovation. Miss World, the longest-running beauty festival, continues to champion diverse representations of beauty with a purpose, promoting humanitarian causes worldwide. Organisers highlight Hyderabad's reputation for safety, tourism, and its thriving international presence as key factors in selecting the city. The official announcement was made by Miss World Limited Chairperson and CEO Julia Morley CBE, alongside Telangana Tourism Secretary Smita Sabharwal.



Extension For N.Balram, CMD, SCCL

SCCL CMD N.Balram, IRS got yet another extension for one year. During January the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Revenue for extension of deputation tenure of Mr.Balram, to Govt. of Telangana for a period of one year. Mr.Balram is known to be one of the very hardcore officer. Best wishes.

Telangana: IAS officers get fresh postings in major reshuffle

As per the orders, Transport Commissioner K Surendra Mohan has been given full additional charge (FAC) of Commissioner of Cooperation, Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Director of Marketing, relieving P Uday Kumar of the responsibility. Health and Family Welfare Director RV Karnan has been placed in FAC of CEO, Aarogyasri, replacing Siva Sankar Lotheti, who has been transferred and directed to report to the General Administration Department.

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary for Finance K Haritha has been appointed as Director of Commercial Taxes, relieving senior IAS officer SAM Rizvi of the additional charge. SK Yasmeen Basha, who is currently serving as Director of Horticulture and Sericulture, has been placed in FAC of Managing Director of Telangana Seeds Development Corporation, relieving P Uday Kumar.

HACA Managing Director K Chandra Sekhar Reddy has been given FAC of Managing Director of Telangana Foods, replacing B Srinivas Reddy, who has been repatriated to his parent department. Wanaparthy Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Sanchit Gangwar has been posted to Narayanpet in the same capacity.

IAS officer SA Murugesan has been empaneled for Joint Secy post at the Centre. As per a recently issued directive by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), name of IAS officer SA Murugesan has been mandated for empanelment for Joint Secretary or equivalent post at the Centre. The empanelment to IAS Murugesan has been approved for holding the posts of Joint Secretary or equivalent at the Centre (Initial leftover).

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Public Sector

Union Minister for Coal & Mines reviewed progress of NLCIL Projects



Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, held a review meeting of NLCIL projects at Chennai on 30.01.25, along with VismataTej, Additional Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Coal, Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, CMD, NLCIL, Functional Directors and Senior officials of NLC India Limited were present in the review meeting. Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Kishan Reddy, in his address, highlighted the larger vision of the Prime Minister in creating a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 as a part of which, reforms were being undertaken in the mining sector. He lauded NLCIL as one of the best performing Public Sector Companies in India. He appreciated the diversification of the company into renewable energy sector on a large scale, stating that it is the first PSU in the country to cross 1 GW of renewable energy.

Minister appreciated the NLCIL's foray into capacity addition in coal mining through its coal mines at Talabira, South Pachwara, North Dhadu, Machhakata and Patrapara. He also lauded NLCIL's efforts in constructing 3 x 800 MW Thermal Power Project at Talabira which was inaugurated by Prime Minister.

Coal Minister has also expressed his appreciation on NLCIL's sincere efforts in Renewable Energy Capacity addition in large scale in states of Rajasthan, Assam and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and in other green initiatives. Minister pointed out that NLCIL was one of the oldest PSUs in the country, patronized and visited by several past National leaders including Presidents, Prime Ministers, VIPs, which continued even today. He called upon NLCIL to explore avenues to boost tourism which had a lot of potential and scope for creating awareness among children and students.

PNB reports strong Q3 FY25 results, net profit doubles



State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Friday posted impressive results for the quarter ending December 2024 (Q3 FY25) reporting a net profit of Rs 4,508.21 crore, a 103 per cent increase from Rs 2,222.8 crore in the same quarter last year. On a sequential basis, profit grew by around 5 per cent from Rs 4,303 crore in the September quarter (Q2 FY25).

The net interest income (NII) rose by 7.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) at Rs 11,033 crore, compared to Rs 10,293 crore

in Q3 FY24, according to its stock exchange filing. PNB's total income jumped 16 per cent to Rs 34,751.7 crore from Rs 29,961.65 crore in the previous year. Quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), it saw a marginal increase of 1 per cent from Rs 34,447.10 crore in Q2FY25. The gross non-performing assets (Gross NPA) reduced to Rs 45,413.98 crore from Rs 60,371.38 crore a year ago and Rs 47,582.25 crore in the previous quarter. The Gross NPA ratio declined to 4.09 per cent from 6.24 per cent in Q3FY24 and 4.48 per cent in the previous quarter. However, the net NPA of the public bank fell to Rs 4,437.43 crore from Rs 4,674.24 crore in Q2 FY25 – significantly lower than a year ago. The net NPA ratio of the bank dropped to 0.41 per cent from 0.66 per cent QoQ and 0.96 per cent YoY.

Bank of Baroda posts 5.6 pc rise in Q3 profit, asset quality improves



State-run Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Thursday reported a 5.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in its net profit for the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25 (Q3 FY25). The bank's net profit stood at Rs 4,837 crore, up from Rs 4,579 crore in the same quarter last year.

The bank's net interest income (NII), which represents the difference between interest earned and interest paid, rose by 2.8 per cent YoY to Rs 11,417

crore, compared to Rs 11,101 crore in the year-ago period. For the first nine months of the financial year (9MFY25), Bank of Baroda's net profit grew by 12.6 per cent to Rs 14,533 crore. The bank's operating profit in Q3 FY25 stood at Rs 7,664 crore, a 9.3 per cent YoY growth, according to its stock exchange filing. A key driver of this growth was a strong 34.1 per cent rise in non-interest income, which reached Rs 3,769 crore. The bank's asset quality remained strong, with gross non-performing assets (NPA) falling to 2.43 per cent in Q3 FY25, down from 3.08 per cent in the same quarter last year.

BEL clocks 47.3 pc jump in Q3 net profit at Rs 1,316 crore

Government-owned Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) on Thursday reported a 47.3 per cent growth in its net profit for the third quarter ended December 2024 to Rs 1,316.06 crore, compared to Rs 893.30 crore in the same quarter of the previous year. The Navratna defence public sector company's consolidated revenue from operations in the third quarter shot up by 38.6 per cent to Rs 5,770.69 crore, from Rs 4,162.16 crore reported in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Profit before tax stood at Rs 1,754.15 crore in the third quarter of 2023-24, registering a growth of 49.64 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Total expenses grew 31.98 per cent year-on-year to Rs 4,207.05 crore in the Oct-Dec quarter. The cost of materials consumed stood at Rs 3,191.02 crore (up 46.07 per cent) while employee benefits expenses were at Rs 665.32 crore, up 7.38 per cent year-on-year during the quarter.

The share price of Bharat Electronics went up by 4.30 per cent to Rs 278.70 after the company's results were declared. BEL had announced this week that it has won additional orders worth Rs 531 crore over the last fortnight. With this fresh batch of orders, BEL has now accumulated orders totalling Rs 10,893 crore in the current financial year.

GAIL reports highest-ever nine-month PAT of Rs. 9,263 crores



GAIL (India) Limited reported Revenue from Operations of Rs. 1,01,580 crores for the nine months ended 31st December, 2024 as compared to Rs. 98,304 crores in corresponding period of financial year 2023-24. Profit before Tax (PBT) for nine months ended 31st December, 2024 stood at Rs. 12,123 crores, up by 39% as compared to Rs. 8,713 crores for the corresponding period in previous year, mainly on account of exceptional income due to SMTS settlement and also due to increase in gas transmission volumes, increased realization in liquid hydrocarbons and better performance of petrochemicals. Profit after Tax (PAT) is up by 39% to Rs. 9,263 crores as compared to Rs. 6,660 crores in corresponding period of previous year. Quarter on Quarter basis, Revenue from Operations increased by 6% to Rs. 34,958 crores in Q3 FY25 as compared to Rs. 32,931 crores in Q2 FY25. PBT registered an increase of 46% to Rs. 5,029 crores in Q3 FY25 as against Rs. 3,453 crores in previous quarter and PAT increased by 45% to Rs. 3,867 crores in Q3 FY25 as against Rs. 2,672 crores in previous quarter. During the quarter, Average Natural Gas Transmission volume stood at 125.93 MMSCMD as against 130.63 MMSCMD in Q2 FY25. Gas marketing volume stood at 103.46 MMSCMD as against 96.60 MMSCMD in previous quarter. LHC sales stood at 282 TMT as against 253 TMT & Polymer sales stood at 221 TMT as against 226 TMT in comparison to previous quarter.

Gas marketing volume stood at 103.46 MMSCMD as against 96.60 MMSCMD in previous quarter. LHC sales stood at 282 TMT as against 253 TMT & Polymer sales stood at 221 TMT as against 226 TMT in comparison to previous quarter.

RailTel posts Total Income of Rs 782 Crore in Q3 of FY 24-25 with a Y-o-Y growth of 16%.



RailTel announced its Operating Income of Rs. 768 Crore in Q3 of FY 25 with YoY growth of 15% in its 151st Board Meeting held on 27 th January, 2025. The Profit Before Tax (PBT) in Q3 of FY25 is Rs. 90 Crores as against Rs. 84 crores in Q3 of FY24, registering a YoY growth of 6%.

Total Profit After Tax (PAT) for Q3 of FY25 stands at Rs. 65 Crore as against Rs. 62 Crore PAT of Q3 of FY24. For the nine months (9M) ended on 31/12/2024, the company achieved a total Income of Rs 2222 Crore and a total PAT of Rs. 186 Crore registering a 26% & 10% YoY growth respectively.

The company has received "excellent" rating from DPE in MOU evaluation for the FY23-24. Talking about the results, Sanjai Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director of RailTel said, "In its 25 th year of journey, RailTel had another quarter of strong performance with consistent growth in operational revenue and profits. With a robust order book, we are well-positioned to make significant contribution to the nation's expanding digital landscape and create value for our investors



BHEL's net profit more than doubles in Oct-Dec quarter

Government-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) on Tuesday reported a more than two-fold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 135 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year, according to a regulatory filing by the company. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 60.31 crore in the same quarter of FY 2023-24. BHEL's revenue shot up by 32.2 per cent to Rs 7,277 crore during the third quarter from Rs 5,504 in the same period of the previous year. The company earnings before interest, depreciation, tax and amortisation (EBIDTA) rose 40.5 per cent during the third quarter to Rs 304 crore from Rs 216 crore in the same quarter of the previous financial year. BHEL's order book has been growing during the current financial year.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) and Hitachi Energy India consortium had bagged a major contract in November from the Power Grid Corporation of India for the establishment of over eight hundred 6000 MW high voltage direct current (HVDC) terminal stations at Khavda Pooling Station-2 (HVDC) and Nagpur (HVDC) for the evacuation of renewable power from the Khavda region in Gujarat to Nagpur in Maharashtra.

ONGC Q3 FY25 : Net Profit of Rs. 8,240 cr, declares 2nd interim dividend of Rs. 5.00 per share



In its 390th meeting held on 31st January, 2025, ONGC Board approved the results for Third Quarter (Q3) of FY 2024-25.

Profit for the October-December quarter stood at Rs 8,240 crore from Rs 9,892 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenues were 3.1% to Rs 33,717 cr from Rs 34,788 cr. The company declared a dividend of Rs 5 per share.

With focus to enhance operational efficiency, ONGC has been able to maintain the increasing trend in crude oil production for two consecutive quarters. The standalone crude oil production (excluding condensate) during Q3 FY 25 was 4.653 MMT, registering a growth of 2.2% over corresponding quarter of FY 24. Similarly, the standalone crude oil production during 9M FY25 was 13.858 MMT with an increase of 1.2% over 9M FY24. In Dec 2024, the growth in standalone crude oil production was 5.4% over Dec 2023.

ONGC has been able to reverse the decline and increase is visible in the gas production as well. The standalone natural gas production during Q3 FY 25 was 4.978 BCM registering a growth of 0.3 % over Q3 FY 24. In particular for the month of Dec 2024, the gas production was up by 0.9% over Dec 2023.

With commissioning of the five oil wells of P-field of deepwater block KG-DWN-98/2 on 16th December 2024, all the oil wells are now successfully flowing thereby enhancing total oil production to about 35,000 BOPD from thirteen flowing wells of cluster-II.

ONGC has declared total 7 discoveries (4 in onland and 3 in offshore) during FY 2024-25 so far in its operated acreages. Out of these, 5 are prospect (3 onland & 2 Offshore) and 2 (1 in onland and 1 in offshore) are new pools.

ONGC has completed total infusion of Rs. 18,365 Cr in OPaL on 02.12.2024. ONGC increased its stake in OPaL from 49.36% to 95.69%, thereby establishing OPaL as its subsidiary.

NTPC rolls out state-of-art CO2 Battery at NTPC Kudgi – the 'Long Duration' 'Electrical Energy Storage' Solution

NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated power utility, proudly announces the launch of CO2 battery energy storage technology—a significant milestone in its journey towards sustainable and innovative energy solutions. This project is undertaken by NETRA, the R&D wing of NTPC, and will be executed in collaboration with M/s Triveni Turbine Limited and M/s Energy Dome, Italy.



How might soft drinks lead to type 2 diabetes?



A new study, which appears in *Cell Metabolism* concludes that sugar-sweetened beverage consumption is linked to increased levels of nine specific bacteria in the gut microbiome.

As these microbes break down food, they produce certain compounds, or metabolites. Scientists found that these chemicals were associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes.

How does soda consumption impact health?

Previous research has shown that

people who drink large quantities of sugar-sweetened beverages are more likely to have type 2 diabetes.

While consumption of these beverages has declined in recent years, they were still the leading source of added sugar intake in the United States between 2017 and 2018.

The mechanism by which soda intake influences health is likely to be multifaceted. For instance, experts believe these factors all play a part:

- excessive weight gain
- insulin resistance — when cells no longer respond adequately to insulin
- inflammation
- atherogenic dyslipidemia — unhealthy levels of blood fats.

Also, the sugar in soda “might be more easily absorbed because they’re just sugar and water,” explained senior author Qibin Qi, PhD, from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY, in a press release.

More recently, evidence has emerged that soda consumption may alter the gut microbiome, which could contribute to diabetes risk.

According to the authors of the new study, evidence from animal studies suggests that consuming the main sugars in soda — fructose and glucose — is linked to:

- reduced gut bacteria diversity — one marker of a less healthy microbiome
- reduced levels of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) — these are metabolites produced by “good” gut bacteria that support overall health
- increased levels of bacterial species linked to inflammation.

Similarly, a small study on 12 females found that high-fructose syrup reduced the number of “good” bacteria that produce a SCFA called butyrate.

Other human studies have also found that sugar-sweetened beverages are associated with changes to the gut microbiome.

Similarly, a Chinese study showed that people who drank soda had certain bacterial metabolites in their blood that are linked to poorer health.

The latest study, however, is the first to investigate links between soda consumption, the gut microbiome, bacteria metabolites in the blood, and type 2 diabetes risk.

As Lucy McCann, MD, registered associate nutritionist and clinical academic researcher told *Medical News Today*: “Assessing these associations is crucial considering that the intake of sugar-sweetened beverages is increasing worldwide.. The current average intake is 2.7 serving per week.”

In particular, the scientists accessed data from more than 16,000 Hispanic/Latino individuals in the U.S. They chose to focus on this population because they have both high soda consumption and a high prevalence of type 2 diabetes.

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Soda consumption linked to gut microbiome changes

The researchers found that soda consumption was linked to changes in nine species of gut bacteria. For instance, four species of bacteria that produce beneficial SCFAs were reduced in number in those who drank two or more sodas per day.

The scientists also identified levels of 56 bacterial metabolites and related compounds that were linked to changes in the gut microbiome.

These compounds are associated with the metabolism of:

- glycerophospholipid — these fats are major building blocks of cell membranes, changes in whose levels appear to be linked to diabetes
- branched-chain amino acid (BCAA) — essential amino acids that may play a part in insulin resistance.
- aromatic amino acid (AAA) — Animal studies show that reducing levels of AAA alleviates diabetes symptoms.
- phenylsulfate — produced when gut microbes breakdown the amino acid tyrosine, this compound is linked to diabetes-associated kidney disease.

In this study, the scientists found that compounds associated with glycerophospholipid and BCAA were linked to raised diabetes risk and poorer metabolic traits, such as higher levels of blood sugar, higher body mass index (BMI), and lower levels of “good” cholesterol.

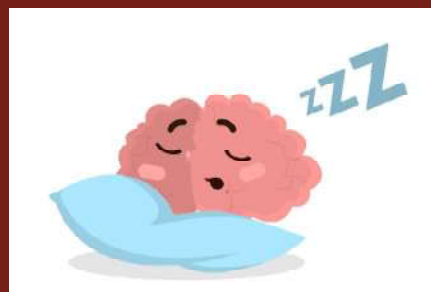
On the other hand, increased levels of AAA derivatives and phenylsulfate were linked with better metabolic traits.

Changes to gut microbiome may predict diabetes

This is one of the few studies to investigate these complex relationships between gut microbes, their metabolites, and diabetes. Much more research is needed to fully understand the links, but the authors hope that, in the future, the metabolites they measured might help predict and perhaps even treat diabetes.

“Our study suggests a potential mechanism to explain why sugar-sweetened beverages are bad for your metabolism,” said Qi in the press release. “Although our findings are observational, they provide insights for potential diabetes prevention or management strategies using the gut microbiome.”

Brain health, sleep, diet: 3 health resolutions for 2025



Taking care of oneself requires a multi-faceted approach: brain, heart, and metabolic health. What research in 2024 has shown us is that improving our health in these areas comes down to three main factors: sleep, diet, and exercise. But how does one start taking action with this intention? And how can we break down such

lifestyle changes into manageable steps? In this podcast episode, *Medical News Today* shares three actionable resolutions that can help improve your health in the new year.

As humans, we are all capable of growth and change. And perhaps, one of the most influential times of the year for transformation and setting the stage for change is New Year’s.

When it comes to making resolutions for health or any other area of life, we may set unrealistic or very large goals that set us up for failure from the start. The key, according to experts, is to start small and be as specific as possible—whether that be via setting a time frame or measurable results.

In our August 2023 podcast episode, we had touched on how human behavior inherently resists change unless the optimal conditions are present. One such factor was whether it would be beneficial.

Medical News Today has covered many important pieces of research this year that showed how certain habits and practices could improve overall health.

The top areas of research in this regard were brain and heart health, nutrition, exercise, and sleep.

So, what did the most significant studies from 2024 find?

Based on research earlier this year, researchers found that experiencing disrupted sleep in ages 30–40 may lead to memory problems later in life. They also linked a lack of quality sleep to accelerated brain aging.

On the topic of exercise, scientists found that any form of exercise could help rejuvenate the brain, and a particular type of activity could even prolong life span. Another study also found increased heart failure and death risk from being sedentary for a certain number of hours a day.

To ensure a healthy and balanced diet, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) also published a new report this year, listing the food groups people should consume more and others to avoid for optimal health. It also touched on how many carbs and what types of fats to include in one’s diet.

In our final podcast episode of 2024, we discussed all this and more. We also included tips on getting better sleep at night, following a healthful diet, and incorporating more exercise into one’s daily life.

Treating hypertension may help lower cognitive decline risk

Intensive blood pressure control for adults with hypertension (high blood pressure) and high cardiovascular risk can reduce the risk of mild cognitive impairment or dementia in the long term, according to a new study by researchers at Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

This is in the context in which more than 9 million Americans could develop dementia by 2030, and nearly 12 million by 2040. [Trusted Source](#) also suggest that more than half of all Americans experience hypertension by the time they are 50.

The recent study, published in *Neurology*, aimed to examine the effects on cognitive decline from standard and intensive blood pressure treatment.

Blood pressure and brain health risks

Researchers used data from the landmark Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial or SPRINT, which compared intensive treatment to standard treatment of systolic blood pressure among people with hypertension, and had results published in 2015.

The findings suggested that lowering systolic blood pressure would reduce the risk of dementia, but the SPRINT study’s success in lowering cardiovascular disease meant that it was stopped early, so ultimate results regarding dementia were inconclusive.

The new study’s authors aimed to sustain the process of intensive blood pressure treatment for more conclusive results.

SPRINT’s researchers incorporated 9,361 patients over the age of 50 in the United States and Puerto Rico, who were randomly assigned to a systolic blood pressure goal of either less than 120 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg), which amounted to an intensive treatment, or less than 140 mm Hg (standard treatment) between 2010 and 2013.

The patients received 3.3 years of treatment and were followed up with until 2018.

The new study’s researchers determined the cognitive status of 4,232 (59%) participants (mean age 67 years, 36% female).

During the years of follow-up, 248 of those who had undergone intensive blood pressure treatment were determined to have probable dementia or mild cognitive impairment, compared with 293 participants who had received standard treatment.

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Governor Released BP.Acharya's 'Obtuse Angle', a book of cartoon

Governor of Telangana, Jishnu Dev Varma, formally released Obtuse Angle, a book of cartoons by BP Acharya, I.A.S. (Retd.) at an event held at Raj Bhavan. Addressing an audience of distinguished dignitaries, the Governor commended BP Acharya's remarkable creative journey spanning over four decades, emphasizing the unique balance he achieved between his artistic passion and the demands of civil service. The Governor highlighted the enduring relevance of cartoons that capture the essence of everyday life, lauding Acharya's sharp observational skills and the subtle humor woven into his work. In his address, he remarked, "Obtuse Angle provides a window into the ironic and often humorous world of bureaucracy through the eyes of a seasoned cartoonist. It offers a fresh perspective on the complexities, challenges, and amusing moments inherent in public service." The event was graced by prominent personalities, including Sri MG Gopal, I.A.S. (Retd.); Dr. N. Ramesh Kumar, IAS Retd. Director General of the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI); Mr. Ravi Kanth, I.A.S. (Retd.); Mr N.Ramachnder Rao, Ex MLC, Ms. Sangeeta Verma; Ms. Frauke Qadr, Founder of Save the Rocks Society; Prof. M. Panduranga Rao, retired Professor of the National Institute of Technology, Warangal; Sri Sridhar Rao, Trustee of Kakatiya Heritage Trust; Sri Md. Ali Baig, renowned Indian theatre artist; and Mr. BP Singhal from FTCCI.



Kumbh Mela & Varanasi : A Journey of Faith and Transformation

"The Kumbh Mela is more than just a pilgrimage—it is a cosmic gathering of faith, devotion, and spiritual awakening. My second visit, after the Ardh Kumbh, felt even more profound, with this year's 144-year celestial alignment amplifying its divine energy." Sona Chatwani, Interior Designer Said. "For 21 days, I immersed myself in the mantra Aum Namah Shivaya, preparing for the sacred shahi snan at Triveni Sangam—a blessing made possible by divine intervention. At 7 AM, as the sun rose over the confluence, with seagulls soaring and chants filling the air, I took my holy dip. The moment was transcendent—an overwhelming wave of peace, surrender, and divine connection washed over me. Walking through the sacred grounds, I witnessed the Aghoris in deep meditation, embodying Shiva's fearless essence, while the Akhadas upheld their centuries-old traditions with unwavering faith."

Chatwani told "From the spiritual immersion of the Kumbh, I was drawn to Varanasi, a city that is not just ancient but eternal. The moment I stepped into Kashi, I felt its unmistakable pull—its aura thick with devotion and mysticism. My journey began at the Kaal Bhairav Temple, followed by a boat ride from Namoo Ghat, where the Ganga Aarti illuminated the night with fire, chants, and unwavering faith." The next morning's Rudrabhishekam at Kashi Vishwanath was pure magic, as Om Namah Shivaya echoed through the sanctum. Exploring the timeless ghats, indulging in kachori-puri, jalebis, and the famous Banarasi paan, and collecting exquisite Banarasi weaves added layers of culture and tradition to the experience. But the most moving moment was the personal Aarti & Abhishek at Ma Ganga, where faith was no longer just something to witness—it became something to live. She added. Came seeking Shiva... left transformed. That is the magic of the Kumbh and Kashi—a rhythm of the divine that continues to call me back. In the picture Sona chatwani, Sudha moola, Padmaja Singh and Padma Somi Reddy (right to left) can be seen.



UAE CG Releases MR's Jan Edition

Midnight Reporter's 'Jade January' edition is out with a bang released by happening diplomat H.E.Aaref Ali Ali Altaboor Alnuaimi, Consulate General of UAE in Hyderabad. Click the link for epaper : https://midnightreporter.com/January_2025.pdf



Amazing Experience Of Two Unforgettable Trip : By Bina Singh

"I recently had the chance to experience two unforgettable trips—one to Abu Dhabi for the Coldplay concert and another to Dubai with my family. First, attending Coldplay's concert in Abu Dhabi was nothing short of magical. The energy was electric as the iconic band took the stage, and the crowd was completely immersed in the music." Said Bina Singh.

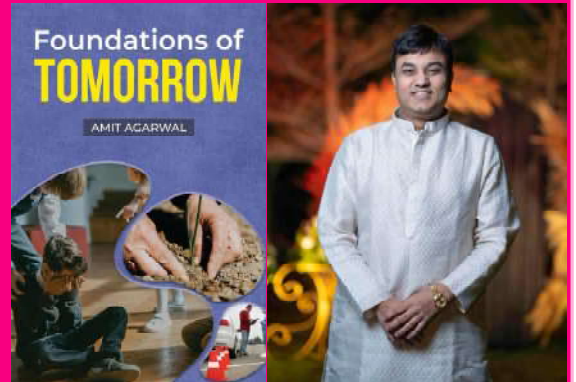
"The outdoor venue at Yas Island set the perfect backdrop, and the vibrant lights, stunning visuals, and Chris Martin's engaging presence made for an unforgettable night. The songs, both new and old, had the whole audience singing along, creating a sense of unity and pure joy. Following that incredible experience, I spent time in Dubai with my family."

"From the towering heights of the Burj Khalifa to the luxury shopping malls, Dubai never fails to impress. We explored the Palm Jumeirah, enjoyed a thrilling desert safari, and savored delicious food at the city's top restaurants. The mix of modern architecture, cultural experiences, and family-friendly activities made the trip both exciting and memorable. Whether it was watching the Dubai Fountain show or visiting the Dubai Aquarium, every moment was a highlight in its own right."



12th Anniversary Celebrated

Maheshwari Mahila Sangathan Samanvay Club and Samanvay Bloom celebrated their 12th anniversary and to mark this occasion a special event is been planned for the couples at jalvihar. President Rajni Mardha addressed the gathering the presented the details. Secretary Abhilasha presented vote of thanks. During the occasion VP Namrata Baldava, Treasurer Anju Baldava others team members were also present. The cultural event was the highlight. Members enjoyed a lot.



Amit's 'Foundation Of Tomorrow' Book Launched

'Foundations Of Tomorrow' book is been launched, which available on all major e commerce sites. The young author Amit Agarwal has narrated very sensitive issues like child protection and systemic injustices & more in the book. Worth reading!

Let's check the first review from Brigadier Inder Sethi -Dear Amit, I just finished your book, and I needed to tell you how deeply it moved me. The way you tackle the harsh realities our country faces—the 450,000 road accidents and the heart-breaking statistic about child abuse—while still maintaining a thread of hope throughout is remarkable. Your understanding that transformation requires both head and heart really shines through in every chapter. I found myself making notes about projects I could start in my own neighborhood! Your compassionate approach to discussing sensitive issues like child protection and systemic injustices is masterful.



Birthday Wishes Manju

Manju Agarwal celebrated her birthday. It was a pre birthday bash hosted by Reema Malik, where many feminines of the town has gathered to make the event memorable.



Top Product Picks From Maison & Objet's January 2025 Show

Visitors escaped the cold and flocked to the Maison&Objet exhibition at the Paris Nord Villepinte exhibition park—which took place from January 2025—to see new wares from over 2,300 exhibitors from nearly 60 countries around the globe. Here are our top picks for the best and the brightest from this year's January trade show. Manufacturer Origin Made launches the undulating Duna coffee table by Swedish designer Kajsa Melchior.

Cimento's Guglie vase series by architect and brand creative director Patricia Urquiola is made in Italy from a mixture of mineral aggregates and cementitious binder.

Maison LELEU introduces the Moon sofa with its lunar-shaped wooden structure and velvet upholstery designed by namesake Alexia Leleu.

French designer Constance Guisset's first collaboration with Drugeot Manufacture includes the Helio chair, reliant on its rounded form and crafted in oak. Turkish brand Deya by co-founders Defne Arikoglu and Yasmin Karamolla surprises with their High Heels armchair, its feet carved from oak and form upholstered in plush fabric.

Spanish designer Jaime Hayon's joyful Danza ceramic tables for Bosa feature whimsical decorations on classic forms. Royal Delft's Mazzo Blue two-part vases with floral-inspired collars by Arian Brekveld celebrate the beauty of flowers, their name meaning 'bouquet' in Italian.

The frame of Inner Design's Shanti chair comes in ash, beech, oak, or walnut and is crafted in Europe; the seat's cocooning curtain provides a cozy spot for visual separation and meditation. Italian architect and designer Elena Cutolo's Turan hand-knotted rug for Italian brand Illulian references Memphis Milano as well as the Etruscan goddess of love, beauty, and fertility with its colors and geometric patterns. Valencian manufacturer Lladó shines with designer Marcantonio A Bright Idea porcelain bulb available with either an oak leaf or feather pattern.



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‘डॉलर की जगह कोई और मुद्रा अपनाई तो 100% शुल्क लगेगा’, ट्रंप ने BRICS देशों को दी चेतावनी



अमेरिका के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने एक बार फिर ब्रिक्स देशों को चेतावनी दी है कि अगर वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार में अमेरिकी डॉलर के बजाय किसी और मुद्रा का उपयोग करने की कोशिश करेंगे, तो उन पर 100 प्रतिशत शुल्क लगाया जाएगा। ट्रंप ने बृहस्पतिवार को अपने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म ‘ट्रुथ सोशल’ पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, ‘ब्रिक्स देशों को डॉलर से बाहर जाने की कोशिश नहीं करनी चाहिए, क्योंकि अब ऐसे विचारों के दिन खत्म हो गए हैं।’

अमेरिकी डॉलर के स्थान पर दूसरी मुद्रा अपनाने का न करें प्रयास-

ट्रंप ने यह भी कहा कि ब्रिक्स देशों को यह प्रतिबद्धता देनी चाहिए कि वे न तो कोई नई ब्रिक्स मुद्रा बनाएंगे और न ही अमेरिकी डॉलर की जगह किसी और मुद्रा को समर्थन देंगे। उन्होंने धमकी दी, ‘अगर ऐसा किया तो उन्हें 100 प्रतिशत शुल्क का सामना करना होगा, या फिर अमेरिकी बाजार से अलविदा लेनी होगी।’ ट्रंप ने कहा, ‘अगर ब्रिक्स देश ऐसा करने की कोशिश करेंगे तो उन्हें कोई और मूर्ख देश मिल सकता है, लेकिन अमेरिका से उनका कोई लेना-देना नहीं होगा।’

यह बयान ब्रिक्स देशों द्वारा अपनी मुद्रा बनाने के प्रयासों के खिलाफ ट्रंप का सबसे कड़ा विरोध है। दिसंबर में भी ट्रंप ने इसी तरह की चेतावनी दी थी। ब्रिक्स देशों का एक समूह है, जिसमें ब्राजील, रूस, भारत, चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, मिस्र, इथियोपिया, इंडोनेशिया, ईरान और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात शामिल हैं। यह समूह 2009 में बना था और अमेरिका इसका सदस्य नहीं है।

‘भारत कभी भी ‘डी-डॉलराइजेशन’ के पक्ष में नहीं’

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में, रूस और चीन जैसे देशों ने अमेरिकी डॉलर के विकल्प के रूप में ब्रिक्स मुद्रा बनाने की मांग की है। हालांकि, भारत ने हमेशा डी-डॉलराइजेशन का विरोध किया है। विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने दिसंबर में कहा था कि भारत कभी भी ‘डी-डॉलराइजेशन’ के पक्ष में नहीं है और ब्रिक्स मुद्रा बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बाद अब इस देश ने भी स्कूलों में बच्चों के मोबाइल इस्तेमाल पर लगाया बैन



ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बाद अब एक और देश ने स्कूलों में बच्चों के स्मार्टफोन पर बैन लगा दिया है। ब्राजील के राष्ट्रपति लुइज इनासियो लूला दा सिल्वा ने सोमवार को स्कूलों में स्मार्टफोन के उपयोग को प्रतिबंधित करने वाले विधेयक पर हस्ताक्षर कर इसे कानून का रूप दे दिया। अब ब्राजील के प्राथमिक और उच्च विद्यालयों में बच्चों को स्कूल के दौरान मोबाइल फोन का उपयोग करने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। इस कानून के तहत छात्र केवल आपातकालीन स्थिति, शैक्षिक उद्देश्यों, या विकलांगता के मामलों में स्मार्टफोन का उपयोग कर सकेंगे।

शिक्षा मंत्री कैमिलो सैंटाना ने कहा, आजकल बच्चे बहुत कम उम्र में ऑनलाइन हो रहे हैं, जिससे माता-पिता के लिए उनकी ऑनलाइन गतिविधियों को ट्रैक करना मुश्किल हो गया है। स्कूलों में स्मार्टफोन पर प्रतिबंध लगाना बच्चों की सुरक्षा और उनके ध्यान केंद्रित रखने में मदद करेगा। राष्ट्रपति लूला के इस कदम को न केवल उनके सहयोगियों, बल्कि उनके धुर विरोधी, पूर्व राष्ट्रपति जेयर बोल्सोनारो के समर्थकों ने भी समर्थन दिया। कई अभिभावकों और छात्रों ने भी इस फैसले की सराहना की है।

हालांकि इस विधेयक को लेकर कुछ आलोचकों ने चिंता जताई है। उनका कहना है कि इस कानून को पर्याप्त जांच के बिना जल्दबाजी में पारित किया गया है। इससे सभी आयु वर्ग के उपयोगकर्ताओं की गोपनीयता पर असर पड़ सकता है। ब्राजील में यह कानून फरवरी से शुरू होने वाले नए शैक्षणिक सत्र से लागू होगा। उम्मीद है कि इस कदम से छात्रों को पढ़ाई पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने में मदद मिलेगी और माता-पिता की चिंता कम होगी।

इससे पहले ऑस्ट्रेलिया में 16 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों के सोशल मीडिया उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला विधेयक पहले ही सीनेट से पास हो चुका है। इस विधेयक के अनुसार, टिकटॉक, फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम, स्नेपचैट और रेंडिट जैसे प्लेटफॉर्मों को यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि 16 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चे उनके प्लेटफॉर्म पर अकाउंट न बना सकें। नियमों का उल्लंघन करने पर इन कंपनियों पर 33 मिलियन डॉलर (लगभग 2.5 अरब रुपये) का भारी जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।

इस्लामिक देशों की महाकुंभ पर खास नजर, पाकिस्तान कर रहा गूगल पर सबसे ज्यादा सर्च



महाकुंभ 2025 अब केवल भारतीय आयोजन नहीं रहा, बल्कि यह अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सनातन संस्कृति और भारतीय परंपराओं का परिचायक बन चुका है। विदेशी तीर्थयात्रियों की उपस्थिति इस बात का प्रमाण है कि सनातन धर्म और भारतीय आध्यात्मिकता का प्रभाव तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। महाकुंभ 2025 ने न केवल भारत, बल्कि दुनियाभर में सनातन संस्कृति और भारतीय परंपराओं का परचम लहराया है। प्रयागराज में सोमवार को महाकुंभ का भव्य शुभारंभ हुआ, और खास बात यह है कि इस आयोजन को लेकर पाकिस्तान समेत कई इस्लामिक देशों में भी गहरी दिलचस्पी देखी जा रही है।

गूगल ट्रेंड्स के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, महाकुंभ 2025 को सबसे ज्यादा सर्च करने वाला देश पाकिस्तान है। यह हैरानी की बात है कि भारत के पड़ोसी और अक्सर विरोधी देश में लोग इस भव्य आयोजन, इसकी भीड़, और इससे जुड़े आध्यात्मिक पहलुओं के बारे में गहराई से जानकारी ले रहे हैं। पाकिस्तान के बाद कतर, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई), और बहरीन जैसे इस्लामिक देशों ने महाकुंभ में गहरी रुचि दिखाई है। इनके अलावा, नेपाल, सिंगापुर, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा, आयरलैंड, ब्रिटेन, थाईलैंड और अमेरिका जैसे देशों के लोग भी महाकुंभ को गूगल पर सर्च कर रहे हैं। महाकुंभ के प्रति विदेशी श्रद्धालुओं का आकर्षण तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। ब्राजील, जर्मनी, जापान, इंग्लैंड, अमेरिका और स्पेन जैसे देशों से बड़ी संख्या में श्रद्धालु प्रयागराज पहुंच रहे हैं और संगम में डुबकी लगाकर भारतीय संस्कृति का अनुभव कर रहे हैं।

मंगलवार को मकर संक्रांति के अवसर पर अमृत स्नान के दौरान 3.50 करोड़ से अधिक श्रद्धालुओं ने संगम में आस्था की डुबकी लगाई। मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने बताया कि त्रिवेणी संगम में स्नान कर करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं ने इस पवित्र आयोजन का पुण्य लाभ अर्जित किया। पाकिस्तान और अन्य इस्लामिक देशों में महाकुंभ को लेकर बढ़ती रुचि यह दिखाती है कि यह आयोजन धर्म, जाति, और देशों की सीमाओं से परे जाकर पूरी दुनिया को जोड़ने का माध्यम बन रहा है। महाकुंभ 2025 न केवल भारत का गौरव है, बल्कि यह विश्व भर में भारतीय संस्कृति और आध्यात्म का संदेश फैला रहा है।

लॉटरी से 80 करोड़ रुपये जीतने के बाद, नालियों को साफ करने क्यों निकल पड़ा लड़का?



ब्रिटेन के 20 साल के जेम्स क्लाकर्सन के साथ एक ऐसा ही चमत्कार हुआ है, जिसकी चर्चा हर जगह हो रही है। जेम्स ने हाल ही में लॉटरी में 75 लाख पाउंड (करीब 80 करोड़ रुपये) जीते हैं, लेकिन हैरानी की बात यह है कि लॉटरी जीतने के बाद भी उसने अपने काम और जीवनशैली में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया। इसके बजाय, वह नालियों को साफ करने के काम में जुट गया! क्या आपको भी यह मजेदार नहीं लगता? आइये जानते हैं जेम्स की यह अनोखी कहानी।

लॉटरी जीतने के बाद मिली चौंकाने वाली ख़ुशी- जेम्स क्लाकर्सन एक ट्रेनी गैस इंजीनियर हैं। क्रिसमस के दिन उन्होंने नेशनल लॉटरी में 120 पाउंड (लगभग 12,724 रुपये) जीते थे। इससे जेम्स ने और लॉटरी टिकट खरीदे, और इस बार भाग्य ने उनका साथ दिया। वह 75 लाख पाउंड (79.84 करोड़ रुपये) के लोडो जैकपॉट के विजेता बने। जेम्स ने मेट्रो को दिए अपने इंटरव्यू में बताया कि वह अपनी गर्लफ्रेंड के घर पर थे, और बर्फबारी देखने के लिए जल्दी उठे थे। तभी उन्होंने लॉटरी जीतने का मैसेज देखा।

‘मैं सोच ही नहीं पा रहा था कि क्या सच में मैंने लॉटरी जीत ली है। यह सपना जैसा था, लेकिन फिर मैंने अपने पिता को कॉल किया और उन्हें यह सब बताया। जब हम सभी परिवार के सदस्य एक जगह इकट्ठा हुए, तब यह कफर्म हुआ कि मैंने सच में लॉटरी जीती है, जेम्स ने बताया।

लॉटरी जीतने के बावजूद क्यों किया नाली साफ? लॉटरी जीतने के बाद आमतौर पर लोग अपने जीवन में बदलाव लाते हैं और ऐथो-आराम की जिंदगी जीने लगते हैं। लेकिन जेम्स ने अपने काम में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया। उन्होंने बताया, ‘लॉटरी जीतने के बावजूद मैं अपना काम नहीं छोड़ने वाला। मुझे काम करना बहुत पसंद है, और पढ़ाई पर भी ध्यान दूंगा। मैं अभी बहुत छोटा हूँ और मुझे मेहनत करने की आदत है। जेम्स ने अपनी कहानी में यह भी बताया कि लॉटरी जीतने के बाद वह ठंड में रुकी हुई नालियों को साफ करने के काम पर निकल पड़े। यह बात सुनकर सभी हैरान रह गए, लेकिन जेम्स ने यह फैसला अपने आत्मविश्वास और जिम्मेदारी से लिया।

Tourism



UAE Sets New Tourism Milestones As Winter Travel Becomes More Popular Than Ever

UAE tourism reaches new heights as winter attracts record visitors with perfect weather, thrilling adventures, and world-class luxury experiences.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to solidify its status as a top global tourism destination, drawing millions of international visitors each year. With a blend of modern attractions, rich cultural heritage, and breathtaking natural landscapes, the UAE has become a magnet for travelers worldwide. While tourism remains a year-round industry, winter has emerged as the peak season, attracting visitors seeking pleasant weather, adventure, and luxury experiences.

As part of its Tourism Strategy 2031, the UAE aims to strengthen its position as a global tourism hub by attracting Dh100 billion in tourism investments and welcoming 40 million hotel guests annually. This initiative aligns with the country's vision of diversifying its economy and

positioning itself as a world leader in hospitality, leisure, and sustainable tourism.

According to the 2024 Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) published by the World Economic Forum, the UAE ranked first in the Middle East and 18th globally, moving up seven places compared to the previous edition. This impressive ranking reflects the country's continuous efforts to enhance infrastructure, improve travel services, and provide world-class tourism experiences. Furthermore, the UAE is the only Middle Eastern country ranked among the top 10 nations in international tourism revenue. The World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) 2024 report estimated that 29.2 million international tourists visited the UAE in 2023, marking a 15.5% increase compared to the previous year. Projections suggest that by 2033, the country could welcome approximately 45.5 million international visitors, cementing its reputation as a premier travel destination.

Centre to Prioritise Buddhist Heritage Sites in Tourism Development Push



In her Budget 2025 speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that a total of 50 tourist destinations will be developed in collaboration with states.

The collaboration will be done in challenge mode. Under it, the states will propose sites for development, and the Centre will choose them on the basis of feasibility.

Priority will be given to those locations that hold specific significance to the life and times of Lord Buddha. Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Vaishali, and Nalanda in Bihar, Sarnath and Kushinagar, Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh, and Buddhist sites located in other parts of the country are expected to benefit from it.

To ensure that tourists get affordable and quality hospitality, Sitharaman announced that MUDRA loans will be provided to those homeowners who are willing to convert their property into homestays. Places like Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, and various other destinations have successfully implemented this model.

Ladakh Tourism Presents Unmatched Travel Experiences At Outbound Travel Mart 2025



Ladakh Tourism showcases its unique travel experiences at Outbound Travel Mart 2025 in Mumbai, a top tourism trade show in India and Asia.

Ladakh Tourism is actively participating in the Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) 2025, held at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. This event serves as a significant opportunity for Ladakh to showcase its tourism potential to a global audience. Representatives from the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, along with key stakeholders from the region, inaugurated the Ladakh Tourism Pavilion.

OTM is one of the leading travel trade shows in Asia, attracting professionals from various sectors of the tourism industry. For Ladakh, this platform is an avenue to engage with domestic and international travel professionals, fostering collaborations and expanding market reach. The region's unique attractions, including adventure tourism, cultural heritage, and sustainable travel initiatives, are being highlighted at the event.

Tourism businesses from Leh and Kargil have joined the exhibition to present their diverse offerings. These include accommodations ranging from homestays to luxury hotels, adventure travel experiences such as trekking and river rafting, and other tourism-related services. Their participation aims to promote Ladakh as a year-round destination, appealing to travelers seeking nature, adventure, and cultural experiences.

India's North East Tourism & Economy to Benefit from Over Forty-Seven Percent Budget Increase

The Union Budget 2025-26 boosts India's North East with a 47.6% fund increase, enhancing tourism, infrastructure, connectivity, and economic growth.

Union Budget 2025-26: Major Boost for North Eastern Region

The Union Budget 2025-26 has significantly increased financial support for the North Eastern Region (NER), with a 47.6% rise in the allocation for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).

For the upcoming fiscal year, the budget estimate stands at Rs 5,915 crore, a sharp increase from Rs 4,006 crore in the revised estimates for 2024-25. This move highlights the government's focus on improving infrastructure, connectivity, industry, and social development across the region.

Infrastructure & Connectivity Expansion

The government has prioritized regional connectivity under the UDAN – Regional Connectivity Scheme, planning to add 120 new destinations, particularly in hilly and remote districts of the North East. Efforts will be directed toward expanding smaller airports and helipads to enhance accessibility. Over the next decade, the initiative aims to accommodate an additional 4 crore air passengers.

Sikkim to Showcase its Tourism Potential at Portugal's Largest Travel Fair



Sikkim's tourism industry is set to expand its global reach with an invitation to participate in the Better Tourism Lisbon (BTL) Travel Market 2025, Portugal's largest international tourism fair. This opportunity follows high-level discussions between Sikkim's tourism delegation and the Indian Embassy in Lisbon.

Leading the delegation, Tourism & Civil Aviation Minister Tshering T. Bhutia, along with senior officials, visited Spain and Portugal as part of the state's strategy to strengthen international

tourism ties and promote Sikkim as a key travel destination. During their visit, the team met with Indian Ambassador to Portugal, Puneet Roy Kundal, at the Indian Embassy in Lisbon. The discussions centered on investment opportunities, tourism promotion, and marketing strategies to enhance Sikkim's global visibility.

Minister Bhutia emphasized Sikkim's diverse tourism offerings, state-supported incentives, and investment-friendly policies. Principal Secretary C.S. Rao presented an overview of the state's tourism potential, highlighting areas for international collaboration and untapped opportunities. Ambassador Kundal, recognizing Sikkim's growing tourism appeal, extended an invitation for the state to participate in the BTL Travel Market 2025, scheduled for March 12-16. The embassy assured its support in facilitating B2B interactions and helping Sikkim showcase its tourism potential on an international stage.

Cambodia Strengthens Tourism Ties With China As Arrivals Rise By Fifty-Five Percent In 2024



Cambodia saw a fifty-five percent rise in Chinese tourists in 2024, with 848,952 arrivals, highlighting the country's growing appeal as a travel destination.

Cambodia witnessed a remarkable increase in Chinese tourist arrivals in 2024, with a 55% surge compared to the previous year. This growth highlights the country's ongoing efforts to revive its tourism industry after the global slowdown caused by the pandemic. As travel restrictions eased and international mobility improved, Cambodia once again became a favored destination for Chinese travelers.

Chinese visitors accounted for 12.7% of the total 6.7 million international arrivals in Cambodia last year. This substantial share highlights the importance of Chinese tourists in Cambodia's overall tourism sector. The rise in numbers suggests that Cambodia remains a top choice for Chinese travelers, particularly due to its affordability, visa-friendly policies, and strong historical ties between the two nations.

India Set To Boost Music Tourism With Infrastructure Push In Union Budget 2025



India's music tourism is booming, and industry leaders urge Union Budget 2025 to invest in better infrastructure to support the growing live entertainment sector.

India is still riding the wave of excitement from Coldplay's recent tour, yet the live music scene shows no signs of slowing down. Ed Sheeran has already performed in Pune and is set to take the stage in Hyderabad soon. Later this month, globally renowned DJ Tiësto will also be making his way to India. These performances follow a series of high-profile concerts in the past three months, featuring artists like Cigarettes After Sex, Karan Aujla, AP Dhillon, Bryan Adams, and Dua Lipa.

While September to February has traditionally been the peak season for music festivals and concerts, India's live entertainment industry is now thriving year-round. The demand for international and domestic acts continues to surge, stretching the country's infrastructure—both physical and digital—to its limits.