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Celebrating



ANNIVERSARY



Appointments

*Sonal Swaroop (IAS: 2012: AGMUT) has been appointed to the post of Director of Census Operations/Director of Citizen Registration (Director level), Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya, on additional charge basis for a period of three years.

*Takhat Singh Ranawat (IFoS: 2007: KN) has been appointed as Private Secretary to the Minister for Heavy Industries & Steel H O Kumaraswamy in the Ministry of Heavy Industries in addition to his present assignment as Private Secretary to the same minister in the Ministry of Steel for a period up to 24.11.2026.

*Preetinder Singh Padda (IP&TA&FS: 2013) has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade for a period of four years.

*Rajesh Panwar (IES: 2012) has been appointed as Director in the Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade for a period of five years.

*Surendra Kumar Jha (IPS: 2010: JH) has been appointed as Deputy Inspector General in Border Security Force (BSF).

*Anuja Bapat (ISS: 1998) has been appointed as Joint Secretary, National Testing Agency (NTA) under the Department of Higher Education, for a tenure of five years.

*Ruchita Vij (IRS C&IT: 2004) has been appointed as Joint Secretary, National Testing Agency (NTA) under the Department of Higher Education for a tenure of five years.

*Akash Jain (IRS IT: 2013) has been appointed as Joint Director in the National Testing Agency (NTA) under the Department of Higher Education on 'lateral shift' basis for a tenure up to 04.12.2029.

*Meetu Agarwal (IRS IT: 2010) has been appointed as Director in the Department of Defence Production for a period of five years.

*P S Thuungaleng (IRS IT:2008), General Manager, Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Guwahati (Assam-North East Region) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has been repatriated to his parent cadre for availing benefit of promotion.

*Dr Rajesh S Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, has been entrusted with additional charge to Secretary, Department of Science and Technology upon relinquishment of the charge of the post by Prof Abhay Karandikar.

*Diksha (IPS: 2021: BH) has been transferred from Bihar to AGMUT cadre on the grounds of her marriage with Dwarka Gaadhi (IPS: 2022: AGMUT).

*Nalin Bilochan (IRS C&IT: (2011) has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Mines for a period of five years after 19.05.2026.

*Tapasya Raghav (IAS: 2013: AGMUT) has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Higher Education for a period of four years.

*Harshvardhan Singh Khangarot (IP & TA & FS: 2012) has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Steel for a period of five years.

*Astik Kumar Pandey (IAS: 2011: MH) has been appointed as Director in the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment for a period of five years.

*Sandeep Kumar Garg (IPS: 2012: PB) has been inducted as Deputy Inspector General in National Investigation Agency (NIA).

*Fating Rahul Haridas (IAS: 2012: MP) has been appointed as Private Secretary to the Minister for Panchayati Raj & Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in addition to his present assignment as Private Secretary to the Minister for Panchayati Raj & Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to the same minister for a period up to 19.04.2031.

*C Sugandh Rajaram (IFS: 2001), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru.

*Dr Vinod J Bahade (IFS: 2007), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia.

*Tenure of Deepika Lohia Aran (IOFS: 2002), CVO in National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi, has been extended for a period of 2 years beyond 21.09.2026 i.e. up to 21.09.2028.

*Deepa Chawla (IRAS: 1998) was appointed as Joint Secretary in the Office of Secretary (Security), under the Cabinet Secretariat, for an overall tenure of five years upto 28.12.2028. She replaces D. Sai Amutha Devi (IP&TA&FS: 1995).

*Gopal Singh (IFoS: 2003: BH) was appointed as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal for a tenure of five years vice Lakhpat Singh Choudhary (IRSS: 1997).

*Amit Kumar (IAS: 2010: JH) was appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce for a combined tenure of five years upto 04.05.2030. He replaces Darpan Jain (IAS: 2001: KN).

*Shiv Pal Singh (IFoS: 1997: UP) was appointed as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation for an overall tenure of seven years upto 15.03.2029. He replaces Siddharth Jain (IAS: 2001: AP).

*Neha Bansal (IAS: 2010: AGMUT) was appointed Additional Director General, Records Management in National Archives of India, New Delhi for an overall tenure of five years upto 14.04.2030.

*Vijay Namdeorao Zade (IAS: 2002: PB) was appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Defence Production for a tenure of five years vice Rajeev Prakash (IP&TA&FS: 1995), in waiver of the cooling off condition.

*Prakash Rajpurohit (IAS: 2010: RJ) was appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Defence Production for a combined tenure of five years ending 08.04.2030. He replaces Amit Satija (IAS: 2008: AGMUT).

President Droupadi Murmu Meets IAS 2024 Batch

Urges Young Officers to Lead with Integrity, Ethics & Compassion



Droupadi Murmu met a group of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the 2024 batch at Rashtrapati Bhavan and called upon them to uphold integrity, neutrality and compassion while serving the nation.

IAS Has Played a Major Role in India's Development Addressing the young officers, President Murmu said the All India Services, particularly the IAS, have made a significant contribution to India's development journey.

She noted that as the country enters a higher orbit of growth and transformation, expectations from civil servants are also rising.

"The young officers will have the unique opportunity to work in diverse fields," the President said, emphasizing that they will often lead teams of experts in specialized areas and therefore must ensure their learning remains broad, rapid and continuous.

Adaptability Will Be Essential

The President underlined that officers must possess exceptional adaptability to function effectively in different sectors and situations.

She stressed that administrative roles today demand both domain knowledge and the ability to quickly understand unfamiliar issues while taking informed decisions.

Neutrality, Sensitivity and Integrity Define Good Governance

President Murmu said the neutrality of officers would reflect their fairness, while their sensitivity would demonstrate commitment to inclusivity.

Nandini Chakraborty ! Former WB CS Gets Crucial Assignment in Suvendu Adhikari Govt

Ms Nandini Chakraborty, a 1994 batch IAS officer and the former Chief Secretary of West Bengal and the first woman to hold the state's top bureaucratic post, has been entrusted with a crucial assignment in the new government led by Suvendu Adhikari.

Sources in Nabanna said Ms Chakraborty has been retained as Principal Coordinator for Development Works, a post functioning directly under the Chief Minister's Office, West Bengal, and has been assigned fresh responsibilities of strategic importance.

To Oversee Land Handover to BSF for Border Fencing- Her first major assignment will be to ensure the smooth transfer of land to the Border Security Force (BSF) for installation of barbed-wire fencing along the India-Bangladesh international border in West Bengal.

The task assumes significance because the state cabinet, in its first meeting on May 11, resolved to complete the land handover process within 45 days.

Will Also Monitor Centrally Sponsored Projects Apart from the border fencing initiative, IAS Chakraborty will oversee the implementation and progress of centrally sponsored development schemes across the state.

Her extensive administrative experience in key departments, especially the Home Department and later as Chief Secretary, is said to have played a decisive role in her selection for this critical responsibility.

*D Senthil Pandiyan (IAS: 2002: UD) was appointed as Joint Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation for an overall tenure of seven years ending 23.05.2028.

*Sreenivasa Rao Gangi Reddy (IRPS: 2004) was appointed as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences for a tenure of five years vice D Senthil Pandiyan (IAS: 2002: UD).

She added that:

- Credibility is built through transparency and sustained performance
- Integrity provides the moral courage to act decisively in the public interest
- Officers must blend compassion with rationality
- They should be sensitive without becoming sentimental
- They must follow rules while keeping larger objectives in mind

Ethics and Governance Go Hand in Hand- Calling ethics and governance "two sides of the same coin," the President said civil servants must be both honest and results-oriented. She observed that refraining from making decisions does not amount to morality. Instead, she said, true morality lies in making timely and correct decisions in accordance with public interest and established norms. Drawing a comparison with the justice system, she noted that just as delayed justice is considered a denial of justice, delays in administrative decision-making can deprive citizens of their legitimate rights and interests.

Officers Must Respond to Democratic Aspirations

The President emphasized that democracy exists to fulfill the aspirations of the people, which are expressed through their elected representatives.

She said it is the duty of civil servants to give due priority to issues raised by these representatives in the larger public interest.

CBI Director Praveen Sood gets second extension of tenure for one year



Following the dissent of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, no decision was taken on the new CBI Director. In view of the selection committee failing to reach any consensus on any new name, it agreed for the extension of incumbent

Director Praveen Sood (IPS: 1986: KN). The ACC has given him an extension of tenure for one more year w.e.f. 24.05.2026.

Sood's fixed two-year term, which began in May 2023, was ended in May 2025. However, the ACC granted him a one-year extension, pushing his retirement to May 24, 2026.



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Corridors of Power

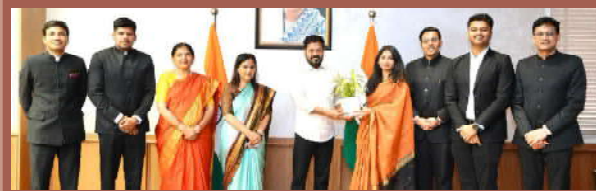


Union Home Minister Amit Shah Felicitates Police Officers Who Made Telangana a Naxal-Free State

Union Home Minister Amit Shah reaffirmed the Union Government's commitment to eliminating Left-Wing Extremism from the country and building a Naxal-free society. As part of this mission, police officers who played a pivotal role in combating Maoist activities in insurgency-affected regions were felicitated at a special event held in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. Senior officers of Telangana Police, who played a key role in completely suppressing Naxalism and making Telangana a Naxal-free state, were among those honoured for their exemplary service and contribution. -On the occasion, the Union Home Minister felicitated Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand, State Security Advisor B. Shivadhar Reddy, DGP Operations (OCTOPUS & Greyhounds) Dr. Anil Kumar, IPS, and Malkajgiri Commissioner and former SIB IGP Smt. Sumati along with the SIB team led by her. He congratulated them for their outstanding efforts and dedicated service in the fight against Left-Wing Extremism.

Addressing the gathering, Amit Shah revealed that during an internal review meeting held in January 2024, a target date of March 31, 2026, had been set to completely eradicate Naxalism from the country. "When we took this decision, many privately expressed doubts about whether such a goal could be achieved. However, we moved forward with a clear vision and a well-defined strategy. Today, with the blessings of Goddess Danteshwari, I am delighted to announce that the Bastar region has been declared Naxal-free," he said.

2025 Batch Trainee IAS Officers Call on CM Revanth Reddy



The 2025 batch trainee IAS officers met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Bodhi Pavilion of MCRHRD Institute.

MCRHRD Vice Chairman Shanti Kumari and Course Director

Kandukuri Usha Rani were also present.

The trainee IAS officers who met the Chief Minister are: Ettaboyina Sai Shivani, IAS, Sachin Basavaraj Guttoor, IAS, Potharaju Hari Prasad, IAS, Paras Kumar, IAS, P. Suresh, IAS and Nelatooru Srikanth Reddy, IAS.

6 Months Extension For AP CS Sai Prasad



The Centre has approved a six-month extension in service for Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, allowing him to continue in the top bureaucratic post until November 30, 2026. According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the extension will take effect from June 1. Sai Prasad, a 1991-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, was due to retire on May 31 on attaining superannuation.

Although Sai Prasad was originally scheduled to retire at the end of this month, the state government submitted proposals to the Centre seeking an extension of his tenure with the objective of continuing to utilise his services for an extended period.

Rajesh Kumar Yadav, undersecretary to the Union ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions (department of personnel and training—DoPT), informed the principal secretary of the state government's GAD (political) via a letter regarding the six-month extension of chief secretary Sai Prasad's tenure.



Big One : Massive Ghost SIM Crackdown, Kudos to V.C.Sajjanar

In a major breakthrough against cybercrime networks, IPS officer V. C. Sajjanar and Telangana cybercrime teams busted a large-scale "ghost" SIM card racket being used by cybercriminals across India.

Major Highlights : 66 accused arrested, linked to 76 cybercrime cases nationwide, Fraud trail worth ₹ 101.87 crores uncovered and 1,194 ghost SIM cards identified. Whereas 544 SIMs seized in Hyderabad and 432 pre-activated SIMs recovered, sealed and ready for cybercrime operations.

Why this operations matters: This operation strikes at the backbone of cybercrime infrastructure — anonymous communication networks. By dismantling these illegal SIM supply chains, investigators disrupted a major support system used by organized cybercriminals to hide their identity and target victims nationwide. A strong reminder that cybercrime is not just digital fraud — it is an organized ecosystem, and cracking down on "ghost" SIM networks is a critical step toward safer digital ecosystems.

"Akunuri Murali Steps Down: The Exit of a Hardcore Officer"



In the unexpected move, former IAS officer Akunuri Murali, the Chairman of the Telangana Education Commission (TREC) has tendered resignation to his post, whereas the same officer in 2019 has opted for voluntary retirement from the Telangana administration for posting him to the non-descript post. The officer stated that he was resigning to his post, as the Commission has completed the task of submitting a comprehensive report on the situation of public and private education in Telangana, along with its recommendations. Whereas in the power of circles, resigning before the completion of the term is in the discussion.



Governor Interacted With Group-1 Probationary Officers

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla interacted with 44 Group-I probationary Deputy Collectors at Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad. The trainee officers were led by Dr. Shanti Kumari, Vice Chairperson and Managing Director of the Dr. MCR Human Resource Development Institute.

Key Takeaways from the Meeting:

Governor's Message: Governor Shukla emphasized that public service is not just a position of authority, but a profound responsibility to society and the nation. He urged the young officers to serve with integrity, compassion, and dedication.

Expectations: He expressed his confidence that their commitment to good governance will contribute significantly to the development of Telangana.



News ! 'Google AI Hub' In AP

Honored to witness the groundbreaking of the Google AI Hub in Andhra Pradesh! The \$15B investment of the project is a powerful testament to American tech leadership and the global reach of the U.S. AI stack. Through the U.S.-India TRUST initiative, we are ensuring that world-class U.S. innovation and secure infrastructure drive the next generation of global technology. "Said US Consul General in Hyderabad Laura Williams.

American industry expertise continues to set the gold standard for a secure, AI-powered fu-

ture. Congratulations Google, the Govt. of India and, the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh on this momentous occasion. During the event then CG can be seen with the AP CM Chandra Babu Naidu.



Strong Collaborations

Gareth Wynn Owen, UK Dy. High Commissioner visited Andhra Pradesh and during the visit he met, discussed with Ridhira Group regarding tourism development at the AP spaceport and potential UK partnerships, including plans for a space museum. An exciting concept with strong collaboration potential.

Meeting Of The Month



Turkey Consul General in Hyderabad Orhan Yalman Okan can be seen with Kemalettin Eruygur, Consul General of Türkiye in Mumbai at Falaknuma Palace. Great to see two diplomats of the same country.

Another news is, CG with first lady Aslıhan Özmen Okan attended the distribution ceremony of artificial limbs orga-

nized by the Narayan Seva Sansthan.

Students Interacted With Kazakhstan Honorary Consul



Mahindra University is emerging as one of India's leading institutions for innovation, leadership, and academic excellence, nurturing future global leaders. The students of the University interacted with Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad.

"It was a pleasure interacting with the bright and talented students of Mahindra University during the podcast session as part of the Leadership Dilemma initiative." Said Dr. Khan.

"We discussed leadership, vision, hard work, commitment, consistency, and excellence. I encouraged the students to trust in themselves, stay focused on their goals, and never give up, as determination and perseverance are the true foundations of success." He added.



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“Young IAS Officers Are Redefining Public Service”

Adilabad District -
“Praja Pragathi Pranalika” is paving the way for comprehensive rural and urban development in Adilabad. District Collector Rajarshi Shah stated that comprehensive development of villages and towns can be achieved through the government’s flagship “Praja Pragathi Pranalika” programme.

Collector, along with District SP Akhil Mahajan, attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said the primary objective of the programme is to identify the genuine needs of people at the grassroots level and allocate funds accordingly, unlike previous approaches.

He told special focus should be given to improving basic infrastructure such as drinking water supply, roads, and drainage systems in villages. He also instructed officials to prioritize strengthening government schools, Anganwadi centres, and primary health centres.

The Collector directed officials to ensure effective implementation of Haritha Haram and sanitation programmes through continuous monitoring.

Nirmal District-
Nirmal District moves ahead with “Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika” for inclusive growth and better governance. District Collector Bhavesh Mishra stated that the “Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika” programme is paving the way for the comprehensive development of the district.

Addressing the gathering, Collector Bhavesh Mishra said the primary objective of the programme is to ensure that government welfare benefits reach people more effectively. He stated that meetings had already been conducted at village and constituency levels as part of the initiative.

The Collector explained that under the 99-day action plan, successful programmes had been conducted in both rural and urban areas focusing on sanitation, clearance of pending files, education, healthcare, the “Arrive Alive” road safety campaign, and farmers’ welfare week celebrations.

Mahabubabad District-
District Collector & Magistrate Sneha Shabarish called upon all sections of society to work responsibly towards the prevention of drug abuse and child marriages.

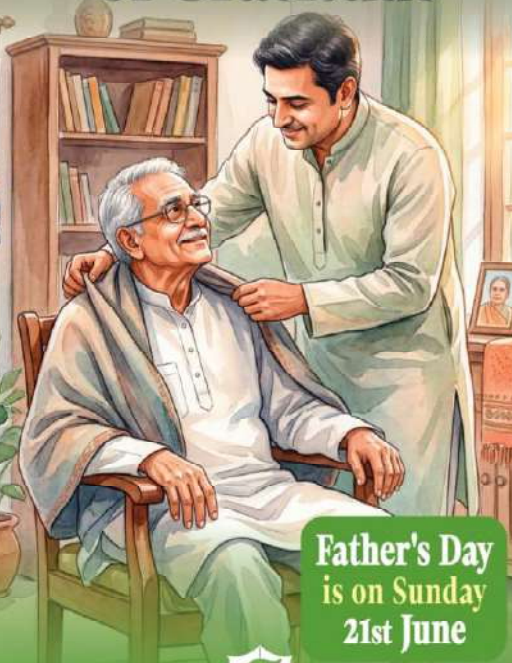
A district-level Praja Palana – Pragathi Pranalika meeting under the 99-day action plan was held on Friday at PSR Convention Hall in Mahabubabad district.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Sneha Shabarish said the Telangana Government is committed to transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance, especially for the welfare and economic empowerment of weaker sections.


Rajanna Sircilla District Collector-

Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal responded immediately after noticing the hardships faced by two differently-abled persons and ensured a prompt solution to their problem. Upon learning that they were struggling to travel outside and carry out their daily activities due to mobility challenges, Collector Garima Agrawal immediately directed District Welfare Officer Lakshmirajam to provide battery-operated tricycles to both beneficiaries.

Serving Parents is the Purest Expression of Gratitude



Father's Day is on Sunday 21st June



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Mahesh Bhagwat, IPS : Quietly shaping the next generation of India’s civil servants



INSPIRING MENTORSHIP LEADS TELANGANA CANDIDATES REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN INDIAN FOREST SERVICE 2025 RESULTS

EXCELLENCE OF GUIDANCE INSPIRES MANY OF STUDENTS:

MAHESH MURALIDHAR BHAGAVAT IPS
DGP OF TELANGANA (LAW AND ORDER)

The UPSC Indian Forest Service Examination 2025 results brought attention not only to toppers - but also to a remarkable story of mentorship led by senior IPS officer Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat.

Out of 148 candidates recommended this year, 84 candidates were mentored by him through a completely free guidance initiative focused on interview preparation and personality development.

What makes this effort extraordinary is its consistency. For three consecutive years (2023, 2024, and 2025), candidates mentored by him have secured All India Rank 1.


AIR 1 (2025): Basavaraj Dhareppa Kempawad
AIR 2: Anshuman Kumar Singh
AIR 3: Siddharth

In 2023, the topper was Ritvika Pandey, and in 2024, it was Kanika Anabh. He is currently serving as DGP Law and Order in Telangana, Mr. Bhagwat has managed to balance high-responsibility policing duties with sustained, voluntary mentorship of UPSC aspirants—without charging any fee.


His guidance has supported candidates across IAS, IPS, and IFS selections, making his impact visible far beyond numbers.

In a system defined by intense competition, his contribution stands out as service beyond duty—quietly shaping the next generation of India’s civil servants.

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Public Sector

NLC India Limited Posts Record ¹ 3,769 Cr PAT, Up 38.91% YoY



NLC India Limited (NLCIL) delivered a record-breaking performance in FY 2025-26, achieving its highest-ever production, revenue, and profitability since inception, supported by capacity expansion and a growing renewable energy portfolio.

Operational Milestones and Capacity Expansion

The company recorded its highest annual coal production at 19.14 million tonnes (MT) and dispatch of 17.69 MT from Talabira II & III open cast projects. Renewable energy

generation also reached 2.26 billion units (BU), reflecting NLCIL's increasing focus on clean energy. During the year, NLCIL added 1,013 MW of capacity, including 660 MW thermal power (GTPP Unit 2) and 303 MW renewable capacity, comprising a 300 MW solar project in Rajasthan and rooftop installations across multiple locations.

Additionally, the Pachwara South coal mine (9 MTPA capacity) commenced production in March 2026, strengthening the company's fuel security pipeline.

Strategic Developments and Investments

The company reported its highest-ever capital expenditure of over ¹ 9,131 crore. It also secured key regulatory approvals for new mining projects, including Patrapara South and Machhakata coal blocks. In the renewable segment, its arm NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL) received a Letter of Award from the Solar Energy Corporation of India for developing 600 MW solar capacity coupled with a 300 MW/1800 MWh energy storage system.

As part of asset monetisation, NLCIL transferred 1.4 GW of operational renewable assets to NIRL and received government approval for listing NIRL through a public offering, including partial stake dilution. The company also secured approval to form a joint venture with the National Capital Region Transport Corporation to develop 100 MW renewable projects in Uttar Pradesh. Further, it obtained exploration licences in Chhattisgarh for phosphorite and limestone blocks.

To support funding requirements, NLCIL tied up €100 million in external commercial borrowings from Germany's KfW.

HUDCO Posts Record ¹ 4,034 Crore Net Profit in FY26; Loan Book Surges 29%



Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), Navratna Status PSU under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs reported its highest-ever net profit of ¹ 4,034.37 crore in FY 2025-26, driven by robust growth in loan sanctions, disbursements and infrastructure financing activity. HUDCO also recorded all-time highs in loan sanctions, loan disbursements and loan book size during the financial year, reinforcing its expanding role in India's infrastructure and urban development push under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Loan sanctions cross ¹ 1.64 lakh crore

HUDCO's loan sanctions jumped 29 per cent year-on-year to a record ¹ 1,64,757.79 crore in FY26, while loan disbursements rose 28 per cent to an all-time high of ¹ 51,194.21 crore.

The company's loan book expanded 29 per cent to ¹ 1,60,724.30 crore, supported by strong asset quality and a sharp reduction in net NPAs to 0.05 per cent from 0.25 per cent in FY25.

Revenue from operations stood at ¹ 13,150.40 crore during the year, reflecting sustained operational growth and strong business momentum.

HUDCO also reported a 27 basis point reduction in its overall cost of borrowings and approved an annual borrowing plan of ¹ 70,000 crore.

Highest-ever dividend payout

The board approved a highest-ever total dividend payout of 60.50 per cent, translating to ¹ 6.05 per share, including a final dividend of ¹ 1.50 per share subject to shareholder approval.

CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha said the company achieved its FY26 market guidance of a ¹ 1.50 lakh crore loan book by the third quarter itself. He added that HUDCO is continuing organisational reforms and market-driven initiatives to maintain growth momentum. Key measures include policy reforms, diversification of funding sources, issuance of its first-ever perpetual bonds, stressed asset resolution, ESG framework implementation, succession planning, ERP and e-office adoption, and stronger governance and financial controls.

Urban Invest Window launched

As part of its developmental initiatives, HUDCO launched the Urban Invest Window (UIWIN) to support Urban Local Bodies in planning and executing sustainable urban infrastructure projects, particularly in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

HPCL Posts Robust FY26 Performance, Announces ¹ 19.25 Final Dividend



Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) on Wednesday reported a strong financial performance for FY26, with standalone profit after tax surging 133 per cent year-on-year to ¹ 17,175 crore, driven by robust refining margins, steady marketing growth, and improved operational efficiency.

The company's consolidated profit after tax rose 168 per cent to ¹ 18,047 crore for the financial year, while Q4 FY26 standalone profit increased 46 per cent to ¹ 4,902 crore.

Revenue from operations stood at ¹ 4,78,543 crore in FY26, compared to ¹ 4,66,346 crore in FY25. Gross Refining Margin (GRM) improved significantly to \$8.79 per barrel for FY26, up from \$5.74 per barrel last year, while Q4 GRM stood at \$14.27 per barrel.

HPCL also achieved its highest-ever refinery throughput of 26.04 million metric tonnes (MMT) in FY26, marking a 3 per cent increase year-on-year. Both Visakh and Mumbai refineries operated above 100 per cent capacity, reflecting strong operational performance.

formance.

Marketing and sales volumes grew 3.3 per cent to 51.45 MMT, with LPG sales rising 5.2 per cent and petrol-diesel combined sales reaching 31.06 MMT.

The company strengthened its financial position, reducing its standalone debt-equity ratio sharply from 1.38 to 0.80 during the year.

Dividend Announcement

HPCL's board has recommended a final dividend of ¹ 19.25 per equity share for FY26, in addition to an interim dividend of ¹ 5 already paid, subject to shareholder approval.

Defence PSU Update: Ravi K Appointed CMD of HAL



Ravi K has assumed charge as the 22nd Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), succeeding D K Sunil, who retired on April 30, 2026.

With over three decades of experience across aerospace, defence, manufacturing, and electronics, Ravi K previously served as Director (Operations) at HAL, where he played a key role in strategic planning and contributed to the company attaining Maharatna status.

Outlining his vision, he emphasised transforming HAL into a globally competitive aerospace and defence enterprise, driven by innovation, artificial intelligence, and operational excellence.

Ravi K has held several leadership roles within HAL, including Executive Director and General Manager of the LCA Tejas Division and Executive Director (Corporate Planning). He was instrumental in securing major contracts, including the supply of 180 LCA Tejas aircraft to the Indian Air Force and 156 LCH Prachand helicopters to the Indian Army and Air Force.

He is also credited with operationalising the Tejas fleet and improving serviceability through customer-focused initiatives, including enhanced data integration with Air Force bases and streamlined support systems.

MRPL Board Approves Q4 FY26 Results, Annual Financials



Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), reported a sharp improvement in profitability for FY26, even as revenue moderated. The company's board approved its standalone and consolidated results for Q4 and the full year ended March 31, 2026, at its meeting on April 24.

For Q4 FY26, revenue from operations rose to ¹ 28,493 crore from ¹ 27,602 crore a year earlier. Profit before tax more than

doubled to ¹ 1,235 crore, compared to ¹ 584

crore in Q4 FY25. However, net profit declined to ¹ 119 crore from ¹ 363 crore, reflecting margin pressures and cost dynamics.

On a full-year basis, MRPL posted a strong earnings rebound. Revenue stood at ¹ 1,05,155 crore, slightly lower than ¹ 1,09,280 crore in FY25. Profit before tax surged to ¹ 4,022 crore from ¹ 113 crore, while net profit jumped significantly to ¹ 1,931 crore from ¹ 51 crore in the previous year, supported by improved refining margins.

Operationally, throughput during FY26 stood at 17.0 million metric tonnes, compared to 18.18 MMT in FY25. The company also strengthened its downstream presence, commissioning 85 new retail outlets during the year, taking the total network to 252, while its Devangonhi marketing terminal became fully operational to enhance inland distribution.

Earnings before interest, depreciation, tax and amortisation (EBITDA) rose to ¹ 6,449 crore for FY26 from ¹ 2,469 crore in FY25, highlighting improved operational efficiency. Gross Refining Margin (GRM) for the year increased to \$9.22 per barrel from \$4.45 per barrel.

BHEL Reports Strong Revenue Growth in FY 2025-26



Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) reported a provisional and unaudited turnover of around ¹ 32,350 crore for FY 2025-26, registering an 18% year-on-year growth, reflecting improved execution and sustained demand across core sectors.

During the year, the company secured total order inflows of approximately ¹ 75,000 crore, taking its overall order book to about ¹ 2.4 lakh crore at the close of the fiscal—providing strong revenue visibility going forward.

In the power segment, BHEL maintained its leadership position with significant order wins worth around ¹ 59,000 crore, underlining continued traction in the thermal and allied segments. The industrial business also demonstrated resilience, booking fresh orders of nearly ¹ 16,000 crore across diversified sectors including transportation, transmission, defence, process industries, and industrial equipment—highlighting BHEL's broad-based engineering capabilities.

On the execution front, the company commissioned or synchronised approximately 8.9 GW of power capacity during the year, signalling operational efficiency and a steady project delivery pipeline. With a robust order backlog, consistent revenue growth, and strong execution momentum, BHEL enters FY 2026-27 on a solid footing. The company reiterated its focus on infrastructure development, indigenisation, and long-term value creation for stakeholders.

GAIL to Develop 600 MW Solar Power Facility in Uttar Pradesh



GAIL (India) Limited has signed contract agreements with TUSCO Limited to develop a 600 MW solar power project at a solar park in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, marking a key step in its clean energy expansion strategy. The project will be integrated with a 550 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to ensure reliable and efficient power supply. It will primarily meet the captive energy requirements of GAIL's petrochemical plant at Pata in Auraiya district, while also supporting additional

demand from electrification of gas-based equipment and upcoming CBG plants in the state.

Senior officials from both companies, including R K Singhal, Director (Business Development), GAIL, and Anil Tyagi, CEO, TUSCO, were present during the signing of the agreement.

IndianOil Leads National Fire Service Day Observance, Highlights Safety

Indian Oil Corporation Limited reinforced its commitment to operational safety and risk management as Director (Refineries) Arvind Kumar led the observance of National Fire Service Day at the Refineries Headquarters.

Held on April 15 under the theme "Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention", the event underscored the company's focus on strengthening safety culture. Kumar administered the Fire Safety Pledge to employees and unveiled a theme poster marking the occasion.

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Corporate Badminton Championship Season 2 Held

In an effort to encourage physical fitness, mental wellness, and a healthy work-life balance among corporate professionals, the Corporate Badminton Championship Season 2 was inaugurated at the Pulella Gopichand Academy in Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

The prestigious championship was formally inaugurated by Commissioner of Police Dr.M.Ramesh, Padma Shri awardee and renowned badminton coach Pulella Gopichand, TV9 Network COO Vikram, TV9 Network CRO Amit Tripathi, and Generali Life Insurance Vice President & South India Head Vikas.

The championship has attracted enthusiastic participation from employees representing several leading corporate organizations, including Microsoft, Amazon, Infosys, Google, Tata Consultancy Services, Dell, Accenture, Larsen & Toubro, Pegasystems, Deloitte, Oracle, My Home Group, Schrodinger, PwC, JPMorgan Chase, HCLTech, Cult.fit, Maha Cement, Mphasis, Uber, and The Times of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Pulella Gopichand highlighted the increasing work pressure faced by corporate employees and stressed the importance of maintaining physical activity alongside professional commitments

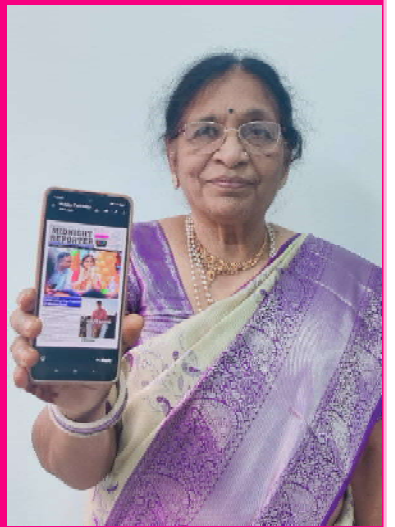


Gadwal Vijayalaxmi Assumes Charge As Telangana Women's Commission Chairperson

Former Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi officially assumed charge as the Chairperson of the Telangana State Commission for Women. Her appointment is expected to strengthen initiatives related to women's rights, safety, welfare and empowerment across Telangana.

After taking charge, Gadwal Vijayalaxmi said the Commission would work actively to address issues affecting women and ensure faster support for victims facing harassment, violence and discrimination. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar & Former Minister Geeta Reddy were also present during the occasion.

Focus On Women Safety And Empowerment
The newly appointed Chairperson stated that protecting women's rights and improving awareness about legal protections would be among the Commission's priorities.



Mother's Day Edition Released

Celebrating the power of motherhood !! Midnight Reporter's Mothers Day edition proudly released by Super Mother Smt. Asha Rani, beloved mother of Dr. Chaitanya Singh.

A heartfelt tribute to every mother whose strength, sacrifice, love and inspiration shape generations.

Click the link for epaper :
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Women's week celebrations across the state

Telangana government is going to organize "Women's Week Celebrations" across the state from 25th to 31st of this month with an aim to further strengthen the economic, social and political empowerment of women. As part of the People's Governance - Progress Plan, rural women, self-help societies, organizations, young women, girls, disabled, elderly people are going to undertake different programs for a week by partnering women from all categories of communities.

Through these programs, special focus will be on issues such as women's economic self-sufficiency, expansion of livelihoods, social security, health, security, infrastructure development, strengthening of women's societies. Special meetings, awareness programs, inauguration of infrastructure, grounding of livelihood units, loan fairs to be held from village to district level.

Minister SitaKka said in a statement that the aim of the government is to make women's societies not just savings groups but also productive forces that drive the rural economy. Women are said to be taking opportunities like bank loans, livelihood units, micro-industries, agricultural processing centers and solar power projects to the village level. It is said that if income increases in the hands of women, families will not only be strengthened but the rural economy will also be strengthened.



Southwest Airlines Launches First-Ever Global Innovation Centre

Southwest Airlines one of the largest airlines in the United States, has launched its first India Global Innovation Centre in Hyderabad through its wholly owned subsidiary, Southwest Airlines India Private Limited.

Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, Communications, Industries & Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana, inaugurated the new office today.

The Southwest Airlines Global Innovation Centre in Hyderabad will serve as a strategic hub within the company's global network, supporting operations.

Lauren Woods, Executive Vice President & Chief Information Officer, Southwest Airlines and Krishna Kallepalli, Vice President & Global Head of Innovation, India, Southwest Airlines addressed the gathering.



Telangana boosts India-Europe skill partnership through TOMCOM

Telangana Government is committed to creating international employment opportunities for the youth of the state, said Telangana Labour, Employment, Mines and Geology Minister G. Vivek Venkatswamy Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy. He stated that the government is taking special measures to further strengthen TOMCOM and has allocated 190 crore in the budget for this purpose.

The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the State-Level Workshop on India-European Union Mobility held at The Park Hotel, Somajiguda, Hyderabad on Wednesday. The workshop was organized under Phase-II of the India-EU Migration and Mobility Project by the Ministry of External Affairs and the European Union, in collaboration with TOMCOM. The event was attended by Ministry of External Affairs Under Secretary Adarsh Kumar Mehra, LETF Secretary D. Harichandana, Director of Employment and Training Kanthi Wesley, Regional Passport Officer J. Snehaja, ICWA Joint Secretary Abhijit Chakraborty and other dignitaries.



Continental Elle Sante Cosmetic Gynecology Center Inaugurated

Continental Hospitals launched its state-of-the-art cosmetic and reconstructive gynecology division - Continental Elle Sante Cosmetic Gynecology Center. The center is the first-of-its-kind in the Telugu states and the first comprehensive integrated center in South India dedicated to advanced cosmetic gynecological care.

Established with the vision of supporting, empowering, and enhancing women's wellbeing, the Centre of Excellence in Reconstructive and Cosmetic Gynecology combines advanced medical technology, multiple laser systems, expert medical skills, and specially trained staff to provide compassionate, confidential, and personalized reconstructive gynecological, cosmetic, and uro-gynecological services. On the occasion, Continental Hospitals Founder & Chairman Dr. Guru N. Reddy introduced internationally renowned Urogynecologist and Cosmetic-Plastic Gynecologist Dr. Navneet Magon, who will serve as the Director of Continental Elle Sante Cosmetic Gynecology Center.



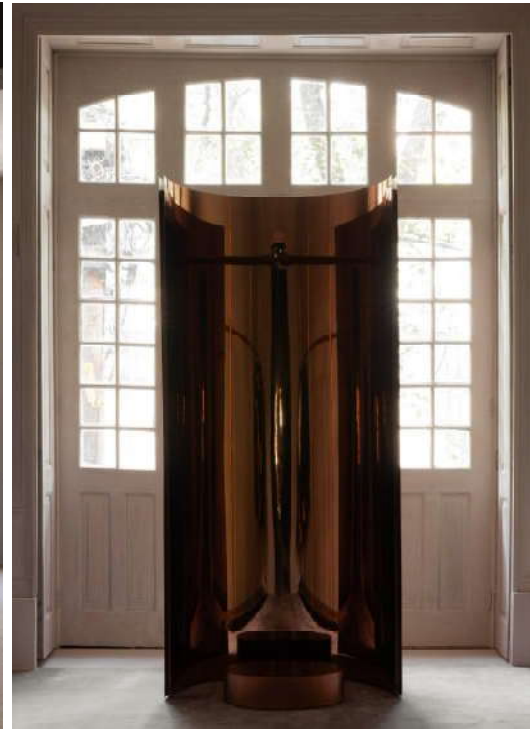
Recycled-copper elements accent “purist interior design” of Mexico City fashion boutique

Local architect Laura Vela Lasagabaster and designer Manu Bano have used copper as an accent material inside a luxury concept store Colima 162 in Mexico City’s Roma Norte neighbourhood.

The 210-square-metre Colima 162 boutique is named after its location on Colima Street, inside a large residence built in 1919 during Mexico’s Porfirian era. Lasagabaster and Bano used the historic bones of the property as the starting point for their design, adding a minimalist contemporary layer around the original features like full-height windows. “The sequence begins at the access staircase leading to the first level, where a clear and direct concept unfolds: a purist interior design grounded in minimal intervention,” said the duo.

Either side of the entry stair, a series of rooms connected by open doorways form a sequence for customers to explore one after the other. Each of these spaces features a different, custom hand-hammered recycled copper piece crafted by expert artisans in Santa Clara del Cobre. The first thing that shoppers encounter is a large circular basin with a flat reflective top, which stands in front of four vertical panels with rods protruding from indents in the material. In an adjacent space, thin vertical copper poles are spliced by a horizontal bar for hanging garments and anchored by a flat plate for shoes. Elsewhere, a concave mirror-polished stand is centred in front of a window, while a series of floating shelves is mounted on a wall. “Conceived as sculptural objects, they function both as furniture and support elements,” the pair said. “The combination of hammered, brushed, and mirror-polished finishes introduces variations of light and texture throughout the space.” The russet-toned material stands out against the beige lime-plaster walls and a tone-matched bamboo silk and wool rug that spans the full floor area. One room also includes tall mirrored panels, positioned perpendicular to one another to create the illusion of more space. “Through a purist approach, the intervention takes on a sculptural presence that challenges the conventional language of retail,” said the duo.

“The result is a proposal in which a restrained, contextual material palette and a deliberately neutral interior allow copper to emerge as both the dominant presence and the unifying element of the project.”



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इटली की प्रधानमंत्री मेलोनी ने पीएम मोदी को कहा— “उपहार के लिए धन्यवाद”



प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के इटली दौरे के दौरान एक हल्का-फुल्का और दिलचस्प पल सोशल मीडिया पर खूब चर्चा में है। इटली की प्रधानमंत्री जॉर्जिया मेलोनी ने प्रधानमंत्री Narendra Modi द्वारा भेंट की गई 'मेलोडी' टॉफी के लिए उनका आभार जताया। मेलोनी ने सोशल मीडिया पर एक वीडियो साझा किया, जिसमें वह मुस्कुराते हुए कहती नजर आई, "प्रधानमंत्री मोदी भरे लिए एक बहुत ही अच्छी टॉफी लेकर आए हैं—मेलोडी।" वीडियो में पीएम मोदी भी दिखाई देते हैं और मेलोनी की इस टिप्पणी पर हंसते नजर आते हैं। मेलोनी ने पोस्ट के साथ लिखा, "उपहार के लिए धन्यवाद।" 'मेलोडी' शब्द पिछले कुछ समय से मोदी और मेलोनी की दोस्ती को लेकर सोशल मीडिया पर चर्चित रहा है। दरअसल, दोनों नेताओं के नामों मोदी और मेलोनी को जोड़कर 'मेलोडी' हैशटैग बनाया गया था। इसकी शुरुआत 2023 में दुबई में हुए COP28 सम्मेलन के दौरान हुई थी, जब मेलोनी ने मोदी के साथ तस्वीर साझा करते हुए "डमसवकप" हैशटैग इस्तेमाल किया था। इसके बाद दोनों नेताओं की हर मुलाकात सोशल मीडिया पर चर्चा का विषय बनती रही। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी इस समय पांच देशों के दौरे के अंतिम चरण में इटली पहुंचे हैं। इस यात्रा के दौरान भारत और इटली के बीच व्यापार, रक्षा, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और नई प्रौद्योगिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाने पर चर्चा हो रही है।

ब्रिटेन में भारतीय बेटे ने रचा इतिहास, हिंदी पढ़ाने वाला युवक बना UK का सबसे युवा मेयर



ब्रिटेन की राजनीति में भारतीय बेटे तुषार कुमार ने नया इतिहास रच दिया है। लेबर पार्टी काउंसिलर तुषार (23) को हर्टफोर्डशायर के एल्स्ट्री और बोरेहमवुड टाउन का मेयर नियुक्त किया गया है। इसके साथ ही वह ब्रिटेन के इतिहास में सबसे कम उम्र के भारतीय मूल के मेयर बन गए हैं। यह नियुक्ति फेयरवे हॉल में आयोजित "मेयर मेकिंग सेरेमनी" के दौरान हुई, जहां स्थानीय नेताओं और समुदाय के लोगों ने उनका स्वागत किया।

तुषार कुमार ने बेहद कम उम्र में राजनीति में कदम रखा था। वह सिर्फ 20 साल की उम्र में पहली बार काउंसिलर चुने गए थे। बाद में उन्होंने डिप्टी मेयर के रूप में भी काम किया। उन्होंने King's College London से पॉलिटिकल साइंस की पढ़ाई की है। तुषार ने अपनी सफलता का श्रेय अपनी मां परवीन रानी को दिया, जिन्होंने उन्हें सार्वजनिक जीवन और राजनीति में आने के लिए प्रेरित किया। मेयर बनने के बाद तुषार कुमार ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म LinkedIn पर भावुक पोस्ट साझा की। उन्होंने लिखा कि 23 साल की उम्र में ब्रिटेन के इतिहास का सबसे युवा भारतीय मूल का मेयर बनना उनके लिए "जीवन का सबसे बड़ा सम्मान" है। उन्होंने कहा कि एक स्थानीय स्वयंसेवक से लेकर मेयर बनने तक का सफर बेहद प्रेरणादायक रहा है।

ब्रिटेन में भारतीय मूल के 23 वर्षीय Tushar Kumar ने इतिहास रचते हुए एल्स्ट्री और बोरेहमवुड के सबसे युवा भारतीय मूल के मेयर बनकर नई पहचान बनाई है। लेबर पार्टी के इस युवा नेता ने राजनीति, सामाजिक सेवा और भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रचार के जरिए—

London ब्रिटेन की राजनीति में भारतीय बेटे तुषार कुमार (Tushar Kumar) ने नया इतिहास रच दिया है। लेबर पार्टी काउंसिलर तुषार (23) को हर्टफोर्डशायर के एल्स्ट्री और बोरेहमवुड टाउन का मेयर नियुक्त किया गया है। इसके साथ ही वह ब्रिटेन के इतिहास में सबसे कम उम्र के भारतीय मूल के मेयर बन गए हैं। यह नियुक्ति फेयरवे हॉल में आयोजित "मेयर मेकिंग सेरेमनी" के दौरान हुई, जहां स्थानीय नेताओं और समुदाय के लोगों ने उनका स्वागत किया। तुषार कुमार ने बेहद कम उम्र में राजनीति में कदम रखा था। वह सिर्फ 20 साल की उम्र में पहली बार काउंसिलर चुने गए थे। बाद में उन्होंने डिप्टी मेयर के रूप में भी काम किया।

उन्होंने King's College London से पॉलिटिकल साइंस की पढ़ाई की है। तुषार ने अपनी सफलता का श्रेय अपनी मां परवीन रानी को दिया, जिन्होंने उन्हें सार्वजनिक जीवन और राजनीति में आने के लिए प्रेरित किया। मेयर बनने के बाद तुषार कुमार ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म LinkedIn पर भावुक पोस्ट साझा की। उन्होंने लिखा कि 23 साल की उम्र में ब्रिटेन के इतिहास का सबसे युवा भारतीय मूल का मेयर बनना उनके लिए "जीवन का सबसे बड़ा सम्मान" है। उन्होंने कहा कि एक स्थानीय स्वयंसेवक से लेकर मेयर बनने तक का सफर बेहद प्रेरणादायक रहा है। तुषार कुमार सिर्फ राजनीति तक सीमित नहीं हैं। वह ब्रिटिश-इंडियन बच्चों के लिए मुफ्त हिंदी कक्षाएं भी चलाते हैं ताकि भारतीय भाषा और संस्कृति को नई पीढ़ी तक पहुंचाया जा सके। इसके अलावा वह बोरेहमवुड में भारतीय स्वतंत्रता दिवस, गणतंत्र दिवस, दिवाली और होली जैसे बड़े सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों के प्रमुख आयोजकों में शामिल रहते हैं। मेयर बनने के बाद तुषार कुमार ने अपनी तीन प्रमुख प्राथमिकताएं भी बताईं।

समुदाय के बीच लगातार मौजूद रहना, स्थानीय चौरिटी संस्थाओं की मदद करना, युवाओं को सार्वजनिक सेवा और राजनीति में आने के लिए प्रेरित करना, उन्होंने कहा कि अपने पसंदीदा शहर की सेवा करना उनके लिए "जीवन का सबसे बड़ा सौभाग्य" है।

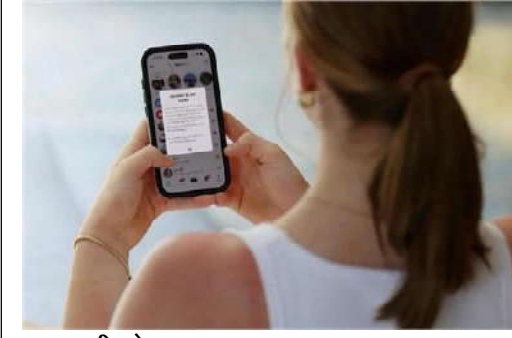
विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि तुषार कुमार की सफलता ब्रिटेन में भारतीय मूल के युवाओं के बढ़ते प्रभाव का संकेत है। ब्रिटेन की राजनीति, प्रशासन और सामाजिक संस्थाओं में भारतीय समुदाय की भागीदारी लगातार मजबूत हो रही है। तुषार कुमार की नियुक्ति को इसी बदलते सामाजिक और राजनीतिक परिदृश्य का प्रतीक माना जा रहा है।

ऑस्ट्रेलियाई उच्चायुक्त ने की भारत की जमकर तारीफ, कहा— प्दकप सीखने का बेहतरीन स्थान, दोनों देशों के रिश्ते सबसे मजबूत दौर में

नई दिल्ली में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के उच्चायुक्त फिलिप ग्रीन (Philip Green) ने भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया संबंधों को लेकर बड़ा बयान दिया है। उन्होंने कहा कि दोनों देश भाग्यशाली हैं कि उनके नेता एक-दूसरे का सम्मान करते हैं और अच्छे से संवाद करते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के रिश्ते इस समय अपने सबसे मजबूत दौर में हैं। उनका लक्ष्य है कि इन संबंधों को और ऊंचाई तक ले जाया जाए। उनके अनुसार, दोनों देशों के बीच चतुष्पक्षीय सुरक्षा संवाद (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) के जरिए रणनीतिक तालमेल बढ़ रहा है।

उन्होंने आर्थिक सहयोग को भी मजबूत आधार बताया। कहा कि भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया की अर्थव्यवस्थाएं एक-दूसरे को पूरा करती हैं, जिससे व्यापार और निवेश के नए अवसर बनते हैं। उच्चायुक्त ने भारतीय मूल के लोगों को दोनों देशों के बीच सबसे मजबूत "मानवीय पुल" बताया।

मासूमों की 'डिजिटल ढाल' बना ऑस्ट्रेलिया, इंस्टाग्राम और फेसबुक को वॉर्निंग— हमारे बच्चों को बचाओ, वरना बाहर जाओ



बच्चों की ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा को लेकर ऑस्ट्रेलिया दुनिया का सबसे सख्त देश बन गया है। 16 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों पर सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध (Social Media Ban) लागू करने के बाद अब ऑस्ट्रेलिया सरकार ने नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाले 5 बड़े सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के खिलाफ आधिकारिक जांच शुरू कर दी है। सरकार ने साफ कर दिया है कि अगर इन कंपनियों को ऑस्ट्रेलिया में व्यापार करना है तो उन्हें यहां के कड़े कानूनों को

मानना ही होगा।

क्या है पूरा मामला—ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने दिसंबर 2025 में एक ऐतिहासिक कानून लागू किया था जिसके तहत 16 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया का इस्तेमाल प्रतिबंधित कर दिया गया था। ई-सेपटी कमिश्नर ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में फेसबुक और इंस्टाग्राम सहित पांच प्रमुख प्लेटफॉर्म की कार्यप्रणाली पर गंभीर चिंता जताई है। जांच में पाया गया कि ये प्लेटफॉर्म बच्चों को उम्र सत्यापन (Age Verification) के गलत तरीके आजमाने की छूट दे रहे हैं और उम्र-सीमा से कम वाले खातों की रिपोर्ट करने की सुविधा भी ठीक से नहीं दे रहे हैं।

भारी जुर्माने की तलवार—बच्चों की ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा को लेकर ऑस्ट्रेलिया दुनिया का सबसे सख्त देश बन गया है। 16 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों पर सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध (वबपंस डमकपं ठंद) लागू करने के बाद अब ऑस्ट्रेलिया सरकार ने नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाले 5 बड़े सोशल मीडिया। Australia Social Media Ban for Minors — बच्चों की ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा को लेकर ऑस्ट्रेलिया दुनिया का सबसे सख्त देश बन गया है। 16 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों पर सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध (Social Media Ban) लागू करने के बाद अब ऑस्ट्रेलिया सरकार ने नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वाले 5 बड़े सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म के खिलाफ आधिकारिक जांच शुरू कर दी है। सरकार ने साफ कर दिया है कि अगर इन कंपनियों को ऑस्ट्रेलिया में व्यापार करना है तो उन्हें यहां के कड़े कानूनों को मानना ही होगा।

क्या है पूरा मामला— ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने दिसंबर 2025 में एक ऐतिहासिक कानून लागू किया था जिसके तहत 16 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया का इस्तेमाल प्रतिबंधित कर दिया गया था। ई-सेपटी कमिश्नर ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में फेसबुक और इंस्टाग्राम सहित पांच प्रमुख प्लेटफॉर्म की कार्यप्रणाली पर गंभीर चिंता जताई है। जांच में पाया गया कि ये प्लेटफॉर्म बच्चों को उम्र सत्यापन (Age Verification) के गलत तरीके आजमाने की छूट दे रहे हैं और उम्र-सीमा से कम वाले खातों की रिपोर्ट करने की सुविधा भी ठीक से नहीं दे रहे हैं।

भारी जुर्माने की तलवार— ऑस्ट्रेलियाई सरकार के नियमों के मुताबिक जो कंपनियां बच्चों को रोकने के लिए पर्याप्त कदम नहीं उठाएंगी उन्हें 4.95 करोड़ ऑस्ट्रेलियाई डॉलर (लगभग 272 करोड़ भारतीय रुपये) तक का भारी-भरकम जुर्माना भरना पड़ सकता है।

नियम मानो या बाहर जाओ— ऑस्ट्रेलिया की संचार मंत्री अनिका वेल्स ने सख्त लहजे में कहा, "हमें उम्मीद है कि ऑनलाइन सेपटी वॉर्निंग उन कंपनियों पर कड़ी कार्रवाई करेगा जो अपनी कानूनी जिम्मेदारियों से भाग रही हैं। अगर इन कंपनियों को ऑस्ट्रेलिया में रहना है तो उन्हें हमारे कानूनों का पालन करना होगा। ई-सेपटी कमिश्नर जूली इनमैन ग्रांट ने पुष्टि की है कि उनका विभाग अब इन प्रतिबंधों को सख्ती से लागू करने के शक्यता मोडर्न में आ गया है।

47 लाख अकाउंट्स पर चली कैंची— सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार इस कानून का असर दिखना शुरू हो गया है।

बड़ी कार्रवाई— 10 दिसंबर को बैन लागू होने के बाद से अब तक सोशल मीडिया कंपनियों ने 16 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों के लगभग 47 लाख (4.7 Million) अकाउंट्स को डीएक्टिवेट या बंद कर दिया है।

कड़ा संदेश— सरकार का लक्ष्य बच्चों को सोशल मीडिया के मानसिक और साइबर खतरों से पूरी तरह सुरक्षित रखना है।

विदेश में पढ़ाई का सपना टूटा ! अमेरिका ने 61 प्रतिशत भारतीय छात्र किए रिजेक्ट, ऑस्ट्रेलिया—कनाडा भी दिखा रहे सख्ती



विदेश में पढ़ाई करने का सपना देखने वाले भारतीय छात्रों के लिए हालात तेजी से कठिन होते जा रहे हैं। संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में 2025 के दौरान F-1 वीजा के लिए आवेदन करने वाले 61 प्रतिशत भारतीय छात्रों को रिजेक्ट कर दिया गया। यह दर 2023 के 36 प्रतिशत और 2024 के 53 प्रतिशत के मुकाबले काफी ज्यादा है, जिससे साफ है कि वीजा मिलना अब पहले की तुलना में कहीं ज्यादा मुश्किल हो गया है। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि यह केवल छात्रों की योग्यता का मामला नहीं है, बल्कि इसमें "जियोग्राफी फेक्टर" भी काम कर रहा है। यूरोप के छात्रों को जहां 90 प्रतिशत से अधिक स्वीकृति मिलती है, वहीं भारतीय छात्रों को ज्यादा रिजेक्शन का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इससे यह सवाल उठ रहा है कि क्या वीजा प्रक्रिया में क्षेत्रीय असमानता बढ़ रही है।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया— कनाडा ने भी बढ़ाई मुश्किलें— ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने भी अपनी वीजा नीति को सख्त कर दिया है। 2026 की शुरुआत में करीब 40 प्रतिशत भारतीय छात्र वीजा आवेदन खारिज किए गए। इतना ही नहीं, भारत को अब हाई-रिस्क कैटेगरी (EL3) में डाल दिया गया है, जिसके तहत छात्रों को ज्यादा फाइनेंशियल दस्तावेज, विस्तृत अकादमिक रिकॉर्ड और मजबूत "Genuine Student" स्टेटमेंट देना होगा। कनाडा में भी स्थिति आसान नहीं है। 2025 में स्टडी परमिट की संख्या 64 प्रतिशत तक घटा दी गई और 2026 में भी इसमें और 7 प्रतिशत कटौती का फैसला लिया गया है। सरकार ने छात्रों की संख्या सीमित करने के लिए सख्त कैंप लागू किया है, जिससे भारतीय छात्रों के लिए अवसर और कम हो गए हैं। विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार अब वीजा फेसले केवल शिक्षा के आधार पर नहीं लिए जा रहे, बल्कि इमिग्रेशन से जुड़ी चिंताएं, घरेलू राजनीतिक दबाव और अवैध रूप से रुकने की आशंका भी अहम भूमिका निभा रही है। इसी वजह से भारत, नेपाल, बांग्लादेश और पाकिस्तान जैसे दक्षिण एशियाई देशों के छात्रों पर ज्यादा सख्ती की जा रही है।? इसका असर अब साफ दिखाई देने लगा है।

Tourism



Thailand to slash tourist visa-free stays

Thailand's cabinet has approved a drastic reduction to its visa-free entry scheme for tourists from more than 90 countries.

The decision issued recently, shifts the country away from a sweeping 60-day visa exemption introduced in July 2024 to stimulate its post-pandemic recovery. That exemption was for areas that included the United States, Israel, parts of South America and Europe's 29-nation Schengen zone.

Under the new framework, the government will revert to a tiered system, capping visa-free stays at 30 days while shortening permission for citizens of some countries to just 15 days.

"The current scheme has allowed some people to exploit it," government spokesperson Rachada Dhanadirek told reporters in Bangkok, noting that while tourism remains an indispensable pillar of the Thai economy, security concerns have taken priority.

Thai officials acknowledged the generous 60-day window had inadvertently opened loopholes, paving the way for a surge in illicit grey-market enterprises, unauthorised foreign workers and online scam operations. Policymakers now view a 30-day ceiling as an adequate

timeframe to accommodate genuine, high-value travellers.

The policy reversal follows a series of high-profile arrests involving foreign nationals engaged in drug trafficking, human smuggling and running unauthorised local businesses, such as hotels and language schools.

Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuanketkeow said the measure does not target any specific nationality but rather individuals abusing the visa system to evade law enforcement.

To prevent systemic abuse, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it will also enforce a strict cap of two visa-free entries per calendar year via land borders for the standard 30-day tier, mirroring protocols used before the 2024 expansion.

The government has not yet announced when the changes will take effect, but they were decided at a sensitive time for Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, where tourism accounts for more than 10 percent of its gross domestic product. Government data revealed a 3.4 percent year-on-year drop in foreign arrivals during the first quarter, driven largely by a nearly 30 percent plunge in Middle Eastern travellers.

Despite the downturn, officials maintained their annual target of attracting 33.5 million foreign tourists this year.

Kerala's tourism industry sees big opportunity after PM's call



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal urging Indians to prioritise domestic travel over overseas vacations is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism in Kerala, say industry stakeholders.

Tourism operators believe the shift comes at a favourable time, as Indian travellers are increasingly

drawn to experiential holidays, wellness retreats, nature-based tourism and culturally immersive destinations — all areas in which Kerala has built a strong identity. From its beaches and backwaters to Ayurveda resorts, hill stations and responsible tourism initiatives, the State is seen as well-equipped to benefit from a growing domestic travel trend.

Industry experts pointed out that Kerala could emerge as one of the biggest gainers if it acts swiftly with focused destination branding and marketing campaigns aimed at travellers reconsidering costly international holidays.

Andaman Boosts Marine Tourism, Launches 4 New Dive Sites In Diglipur



For years, scuba lovers have only travelled to the famous southern hotspots of Swaraj Dweep and Shaheed Dweep. But now, North Andaman is finally stepping into the spotlight. In a major push to expand adventure tourism, the Directorate of Information, Publicity & Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar

Administration, has officially unveiled four newly explored scuba-diving sites in Diglipur.

Andaman's Diglipur Gets 4 New Scuba Diving Sites

This new development has opened up an entirely new underwater frontier for travellers and diving enthusiasts.

It marks a strategic shift that could transform Diglipur into India's next big scuba destination, while also helping reduce tourism pressure on the heavily visited southern islands.

Located about 320 kilometres north of Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair), Diglipur has long been known for its dramatic landscapes, quiet beaches, dense tropical forests and raw, untouched beauty. Yet despite its stunning marine ecosystems, it remained largely unexplored in India's recreational diving circuit.

With these four officially recognised dive sites, Diglipur is being positioned as a premium eco-conscious diving hub, offering cleaner reefs, fewer crowds and the thrill of exploring waters that still feel wonderfully undiscovered.

The Pristine Shoreline Sanctuary, The Deep Blue Bridge, Small Wall Off Ross Island and Wall Of Craggy/Gentle Slope are the four new dive sites.

Odisha to Expand Adventure Tourism with Water Sports Projects in Five Districts



Five districts in Odisha, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam and Puri could soon become popular spots for water sports. The tourism department has already chosen a few locations in these areas and is currently checking if they are safe and suitable for water sports. This inspection is expected to finish by the end of this month.

An official said the department has received several applications for water adventure activities in the five districts through the Go Adventure portal. In a letter to the district collectors, he said the proposed locations will be checked for technical feasibility under the Odisha Adventure Tourism Guidelines, 2025.

The verification team will include a water sports expert from the National Institute of Water Sports, officials from the tourism department's Adventure Tourism Technical Cell and members of the concerned district-level committees. Field inspections of the proposed sites are currently underway. The district-level committees formed under the Odisha Adventure Tourism Guidelines, 2025, are responsible for finding, mapping and technically examining sites suitable for adventure tourism activities.

The official has asked the district-level committees to submit feasibility reports, including safety assessments, to the state-level technical committee for review and approval. The state government launched the Go Adventure portal in February this year to help with the registration, verification and licensing of adventure tourism projects.

Besides water sports, the tourism department is also planning aero-based adventure tourism at different places across Odisha. It has asked the Aero Club of India to study the feasibility of such activities at Chandipur and Udaypur-Talasari in Balasore district, Puri beach and Satpada, Deomali and Talamali in Koraput district, and the Lower Balijatra Ground in Cuttack.

Lakshadweep tourism sees boom

A diplomatic dispute between India and Maldives in January 2024 appears to have significantly influenced tourism patterns across the region. Following the controversy, Lakshadweep reportedly experienced a major increase in tourist interest, while Indian visitor arrivals to the Maldives declined sharply. The situation began after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Lakshadweep and launched several development projects related to healthcare, energy, technology, education and water resources. During the visit, Modi shared photographs and videos showcasing the islands' beaches and natural beauty, which rapidly gained popularity across social media platforms and sparked conversations about promoting domestic island tourism within India.

The Prime Minister praised Lakshadweep's scenic landscapes and the hospitality of travellers, had remained relatively less explored compared to international island destinations. The viral visibility generated unprecedented interest in the islands among domestic travellers seeking tropical holiday experiences closer to home.

A local residents in posts shared on social media platform X. He encouraged travellers and adventure enthusiasts to consider the Union Territory as a travel destination. His beachside photographs and travel experiences quickly went viral online, attracting nationwide attention. Many users on social media began comparing Lakshadweep with the Maldives and promoted it as an Indian alternative for beach tourism and luxury island vacations. Tourism experts noted that Lakshadweep, despite its natural beauty and marine life, The controversy escalated after certain Maldivian ministers reportedly made comments implying that India could not compete with the Maldives in terms of beach tourism.