

India to host global meet on investment in tourism sector

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India will hold a global meet on investments into its tourism sector and a conference on business tourism next year, cashing in on its G-20 presidency which begins from December.

A separate conference on MICE tourism (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) would be held in April in Bangalore, an official in the Tourism Ministry told The Hindu.

Interpol has no role in curbing state-sponsored terrorism, says official

Secretary-General Jürgen Stock said that less than 1% of illicit financial flows are intercepted by the organisation and cryptos are being increasingly used to move proceeds of crime

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Interpol Secretary-General Jürgen Stock on Monday said the international criminal police organisation was not playing any role in curbing state-sponsored terrorism and it focussed primarily on ordinary law crimes.



Jurgen Stock, Secretary General, Interpol and Praveen Sinha, Special Director, CBI, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

ahead of the four-day Interpol general assembly to start on October 18. PM Narendra Modi will address the 90th general assembly on Tuesday, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah will give the valedictory address.

On the issue of terrorism, Mr. Stock said the Interpol had been developing a global early warning system for collection and

sharing of terrorism-related inputs. The organisation had done so successfully as part of the global coalition to defeat Daesh.

He said the Interpol had one of the biggest repositories on information related to the foreign terrorist hideouts and tools for helping the member-countries identify, target and arrest terrorists.

tary-General said less than 1% of the funds could be intercepted and recovered by enforcement agencies. Criminal gangs also used cryptocurrencies to move proceeds of crime and evade detection.

The order follows a preliminary inquiry into the incident on October 12, during which there was smoke in cabin while the aircraft was descending over Hyderabad leading to the pilots requesting emergency landing. The inquiry found that engine oil had entered the aircraft air conditioning system.

DGCA gives SpiceJet directives to maintain Q-400 plane engines

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI



SpiceJet was told to check the engine oil of aircraft frequently.

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered SpiceJet to take additional measures to maintain its regional aircraft fleet of 14 Bombardier Q-400 aircraft following a recent incident that led to smoke inside passenger cabin during a flight from Goa to Hyderabad.

The airline has now been instructed not to send any of its Pratt and Whitney engines on Q-400s for maintenance, repair and overhaul to an entity in Singapore called Standard Aero pending an inquiry as the latest incident and another similar

occurrence involved engines that were sent there.

It also asked the airline to send engine oil samples every 15 days to Pratt and Whitney Canada, conduct weekly boroscopic inspections every week as well as to commence inspection of "bleed-off" valve. It has also sought immediate inspection of "magnetic chip detectors" for presence of any metal particles.

The DGCA in July-end had barred SpiceJet from not operating more than 50% of its approved flights. This restriction was extended by another month in September, and will be in force till October 29.

'Public office holder can don the role of private citizen'

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

High constitutional functionaries, from the President of India to government Ministers, need not depend on the state machinery to prosecute his or her defamer, the Supreme Court held in a judgment on Monday.

A constitutional functionary can choose to shed the identity of his high office and don the role of a private citizen to prosecute damaging comments made about his public functions in office.

Justice V. Ramasubramanian, who authored the verdict, also said a political rival's challenge to a public office holder that he would "expose" the latter's "scam" would not amount to defamation.

"Statements such as 'I will expose you', 'I will expose your corrupt practices' and 'I will expose the scam in which you are involved', etc., are not by nature defamatory unless there is something more," Justice Ramasubramanian reasoned.

The judgment clarified the law while refusing to accept BJP leader Manoj Tiwari's argument that Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia could not have filed a criminal defamation complaint against him in his individual capacity but should have gone through the public prosecutor after securing prior sanction from the government. Mr. Tiwari had appealed to the Supreme Court after the Delhi High Court refused to quash a Magistrate's summons in 2019 on Mr. Sisodia's defamation complaint.

At DefExpo, India to pitch military tools to Africa, IOR countries

Dinakar Peri GANDHINAGAR

India has undertaken a transformative journey from being the largest defence importer to an exporter, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday at the curtain raiser event of the 12th edition of DefExpo in Gandhinagar.

Two major conclaves, the second edition of both

the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)-plus conclave will see India pitching its military hardware to various countries.

"The IADD and IOR+ Conclave will be two very important events for promoting peace, security, prosperity and defence cooperation throughout the region and establishing new defence and industrial

partnerships," Mr. Singh said. At the third day of the defence exhibition on October 20, 451 partnerships in terms of Memorandum of Understandings (MoU), Transfer of Technology agreements and product launches are expected compared with 210 at the last DefExpo, said Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.

Stating that India and Africa have been close

The Centre has set a target to achieve a manufacturing turnover of ₹1.75 lakh crore

friends and partners, Mr. Kumar said to take this forward, the two sides have been conducting a dialogue. This, he said, includes companies discuss-

ing with them, capacity building, and participation in tackling maritime threats like piracy and drug trafficking.

The Centre has set an ambitious target to achieve a manufacturing turnover of \$25 billion, or ₹1,75,000 crore, including exports of \$5 bn in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025.

The government has announced a series of measures in this direction.

The country's defence exports which have been growing year on year in the past few years touched ₹13,000 crore for 2021-22. For this financial year, they have reached ₹8,000 crore, Mr. Singh said.

Achal Malhotra, Director, Defence Exhibition Organisation in the Department of Defence Production, said 75 coun-

tries will be participating in DefExpo. Over 53 African countries have been invited for IADD to be held on October 18 and 44 for the IOR+ conclave on October 19. This edition has the largest participation and is spread over 1 lakh square metres with 75 countries, 33 Foreign Ministers, 1,340 companies and 10 State pavilions, Mr. Malhotra said.

VHP to stage protest over reservation for converts

Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) said on Monday that the demand for extending reservation benefits to converts from the SC/ST communities is "anti-constitutional" and "anti-national".

Along with Valmiki Mahasabha, the VHP will also organise mass awareness campaigns across India to make Dalits aware of their rights, said its joint general secretary Surendra Jain.

The Government of India had appointed a commission headed by former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan to examine the SC status of Dalits after conversion last week. The VHP said it "reiterates that the Scheduled Castes are the persons who have historically been deprived on the basis of their castes; while the 'Abrahamic' religions claim to have no caste distinction among them, therefore SC reservation cannot be extended to them".

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