

# THE BEACON

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## Seasonal demand spikes up prices

**Fiona Vaz**

**BENGALURU:** The travel and hotel industry recorded a higher demand and footfall this winter and festive season as many chose to ignore the Covid scare arising out of JN.1 and engage in revelry. The enterprises have acknowledged that it is "blackout days" for their business. Blackout days are when there is a complete rush because of holidays.

Darshan Sharma, owner of Travmod Travels, Mumbai said that with a surge in the number of travellers this festive season the airways, railways, and accommodations across the country witnessed an uptick in ticket prices following an increase in demand.

In a conversation with a Hilton Conrad staff, Bengaluru, said, "During the holiday season, rooms cost more than it would on any normal day. This is why we accept early reservations and bookings, as by the time the holiday season begins, we are completely occupied."

Darshan described the reason behind such hikes in ticket prices: "Travel industries follow dynamic pricing strategies, and accordingly increase the fares of transport and accommodation." The tourism industry has a very dynamic pricing market, he said.

Highlighting railways as the most cost-effective transport in India, Darshan states that despite "5% of the audience opting for flights, 95% of India still travels in trains."

As the festive season of 2023 comes to an end, he emphasised the significant rise of travellers annually, navigating through the hustle-bustle, making the most of their holidays.

## India joins the elite club with NASA post XPoSat launch

**Navya Y**

**BENGALURU:** ISRO begins its new venture by successfully launching XPoSat alongside PSLV-C58 trying to collect data from cosmic rays and celestial objects that improve the effectiveness and specifications of the satellites that will be launched in the future.

ISRO accomplished this feat to mark the beginning of the New Year 2024 with the PSLV-C58 launching XPoSat mission on January 1, 2024, around 9:00 am. The PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) carried its 60th flight to XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) mission to space to study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources in extreme conditions. XPoSat, a scientific mission is predicted to be successful due to its uncomplicated nature, unlike other big projects such as Chandrayaan 3.

While speaking to The



Representational Image

Money Control

Beacon, Jayanth, Head of Thermal Department, ISRO said, "When we compare the success rate of this satellite vs Chandrayaan 3, this is a scientific mission but not as complicated as Chandrayaan (and) henceforth the success can be predicted."

The XPoSat is just placed in the LEO (Lower Earth

Orbit); the cosmic rays present there are detected. It characterises its elements and sends its data to study the scientific missions, he added.

Speaking of the spacecraft, he said, "This spacecraft will carry two scientific payloads, specifically the primary one being the POLIX

(Polarimetry instrument in X Rays) and the second would be XSPECT (X-ray spectroscopy and timing)-the main feature of both these payloads would be to provide spectroscopic information through continuous introspection."

One of XPoSat's main features identified by the ISRO team is the study of

Black holes. This satellite helps to study the chemical, and physical functions of black holes and the functions of waves such as electromagnetic waves. XPoSat, a scientific mission is predicted to be successful due to its uncomplicated nature, unlike other big projects such as Chandrayaan 3.

Describing one of the main features of this mission, Jayanth said, "If a body is emitting X-ray, how does it affect it, what are its specifications; this helps in the future to predict the effectiveness of satellites that will be launched in the future.

The primary payload POLIX is being developed by Raman Research Institute, Bangalore alongside collaboration with U P Rao Satellite Centre (USRC). The secondary payload XSPECT is a timing payload onboard XPoSat, this helps in providing spectroscopic resolutions and observations

## Bengaluru police calms down the New Year rush

**Aatreyi Bose**

**BENGALURU:** Following the New Year celebrations, the Bengaluru Traffic Police heaved a sigh of relief as the party hotspots in Bengaluru reported very few untoward incidents. With the crowd flocking Bengaluru roads this New Year, the city traffic police deem the traffic advisory measures checked traffic snarls. Road and women's safety were our top priorities — no road accidents or harassment cases were recorded, and it was more peaceful than last year, said a police officer from Bengaluru Central who



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did not want to be named.

The traffic police implemented measures such as restricting vehicular movement on major flyovers in the city, controlling incidents of wheeling to prevent accidents, assigning Ola and Uber pickup points at a distance, and vigilantly monitoring the

crowd on December 31 and January 1.

Speaking to The Beacon, Sai K. said, "More than 3000 police force was deployed to various party hotspots, like MG road, Koramangala, Indiranagar, Jayanagar, to ensure a safe and smooth run. BESCOCOM was asked not to cut the power

supply at any cost as it might hinder the working of CCTVs."

This is a crucial step to prevent harassment or mishaps during the celebrations, besides prohibiting social media influencers from recording or carrying AV equipment to avoid the spread of misinformation and unnecessary crowd-gathering.

DCP South Traffic shared on X that out of 2352 checked vehicles, 90 were found "playing drunken musical chairs" and violating traffic laws. He urged the citizens to follow the rules and drive into the New Year with care rather than just flair.

## Captain: The people's actor and politician

**Ishika S**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paid homage to the late actor-turned-politician Vijaykanth on X, "A legend of the Tamil film world, his charismatic performances captured the hearts of millions. As a political leader, he was deeply committed to public service, leaving a lasting impact on Tamil Nadu's political landscape."

The actor-turned-politician, lovingly called Captain Vijaykanth, by his people, succumbed to Pneumonia in Chennai. He was aged 71.

He is pegged to be one of the most adored actors and politicians of Tamil Nadu who played an important role in the Tamil film industry, and later in the political history of Tamil Nadu.

Vijaykanth, from Madurai, predominantly worked in Tamil films. Throughout his career in acting, he played many patriotic roles which earned him titles like "captain" and "puratchi kalaigarnar". He believed in equality and displayed respect and empathy for everyone, opine his fans.

He announced the start of his political career on September 14, 2005, by kickstarting the DMDK party. He gained prominence in politics within a year by winning one seat and 10% of the votes. He claimed to have funded the party from his own money without any donations. His party later faced a downfall after aligning with the AIADMK party.

Many other film celebrities and notable politicians expressed their condolences for the loss of a dynamic personality.

## Five unique New Year customs

**Srishti R Jois**

There seems to be a blend of age-old customs and the coming of the New Year, going by the practices worldwide adopted to invite the Year 2024.

People across the globe followed unique traditions to mark a joyous beginning of the year.

Spanish started with the custom of eating 12 grapes, one for each month, which is believed to eliminate evil and bring prosperity.

Denmark people throw kitchenware at each other's houses to wish good luck believing that the more broken kitchenware on your doorstep,

the better your New Year will be.

In Greece, after church service on New Year's Day, people hang onions outside the door believing it to usher in growth and fertility.

In Italy, many believe that wearing red undergarments as the New Year's ball drops off will bring you a bright year ahead.

Japanese welcome the New Year by eating a hot bowl of long thin soba noodles as it symbolises bidding literal farewell to the old year.

People globally are making resolutions and following unique traditions to garner luck and happiness for the upcoming year.

## Illegal liquor sales raided and fined during NY eve

**Kiranmai Basavaraj**

**KOLAR:** A fine of Rs. 25,000 was imposed on the dhaba and restaurant owners on the Bangalore-Kolar highway, for serving their customers alcohol without a proper liquor license during the New Year revelry.

On December 30, Superintendent of Police, Narayana declared a midnight curfew in the Kolar district. Additionally, to avoid nuisance and chaos, all the tourist attractions, like Avani Betta and Therahalli Betta, were closed from New Year's Eve to 8 am on January 1.

In conversation with the Beacon, police official Ravi, said, "SP was on city rounds on the evening of Dec 31. He made a surprise visit to a few dhabs and restaurants, where he found them serving alcohol illegally and fined them on-spot."

A bar cashier was caught consuming alcohol on the premises after the curfew time by ASI Ramesh Murthy. When questioned by the police, he got into an argument and created a scene. A petty case was lodged against him, said sub-inspector Arun Gowda Patil.