

Culture minister launches four new Hindi, Malayalam radio stations



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Hisham Aljundi

Doha

Minister of Culture and Sports HE Salah bin Ghanem al Ali on Wednesday launched four private radio stations in Qatar in the presence of Ambassador of India to Qatar HE P Kumaran and other heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of the Indian community in Qatar.

The new channels target Indian expatriates in Qatar as two of them come in Malayalam language and the other two are in Hindi. The launching of the new radio stations marks the start of opening spaces for other channels also to open as Qatar's vision is to create an environment of freedom of speech.

Speaking at the event, the culture minister said the launching marks the beginning of a new era of promising investments in the country in different fields.

"The launching of these new private radio stations will enhance the cultural diversity in Qatar," he said.

The stations, SUNO at 91.7 FM, Radio Olive at 106.3 FM, One at 89.6 FM and Malayalam at 98.6 FM, will all be working 24 hours.

"No doubt that Qatar 2017 is different from Qatar in 2016. The unjust and illegal siege imposed against us has given us more inspirations and strengthened the bonding between the citizens and expatriates," the minister said.

The minister also assured that the open atmosphere Qatar is witnessing now enables investors from all sectors to contribute to the local market.

He also said that they have received many other requests for licensing new private radio stations and the government will expand the frequencies to accommodate the number of requests.

"We are expecting a new Filipino radio station in Tagalog soon." the minister said

we are expecting a new Filipino radio station in Doha very soon," the minister said.

Speaking to Qatar Tribune, the Indian ambassador said the radio stations come along the many amendments the Qatari government has done for the workers in Qatar.

"It is a welcomed step as these radio stations broadcast entertainment programmes which workers can enjoy while working," Ambassador Kumaran said.

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