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NEWSLETTER

Stay updated on socio-legal issues

**Oct. 2020,
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NATIONAL NEWS

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL TO LOOK INTO TRP MANIPULATION



Image Source: Free Press Journal

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology which is chaired by the Congress MP Shashi Tharoor will look into the TRP issue and take it into parliament. This in the light of Mumbai Police probing a TRP fixing scam by some news channels that paid the viewers in order to secure better scores on the BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) TRP index. TRPs provide the data regarding the number of people, their socio-economic categories, the channels they watch and the number of times or hours or days or even weeks they have watched a particular channel. TRP ratings of each channel determine the size of its audience and give the advertisers an idea about how much they should pay for advertisements on that channel. For the analysis, India follows the international standard of one minute. The data obtained from the device is made public every week. For the data not the entire country is surveyed. But, it is based on what 45,000 households are watching. It is an industry body. It was created in 2010. But the I&B Ministry notified the Policy Guidelines on January 10, 2014 and registered the BARC in July 2015. It is owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies jointly. The body is represented by The Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India.

EIGHT BEACHES IN INDIA AWARDED BLUE FLAG CERTIFICATION

Eight beaches including the Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Golden Beach in Odisha, Kasarkod and padubidri in Karnataka, Goghla in Daman and Diu, Radha Nagar beach in Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, Kappad in Kerala and Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh have been given the Blue Flag Certification. This is the first time the beaches have been given the blue flag International ecolabel. The beaches were selected and recommended by an independent National Jury consisting of eminent scientists and environmentalists. The Blue Flag certification is globally recognised. It has been accorded by a Denmark based International agency known as the Foundation for Environment Education. The blue flag certification or tag is provided to those beaches that are providing clean and hygienic bath facilities to the tourist or the beach goers. The certification or tag is also given to the beaches that provide safe and healthy environment and promote sustainable development in and around the beach area.

DELHI TO EXEMPT ELECTRIC VEHICLES FROM ROAD TAX

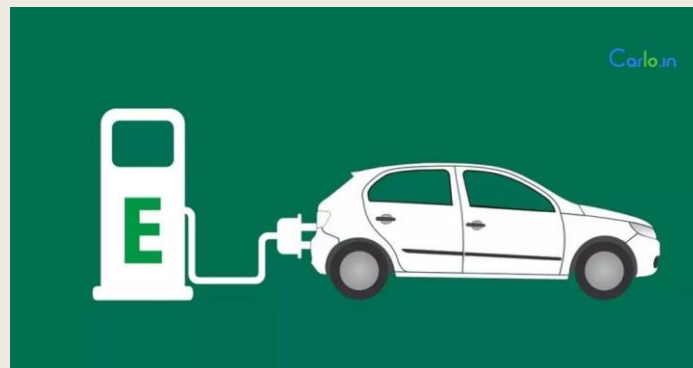


Image Source: Carlo

The Delhi Government Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has announced that the Delhi Government has decided to exempt road tax on the battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy. Along with the exemption, right incentives and supporting infrastructure will also be provided. The decision is a step forward to ensure pollution-free Delhi. This incentive-based policy will encourage the adoption of electric vehicles on a large scale. This decision is in line with the Delhi Government's dream of making Delhi the EV Capital of India. The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal had announced the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, 2020 in August 2020. The policy is aimed at increasing the adoption and use of electric vehicles in the city. For boosting the purchases, the government is also providing the purchasing

incentives. Under the policy, an assistance of Rs. 1.5 lakh will be given on car purchases, Rs. 30,000 will be given for the 2-wheelers purchase and Rs. 30,000 would be given for e-rickshaws and auto-rickshaws purchase. The government has aimed to register around 5 lakh electric vehicles in Delhi by 2024.

OXFAM REPORT: INDIA'S SPENDING ON HEALTHCARE IS THE FOURTH LOWEST IN THE WORLD

The Third edition of the Oxfam's 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index report was released recently. It is an integrated organisation comprising of 20 independent charitable organisations. It mainly focuses to alleviate global poverty. The organisation was founded in 1942. The Oxfam International is the parent organisation that led the Oxfam. As per the report, India just spent 4% of its budget on the health in the ongoing pandemic situation. The spending by India stands at the fourth lowest in the world. In the line, India has been ranked 129 out of 158 countries. Some key findings of the report are-

- Only 26 of the 158 countries were spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health.
- As per the report, only 53 countries had social protection systems against unemployment and sickness. These 53 countries have covered only 22% of the global workforce.
- India, Nepal and Sri Lanka comes under the bottom 10 in Government spending on public services.
- The South Asian countries are not taking the needed efforts to fight inequality, the report has highlighted.
- As per the report, In India only half of its population has access to health services. It states, more than 70% of health spending is being met by people themselves. This is among the highest levels spending by the public itself in the world.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDIA ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**



Image Source: gktoday

The Intellectual Property India annual report was released by the Government of India. Along with that, annual rankings the year 2018-19 was also decided by Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Government of India. Some key findings of the report are-

- Chandigarh University, Gharuan tops the list among all universities in India. It topped for filing the highest number of patents in a year counting 336.
- According to Intellectual Property India annual report in the overall patents filing category, 27 Indian Institute of Technology (IIT's) have filed 557 patents collectively.
- Chandigarh University Gharuan is followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with 239 patent applications.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) comes the third with 202 applications and
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) stands at fourth position with 173 patent applications.
- Chandigarh University has also bagged the third position in the top 5 Indian Applicants for patents in the field of Information Technology with the filing of 148 patents.

INDIA RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

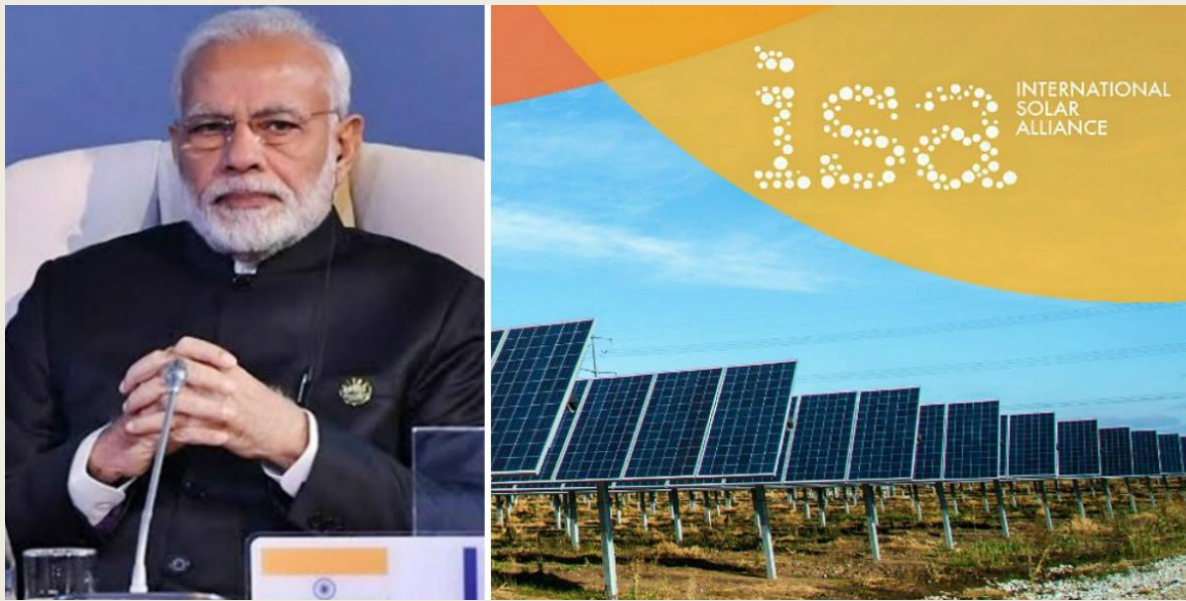


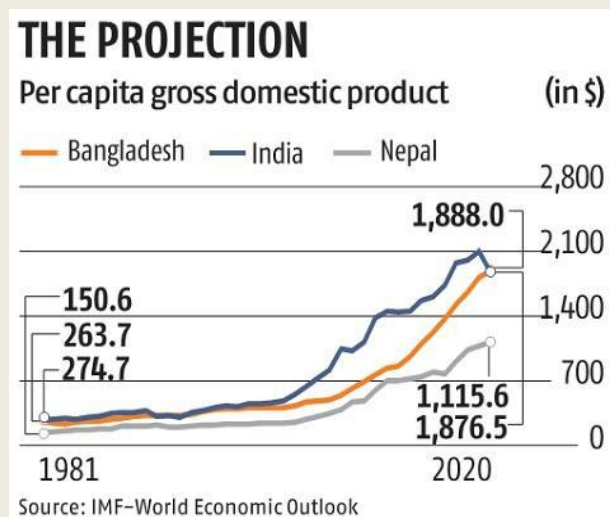
Image Source: Adda247

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has announced that India has been re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance (ISA). Along with India, France has also been re-elected as the Co-President of the alliance in the ISA's Third Assembly. The tenure for both the countries would be of two years. The Third Assembly of ISA was attended by 34 ISA Member Ministers, 53 member countries besides the 5 signatory and prospective member countries. The Third Assembly further approved the initiatives of the ISA Secretariat to institutionalise the International Solar Alliance's engagement with the public and private corporate sector. They will also collaborate for the Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA). Mr. R.K. Singh will represent India at the ISA.

INDIA TO SLIP BELOW BANGLADESH IN PER CAPITA GDP IN 2020

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the latest edition of the World Economic Outlook (WEO) report. As per the report, India will slip below Bangladesh in terms of per

capita GDP in 2020. The latest report highlights that Bangladesh is likely to expand by 4% in 2020. It stated that, Indian Economy is facing contractions because of coronavirus lockdown. The report has stated that India's economy will contract by 10.3% in 2020. The growth rate of India will be the slowest among BRICS nation. It is India's lowest growth in four years. India



would be the third poorest nation in South Asia as per the report along with Pakistan and Nepal. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka have been placed above India. The report has also made a prediction for the year 2021. The report for 2021 forecasts that there will be a sharp economic recovery in the Indian economy. India's GDP will grow by 8.8 % in 2021. Thus, it will push India ahead of Bangladesh's per capita GDP of 5.4% in 2021.

INDIA TO DELIVER A KILO-CLASS SUBMARINE TO MYANMAR

India has decided to transfer one of its kilo-class submarines named INS Sindhuvir to the Myanmar Navy. This is a significant step as Myanmar Navy would be getting its first ever submarine. The decision was taken to take forward the India's commitment to building capacities and self-reliance in the neighbouring countries. The decision is also in line with India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) policy. The transfer of the Indian Naval Ship was taken in the aftermath of visit of Army Chief General MM Naravane and Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Myanmar during first week of October 2020. India had also agreed to supply artillery guns, bullet-proof jackets, tanks and other such equipment to Myanmar's military. INS Sindhuvir is equipped with a wide range of weapons and sensors. These advanced weapons enable it to participate in various operational roles.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SAUDI ARABIA TO HOST WOMEN'S SUMMIT



Image Source: Egypt Independent

Saudi Arabia will virtually host the Women Submit (W20) this week. During the event, over 80 women's rights experts representing nonprofits, private companies, and academic institutions will discuss "realizing opportunities of the 21st century for all. W20 is an official engagement group of the G20 that makes sure gender considerations are reflected in world leader's agendas and policy commitments. Participants need to be aware of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's (MBS's) government's crackdown against women's rights activists. The Saudi government's use of women's rights to divert from other serious abuses is well-documented.

Recent changes, including the right to drive and to travel without male guardian permission, might be significant, but do not hide the fact that some of the women who campaigned for these changes still languish behind bars. Moreover, earlier this year, Saudi women took to Twitter to shed light on the entrenched discrimination against them. They called for the abolition of the male guardianship system, and an end to sexual harassment and inequality in marriage, divorce and child custody.

HEPATIS: A GLOBAL THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH, GETS THE SOLUTION

The Nobel Laureates' discovery of Hepatitis C virus is a landmark achievement in the ongoing battle against viral diseases. The Nobel Prize is awarded to three scientists who have made a decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, a major global health problem that causes cirrhosis and liver cancer in people around the world.

Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice made seminal discoveries that led to the identification of a novel virus, Hepatitis C virus. Prior to their work, the discovery of the Hepatitis A and B viruses had been critical steps forward, but the majority of blood-borne hepatitis cases remained unexplained. The discovery of Hepatitis C virus revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis and made possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives. This form of hepatitis is insidious, as otherwise healthy individuals can be silently infected for many years before serious complications arise. Blood-borne hepatitis is associated with significant morbidity and mortality, and causes more than a million deaths per year world-wide, thus making it a global health concern on a scale comparable to HIV-infection and tuberculosis.

UNITED NATION RIGHTS EXPERTS URGE THAO GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW PEACEFUL PROTESTS

On 15 October severe emergency measures were imposed around the capital Bangkok, prohibiting gatherings of more than four people. Since then, police have subsequently applied force, including the use of water cannon, to disperse protesters who were demonstrating peacefully. Authorities revoked the emergency decree from a week earlier, according to news reports, declaring that violence on the streets had eased. The student-led protests are calling for the Prime Minister to step down. The security authorities are using unnecessary force against the peaceful protesters, such violence only risks escalating the situation. Thousands of people have joined pro-democracy protests in Bangkok, calling for government and monarchy reforms. Since 13 October 2020, at least 80 individuals have been arrested, of whom 27 remain in detention. Some have been charged under Thailand's Criminal Code on counts of sedition and holding an

illegal assembly and some have also been charged under the Computer Crimes Act for using their social media accounts to call on the public to participate in the rallies. The independent rights experts of UN called for an end to a crackdown on peaceful protests.

The imposition of a state of emergency is the latest in a series of draconian measures aimed at stifling peaceful demonstrations and criminalizing dissenting voices. Urging authorities to allow students, human rights defenders and others to protest in a peaceful manner, the UN experts called for demonstrators to “be allowed to freely speak their mind and share their political views, both online and offline, without prosecution.”

PAKISTAN’S PARLIAMENTARY PANEL APPROVED THE GOVERNMENT’S BILL TO REVIEW OF JADHAV’S CONVICTION



Image Source: Republic World

A Pakistani parliamentary has approved a government bill titled, the International Court of Justice (Review and Reconsideration) Ordinance that seeks the review and reconsideration of the conviction of the retired navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav. The navy officer was convicted to death sentence by the military court in 2017 and in 2019 the Hague-based International Court of Justice ruled that Pakistan must undertake an effective review and reconsideration of the conviction. The bill has said to be introduced in compliance with the directives of the ICJ.

CHINA'S NEW LAWS TO HANDLE EPIDEMIC AND PROTECT WHISTLE BLOWERS

China has introduced a new law in order to improve its way of handling outbreaks and epidemics. The law also guarantees the protection of the whistle blowers. It is the new biosecurity law. It flags the right to report acts that endangers biosecurity and also calls for the risk prevention systems. The new law also aims at the management of the research facilities and flagging the need for emergency plans for biosecurity incidents. Under this law, anyone who conceals information and fails to report infectious diseases could be given fair warning or suspended. It also includes the tracing of the origin of the disease. The new law will come into effect from April 15th.

GERMANY ISSUED WARRANTS TO FOUNDERS OF THE PANAMA PAPER FIRM

Germany has issued warrant against the two founders of the Panama based firm at the centre of tax scandal. The scam is famously known as the panama papers and deals with tax evasion. The panama papers is the collection of 11 million secret financial documents that showed as to how the rich people hide their money. The reports were leaked in 2016 and the repercussions were far-ranging. The leak dragged many famous personalities such as Prime minister of Iceland, Vladimir Putin, Chinese politicians etc.

IRAN AND SUDAN REACHED A DEAL TO NORMALIZE TIES

Iran and Sudan agreed to the deal which was brokered by USA and this has made Khartoum to be the third Arab government to set aside the hostilities with Israel recently. Israel and Sudan plans by opening the economic and trade relations with an initial focus on agriculture. Recently, US President Trump had decided to remove Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism. This has paved way for the accord with Israel and has marked foreign policy achievement for the President during his second-term trailing in opinion polls.

ANTITRUST CASE AGAINST GOOGLE



Image Source: The Verge

The Justice Department has filed an antitrust case against Google on the grounds that it has abused its dominance in online search and advertising. The allegation is that Google uses billions of dollars from the advertisers to pay the phone manufacturers to ensure that it is the default search engine on browser. Also, it is alleged that the competition and innovation from smaller upstart rivals is stifled due to Google's act. It also harms the consumers by reducing the quality of search and limited privacy protections. Thus, the department of justice has asked for structural relief.

FLASH FLOOD GUIDELINES IN SOUTH ASIA

The India Meteorological Department has commissioned the Flash Flood Guidelines Services for South Asia which is a first of its kind report for South Asia. The report was published on October 23, 2020, which states that National and State Disaster Management Authorities and also Regional Centre to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services shall include Flood Guidelines Service that shall provide warning six hours in advance in case of threat with warnings about risk which shall be given 24 hours in advance. Flash floods are localized events which usually occur for less than six hours between the occurrence of peak floods and rainfall which have a jeopardising impact on the lives and property. These guidelines were designed by a US Non-profit organisation and approved at the 15th World Meteorological Congress.

BAN ON THE IMPORT OF GOODS BY DEFENCE CANTEENS

The Government has announced that the canteens, store and departments that are controlled by them shall not be allowed to import any fast-moving consumer goods, foot ware, consumer durables or liquor. 420 out of 5500 goods sold in canteen store departments are imported as per the data provided by Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis. China out of other countries is the biggest supplier of good to these canteens providing them with goods such as sandwich toasters, laptops, handbags and electric kettles. The decision has come in furtherance of the Atma Nirbhar move which is started in India.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION GIVES CHAIRMANSHIP TO INDIA



Image Source: International Labour Organisation

As per the announcement made by the Union Ministry of Labour, India has assumed the chairmanship of the International labour Organisation after 35 years. Chairperson of the Governing Body of ILO shall be Apurva Chandra who is the current Labour secretary and shall preside over the meeting of Government Body to be held in November 2020 which is the apex executive body of International labour organisation. Currently, the ILO has 187 members for which the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization decides policies, programmes and agendas along with the election of the Director General. Six out of eight ILO Conventions have been ratified by India so far.

LEGAL NEWS

PRIME MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND A PUBLIC AUTHORITY UNDER RTI

The Prime minister's office has replied to the RTI application filed by Abhimanyu Shrivastava who sought information regarding the bylaws and rule governing the PMNRF and the related documents constituting the PMNRF Trust with the name of the current trustees. In the reply by the office, it was stated that the PMNRF does not fall under 'public authority' under Section 2(h) of the Right to information Act, 2005. The office further stated that any information regarding the same could be found on the website of the fund i.e. pmnrf.gov.in. In 2017, Single bench of the Delhi High Court answering the writ petition filed by one Aseem Takyar stated that the PMNRF was amenable to RTI Act. However, when an appeal was made against the said verdict in the case of Prime Minister's National Relief Fund vs Aseem Takyar, Justice Sunil Gaur observed that PMNRF was not a public authority under RTI Act which was not accepted by Justice S Ravindra Bhat who opined that it does fall under public authority as stated in the RTI Act. Therefore, the matter was referred to a larger bench whose verdict remains pending.

EXPENDITURE LIMIT OF THE ELECTION CANDIDATES UNDER REVIEW BY THE PANEL SET UP BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION

Harish Kumar the former director general investigation and the election commission Secretary General Umesh Sinha have constituted a committee to examine the expenditure limit of the candidates contesting for Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections. Due to the increase in the inflation rate and the size of election, the expenditure of parties has increased. As per the suggestion of the election commission for bigger States such as a Gujarat Andhra Pradesh Haryana and Bihar, the committee has been set up in the wake of GoI measure to enhance the expenditure limit by 10% due to the difficulty faced during the campaign in light of covid-19. The 10 percent increase was backed by the amendment to the election rules issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on 19 October 2020. Rule 90 of the Conduct of election Rules states that if a candidate spends more than the prescribed amount, he is bound to have committed corruption. The committee will assess the change in cost inflation index number of electors in the state and union territories.

FIR BY MUMBAI POLICE AGAINST REPUBLIC TV



Image Source: Bar and Bench

The Mumbai Police has filed a First Information Report against Republic TV' editorial team and anchors for committing offences which amount to incitement of disaffection among the members of the Police Force. The said FIR was filed under Section 3(1) of the Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Act, 1922 read with Section 500 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code. The accused were alleged of making remarks such as *"Republic has exclusive information that the rebellion against the Mumbai top cop, within Mumbai police is now growing"* and *"There is now a rebellion of swords brewing from his subordinates."* The anchors went further to state that an officer named Parambir Singh was using his official authority to settle personal scores causing dissatisfaction among the police department. Such broadcasts have maligned the image of the Mumbai Police.

GUJARAT DISTRIBUTED AREA ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019

President Dr. Ramnath Kovind has assented to the Gujarat Distributed Area Act (Amendment) Bill 2019 which prohibits the transfer of immovable property in disturbed area and protecting the tenants from eviction from premises. Stopping polarisation and keeping a check on the elements that cause demographic imbalance is the moot objective of the Act by prohibiting the sale of property from one religious' community to another religious community in disturbed areas shall

also be done by the act. Based on the history of communal riots in the area, an area can be declared as a disturbed area by the district collector and the transfer of assets cannot take place without the approval of the district collector. A fine of one lakh rupees or 10% of the value of the property shall be the punishment for an offence committed under the act which shall also invite 3 to 5 years of imprisonment for acquiring properties to illegal means in disturbed area. Currently, the act is applicable to Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Surat, Godhra, Himmatnagar, Bharuch and Kapadvanj since anti-social elements are currently buying and selling properties in these religions by threatening people.

**NRI/ NRI SPONSORED RESERVATIONS ARE DUBIOUS AND
UNCONSTITUTIONAL: ORISSA HIGH COURT**



Image Source: Lawcutor

On Tuesday, the Orissa High Court expressed its constrained in observing the Non- Resident Indian sponsored category of reservation that is present in NLUs. The Court observed that the holders of such quotas are usually low rank holders in the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) thereby being an afford on the hard work of the meritorious candidates who toil day in and out for an admission in a law college. General Category students who score more than these holders are often unsuccessful in securing a seat in an NLU and get disappointed due to the same. The Division Bench remarked such a quota "like the reservation for the elite class". The

eligibility criteria for NRI seat is illegal unregulated and arbitrary as per the court. In the case of P. A. Inamdar vs. State of Maharashtra that ‘admissions under this category is given to less meritorious students just because they could afford to pay the higher fees demanded by the University.’ A revisit into the NRI quota was requested by the Court to the Consortium of NLUs and the Bar Council of India along with all the other stakeholders involved in the admission process. The said case has arisen as a way of writ petition filed by a 2020 CLAT aspirant who failed to tick the NRIS category while filling the application form of CLAT due to technical issues. On request to the Vice Chancellor of NLU- Orissa for consideration of her application for the said category, the college refused the request on the grounds that sufficient time was given to all aspirants to make changes in their admission forms. It further stated that entertaining the request at a juncture where all the merit lists have been declared would distort the admission process.

A BLANKET BAN TO RESTRICT THE CIRCULATION OF NEWS ON FACEBOOK, WHATSAPP ETC. CAN'T BE ISSUED: MP HC



Image Source: Livelaw

The Madhya Pradesh High Court rejected the public interest litigation filed by a social worker seeking a blanket ban on the circulation of news on WhatsApp, Facebook and on other social media. The specific prayed which was sought for was: a. That Fake News Channels and their Fake Journalists, running and working on Mobile Applications, WhatsApp, Youtube, Facebook and on other social media platforms, without the permission of the Information and Public

Relation Department, be banned and an order regarding the same be issued and b. that lawful action be taken against them under the relevant penal provisions. The Court however pointed out that the petitioner has not been able to point out any statutory law which compels the publicity department to have a check on the circulation of such news. The admission was thus declined by the court. The Supreme Court of Indian also refused to hear the matter which sought for guidelines to be framed towards curbing the spread of fake news through electronic, print and social media. Anuja Kapur, a lawyer had also filed a PIL in 2019 which highlighted the circulating fake news and misinformation owing to the tension between Indian and Pakistan but the same was also dismissed by the Supreme Court.

REVIEW THE FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT, 2010: UNHRC TO INDIA

The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights is encouraging India to revisit the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 when concerns over the restrictions imposed by India over foreign funding for Non- Governmental Organisations was raised by the High Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet who also raised concerns over the arrest of activists in India. The new FCRA rules were released by the Union Home Ministry in September 2020 by amending the act. The provisions empowered the government to restrict the foreign contribution usage with the contribution only being received by the accounts that are designated as FCRA under banks that are nominated by the Government of India. Before the amendment, 50 percent of the foreign funds were to be used for administrative expense which post the amendment was brought down to 20 percent with the public servant being disabled from receiving foreign contributions. The recent amendment of the act gives unbridled powers to the home ministry to deny renewal of the organisation under the recent amendments and disqualify any Non-governmental organisation or Association. The United Nations states that no law should criminalize or delegitimize activities on origin of funding and that such amendments have failed to comply with the constitutional provisions and legal obligations for the protection of right to association, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

NATIONAL ACTIONS PLAN FOR CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

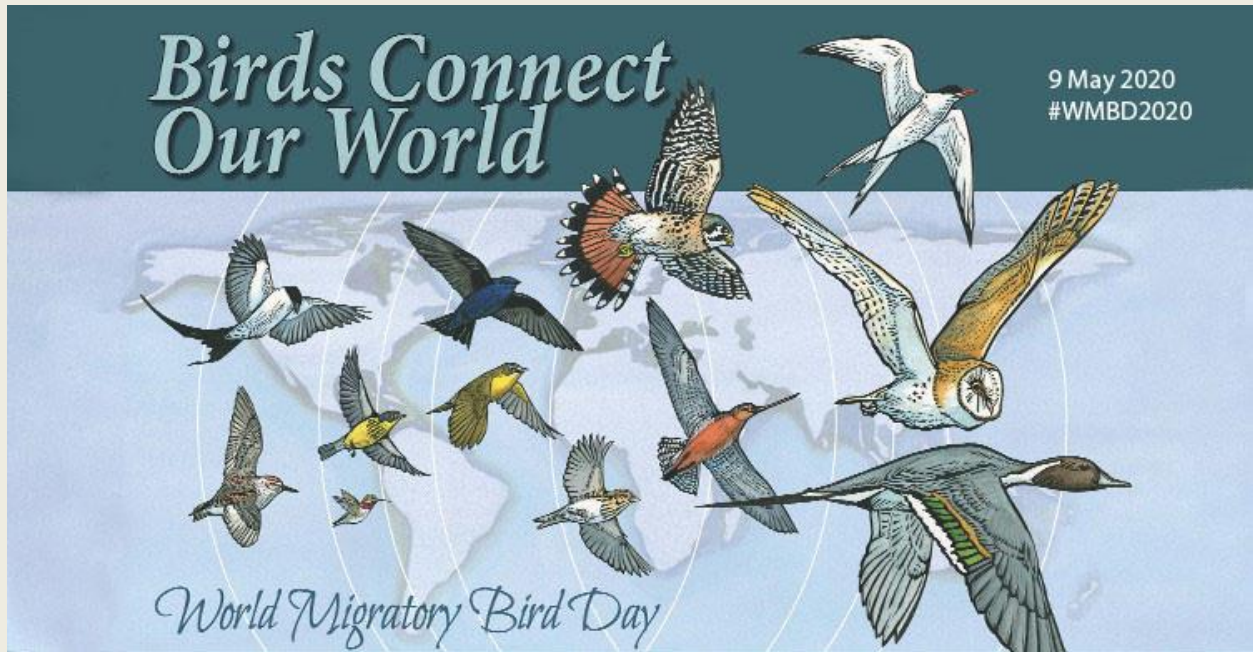


Image Source: CMS

On 10 October 2020, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, on the eve of world migratory bird day announced that India has launched a National Action Plan for the conservation of Migratory birds. There are 9 flyways in the world. The central Asian flyway is one among them. It encompasses migration routes over 30 countries. It includes breeding Grounds of Russia, Maldives, west and South Asia, British Indian Ocean Territory. The fly away is important to India because it provides critical stop over sites to over 90 percentage of the birds migrating in this route. Species conservation, habitat conservation and capacity building are some amongst many components of the plan. To stop the decline of migratory birds and avoid threat to habitats and reduction of the pressure on critical habitat are the objectives of the plan.

EXTENSION OF PAROLE IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

No distinction can be made between the prisoners who were released on parole by the jail authorities and those who were granted parole by the Court for availing the benefit of extension order stated the Delhi High Court. Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani noted that if any such

decision is accepted then the entire exercise of decongesting prisons, undertaken in compliance with the Supreme Court's directions, would be rendered futile. The question of whether the parole was granted by the jail authorities is relevant or not the court observed that, “matters are escalated to this court by filing petitions only if a person is aggrieved by the action or inaction on the part of the jail administration; but, if an inmate gets relief from the jail administration, he should not be put to a disadvantage merely because there was no occasion for him to seek relief from this court or from any court subordinate to it.' The Bench also highlighted that it would be anathema to the concept of parity if a person is declined extension of an order of parole, furlough or emergency parole merely because he got that relief from the jail administration and not from the court. (Pradeep v. State of Delhi)

RAJEEV GAUBA PANEL SET UP TO STREAMLINE SPECTRUM ALLOCATION

A panel has been set by the government of India under the guidance of Rajiv Gauba with an aim to streamline telecom spectrum allocation. Secretaries of railway, home, defence, department of space and information and broadcasting will be constituting the panel along with telecom secretaries. Spectrum allocation is the regulation of electromagnetic spectrum bands which are of radio frequency with the next auction which shall be pertaining to 5G network. The bands 26 GHZ, 28 GHz and 40 GHz are the most likely candidates to enable ultra-high speed connectivity of 5G. Thus, the tussle has come up between the telecom and the space sector which shall be resolved by the panel. The main challenge pertaining to the implementation of 5G network is its infrastructure for which a minimum of two years is required for better access of speed.

COVID NEWS

A BAN ON THE EXPORT OF N95 MASKS DOES NOT AMOUNT TO VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF TRADE/ BUSINESS

The Madhya Pradesh High Court ruled that a ban on the export of N95 Masks, Personal Protection Kits and other products does not amount to violation of fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution. The bench further exclaimed that this is purely a policy matter with the Government of India having no power to formulate trade policies in exercise of powers conferred under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992. It further clarified that the circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India on 23 January 2020 which was in respect of Merchanting Trade Transactions is not violative of Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution. The petitioner was engaged in the business of trading Pharmaceutical, herbal and skin care PPE products who under Merchantile Trade Transactions (MTT) wished to supply N95 masks manufactured in China to a customer in US. However, the petitioner was facing problems due to clause 2 (iii) of the circular No. 20 of the revised guidelines issued on 23 January 2020 which restricted the trading of goods which are not permitted to be imported/ exported under the current Foreign trade policy. Courts observation stated that framing of policies for import and export is solely within the domain of the Central government. The Court noted that once import of a particular product is barred or export of a particular product is barred, the question of permitting the Merchanting Trade Transactions in respect of those particular products does not arise. Reliance was also laid on the case of Kasinka Trading v. Union of India 1995 I SCC 274 which stated that the court normally does not interfere with the State policy particulars in financial matters unless there is a question of fraud or lack of bona fide allegations.

HEALTH MINISTRY TO ROLL OUT FELUDA STRIP TEST FOR COVID-19 DETECTION

The Union Health Ministry has announced that India is will roll out its Feluda Paper Strip test for Corona Virus in few weeks. FELUDA Test (FNCAS9 editor linked uniform detection test) was recently approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI). The test has been



indigenously developed by the CSIR-IDIB. It is based on the CRISPR gene editing technology. The test can produce the results within two hours. The test uses CRISPR Casp protein to detect virus. The test kit costs less than Rs 600. The kit has been developed under the Make in India initiative. The other tests that are being used to detect the virus include RT PCR, Rapid Antigen Detection Test, ELISA Antibody Test and the Saliva Direct Test.

IMPORTANT DATES

11TH OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

This day is celebrated by UNICEF every year on October 11 to celebrate importance, power and potential of girls all over the world. This year it marks 25 years of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for working towards empowering girls. This year's theme is "My voice, our equal future".

15TH OCTOBER: WORLD STUDENTS DAY

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam birth anniversary is celebrated as World Students Day. The United Nations declared his birth anniversary as World Students Day in 2010. This year's theme is "Learning for people, prosperity and peace".

17TH OCTOBER: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

The day was declared as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in 1992. It was signed to honour the victims of poverty, hunger and violence when people came together to agree that poverty is a violation of human rights. According to the United Nations, poverty is defined as earning less than 1.9 USD a day. This year's theme is "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all".

24TH OCTOBER: UNITED NATIONS DAY

The UN Day marks the anniversary of UN Charter coming into force. The United Nations came into Existence on October 24, 1945. The day is being celebrated as the United Nations Day since 1947. This year it marks 75 years of successful functioning of the United Nations. This year's theme is "The Future We Want, UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism".

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