

SAMVIDHI
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NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL NEWS

ATAL TUNNEL INAUGURATED



Image Source: Financial Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Atal Tunnel, named after the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Rohtang. 9.02 KM long tunnel is the world's longest high altitude tunnel. It connects the isolated Lahul-Spiti valley with the rest of the country. It has a daily capacity of 1500 trucks and 3000 cars travelling at 80 KM/hr. This tunnel is significant because it provides all-weather road connectivity to the valley. It will also reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 KM thus cutting down the travel time by nearly 5 hours. The tunnel is also equipped with state-of-art systems like CCTV cameras with automatic accident capture, air quality monitors, and emergency escape tunnels.

ARMY BUILDS MEMORIAL FOR GALWAN MARTYRS.

The Indian Army has built a memorial in the honour of twenty soldiers who lost their lives in the Galwan Clash between the Indian Army and the Chinese Army in June 2020 in the Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi road. The memorial contains the names of the soldiers and they have been mentioned as “Gallants of Galwan”.

INDIA TEST-FIRES A NEW VERSION OF NUCLEAR-CAPABLE SHAURYA MISSILE

India successfully test-fired a new version of nuclear-capable Shaurya missile from the coast of Odisha. The missile can strike targets at around 800 KM. This has been launched amid the ongoing tensions at India-China Border. It is a canister launched hypersonic surface-to-surface tactical missile. The missile had been developed by the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Armed Forces use it. The range of the missile is 700 to 1,900 km and it can carry a conventional or nuclear warhead payload of 200 kg to 1 ton. Shaurya is stored in a composite canister this it is easier to store, handle, and transport.

PROVISION OF POSTAL BALLOT FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED FOR THE BIHAR ELECTIONS



Image Source: Economic Times

The Election Commission has come out with a set of new instructions that seek to make the procedure to opt for the postal ballot for people aged above 80 years of age and people with disabilities. For the postal ballot, form (Form- 12) would be delivered at the residence by the booth level officer (BLO) under his polling station. This step has been taken the light of the COVID-19 situation. This has been made possible by the amendment of the Conduct of Election Rules 1961. This extended the facility of postal ballots to people who are unable to cast their votes because of their service conditions. Features of these amendments include:

- 1) The concept of an absentee voter has been introduced for the elections. Absentee voter means a person belonging to a class of people as notified under section 60 of the Act and who is employed in essential services.
- 2) The notification defines the Person with a disability as the person who has been mentioned as a person with disability in the database of electoral roll.
- 3) Senior citizen means an elector above the age of 80 years.

GANGA RIVER DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED



Image Source: Times of India

My Ganga My Dolphin campaign was launched on the occasion of Ganga River Dolphin Day. This campaign was launched by the National Mission for Clean Ganga, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Forest Department. The campaign has been launched for sustainable tourism. It also links with the livelihood through Dolphin Conservation for ecotourism along the Ganga River. The campaign has been launched in the 250 km

stretch of the river. The campaign will also conduct a census under the stretch. Gangetic Dolphins are the national marine animal of India.

FIRST EVER BRAND AND LOGO FOR INDIAN COTTON LAUNCHED

Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the first-ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton. India's premium cotton would now be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Softness, Brightness, lustre, Purity, Uniqueness and Indianness. India is the second largest producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.



STREET FOOD VENDORS TO GO ONLINE

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Swiggy in order to take the street food vendors online under the PM Svanidhi Scheme. The programme was launched in five cities including Chennai, Ahmedabad, Indore, Delhi and Varanasi. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will run the programme by including the 250 vendors on board from the five cities. These vendors will be provided with FSSAI registration, PAN registration, partner app usage, hygiene packing, and training on technology and menu digitization. The programme will be expanded to other parts of the country after the first stage is successful.

“PARAM SIDDHI-AI” SUPERCOMPUTER TO BE COMMISSIONED

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will commission India’s largest High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, ‘PARAM Siddhi – AI’. This would put India into top countries in the field of global AI supercomputing research and innovation. Some features of the supercomputer are:

1. The supercomputer will have 210 AI Petaflops
2. It will be based on the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD.
3. The supporting infrastructure for the supercomputer will be established under NSM at C-DAC, with support from Niti Aayog, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Department of Science and Technology and the central government.
4. The computer will use NVIDIA Next Generation technology, C-DAC software stack and Cloud platform. The first Supercomputer of India was called the “Param Shivay.”

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) IS THE WINNER OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

2020

THE
NOBEL
PEACE PRIZE



Image Source: World Food Programme

For its efforts to combat hunger and promote peace, WFP won the Nobel Peace Prize 2020. The Norwegian Nobel Committee stated, “The World Food Programme contributed daily to advancing the fraternity of nations referred to in Alfred Nobel’s will”. It further added, “WFP has made a strong contribution towards mobilizing UN Member states to combat use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict”. It was founded in the year 1961 as an experiment to see if the UN system could deliver food aid. It gained permanent status in 1965 and calls itself the world’s largest humanitarian organization, dedicated to “saving lives in emergencies, building prosperity and supporting a sustainable future for the people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change”. The current chief of WFP is David Beasley. It is one of the three food aid organisations based in Rome. Its sister bodies are the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). Every year, WFP delivers more than 15 billion rations. In 1989, WFP staged its biggest humanitarian airdrop in history as a part of “Operation Lifeline Sudan’ for alleviating the effects of a famine caused by civil war. The WFP is funded by voluntary donations, mainly from the governments but also from companies and private donors. It is governed by a 36-member executive board and has 90000 staff, of whom some 90% are based in the countries where the agency provides assistance. Presently, the WFP is dealing with six food emergencies apart from COVID. These are in the Democratic Republic of Congo, northeastern Nigeria, Sahel, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA NOT INVOLVED IN BREXIT REFERENDUM, SAYS UK'S INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

While concluding its probe into misuse of personal data, the United Kingdom's Information Commissioner's office stated that Cambridge Analytica, an infamous and now defunct data-mining firm, was not involved in 2016 Brexit referendum beyond initial inquiries. It added, "The secretly harvested Facebook data was focused on US rather than UK voters and further, it did not find any additional evidence of Russian involvement in the referendum". Thanks to its role in 2016 US Presidential elections, Cambridge Analytica has become a stand-in for fear of tech-enabled election meddling. It shut down in 2018 after whistleblower Christopher Wylie leaked the information that blew their data mining operations wide open. The company slurped up data on 87 million American-Facebook users and misused that information to target political advertisements on behalf of the Trump campaign, which ultimately resulted in the imposition of \$5 billion fine on Facebook, over its failure to safeguard user data.

16-YEAR OLD GIRL MADE FINLAND'S PRIME MINISTER FOR A DAY



Image Source: Al Jazeera

The reel-life idea of one-day CM from Anil Kapoor's famous movie Nayak came to real-life when Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin made Aava Murto Finland's Prime Minister for a day as part of the global 'Girls Takeover Campaign' by Children's Rights Charity Plan International which aims to raise awareness of girls' digital skills in technology

industries and highlight the problem of online harassment of women. She delivered a message to decision-makers stating, "girls need to realise how important they are, and how they are just as good at technology as boys." Aava is an active campaigner on issues relating to climate changes

and human rights.

Interestingly, this isn't the only swap that is part of the campaign. Top jobs at leading companies like Facebook, Samsung, Microsoft, Twitter, etc. will also go to teenage girls in countries like Netherlands, Philippines, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

EU TOP COURT RULES UNRESTRAINED SURVEILLANCE OF PHONE DATA UNLAWFUL

The European Court of Justice ruled that “general and indiscriminate transmission or retention of traffic data and location data” is banned. The court was ruling on proceedings brought before bodies in the UK, France and Belgium dealing with these privacy and data surveillance issues and found that the directive on privacy and electronic communications precludes “national legislation requiring



Image Source: Jurist

providers of electronic communications services to carry out the general and indiscriminate transmission of traffic data and location data to the security and intelligence agencies for the purpose of safeguarding national security.” It also precludes “legislative measures requiring providers of electronic communications services to carry out the general and indiscriminate retention of traffic data and location data as a preventive measure,” as these retention measures are in serious “interference” with fundamental rights guaranteed by the EU Charter. However, where a member state is facing a genuine and serious threat to national security, the directive does not “preclude recourse to an order requiring providers of electronic communications services to retain, generally and indiscriminately, traffic data and location data.” Provided that such an order is limited in time, is strictly necessary and is “subject to effective review either by a court or by an independent administrative body.” Finally, it was held that the directive requires national criminal courts to disregard information and evidence obtained by means of the general and indiscriminate retention of traffic and location data in breach of EU law.

LEGAL NEWS

EXTENSION OF THE NEW EMISSION NORMS OF TRACTORS, CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES TILL OCTOBER 2021



Image Source: Economic Times

The Government of India through an amendment to CMVR by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has extended the applicability of the new norms on emission for tractors and construction equipment till October 2021 which shall be applicable from October 2020. The said amendment provides for separate emission norms for agricultural machinery like tillers, harvesters and tractors along with construction vehicles through a change from the Bharat State IV and Bharat State V to TREM (Transport Emergency) Stage IV and TREM Stage V. The engines that are equipped with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) should meet ammonia emission limit of 25 ppm for engines operating at less than 56 KW. The engines operating at more than 56 KW should meet ammonia emission of 10 ppm. The Particulate Matter emitted by the engines should be 0.025 gram per KW/hr irrespective of their power.

UNION CABINET APPROVES NATURAL GAS MARKETING REFORMS

The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister has approved the natural gas marketing reform aiming to fix the market prices of gas through transparent and competitive processes. These reforms include reforms towards the E-Bidding Platform which primarily aims to provide a standard procedure for the sale of natural gas in India through transparent e-bidding of the market price. The reforms also aim to provide permission to affiliated companies to participate in the bidding process thereby kindling the competitive spirit of the market. With autonomy to producers to select a platform and giving a rapid push to the gas consumption and open licensing policy that increases the investor driven acreage auction process. The policy shall help in bringing uniformity in the bidding process and contribute towards ease of doing business providing a huge boost to the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan by encouraging domestic investments in the production of natural gas.

A COPY OF THE STATEMENT RECORDED UNDER SECTION 164 OF CRPC SHALL NOT BE GRANTED BY MERE FILING OF A CHARGE SHEET: SC

Filing of the charge sheet does not entitle an accused to copies of any of the relevant documents which shall include a statement under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code said the supreme court setting aside the judgement delivered by the Allahabad High Court which allowed Mr. Chinmayanand, Union Minister and BJP leader who sought to obtain a certified copy of the statement of the rape victim. Only after taking cognizance and the stage contemplated under Section 207 and 208 of the Code but not before the right to receive a copy of such statement shall arise. With reference to the judgement delivered in State of Karnataka v. Shivanna alias Tarkari Shivanna which should necessarily be considered where offences alleged against the accused are of sexual exploitation, but the High Court erred and failed to do so. The High Court was of the opinion that once the investigation is over and a report is filed under Section 173 of the CrPC at that stage the copy of the statement under Section 164 of CrPC along with other relevant documents can be asked by the concerned person, but this approach was rejected by the Supreme Court which stated that *'merely because the charge-sheet was filed by the time the High Court had passed the order in the present matter, did not entitle Respondent No.2 to a copy*

of the statement under Section 164 of the Code.’ (Miss A v State of Uttar Pradesh Criminal Appeal No. 659 of 2020)

AAJTAK, ZEE NEWS, INDIA TV AND NEWS24 FINED FOR INSENSITIVE REPORTING OF SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT CASE



Image Source: The Wire

The News Broadcasters Standards Authority has directed the electronic news platforms like AajTak, Zee News, News24 and India TV to apologise on air for insensitive reporting of the case of Sushant Singh Rajput thereby censoring any insensitive Tag Lines that violated or were likely to violate the privacy and dignity of the deceased under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. The authority recognised that it is the duty of the news broadcasters to report news which is in the public interest so as to ensure that justice has prevailed in the society but this duty does not have the responsibility to present the news in a manner which does not violate the privacy and other attached rights of the deceased or the people involved in the case. *“It is important that the dead must not be subject to unnecessary media glare.”* The acts of using a tag line addressed to the deceased or showing the method of commission of suicide where it is necessary to maintain sensitivity violates the guidelines of the NBSA. The Fundamental Standards- Clause B states that “reporting should not sensationalise or create panic, distress under fear among viewers”, guidelines relating to impartiality, fairness, privacy and objectivity. Therefore, AajTak has been fined Rs. 100000 for its failure to ensure due diligence before telecasting some tweets and

attributing them to the actor. Other news platforms shall also be fined with an apology which shall be mandatorily be issued by all broadcasters.

**HIGH COURT CAN LOOK INTO APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 439(2) OF
CRPC IN ORDER TO CANCEL A BAIL GRANTED IN THE EXERCISE OF POWER
CONFERRED UNDER SECTION 14-A(2) OF THE ATROCITIES ACT**

The High Court of Madhya Pradesh through its Gwalior Bench deliberated on the scope of bail granted to an accused under the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Act thereby deciding that a High Court can look into applications under Section 439(2) of CrPC in order to cancel a bail granted in the exercise of power conferred under Section 14- A(2) of the Atrocities Act which provides that an appeal shall lie to the High Court against an order of the Exclusive Special Court or the Special Court which has granted or refused a bail. Justice Anand Pathak exclaimed while emphasizing that a victim cannot be rendered remediless if bail is granted to the accused but keeps on interfering in the investigation process by intimidating the victim. The moot question of the case was whether bail once granted under special law can be cancelled under CrPC. Relying on the judgements of Mallikarjun Kodagali represented through Legal Representatives v. State of Karnataka & Ors. (2019) 2 SCC 752 wherein secondary victimization was observed by the court. Adding, the court said that when the language used is capable of bearing more than one meaning, while selecting the true meaning emphasis should be put on the consequences resulting from the adoption of the alternate construction, which if results into hardship, injustice, inconvenience or absurdity leading to friction in the system that the statute wishes to maintain, then it must be rejected and the one that causes less inconvenience should be adopted. The Court observed that when an accused is being tried by Atrocities Act and POSCO Act simultaneously, “if both the Acts are taken into consideration where Special Protection, Remedies and Speedy Trial have been contemplated, it appears that POCSO Act is designed to a wider range of victims than the Atrocities Act.”

COVID NEWS

KIT TO DETECT COVID-19 IN 2 HOURS DEVELOPED

Reliance Life Sciences has developed a real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) kit. It claims to diagnose COVID-19 infection in about 2 hours. Presently, COVID-19 RT-PCR test takes up to 24 hours to give a diagnosis. The kit can detect the presence of E-gene, R-gene, RdRp gene of SARS COV2 virus with Actin as an internal control. According to the ICMR results, the kit is 98.7 % sensitive and 98.8 % specific. The diagnosis time of the kit is approximately 2 hours.

COVID-19 MAY PUSH 15 CRORE PEOPLE INTO EXTREME POVERTY BY 2021 END, SAYS WORLD BANK

The World Bank stated that the coronavirus pandemic may push as many as 15 crore additional people into extreme poverty by the end of 2021 and around 82% of them would be in middle-income countries. It advised the countries to prepare for “different economy”, post Covid in order to tackle the negative effects of coronavirus pandemic. The focus should be on moving capital, labour, skills and innovation into new businesses and sectors. The convergence of the coronavirus pandemic with the pressure of conflict and climate change will put the goal of ending poverty by 2030 beyond reach without swift, significant and substantial policy action.

IMPORTANT DATES

4TH – 10TH OCTOBER: WORLD SPACE WEEK

The week is celebrated between 4th and 10th October every year under United Nations resolution passed in 1999 to celebrate contributions of space science and technology. This year's theme is "Satellites Improve Life".

5TH OCTOBER: GANGA RIVER DOLPHIN DAY

On 5th October, 2010, Gangatic River Dolphins were declared as National aquatic animal of India and that's why it's celebrated as Ganga River Dolphin day every year on this date.

9TH OCTOBER: WORLD POST DAY

The World Post Day is celebrated by the United Nations on October 9 to celebrate the establishment of Universal Postal Union on October 9, 1874. The day was declared in Universal Postal Union Congress held in Japan in 1969.

10TH OCTOBER: WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

The day was first initiated by World Federation for Mental Health and is marked by several International organisations spread all over the world. This year's theme has not been declared yet.

10TH OCTOBER: WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

This day is celebrated twice a year - on second Saturdays of May and October. This year it was celebrated on 9th May and 10th October. Both the days are celebrated under the same theme - "Birds Connect Our World". It began in 2018.

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