



The Achievers IAS Academy

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NATIONAL

⇒ **Rahul disqualified as MP, Congress Call it black day' for democracy**

A day after Surat Court convicted Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case over the Modi surname remark, the Lok Sabha secretariat on Friday issued a notification to disqualify Mr. Gandhi as the Lok Sabha member from waynad.

Calling it 'black day' of democracy congress accused the ruling party of strangulating democracy.

Rahul Gandhi is his tweet told " I am fighting for the voice of India. I am ready to pay any price AAP, Trinmool Congress, BRS, SP Came in support of Rahul Gandhi. The BJP called Rahul Gandhi a serial offender "who believes law is different for him. With this waynad Lok Sabha-seat stays vacant.

Unless a higher court stays the Surat court's decision Rahul Gandhi be banned from fighting election for 8 years

⇒ **Govt to set up & committee to 'improve' NPS**

'FM Nirmala Sitharaman told in Lok Sabha that govt is going to form a committee to 'improve' to *National Pension System* (NPS). It said to evolve an approach that address the needs of employees while maintain fiscal prudence to protect the common citizen."

Five opposition ruled states Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jharkhand has gone back to OPS Cold Pension Scheme). Maharashtra is also contemplating over leaving NPS.

⇒ **Want actions, not assurances on safety of missions!** India to U.S, U.K. India does not want "assurances", but, expects " actions" by hast countries to prevent attack on its diplomatic minimum External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. Mr. Bagchi however to comment on removal of barricades from U.K embassy telling it doesn't com from U.K. embassy telling it desrit com under MEA.

“We have strongly taken up the of vandalism and attacks of on our missions in San Francisco London. We expect host govt’s MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

⇒ **Membership of banned outfit is crime under UAPA, says SC.**

A 3 Judge Bench of SC on Friday gave Judgement that A person who is or continues to be a member of a banned group is criminally Liable to be charged under UAPAC (Unlawful activities prevention act)

UAPA - Aims at effective. Prevention of unlawful activities associated with India. (Activities which is threat to territorial integrity and Sovereignty of India)

Under UAPA a person can be detained by police for six months, without a case filed against him. As he is a threat to National.

SC reverted its own Judgement where earlier it had told that mere being a member of a banned group doesn't make the person come under UAPA.

⇒ **ICMR releases ethical guidelines for AI usage in health case.**

ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) has released the country's first "Ethical guidelines for application of Biomedical research and healthcare “aimed at creating “an ethical framework which can assist in development and deployment, and adoption of AI-based solutions” in the specified fields.

⇒ **Buoyed by the success of tulip garden in Srinagar, J&K gets more zones that are set to bloom.**

Situated in Ramban district in J & K with 28,000 to 30,000 tulip bulbs in 2017-18 It has expanded to Srinagar, Udhampur. Highland Park, kud, Udhampur and Srinagar one of favourite tulip destinations currently 15 lakh tulip Srinagar alone. It has increased tourist tootfall in the valley. Govt - has large expansion plan to increase area under Tulip.

⇒ **GISAID temporarily lift ban on authors of Zenodo report**

⇒ 14 opposition move SC against misure of ED, CBI by govt. The petition tells that there is clearing CJI lists it for April 5.

⇒ India failed to create positive impression among business moving away from china parliamentary panel cases against The centre of issue is 2017 Chinese low that requires local firm to hand over personal data to state if it is relevant to personal security. Beijing on Friday denied that it asks companies working in foreign land to hand over data to it.

Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Mao Ning said china “attacks great importance to protecting data privacy”. China “has never or will not require comp[anise a individual to collect or provide data located in a foreign country.” “The U.S. govt has so far not provided any evidence that Tik Tok boses threat toits national security” Mr. Naing said

- ⇒ Tested underwater drone able to trigger a radioactive Tsunami : North Korea. North Korea claimed that it had tested an underwater drone capable to a "radioactive Tsunami under water to deteriorate regional security situations. The Tsunami it creates can destroy ships, ports, Naval striker groups. etc.
- ⇒ **Missile strikes by Russia in Ukraine kill 10 civilians, injures 20: Testerskay office.**
- ⇒ 14 dead in U.S. strikes on Syria in revenge over drone attack. 14 Pro-Iranian fighters were killed in U.S. air force strike in U.S. air strike on Syria.
It was carried out in retaliation of a Iranian "Kamikazhe" drone attack in which one. U.S. Contractor was killed and five others were wounded.
- ⇒ **King Charles postpones trip to France amid protests.**
- ⇒ Saudi Arabia, Syria may restore ties as West Asia reshuffle continues. In a Saudi state. TV report it was said that Saudi govt is in talks with Syrian authorities to open embassy in Syria after a decade.
- ⇒ Philippines confronts Chinese diplomats over sea disputes. It was over Chinese ship showing aggression in South China sea.
- ⇒ China warns U.S. Navy over warship's action
China threatened "serious consequences" as US Navy destroyer sailed near Paracel Islands. in South China Sea.

Editorial-1

No cause for alarm

But people of vulnerable group must take all precautions against COVID-19

- ⇒ What the editorial is all about?
The editorial is regarding recent spike in COVID-19 in India. A new variant XBB.1.16 was detected. The editorial analyzes steps taken by govt, and risk of Covid in India.
- ⇒ New Variants of COVID-19 and genome sequencing,
After Kappa, Delta, BA 2-75, BA 2-76, the latest detected variant (first detected in India) is Omicron recombinant XBB.1.16.
COVID Variant → Virus keeps mutating by changing its DNA combinations New variants form this way.
The new variant SBB.1.16 was able to penetrate even those who allegedly were vaccinated The new variants had caused spike in COVID cases in several states. In this backdrop PM Modi has directed officials to increase whole genome sequencing to track new variants.
- ⇒ How vulnerable India is of new variants?

Majority of adults in India has taken 2nd dose of vaccine a year ago, and a small number has also gone through booster doses. Now India is fully relying on hybrid Immunity arising from vaccination and natural infection for extended protection Fortunately 95% of India's population has hybrid Immunity. Still a small section of people are quite Vulnerable

Hybrid Immunity → Immunity a combined by earlier COVID infection and vaccination those from vulnerable group should mask up especially in closed spaces where where new Variants of COVID emerge.

Editorial - 2

Chilling effect

Rahul Gandhi's Conviction, Jail term flag need to abolish criminal defamation.

⇒ What the editorial is all about?

The editorial is about recent Judgement of a session court in which, MP Rahul Gandhi has been convicted for 2 year of Jail over defamation charges. The editorial says that both conviction and Jail term is not ok. The editorial advocates to remove criminal defamation.

⇒ What is recent Judgement of 'Surat court' is all about?

In 2019 in an election rally Rahul Gandhi had commented – 'how Come all these theives have Modi in their names? BJP MLA purnesh Modi went to court alleging that those having 'Modi' surname had got offended with this. Surat court convicted Rahul Gandhi of criminal defamation and has Jailed him for 2 years. Currently Rahul Gandhi is on 30 day bail.

⇒ What is the issues with conviction?

Case law says that the "collection of persons" has to be identifiable class or group. The member who initiates criminal proceedings for defamation must demonstrate personal harm or injury by the alleged defamatory statement.

Here in this case it is clear that only 3 persons who were referred to can be aggrieved persons also it is not clear that the purnesh Modi who field the case was aggrieved by the alleged slur.

⇒ Why the sentence is troubling?

The maximum sentence in criminal defamation is 2 years. It is questionable. whether remark defamed any community. And even if it did was it so grave to get awarded maximum punishment.

⇒ What are issues with criminal defamation? should it be abolished?

In contemporary times criminal defamation mainly acts as a tool to suppress criticism of public servant. In 2016, SC upheld the Criminal defamation. opposition parties opposing criminal deformation, now is the time for country to abolish Criminal defamation

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