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WIN

INDIA SCRIPTS VICTORY AT ASIA CUP BEATS PAKISTAN

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Following India's mammoth 228-run victory against Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2023 Super Four, ecstatic fans celebrated Men in Blue's victory chanting "India" "India" all across the country. The fans' enthusiasm and their love for the national team were clearly visible as they chanted 'India, India'. "We are very happy with the win of India against Pakistan," a cricket fan said. Cricket fans in West Bengal's Siliguri were waving the tri-colour as India beat Pakistan. Coming to the match, fiery centuries from Virat Kohli and KL Rahul followed by Kuldeep Yadav's five-wicket haul powered India to 228 runs win over their traditional rival Pakistan.

DEFINING MOMENT

PM MODI-CROWN PRINCE SALMAN — A NEW ERA OF INDIA-SAUDI RELATIONS

During India visit, Saudi Crown Prince inspected a combined defence services Guard of Honour.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and others were present in the meeting.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, who arrived here on a three-day State visit to India attended the G20 Summit in the national capital over the weekend.

The two leaders also co-chaired the First Leaders' Meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council. PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hugging Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Modi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince will review the progress made under the two Ministerial Committees of the Strategic Partnership Council i.e. the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation and the

Committee on Economy and Investments Cooperation, according to a release from the Ministry of External Affairs. PM Modi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince also discussed all aspects of bilateral relations, including political,



PM Modi with President Droupadi Murmu before dinner hosted in honour of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

security, defence, trade and economic, cultural and people-to-people ties. Both the leaders discussed the regional and international issues of mutual interest as well.

The Saudi Crown Prince was accompanied by a high-

level delegation, including Ministers and senior officials. Prior to his meeting with PM Modi, the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince received a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan PM Modi and President Droupadi Murmu



President Droupadi Murmu delivers her remarks in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries during a banquet hosted in honour of the Crown Prince.

welcomed the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The Saudi Crown Prince then inspected a combined defence services Guard of Honour. In a brief statement, Mohammed bin Salman con-

gratulated India for a successful G20 presidency. Speaking to reporters, he said, "Well done India, a lot of announcements made that will benefit both our countries, the G20 countries and the whole world. So I want to

TRAGEDY

BANK EMPLOYEE FOUND DEAD IN SWIMMING POOL

TDG NETWORK
MANGALORE

A bank employee was found dead in the swimming pool of a private hotel in the Mangalore city of Karnataka on Monday, police said. According to the police, information was received at the South Police station that a body has been found in the swimming pool of the Moti Mahal hotel. On reaching the spot and after verifying the facts, it was found that the deceased was Gopu R Nair, aged 38, a resident of Thiruvananthapuram. Police commissioner Anupam Agarwal said "He is a bank employee and was in the town to attend a business conference.



Rain

A railway track gets waterlogged due to heavy rainfall, in Barabanki on Monday. ANI

CHANCE TO BE HEARD

MAHA MLAS' DISQUALIFICATION CASES TO BE HEARD ON SEPT 14

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar said on Monday that the cases related to disqualification of MLAs will be heard on September 14.

40 MLAs of Shiv Sena Shinde group and 14 MLAs of Thackeray group will be heard.

The hearing will be held in the central hall of the state legislature, and all 54 MLAs will be heard on the same day. As many as 34 petitions will be heard before the Assembly Speaker at that time. In this hearing, plaintiff and defendant MLAs will

be given an opportunity to present evidence and present their views. Each petition will be heard separately and the concerned MLAs will be called at that time.

The change of power in the state took place in July 2022. The vote of confidence on the state government and the election of the Speaker are in 2022. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly will also look into the constitution of the political party and other matters while deciding on the disqualification petitions. The president also has to check whose side the office bearers of the party were on. **■ P5**

LEGAL ANGLE

Kharge gets legal notice for misusing Ashok Chakra symbol

SANTOSH SINGH
GWALIOR

A legal notice has been issued against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, seeking an explanation on the alleged misuse of "Ashok Chakra" in the middle of the logo of 'I.N.D.I.A' alliance.

Advocate Awadhesh Tomar had issued a notice against the Congress president, warning him of legal action if there is no response within 3 days.

According to information, Mallikarjun Kharge recently released a logo of I.N.D.I.A

alliance (a political alliance of Opposition parties) on his twitter handle. In the logo, the symbol of Ashok Chakra was used between the letters of I.N.D.I.A. to which, Tomar objected and said, "Ashok Chakra is a national symbol. It is not for the personal use of the display of political parties. No political party is allowed to do that." "I have issued a notice against National Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and asked him to respond in three days. If he fails to do so, I will take legal **■ P5**

CONCURRENCE

INDIA, UK READY FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF FREE TRADE PACT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India and the UK on Monday expressed their commitment to an early conclusion of the free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

Addressing a joint press conference with UK Chancellor of Exchequer Jeremy

Hunt, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said both sides intend to expedite the free trade agreement.

"There is definitely some discussion on the FTA, especially the investment aspects, which comes under the finance ministry, and the intention on both the sides to expedite the discussion so

that some quick agreement could lead to finally signing," she said at the conclusion of the 12th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue.

So, the keenness on both sides is to conclude the comprehensive free trade agreement between India and the UK as soon as possible. **■ P5**

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

SC extends protection to EGI fact-finding team till September 15

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday extended its order of September 6, directing the Manipur Police not to take any coercive actions against four members of the Editors

Guild of India (EGI).

This extension will be in effect until September 15. The EGI members are facing two FIRs, including charges of promoting enmity between two communities. **■ P5**

CASH-FOR-JOBS SCAM

Chennai court seeks ED reply in Balaji's bail plea

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

A Sessions Court of Chennai on Monday issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a bail petition filed by DMK Minister V Senthil Balaji, who was arrested in connection with a money

laundering case.

Principal Sessions Judge S Alli, who issued the notice to the ED, posted further hearing of the case to September 15. When the bail petition came up for hearing, advocate N Ramesh, appearing for ED, sought time to file a counter affidavit. **■ P5**

Advocate DR Arun Kumar, appearing for Senthil Balaji, requested the court to fix a short date for the next hearing.

Furthermore, after the Special Court for the trial of cases relating to MPs and MLAs of Tamil Nadu and **■ P5**

NO HEARING

SC nixes PIL against law to control Delhi services

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a PIL challenging law establishing pre-eminence of the Lieutenant governor over the elected dispensation in controlling services in the national capital, stating that

it is already seized of a plea of the Delhi government.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and Manoj Misra stated that the Delhi government has already challenged the amended law and no fresh PIL was needed.

The bench stated while

adding that it may consider imposing a cost on the petitioner and this led to withdrawal of the PIL, "Why have you come here...?The Delhi government has already challenged it."

While refusing to entertain the PIL filed by lawyer Mukesh Kumar in his personal capacity, the bench

made clear that in its order, it will not "affect the pendency" of prior petition of the Delhi government.

Earlier on August 25, the apex court permitted the Delhi government to amend its petition challenging the Central government's ordinance after taking note that **■ P5**

DSPE ACT

Delhi Police officials to lose immunity in graft cases: Supreme Court

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday declared that its 2014 verdict, which struck down a provision of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 that provided im-

munity from arrest for officers of the joint secretary level and above, will now have retrospective operation.

In its May 2014 judgement, the apex court held as invalid section 6A (1) of the Act, that required approval of the Centre for conduct of any

inquiry or investigation into any offence that was alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, where such allegation relates to employees of the level of joint secretary and above. **■ P5**

The issue before the Constitution bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, AS Oka, Vikram Nath, and JK Maheshwari delivered its verdict on the issue of whether striking down of the provision while **■ P5**

POLICY

India's foreign policy comes a long way, from Pt. Nehru to PM Modi

Amid the Ukraine War, PM Modi did not compromise on India's independent foreign policy. He did not condemn Russia despite the pressure from the West. The PM did not also say anything that could be seen as a justification of Russian action against Ukraine.

OPINION

T. BRAJESH



Under Modi's watch, India has definitely made a major shift in its foreign and economic policy in an attempt to achieve its ambitious goal of development, taking into account the changing global politics. While the basic tenets of the foreign policy remain unchanged, they are naturally modified from time to time to achieve the country's interests.

It goes without saying that the main and foremost objective of India's Foreign Policy was, and shall be to secure its 'national interests'. This has been the 'basic character' of the foreign policy of India from the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of the country, to the era of Narendra Modi, the present prime minister of India. All the regimes in the country led by different prime ministers took every care to secure our borders, protect territorial integrity, counter terrorism, ensure energy, food, cyber security, development in all spheres and areas, etc. What is also true at the same time is that the country faced different challenges at different times internally and externally. While the fundamental principles of India's foreign policy remained unchanged, the governments were seen working with changed foreign policy priorities from time to time to deal with the global challenges as they arose. India's relations with various countries and its diplomatic priorities underwent changes at different points of time as the changes in the world order took place. Nobody would disagree that the world today is not what it was at the time of Pt. Nehru or any other prime minister succeeding him for that matter. How could India remain a silent spectator amid the change from bipolar world to multipolar one? New Delhi's diplomatic ties with major powers including the US, Russia, the UK, Germany, France, Japan, South East nations, etc. kept changing accordingly. India under different prime ministers from Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh to now Narendra Modi conducted its relations with the outside world in different formats as per the need of the hour.

to even vaster scale." However, the NAM path started turning out to be difficult to follow for India with the changing world order with the passage of time. The world shifted from bipolar character to multipolar global order making it difficult for successive regimes to continue with the NAM policy that Nehru focused on and prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi tried to stick on to during their regimes in India. However, despite insistence on non-alignment policy, these regimes were seen tilting sometimes towards the USSR and sometimes the US, in what was seen as a departure from past diplomatic legacy. The successive governments including the present one led by Modi apparently realised that the NAM is not relevant to the current geostrategic situation and India's position in the world. PM Modi's words "our foreign policy is only about India's First" convey a strong message about India's position today. At the recently held G-20 Summit in New Delhi, Modi's mantra "One Earth, One Family, One Future" underlines his foreign policy priorities. In order to sustain its growth trajectory, India needs substantial external cooperation and inputs. With PM Modi focused on the roadmap to make India a \$5 trillion economy, India needs foreign partners, foreign direct investments, financial assistance and transfer of technology. The foreign policy's role is obviously quite important in the mission of Modi. That's why his government's foreign policy has shifted its focus to this aspect over the last few years. In other words, 'Diplomacy for Development' has integrated economic diplomacy with political diplomacy. This is how foreign policy has evolved since the time of Nehru who was a strong backer of the NAM. Modi needs a foreign policy that could help accomplish his mission aimed at expanding outreach to the multipolar world in a bid to put India on the global map as a top power.

Modi himself once said, "The foreign policy is not about changing mind-sets. The Foreign policy is about finding the common meet-

ing points." Under Modi's watch, India has definitely made a major shift in its foreign and economic policy in an attempt to achieve its ambitious goal of development, taking into account the changing global politics. While the basic tenets of the foreign policy remain unchanged, they are naturally modified from time to time to achieve the country's interests. This is what has been done by the Modi government. The results of the innovative diplomatic course and action have been witnessed. There is no denying India has become the leading country not only in the Asian continent but also globally. Undeniably, today India is on the way to becoming the most powerful nation on economic and military fronts. The 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' that was the focus area of the Modi government's foreign policy helped India to consolidate its position in the region considerably, with countries in neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood and Southeast nations looking to India as a reliable partner. PM Modi's diplomatic outreach to ASEAN member states has yielded positive and desired results in terms of strategic, economic and trade sectors. Commentators say, and rightly so, that "since assuming office in 2014, PM Modi has turned

India into a strategic player with a highly effective foreign policy." According to them, Modi has done this by shifting New Delhi away from its old strategy of strict nonalignment, paving the way for stronger ties with great and middle-sized powers." PM Modi's foreign policy priorities led to India gaining a strong position in the region where it is seen as a power to balance and deal with a belligerent China. The US, Russia, the UK, Germany, Italy, Japan, Australia, South Korea, France etc. are all looking to India as an able and competent partner in their strategy to counter an aggressive China in the Indo Pacific region and in other geographies as well. Any reference to China's formidable challenge brings Pt Nehru's principle of Panchsheel in the spotlight. Nehru's principle of Panchsheel had hit a setback when India was attacked by the Chinese in 1962 and Nehru was severely criticised for the country's failure to defend itself. Chinese aggression against India underlined that non-alignment had to be tied up with defence requirements on urgent basis for the security of the country. However, leaders in India continued to pursue an independent foreign policy. Amid the Ukraine War, PM Modi did not compromise on India's independent

foreign policy. He did not condemn Russia despite the pressure from the West. The PM did not also say anything that could be seen as a justification of Russian action against Ukraine. He continued to emphasise diplomacy and dialogue as the only solution to resolve the crisis. The Western countries including the USA appreciated India's position on Ukraine, thanks to the diplomacy of Modi. US President Joe Biden invited PM Modi as a State guest in what was seen as another achievement for Indian diplomacy. PM Modi's diplomatic masterpiece achieved consensus on New Delhi's Leaders' Declaration at G-20 Summit, which reflected India's motto "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas." It was a diplomatic win for India that the G20 Declaration avoided criticism of Russia for its war against Ukraine. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor also lauded the New Delhi Declaration of the G20 members saying it represents a diplomatic triumph. Not only this, former PM Manmohan Singh praised the Modi government's stand on the Russia-Ukraine crisis. This is how the Indian foreign policy has covered a significant journey under Modi's leadership from the time when Nehru took over as prime minister of the country. The Manmohan Singh-led UPA government from 2004-14 was seen tilting towards America, which among other issues turned out to be a trigger for withdrawal of support by the Left bloc to the UPA I alliance government in 2009. The India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, signed in 2015 was a key achievement of the Man-

mohan Singh government. This resulted in improvement of ties between India and the US. 'Look East policy' was a key focus of PV Narasimha Rao's foreign policy. His government focused on improving relations with the Southeast Asian countries to counter China's growing clout from 1991-95. Rao also focused on improving ties with ASEAN. The UPA government also continued to bat for the Look East policy in its foreign policy priorities. But PM Modi rechristened it as Act East policy in 2014 soon after coming to power. He gave momentum to the Act East policy after renaming it. In 1998, Atal Behari Vajpayee oversaw five nuclear weapon tests in Pokhran. The first test happened in 1974 when Indira was PM. The Pokhran tests were Vajpayee regime's key achievements in what brought India on a par with other nuclear capable nations including China. This marked Vajpayee government's big foreign policy approach.

What distinguishes PM Modi from his predecessors on the foreign policy front is that he developed strong personal rapport and relations with his counterparts and heads of various nations. He also established a direct connection with the millions of Indian diaspora members living in several countries. PMs before Modi were focused on government-to-government interactions. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised more on developing personal interactions with the global leaders. The G-20 Summit saw this part of PM Modi's diplomacy. By all indications, Modi has widened his foreign policy priority and area which includes establishment of India as a leader of various global blocs. He succeeded in bringing up the Global South at the centre stage during the G-20 summit. He introduced the elements of 'paradiplomacy' in India's foreign policy where each state and cities would be encouraged to forge special relations with countries or federal states of another country or even cities of their interest.

PERSPECTIVE IMEC AND BEYOND

A NEW CHAPTER IN INDIA-SAUDI RELATIONS UNVEILED

One of the more significant images emerging from the G20 Summit was that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi standing between US President Joe Biden and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS), with the three holding hands and smiling amongst themselves. The photo-op was at the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), where other leaders from the region were also present, but this single image was symbolic of a major shift that is taking place in the geopolitical order. It represented the rapprochement between the United States and Saudi Arabia—ties that had got strained post the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey, pushing Saudi Arabia towards China. It would not be an exaggeration to say that as the main driver of the IMEC, India played a major role in this rapprochement. The announcement was also the first proper challenge thrown to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). One of the main reasons behind the failure of China's BRI is India's absence from it. Without India's economic heft, Xi Jinping can push his pet project only to a limited extent because the majority of the countries that comprise the BRI are either economically weak or bankrupt. Compared to BRI, the IMEC is a game-changer because it has India in it, and is backed by the United States, and thus the West. Thirdly, it shows that the US has started to get its geopolitics right, by acknowledging that India's rise symbolises the rise of a third force—the other two being the US and China—and that a large part of not only the Global South but also the oil rich Gulf are becoming a part of this force, with India as the nucleus.

It is in this context that India-Saudi Arabia relations have to be seen—socio-economic relations that have existed for centuries are now getting enhanced into a strategic partnership, aiding the rise of the third force. Trade between India and Saudi Arabia has existed from the time dhows used to sail the waters of the Arabian/Persian Gulf and spices from India found their way to the port city of Jeddah. With the discovery of oil, Saudi Arabia—and sometimes Iraq—occupied the number one spot as supplier of oil to India for many years, until recently, Russia with its discounted oil, supplanted it. Given the presence of a huge Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia, plus the thousands of visitors to that country for Hajj, a strong people to people connection has also enhanced relations. And now the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) adds a new chapter to the bilateral relations by adding a strategic and security aspect to the mix.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Crown Prince, who is on a state visit to India, held the first leaders' meeting of the SPC on Monday in New Delhi. According to PM Modi, "India-Saudi Arabia partnership is crucial for stability and welfare of the region and the world." According to the Ministry of External Affairs, issues such as energy security, trade and investment, defence and security, healthcare, food security, culture and community welfare were discussed. While energy security, that is oil, still forms the central pillar of India-Saudi relations, the defence and security aspect of the ties has been gaining momentum over the years. Among other things, India-Saudi maritime exercises have been taking place, with the focus on inter-operability, capacity building and maritime security. The intention is to ensure regional stability in the Arabian/Persian Gulf and Arabia Sea, and securing the sea lanes through which a lot of trade passes. For India, the partnership is also about protecting its strategic and diaspora interests in the Gulf. For example, India used Saudi ports to evacuate its citizens from a war-torn Sudan earlier this year. Also, by partnering with Saudi Arabia, India is pre-empting China, which wants to secure its foothold in the region. There is also a buzz about the possibility of India selling its Brahmos missiles to Saudi Arabia. Importantly, as India-Saudi strategic partnership gains in momentum, it also marks a shift away from Saudi-Pakistan strategic partnership. As Pakistan sinks into ignominy, running to Saudi Arabia time and again with a begging bowl, it is but natural that this will have an impact on Saudi-Pak ties. How long can religion be the glue when one partner turns into a basket case? In this context, it is significant that MBS is not visiting Pakistan either on his way to or from India.

The visit is also important in terms of sending out a message to the Islamic ummah. Saudi Arabia, the seat of Mecca and Medina, is the leader of the Islamic world. For the Crown Prince of that country, the de facto ruler, to embrace warmly the Prime Minister of India, who is constantly vilified as an oppressor of minorities, proves all such claims to be fake. All the OICs of the world and their counterparts in India, including many of India's political parties, need to take note of this. Meanwhile, there is buzz that India and Saudi Arabia are ready to trade in rupees, showing how well the relationship is doing.

JOYEETA BASU

IN COURT

BOMBAY HIGH COURT DIRECTED DEPARTMENT TO REFUND TDS AMOUNT DEPOSITED BY ASSESSEE UNDER PROTEST

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Bombay High Court in the case Grasim Industries Ltd. Versus Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax observed and has directed the department to refund the TDS amount which is deposited by the assessee under protest.

The bench comprising of Justice K. R. Shriram and Justice N. K. Gokhale in the case observed that technically, even though the amount which is deposited by the petitioner would be called as tax deductible at source, what the petitioner paid was 'an ad hoc amount, not technically the TDS amount.'

The court in the case also confirmed that the amount paid to Davy Mckee Corporation, DAVY was not chargeable to tax in India, the departments' insistence on the assessee paying that amount was not in accordance with



the law, and the amount so paid over must be refunded to the assessee.

In the present case, the assessee or petitioner had set up the gas-based

sponge iron plant in India, for which it entered into a foreign technical collabo-

ration agreement with Davy Mckee Corporation, DAVY and the another

party. Therefore, under the agreement, it has been agreed by DAVY to render to the petitioner outside India certain engineering and other related services in relation to the project. Thus, the petitioner also entered into another agreement (a supervisory agreement) with DAVY to provide certain supervisory services to Petitioner in India.

However, Under the agreement, the DAVY was to deliver to the petitioner the necessary design, drawing, and data with respect to the sponge iron plant outside India. DAVY in the case has also agreed to train a certain number of employees of the petitioner in order to make available to such employee's technical information, scientific knowledge, expertise, etc. for the commissioning, operation, and maintenance of the plant. The assessee argued before the court that the contract is

not taxable in India since no operations related to its execution must take place there, and Davy must not engage in any activity in order to provide the technical services there.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that once the appellant succeeds in the appeal, the revenue authorities must proceed on the basis that the appellant did not have any obligation to make the payment and the amount which is wrongly deducted or paid to the Revenue Authorities where it was not required to be paid would become refundable to the appellant. Thus, the same being subject to the condition that the person receiving the payment has not claimed credit for it or is not claiming credit for it.

The counsel, J. D. Mishra appeared for the Petitioner.

The counsel, Akhileshwar Sharma represented the respondent.

TOP OF THE DAY

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT SETS UP SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PROBE LATHI CHARGE ON HAPUR LAWYERS



The Allahabad High Court in the case observed and had found the committee to look into the recent incident of police lathi charge on lawyers in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district.

DELHI HIGH COURT ORDERED CYBER CELL PROBE INTO AJIO SCAM INVOLVING LARGE-SCALE MONEY COLLECTION

The Delhi government appraised High Court of notice empowering officers for on-the-spot traffic offence compounding. The Delhi Court directed the Cyber cell to conduct an investigation into the large-scale operation which involves the fraudulent collection of money under the name of fashion and lifestyle brand AJIO.

G20 NATIONS COMMIT TO FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE TAX SYSTEM: DELHI DECLARATION

The G20 leaders in the Delhi declaration reaffirmed their commitment pursue cooperation towards the globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system appropriate to the 21st century.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS TO HEAR VIEWS OF DOMAIN EXPERTS ON THREE BILLS TO REPLACE CRIMINAL LAWS

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs will hear the views of domain expert on the examination of three bills, Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bhartiya Nagarik Sanhita, 2023 and the Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 on September 11, September 12 and September 13.



IN COURT

Bombay High Court Quashed Reassessment Notice Issued After 3 Years Without Proper Approval

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Bombay High Court in the case Siemens Financial Services Pvt Ltd. Versus Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax observed and has quashed the reassessment notice which is issued after 3 years without proper approval.

The bench comprising of Justice K.R. Shriram and Justice N. K. Gokhale in the case observed that the approval of the specified authority in terms of Section 151(ii) of the Income Tax Act is a jurisdictional requirement and in the absence of complying with the said requirement, thus, the reopening of assessment would fail.

In the present case, the petitioner or assessee is registered with the Reserve Bank of India, RBI as the non banking finance company and is being classified as the asset finance company.

Therefore, the assessee af-



ter three years received a reassessment notice, wherein the notice issued stated that there being the reason to believe that the assessee's income chargeable to tax for A.Y. 2016-2017 has escaped assessment within the meaning of Section 147.

The notice issued mentioned that the necessary satisfaction of Range 8(2), Mumbai, has been obtained.

Before the court, it has been contended by the Assessee that the notice, order, and intimation letter were beyond limitation, signed by the wrong specified authority, lacked "information" as

it is required under section 148, which resulted from the change of opinion, and was in violation of Section 151A.

Further, it has been contended by the assessee that the provisions as stated under Section 149(1)(b) provide that a notice issued under Section 148 can be beyond a period of three years and up to a period of ten years only if the Assessing Officer has in his possession books of account or other documents or evidence that reveal that income chargeable to tax represented in the form of an asset that has escaped assessment amounts to or is

more than an amount of Rs. 50 Lakh.

It has also been contended by the assessee that the Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax has mentioned in the order that prior approval has been taken in the matter from the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax under Section 151(i). therefore, Sanctions would be bad in law and as the Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax should have complied with Section 151(ii) and not Section 151(i).

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case held that the approval of the specified authority in terms of Section 151(ii) is a jurisdictional requirement, in the absence of complying with this requirement, thus, the reopening would fail.

The counsel, P.J. Pardiwala appeared for the petitioner. The counsel, Suresh Kumar represented the respondent.

IN COURT

DELHI GOVT TO DELHI COURT: OVER 100 TOILETS CONSTRUCTED FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN NATIONAL CAPITAL

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government in the case Jasmine Kaur Chhabra v. UOI & Ors observed and has informed the Delhi High Court that over 100 toilets have been constructed so far for the transgender persons in the national capital.

The Division bench comprising of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula in the case observed and was informed by the Delhi Government's Social Welfare Department that 102 toilets have been constructed whereas 194 more are under construction. Therefore, the Delhi Government has informed the courts that efforts are being made and that further action will be taken expeditiously in the matter.

In the present case, the



court was hearing the public interest litigation moved by the Jasmine Kaur Chhabra through Advocate Rupinder Pal Singh wherein seeking construction of separate toilets for transgender people. Thus, it being the case of Chhabra's that lack of such toilets makes transgender people prone to the sexual assault and the harassment.

It has also been stated by the bench that it will dis-

pose of the plea by passing appropriate orders, observing that substantial progress has been made by the city authorities in the matter.

The court in the case observed and has directed the Delhi government for ensuring that public toilets for transgender persons are constructed in the national capital within eight weeks. Last year, in July, the Delhi government had informed the Delhi Court that it is making all possible efforts to ensure creation of separate toilets for transgender persons and that the same will be done on a fast-track basis.

Further, the plea stated that not providing such facilities to transgender or third gender persons violates the rights of them under Article 14 and Article 21 of Constitution of India.

IN COURT

JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND LADAKH HIGH COURT: HIGH COURT CANNOT SCRUTINISE EVIDENCE TO DIFFER FROM TRIAL COURT'S OPINION | FRAMING OF CHARGES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court in the case Brij Bhushan Sharma vs. State Of J&K observed and has ruled that a High Court's scrutiny of the evidence and material collected by the prosecution in support of the charge, in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction as stated under Section

561-A of the J&K Code of Criminal Procedure is not any higher than that of the court that framed the charge.

The bench comprising of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri in the case observed and came to the conclusion which being contrary to the one arrived at by the trial Court in framing charge is not permissible.

The observations of the

court came while answering a reference pertaining to a land fraud scandal which involves the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Housing Corporation Limited. Thus, the allegations involved a criminal conspiracy to embezzle public funds during the acquisition of land for a residential colony.

The bench in the case observed and has explained that Justice Attar



had earlier dismissed the plea moved by some of the

accused challenging the charges against them.

On the other hand, it has been proposed by justice Massodi to quash certain charges against the petitioner but referred the matter to the Chief Justice due to a conflict of opinions. The High Court also disagreed with Justice Massodi's detailed analysis of the evidence, wherein suggested that it went beyond the scope of fram-

ing charges. However, the said bench differed with the view taken by Justice Massodi and found that the conclusion arrived at by Justice Attar is correct and in consonance with the evidence and material brought on record by the Investigating Agency.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case directed the Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar,

to try all the accused which includes the writ petitioner in accordance with law for the charges framed against them. Accordingly, the bench dismissed of the plea.

The counsel, Sr. Advocate, Mr. A.H.Naik, with Advocate, Mr. Zia Ahmad appeared for the petitioner.

The counsel, Mr Mohsin Qadri, Sr. AAG with Advocate Mr Maha Majeed represented the respondent.

IN COURT

DELHI HIGH COURT: OVERLOOKED ASSESSE'S REPLY DEMONSTRATED NON-APPLICATION OF MIND BY THE AO

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case *Aphy India Investco. Private Limited Versus ACIT Observed* and has quashed the orders of draft assessment, the final assessment orders, and consequential demand on the grounds that the assessing officer inadvertently overlooked the email reply of the assessee, in which the assessee disclosed the vital facts which pertain to the said case.

The bench comprising of Justice Rajiv Shakdher and Justice Girish Kathpalia in the case observed and has stated that the denial of sufficient time to respond was not just an abrogation of *ius naturale* but also infringed clause B(1) of the Standard Operating Procedure dated 19.11.2020 of the CBDT, according to which normally a response time of 15 days has to be given to the assessee in order to respond to the notice issued under Section 142 of the Income Tax Act. Itahs also been submitted

by the respondent or department that several notices issued under Section 148 and Section 142(1), as well as a show cause notice before making a best judgment assessment were being issued to the petitioner. It has been before the court that as per the petitioner or assessee, none of the notices except the notice dated 12.07.2022, issued under Section 142(1) were received by it. Therefore, the petitioner also explained that the brief reply to the notice

dated 12.07.2022 was being sent wherein it requested an extension of time till 05.08.2022 for filing a detailed reply, clarifying that none of the earlier notices had been received. The Assessing Officer in the case had already passed the order of draft notice based on best judgment, which did not acknowledge the brief reply filed on behalf of the petitioner. On the lines of the draft assessment order. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated

that the assessment orders, the draft assessment orders, and the consequential demand notices are clearly afflicted by two vices: Firstly, the assessing officer inadvertently overlooked the email reply dated 20.07.2022 from the petitioner. Secondly, the Assessing Officer denied the assessee sufficient time to respond. The counsel, Kamal Sawhney appeared for the petitioner. The counsel, Ruchir Bhatia represented the respondent.



IN COURT

Telangana High Court Seeks Status Report On Measures Taken For Flood Prevention Around Kaleshwaram Dam; Disaster Management Act



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Telangana High Court in the case *Dr. Cheruku Sudhakar, MBBS. vs. Union of India* observed and has asked the government for filing the status report with regards to the responsibility of the Government under Section 39 of the Disaster Management Act. The Division bench comprising of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice N.V Shraavan Kumar in the case observed and has asked the authorities to inform the court of the measures taken to protect the Kaleshwaram dam from similar damage this year. In the present case, the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project on the Godavari River suffered heavy damages due to massive floods last year but is back in operation in order to meet the irrigation requirements of

the state. Itahs previously been directed by the court that the State to provide relief to victims and prevent the spread of diseases due to such floods. The counsel, Advocate Prabhakar Chikkudu appearing for the petitioner contended before the court that the Government had followed, more or less all the directions of the Court, but it has been submitted that he has cited 8 suggestions that deserve consideration. Further, it has been stated by him that as per Section 39 of the Disaster Management Act, the State is obligated to prepare an Action Plan, so as to avoid future calamities and have an immediate course of action, in case of calamities. However, the counsel, Advocate Prabhakar Chikkudu stated before the court that all encroachment should be removed from the Full

Tank Level, FT Lin Dam areas and water bodies and future construction should be barred. The counsel also stated that the loss of animal lives was equally devastating, and thus, the State should ensure compensation to fodder banks and cattle owners. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that while taking the measurements, the floods are not there, This court grants them some breathing time, and fix a date before vacation, with specific mentions in relation to Kaleshwaram dam. Accordingly, the court disposed of the plea and listed the matter for further consideration on December 18, 2023. The counsel, Prabhakar Chikkudu appeared for the petitioner. The counsel, Special Government Pleader Harender Pershad represented the respondent.

IN COURT

PROSCRIBING THE PRESCRIPTION FOR PRE-ARREST BAIL

ANALYSIS

IVAN

Disquietingly, the Apex Court (also referred to as the 'Court') has recently dealt a colossal blow to the basic rule of 'bail, not jail' vide its ruling in *State of Haryana v. Dharamraj*. In a matter involving pre-arrest bail of an accused person, the Supreme Court not only denied the liberty to the petitioner but did so by overturning the relief as has already been determined in his favour by the concerned High Court. Curiously though, even while denying pre-arrest bail to the accused therein, the Court placed reliance on a series of judgments whereby the Hon'ble Court has clearly outlined that 'an application for cancellation of bail is generally examined on the anvil of the existence of supervening circumstances or violations of the conditions of bail by a person to whom bail has been granted' and 'that when a prayer is made for the cancellation of grant of bail contingent and overwhelming circumstances must be present and bail once granted cannot

be cancelled in a mechanical manner without considering whether any supervening circumstances have rendered it in conducting to allow fair trial'. Clearly, the Apex Court has been rather recalcitrant in cancellation of the relief of bail/anticipatory bail already granted unless of course in the face of supervening arbitrariness and perversity coupled with circumstances obtaining as such. Nevertheless, in the *Dharamraj* ruling, the Court in its discretion concluded that the factors weighing with the concerned High Court did not meet the litmus test in allowing pre-arrest bail of the accused person and the state's appeal was allowed with the Apex Court concluding that 'the logic of the High Court does not commend itself to us'. There of course can be no quarrel with the Court's appreciation of the reasoning, or lack thereof, as employed by the High Court. However, what is disconcerting to an extent is how the Court has

sought to wedge the ruling in between the intersection of provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1908 (CrPC), specifically Sections 82/83 dealing with 'proclamation of person absconding' along with 'attachment of property of person absconding' and Section 438 concerning 'grant of bail to person apprehending arrest'. In essence the *Dharamraj* judgment has effectively adjudged that any person having been declared a 'proclaimed offender' in accordance with Section 82 CrPC must first assail such proclamation devoid of which the concerned courts cannot consider a plea for pre-arrest bail. Briefly outlined, upon completion of investigation in a criminal trial the 'police report' as per Section 173(2) CrPC is forwarded to the concerned magistrate. The concerned magistrate in line with Sections 87/88 CrPC may thereafter, in cases wherein the accused is not already in custody, to ensure attendance of the accused shall proceed with issuance of summons in the first instance. However, as the Apex Court noted in its judgment in *Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI*, (2022) 10 SCC 51 issuance of non-bailable warrants (NBW) has become par for course without due application of mind and the same is



starkly against the tenor of the provisions enshrining judicial discretion in curtailing liberty of any person. Naturally, the course of action post issuance of NBWs is to initiate proceedings for declaring such a person as a proclaimed offender under Section 82 CrPC. It is no one's case that the power of the magistrate ought to be curtailed in ensuring the presence of an accused in a criminal trial. However, what is noteworthy is the cavalier manner in which Indian criminal courts issue warrants seeking attendance. Quite unfortunately, the authors herein, in matters still sub-judice and therefore not be-

ing named, have been privy to such disregard for liberty wherein bailable warrants and thereafter non-bailable warrants were issued against the accused despite delivery/service of summons having never been ensured and confirmed by the concerned magistrate. The sole reason for the same was that the accused was already in custody in relation to another offence and was never produced before the concerned magistrate by the police. Due to such non-attendance and non-revelation of the accused's judicial custody in relation to a separate offence, the magistrate proceeded to initiate proceed-

ings under Section 82 CrPC. Upon release from custody, only an order granting pre-arrest bail and/or interim relief shall prevent such an accused from being taken into custody de-novo. Unfortunately, this is a ploy employed ever so often by our investigative agencies and with impunity for the mere fact that the concerned magistrate court fails to ensure strict application of the law. It must accordingly be outlined that the Court's ruling in *Dharamraj* in so far as it pre-requires assailing proceedings under Section 82 CrPC to obtaining pre-arrest bail does not commend itself to the law nor to practicalities of a criminal trial. The

Court in *Dharamraj*, having placed reliance on earlier judgments of *Lavesh v. State NCT of Delhi*, (2012) 8 SCC 730 and *State of Madhya Pradesh v. Pradeep Sharma*, (2014) 2 SCC 171 failed to consider the evolution of the law on 'pre-arrest bail' as outlined by the 5-judge bench in *Sushila Aggarwal v. State NCT of Delhi*, (2020) 5 SCC 1 whereby aptly the Constitution Bench outlined that, "...where there are reasonable grounds for holding that a person accused of an offence is not likely to abscond, or otherwise misuse his liberty while on bail, there seems to be justification to require him to first submit to custody, remain in prison for some days and then apply for bail." The bench further went on to add that, "...the provision for anticipatory bail is pro-liberty and enables one anticipating arrest, a facility of approaching the court for a direction that he or she be not arrested; it was specifically enacted as a measure of protection against arbitrary arrests and humiliation by the police, which Parliament itself recognised as a widespread malaise on part of the police." On a conspectus of the law as it prevails therefore, the plain and literal language of Section 438 CrPC governing pre-arrest bail does not commend itself to any su-

perimposed or artificial restrictions as to its operation. In fact the bench in *Sushila Aggarwal* as above went so far as to add that 'if the court were to weave conditions to impose and read into Section 438 that are not expressly provided, the danger would be that several applicants who might otherwise be entitled to relief might be denied it altogether'. This is precisely the apprehension that the *Dharamraj* ruling gives rise to for it remains a reality that investigative processes in India are far from dispassionate and the powers of arrest are exercised in a cavalier manner by the agencies. In that regard if a dictum by the highest court of the land were to further proscribe the right to seek pre-arrest bail in apprehension of arrest the same will severely dent the right to liberty on a mere accusation despite the cardinal rule of 'presumption of innocence'. It is beyond contestation that no accused can claim an inviolable right to unconditional protection from arrest. However, imposition of such conditions must be curtailed to a case-by-case basis and the Hon'ble Supreme Court ought to be mindful of the fact that a mere nudge by it filter down to the courts below as an open season on rejection of the right to be protected from arbitrary arrests and curbs on freedom.

MILITARY VALOUR



A glimpse from the Multi-Nation Exercise Bright Star-23 that is underway for forging better understanding and developing interoperability between participating troops, on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DECLARE DISASTER ZONE: DOZENS FEARED DEAD IN DERNA'S FLOODING TRAGEDY

TDG NETWORK
CAIRO

Authorities in eastern Libya declared the city of Derna a disaster zone Monday after the Mediterranean storm Daniel caused devastating floods over the weekend in different parts of the North African nation. At least seven people were reported dead Monday in an initial tally in the coastal town of Susa in northeastern Libya, according to the Ambulance and Emergency Authority, and one other person was confirmed dead Sunday.

Dozens of others were reported missing, and authorities fear they could have died in the floods that destroyed homes and other properties in several towns in eastern Libya, according to local



media. Over the weekend, Libyans shared footage on social media showing flooded houses and roads in many areas across eastern Libya. They pleaded for help as floods besieged people inside their homes and in their vehicles.

Ossama Hamad, the prime minister of the east Libya government, has declared Derna a disaster zone after

heavy rainfall and floods destroyed much of the city. Hamad's government declared a state of emergency Saturday and suspended classes as a precaution ahead of the storm, which made landfall overnight. Controlling eastern and western Libya, Cmdr. Khalifa Hifter deployed troops to help residents in Benghazi and other eastern towns.

Ahmed al-Mosmari, a spokesperson for Hifter's forces, said they lost contact with five troops who were helping besieged families in Bayda. The storm is expected to arrive in parts of west Egypt on Monday, and the country's meteorological authorities warned about possible rain and bad weather. Khalifa Hifter deployed troops to help residents in Benghazi and other eastern towns.

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9/11 ATTACK

US marks 22nd anniversary of September 11 attacks

TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON, DC

United States on Monday marked the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack where hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon building in Virginia and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania and killed around 3,000 people.

According to the Voice of America, US President Joe Biden will address the members of the military, first responders and their families at a military base in Anchorage, Alaska. This will be a rare occasion as the September 11 anniversary will be observed without the US President appearing at observances at crash sites in New York, Pennsylvania or the Pentagon. Biden's Alaska stop comes as he travels home from an overseas trip that included the G20 summit in India and meeting with leaders in Vietnam.

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the US faced the deadliest terrorist attack in its history. Around 3,000 people were killed in the terror attacks. In a span of just 102 minutes, the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center collapsed after planes hijacked by Al Qaeda operatives crashed into them. By a joint resolution approved December



18, 2001, US Congress had designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day," and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

A few days back, New York City officials identified two more victims of the September 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center. The man and woman identified are the 1,648th and 1,649th victims identified by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, according to CNN citing a news release

from the mayor's office. The two were identified through advanced DNA testing of their remains, the release added. The man was identified through DNA testing of remains recovered in 2001 and the woman through DNA testing of remains recovered in 2001, 2006, and 2013, according to the release. The techniques used to make these identifications over two decades later "include recently adopted next-generation sequencing technology — more sensitive and rapid than conventional DNA techniques — which has been used by the U.S. military to identify the re-

mains of missing American servicemembers," the statement said.

As per CNN, despite these advancements in DNA technology, roughly 40 per cent of the victims, or about 1,100 people thought to have died in the disaster, remain unidentified. A total of 2,753 people were reported missing in lower Manhattan after the attacks on the World Trade Center. Death certificates were issued for all 2,753, although the work to match the names of victims with remains from the site continues. New York City Mayor Eric Adams noted in the announcement the victims'

families who continue to grieve. "As we prepare to mark the anniversary of September 11, our thoughts turn to those we lost on that terrible morning and their families who continue to live every day with the pain of missing loved ones," he said.

"We hope these new identifications can bring some measure of comfort to the families of these victims, and the ongoing efforts by the Office of Chief Medical Examiner attest to the city's unwavering commitment to reunite all the World Trade Center victims with their loved ones," CNN quoted Adams saying.

PROTEST UPROAR

PROTESTERS GATHER AT ISRAELI JUSTICE MINISTER'S HOME AHEAD OF KEY JUDICIAL HEARING

TDG NETWORK
MODIIN

Scores of Israeli protesters on Monday flooded the streets outside the home of Israel's justice minister, the architect of the country's divisive judicial overhaul, a day before the Supreme Court hears a crucial case against the curbing of its powers.

Israeli police said they arrested six people in the central Israeli town of Modiin, home to Justice Minister Yariv Levin, on charges of disrupting public order and blocking roads as they protested plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government to weaken the Supreme Court. The judicial plan has triggered one of the biggest domestic crises in Israeli history and exposed the country's bitter divides.

On Tuesday, all 15 of Israel's Supreme Court justices will appear on the bench for the first time ever to hear an appeal against the first major part of the overhaul, which the government pushed through parliament in July. The rowdy crowd of roughly 200 demonstrators outside Levin's home blew horns, chanted through megaphones against the government and brandished signs, jostling with police who pushed back the crowds. After a few hours, Levin left his besieged home in a sleek black car surrounded by police officers and security guards who tried to clear a path for him through the swarm of protesters.

Further demonstrations are expected this week as the Supreme Court hears petitions Tuesday by rights groups and individuals calling it to strike down the law passed by parliament that cancels the court's ability to block government actions and appointments using the legal concept that they are "unreasonable".

The hearings put the country's top justices in the unprecedented position of defending their own independence and ruling on their own fate. The court faces massive public pressure to strike down the law and has an inherent interest in preserving its powers

and independence. But if it does so, Netanyahu's government could ignore the ruling, setting the stage for a crisis over who has ultimate authority.

Supporters of Netanyahu's far-right, ultra-Orthodox government say the law will prevent liberal, unelected judges from interfering with the decisions of elected lawmakers. They also say the court should not be able to rule on a law limiting its own authority. The judicial plan has triggered one of the biggest domestic crises in Israeli history and exposed the country's bitter divides. On Tuesday, all 15 of Israel's Supreme Court justices will appear on the bench for the first time ever to hear an appeal against the first major part of the overhaul, which the government pushed through parliament in July. The rowdy crowd of roughly 200 demonstrators outside Levin's home blew horns, chanted through megaphones against the government and brandished signs, jostling with police who pushed back the crowds.

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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

UAE: ABU DHABI JUDICIARY PUBLISHES 49,000 COURT RULINGS ONLINE IN 2 YEARS

TDG NETWORK
ABU DHABI

The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD) published more than 49,000 court rulings on its website between 2021 and 2022. The move aims to raise the level of legal awareness among society members, confirm the integrity and transparency of legal principles issued by courts, and enhance the competitiveness of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the rule of law index in relevant international reports.

ABU DHABI JUDICIARY ACHIEVES MILESTONE

- Over two years, 49,032 judicial rulings were published (24,639 in 2021, 24,393 in 2022).
- Categorized by litigation degree: 31,251 from first instance, 14,433 from Appeal, 3,348 from cassation.
- Classified by court type: 23,889 in labor cases, 19,752 in commercial cases, 5,391 in civil cases.

Counsellor Youssef Saeed Al-Abri, ADJD Undersecretary, said that the publication of judgements issued by the Abu Dhabi Courts and making them

available through the electronic portal follows the vision of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister

of the Presidential Court and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department, which aims to consolidate a world-leading judicial system. In detail, the figures for judicial rulings showed the publication of 49,032 judicial rulings, including 24,639 in 2021 and 24,393 in 2022. The published rulings were distributed during the two years according to the degrees of litigation as follows: 31,251 judgements from the courts of first instance, 14,433 judgements from the courts of Appeal,

and 3,348 judgements from the court of cassation. The total number of published judgements, according to their classification based on the types of courts, reached 23,889 in labour cases, 19,752 in the commercial court, and 5,391 in civil cases. Counsellor Al-Abri also pointed out that the publication of judicial rulings on the website enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of judicial processes and raises the level of self-censorship in writing rulings.

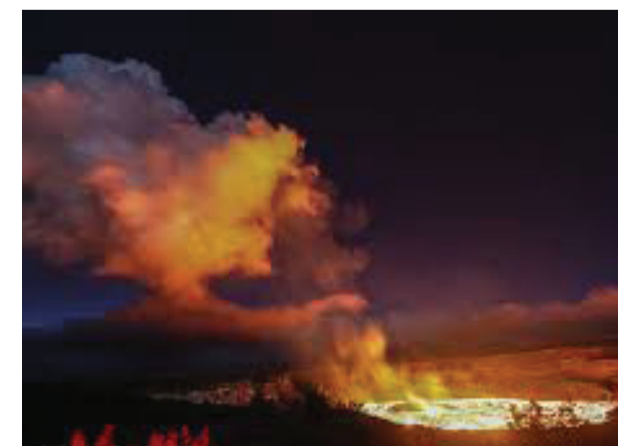
EXPLOSIVE ERUPTION

Hawaii volcano Kilauea erupts after nearly two months of quiet

TDG NETWORK
HONOLULU

Kilauea, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, began erupting Sunday after a two-month pause, displaying glowing lava that is a safe distance from people and structures in a national park on the Big Island. The Hawaii Volcano Observatory said the eruption was observed in the afternoon at the summit of Kilauea.

The observatory said gases released by the eruption will cause volcanic smog downwind of Kilauea. People living near the park should try to avoid volcanic particles spewed into the air by the eruption, the observatory said. The volcano's alert



level was raised to warning status and the aviation color code went to red as scientists evaluate the eruption and associated hazards.

In June, Kilauea erupted for several weeks, displaying fountains of red lava without threatening any communities or struc-

tures. Crowds of people flocked to the Big Island's Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which offered safe views of the lava. Kilauea, Hawaii's second largest volcano, erupted from September 2021 until last December. A 2018 Kilauea eruption destroyed more than 700 homes.

Take 5



5 TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS AROUND THE WORLD

Temperate rainforests are typically found near extensive bodies of water and towering mountain ranges. They are primarily concentrated along coastal regions, although certain inland mountain ranges can also host temperate rainforests, thanks to the distinctive weather conditions brought about by significant elevation variations.

1 APPALACHIAN TEMPERATE RAINFOREST
Stretching from northern Georgia to western North Carolina, the Appalachian temperate rainforest is perched atop one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world.

2 VALDIVIAN TEMPERATE RAINFOREST
The Valdivian temperate rainforest is found on the west coast of Chile and Argentina, on the wet, western slopes of the Andes mountain range.

3 FIORDLAND AND WESTLAND TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS
The South Island of New Zealand is home to two connected temperate forests known respectively as the Fiordland and Westland forests. Both are on the west coast of the island, where mountain topography creates a rain shadow effect.

4 FRAGAS DO EUME
Situated in northwestern Spain, the Fragas do Eume is a small stretch of temperate rainforest that straddles the Eume River.

5 KNYSNA-AMATOLE RAINFORESTS
The continent of Africa has only two enclaves of temperate rainforest—the Knysna and Amatole forests in South Africa.

— Bharti Naidu

POSTER RELEASED

'MAHARAJA' FIRST LOOK UNVEILED BY ACTOR VIJAY SETHUPATHI

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Vijay Sethupathi, a popular actor, launched the first look poster for his upcoming film 'Maharaja' in Chennai. The film marks Sethupathi's 50th movie.



tors and artists who gave me good experiences." Speaking about Maharaja, he said, "Natti Sir, Aruldas Anne, Singambuli Anne have all acted well.

The actor said to the media, "Thank you for your praise and criticism. 50 is not expected at all. It's like a milestone. How far we have come gives us hope. Also, it adds experience.

PICTURE PERFECT

Students attend a class as Arya Samaj School reopens after 33 years, in Srinagar on Monday. ANI



OTT RELEASE

'USP OF THE SHOW IS ITS CORE HUMAN EMOTIONS': SWAGGER SHARMA'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE UNIQUENESS OF 'LUCKY GUY'

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Amazon miniTV, Amazon's free video streaming service, recently released a fantasy drama, Lucky Guy, an ode to family, friendship, love, and fortune.



Commenting on the script, Swagger stated, "I actually wrote the script so didn't have

the experience of reading it fresh but when I first saw the fully-edited version in one go, I got goosebumps during the climax.

Additionally, Swagger outlined the unique element of

he is so close to. It showcases the typical Indian family where he and his father don't talk much with each other, a best friend whom he unknowingly annoys every time and then his love story in college.

Embark on the journey of good fortune with Lucky Guy, streaming live on Amazon miniTV, for free within the Amazon shopping app, on Fire TV and Play store.

RELEASE DATE

Get ready for the first track from bhumi pednekar's next film: 'haanji'

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

The release of the first track "Haanji" from the Bhumi Pednekar starrer is an exciting event for fans of the actress and the film.

I'm looking forward to hearing "Haanji" and seeing what it has in store for us! Makers of the upcoming drama film "Thank You For Coming" announced the release date of their first song.



be out on 12 September. Taking to Instagram, actor Bhumi Pednekar shared a string of stills from the film which she captioned, "Are. You. Ready.

To. RAGE? Haanji. #HaanjiSong drops on 12th September 2023!" Recently makers of "Thank you for Coming" unveiled the film's official

tagline of the trailer reads, "Fairytale's jhooth hai, love jhooth hai, orgasm jhooth hai." Directed by Karan Boolani, the film is all set to hit the theatres on 6 October.

I hope that the audiences have as much fun watching the film as we had making it." The film will be facing a big Bollywood clash with Akshay Kumar's upcoming film 'Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue'.

UNREST

CHAOS ERUPTS AT AR RAHMAN'S CONCERT IN CHENNAI, POLICE LAUNCH PROBE

TDG NETWORK CHENNAI

A concert featuring renowned music maestro AR Rahman, titled 'Marakuma Nenjam,' turned into a nightmarish experience for attendees, leading to a police investigation in Chennai.

Frustrated fans took to social media to share their traumatic experiences,



citing overcrowding and stampede-like situations. Numerous ticket holders with valid passes were reportedly denied entry.

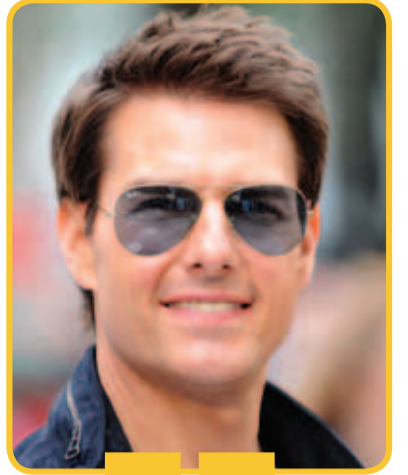
to attend, stating, "Let me be the sacrificial goat this time for all of us to wake up." Many attendees accused organizers of overselling tickets, resulting in a dangerously large crowd. Even

VIP zone ticket holders, who paid 25,000 to 50,000 rupees, reported inadequate security and a lack of bouncers. One attendee expressed their disappointment, saying, "It was the worst concert I have attended. VIP zones lacked security, and it was like a stampede.

BRAIN PICKING



In this life, it's not what you hope for, it's not what you deserve - it's what you take!



TOM CRUISE American Actor

JOURNEY

COMEDIAN BHARTI SINGH REVEALS STRUGGLES WITH SHOOTING CAREER

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Comedian Bharti Singh recently opened up about her past as a professional shooter and how she used to curse herself a lot during that time.

However, she also revealed that it was a very stressful time for her and she often found herself getting very frustrated with her performance.



myself a lot during that time because I was very serious about it. I used to participate in shooting competitions at the national level and even represented her state.

QUIZOHOLIC

- 1. Which iconic video game character is known for eating power pellets and chasing ghosts?
2. Which popular video game franchise features a battle royale mode known as "War-zone"?
3. Which game is often credited with popularizing the battle royale genre and features a shrinking play area to force player encounters?
4. In the game "The Legend of Zelda," what is the protagonist Link typically trying to rescue or save?
5. Which gaming console was developed by Sony and released in 1994, revolutionizing the gaming industry?

Answer: 1. Pac-Man 2. Call of Duty 3. Fortnite 4. Princess Zelda 5. PlayStation

Junaid was going through the market-place of the town with his disciples. A man was dragging his cow by a rope, and Junaid said 'Wait' to the man. The man stopped and Junaid asked his disciples 'I ask you one thing: who is bound to whom? Is the cow bound to this man or is this man bound to this cow?'

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

LIFE DOESN'T RUN AWAY FROM PEOPLE. LIFE RUNS AT PEOPLE. JOE FRAZIER

- By Bharani Sundaram

EXPLORING THREAD LIFT: NON-SURGICAL NOSE, FACE AND NECK LIFT

One such innovation that has gained substantial popularity is the Threadlift – a minimally invasive procedure that offers a non-surgical alternative to traditional facelifts.



DR. AJAY RANA

In recent years, the field of aesthetic medicine has witnessed remarkable advancements, providing individuals with a wide array of options to enhance their natural beauty and address signs of aging without resorting to invasive surgeries. One such innovation that has gained substantial popularity is the Threadlift – a minimally invasive procedure that offers a non-surgical alternative to traditional facelifts.

UNDERSTANDING NON-SURGICAL THREADLIFT

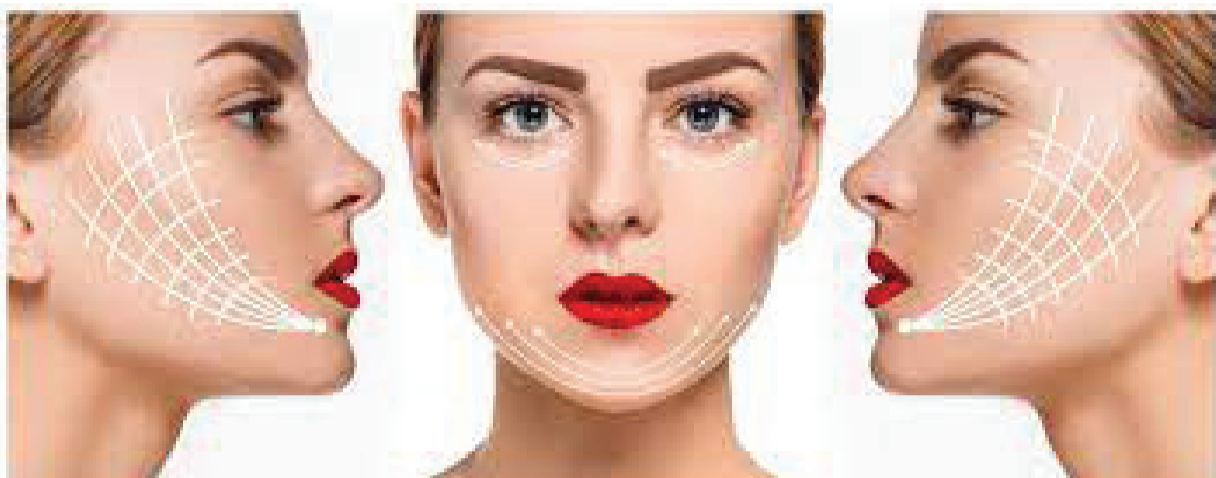
Threadlift is a minimally invasive cosmetic procedure designed to lift and tighten the skin, enhancing the appearance of the nose, face, and neck. Unlike traditional surgical facelifts, which involve incisions, removal of excess skin and potential downtime, this innovative technique utilizes bio-absorbable threads that are

strategically placed under the skin to lift and contour sagging areas. The threads used in this procedure are made of materials such as polydioxanone (PDO) or polycaprolactone (PCL), which are well-tolerated by the body and gradually dissolve over time.

THE RISE OF THREADLIFTS

Threadlifts have surged in popularity due to their ability to provide noticeable results with minimal downtime. The procedure involves the insertion of biodegradable threads beneath the skin to lift and tighten sagging tissues, resulting in a more youthful and refreshed appearance. Threadlifts offer a non-permanent solution, as the threads gradually dissolve over time, encouraging the body's natural collagen production for sustained improvement.

THE THREE-FOLD APPLICATION



1. Non-Surgical Nose Lift

The nose, being the central feature of the face, plays a significant role in overall facial harmony. Threadlifts can be employed to elevate and reshape the nasal tip, correct mild asymmetries, and enhance the overall profile without the need for surgery. This procedure, also known as the “non-surgical rhinoplasty,” appeals to those seeking subtle yet impactful changes to their nose without the risks and downtime associated with surgical interventions.

2. Threadlift for Facial Rejuvenation

3. Neck Lift with Threads

The neck is another area where visible signs of aging become apparent. Threadlifts can effectively address neck laxity and the formation of horizontal necklines, often referred to as “necklace lines.” By lifting and supporting the tissues in the neck, these threads can create a smoother and more defined neck contour, contributing to a more harmonious and balanced overall appearance.

As we age, the effects of gravity and a decrease in collagen and elastin production can lead to sagging skin, wrinkles, and loss of facial volume. Threadlifts offer a solution by lifting and tightening the skin, effectively reducing the appearance of jowls, nasolabial folds, and sagging cheeks. By strategically placing threads, a skilled practitioner can restore a more youthful contour to the face, creating a rejuvenated and natural-looking result.

ADVANTAGES OF THREADLIFTS

Minimally Invasive: Threadlifts are performed using fine needles, requiring

only small incisions or entry points. This significantly reduces the risk of scarring and lowers the potential for complications.

Quick Recovery: Compared to traditional surgical procedures, threadlifts generally involve minimal downtime. Patients can return to their normal activities relatively soon after the procedure.

Natural Results: When performed by an experienced practitioner, threadlifts can produce subtle and natural-looking results that enhance a person's features rather than drastically altering

them.

Collagen Stimulation: The threads used in the procedure encourage the body's natural collagen production, contributing to longer-lasting results even after the threads have dissolved.

CONSIDERATIONS AND CAVEATS

While threadlifts offer numerous benefits, it's important to note that not everyone is an ideal candidate for the procedure. Individuals with severe skin laxity or those seeking more dramatic changes may still be better suited for surgical options. Additionally, selecting a skilled and experienced practitioner is crucial to ensure optimal results and minimize the risk of complications.

The trend of non-surgical threadlifts has gained momentum in India as an attractive option for those seeking subtle facial rejuvenation. India's growing aesthetic industry, coupled with the demand for minimally invasive procedures, has led to the availability

of experienced and trained professionals across major cities. Clinics and centers offer non-surgical threadlifts as part of their repertoire of cosmetic services, catering to individuals looking for effective alternatives to surgical options.

The world of aesthetic medicine continues to evolve, offering innovative solutions for individuals seeking non-surgical alternatives to traditional cosmetic procedures. Threadlifts, with their versatility and ability to address multiple areas such as the nose, face, and neck, have emerged as a popular choice for those desiring a refreshed and rejuvenated appearance. As with any cosmetic procedure, thorough research and consultation with a qualified medical professional are essential steps to determine if a threadlift is the right option for achieving your aesthetic goals.

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT: MITIGATING HEALTH RISKS AND PROMOTING WELL-BEING



PRAVEEN TIWARI

Wastewater treatment is an important but frequently disregarded feature of contemporary society. It is essential for preserving public health and advancing general wellbeing. This blog will discuss the significance of wastewater treatment, its effects on human health, and how it helps create a more sustainable and healthy future.

HAZARDS OF UNTREATED WASTEWATER THAT GO UNNOTICED

Wastewater that hasn't been treated seriously endangers people's health. It has a diverse range of contaminants, including as germs, viruses, chemicals, and other dangerous materials. Numerous health problems may arise when this tainted water gets into the environment or our water supply. The main risk posed by untreated wastewater is waterborne illnesses. Typhoid, cholera, and hepatitis outbreaks can quickly spread through contaminated water supplies, affecting entire populations. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 2.2 million people die from diarrheal diseases each year, primarily as a result of contaminated water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene—problems that are directly related to untreated wastewater.

KEEPING DRINKING WATER SAFE

Protecting our drinking water is one of the most important functions of wastewater treatment. Before wastewater is released into rivers, lakes, or seas or recycled for non-potable uses, wastewater treatment plants remove contaminants, such as pathogens and chemical pollutants. This guarantees that the water we drink is secure and devoid of dangerous toxins. Furthermore, in regions where water is scarce, treated wastewater can be a useful resource. Wastewater can be filtered using cutting-edge treatment techniques to the point where it can be used for a variety of non-potable tasks, including irrigation, business operations, and even indirect potable reuse. This preserves freshwater resources and lessens the strain on ecological systems.

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The health of our ecosystem is significantly impacted by efficient wastewater treatment. Eutrophication of lakes and rivers can occur when untreated wastewater is dumped into natural water bodies. The growth of hazardous algae is encouraged by



excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, which can lower oxygen levels and destroy aquatic life.

Additionally, untreated wastewater may include dangerous compounds and heavy metals that kill fish and other creatures by disrupting aquatic ecosystems. Wastewater treatment procedures eliminate or neutralise these damaging elements, aiding in the preservation of our waterways' biodiversity.

KEEPING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE FROM SPREADING

A significant public health problem is the prevalence of antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant microorganisms in wastewater. Antibiotics may wind up in wastewater when they are incorrectly disposed of or excreted by people and animals. By destroying antibiotics and eradicating antibiotic-resistant microorganisms, wastewater treatment facilities can be extremely effective in preventing the spread of antibiotic resistance.

Treatment facilities protect the potency of these essential medications in medical care by eliminating antibiotics from wastewater, which lowers the selective pressure for antibiotic resistance. Through ensuring that antibiotics continue to be effective against bacterial illnesses, this in turn contributes to better public health outcomes.

FUTURE CLEANER AND SAFER

Investing in wastewater treatment is a step towards a more fair and sustainable future in addition to being a concern of public health. Despite being a fundamental human right, billions of people worldwide still do not have access to clean sanitation and wastewater treatment. Infrastructure improvements for wastewater treatment can have significant advantages. In especially in vulnerable populations, they lessen the burden of waterborne infections by generating jobs, promoting economic growth, and doing so. Additionally, the employment of cutting-

edge treatment technology can improve the energy and environmental sustainability of wastewater treatment, supporting international efforts to battle climate change.

CONCLUSION

Although wastewater treatment may not seem like a glamorous subject, it is nonetheless extremely important. It serves as a cornerstone of environmental and public health protection, preserving our water supplies and advancing societal well-being as a whole. Investments in wastewater treatment are investments in a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable future for all, as we continue to face water scarcity and environmental problems. We can make sure that wastewater treatment continues to reduce health risks and advance wellbeing for future generations by acknowledging its crucial role and encouraging its development and improvement.

The author is a head of Sales and Entrepreneurship

DEFYING SARCOPENIA: A GUIDE TO PRESERVING MUSCLE HEALTH IN AGING



FOOD IS MEDICINE
DR ANISH DESAI

As we age, our bodies undergo various changes, and one of the most concerning is the gradual loss of muscle mass and strength, a condition known as sarcopenia. It is a natural part of the aging process characterized by the loss of muscle mass, strength, and function. It typically begins in our 30s, but its effects become more pronounced as we enter our 50s and beyond. Contributing factors include hormonal changes, decreased physical activity, and inadequate nutrition. Muscle loss can lead to a decline in mobility, making everyday activities more challenging and increasing the risk of falls and fractures. With less muscle mass, the body burns fewer calories at rest, potentially leading to weight gain and obesity-related health issues. Sarcopenia can result in frailty, making individuals more vulnerable to illness and decreasing their ability to recover from injuries or surgeries.

muscle disuse and further exacerbating muscle loss (sarcopenia)

Nutrition plays a crucial role in combating sarcopenia. Incorporating the following foods into your diet can help support muscle growth and maintenance:

Protein and essential amino acids: Ensure an adequate intake of high-quality protein sources like lean meats, fish, eggs, dairy products, and plant-based options like legumes and tofu.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids: These fats, found in fatty fish like salmon and walnuts, have anti-inflammatory properties that can help protect muscle mass.

Vitamin D: This vitamin is essential for muscle function and can be obtained through sunlight exposure and foods like fortified dairy products and fatty fish.

Antioxidants: Foods rich in antioxidants, such as fruits and vegetables, can help reduce inflammation and pro-

tect muscle tissue. **Nutraceuticals** are bioactive compounds found in certain foods or available as supplements that can have positive effects on muscle health. Known for its role in energy production, creatine supplementation has been shown to improve muscle strength in older adults. Collagen peptides may support muscle mass and function while also benefiting joint health. HMB (Beta-Hydroxy Beta-Methylbutyrate) helps reduce protein breakdown and promote muscle growth. Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10), a powerful antioxidant properties and may enhance mitochondrial function, which is vital for muscle energy production.

By maintaining healthy, balanced diet rich in muscle-supporting nutrients and considering the use of nutraceuticals, individuals can take proactive steps to preserve their muscle health and enjoy a higher quality of life as they age.

Dr. Anish Desai is MD, Clinical Pharmacologist and Nutraceutical Physician, Founder and CEO, IntelliMed Healthcare Solutions.



WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY: 2023

The yearly observance of World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th stands as a poignant annual event underscoring the notion that support is frequently closer than we realise, whether it comes from a dependable friend, relative, or professional.

Understanding the Crisis

Suicide is a multifaceted issue, often entangled with mental health challenges, external stressors, and personal battles.

The Lifeline Within Reach

There is often a lifeline extending towards us—an empathetic friend, a supportive family member, or a seasoned professional. These individuals offer

more than a mere safety net; they extend a lifeline teeming with emotional support, guidance, and a compassionate, non-judgmental presence.

The Mighty Power of Connection

Human connection yields an incredible influence. A heartfelt check-in with a friend, a candid sharing of your emo-

tions with a loved one, or the decision to seek professional assistance can work wonders in someone's life.

Breaking Down the Stigma

Its goal is to foster empathy, understanding, and acceptance, emphasizing that reaching out for assistance demonstrates strength and resilience rather than vul-

nerability.

The Importance of the Day

In a world where mental health concerns often linger in the shadows, World Suicide Prevention Day beckons us to step into the light, to break the silence, and to be that lifeline for someone in need. By Dr. Neerje Agarwal



THE FOURFOLD DIVISION OF SOCIETY

PRARTHNA SARAN



All humans are born equal is a sweet sounding fallacy. It's near impossible to find two human beings who look alike, (twins, may be) or even think alike, or have similar ideologies, or similar desires and capabilities! Yes we all have one head four limbs and five sense organs. Yes, we all have one vote to cast, that's how the state counts us. All animals have one head, four legs and a tail, but are they equal in everything? All fish are fish, but the variety? Chapter IV of the Bhagwat Geeta, verse 13, carries a declaration by the Lord himself that He created a four fold division in society, based on gunas (mental tendencies) and karmas (preferences and skills action). Meaning that lawyers, doctors, professors, engineers, army officers, construction labourers, administrators are all different from each other in their thinking as well as their preferences in actions. A highly intelligent scientist cannot be put in the same category as a very brave and daring army commander, nor can a philosopher be in the same category as a trader who is generating wealth or labours for material gains. 1) A Brahmin is not by birth. Any human being who likes to live a clean noble life of higher learning

, who is prone to studying, teaching or researches into the deepest secrets of life is a Brahmin. 2) A Kshatriya is he who has a natural tendency for administration, leadership, standing up to protect the weak, fight for justice and righteousness. 3) A Vaishya is a natural, born businessman, (not by biological birth) trader, farmer, or industrialist. He generates wealth in the society, and considers it his duty to see that all are provided for. 4) Shoodras, This category of human beings are the ones who are the service providers. The entire hospitality sector, hospitals, hotel staff, airlines, railway and transport service employees, workers of all categories who prefer physical service jobs rather than any of the above categories fall into this class. Think carefully, where in the world do you not have these four types of human beings? The lord says that he created them all, so they are not inferior or superior, but different from each other. Yet the lord says that he was not a doer! The waves, the froth, the high and low tides are all created by the ocean, but is the ocean a doer? There is no ornament created without the help of gold, but is gold a creator? Similarly, the great grand life principle, the pure

power behind all life supports all creation by its mere presence. As in all religions, decadence slowly creeps in and misinterpretations abound to suit the priest or powerful class. The early Vedic society records no incidents of these categories classified in tightly bound moulds, not by birth, and 'inter caste' (people with different tendencies) marriages were common, but slowly these divisive lines became harder, and then degenerated into ridiculously illogical interpretations of caste, bringing in inferiority, superiority and even untouchability amongst people! Sad it is, but this is not what the lord said. He only made a classification for easy understanding of society based on 'guna' and 'karma', not determined by birth. The word 'Varna' in Sanskrit only means colour or texture. In yoga Shastra (science of Yoga) it means

the texture of thought patterns of the mind. For easy identification the three main tendencies or thought patterns were given colours: white for Satwik, red for Rajasic and black for Tamasic. The mischievous Hindu blasphemers made white the highest and black the lowest, and there followed a shameless exploitation of the ignorant masses. Accepting that the society fell into these evil ways because of convenient misinterpretations, we must understand it rightly and stand corrected. Each person in the social fabric constitutes a thread which holds the entire fabric together in a gorgeous weave. Each thread is as needed as the other and is equal in importance for the fabric to show off its sheen and beautiful artistry! Each thread is unique in colour and weaves a different pattern. One thread destroyed and the whole fabric slowly rips apart. This is a sad state

of misunderstanding of our revered and divine sanatan dharma by its own sons in its own sacred motherland. There are very few great mahatmas who can reveal the divine depths of this great Sanatan dharma. It is our pious duty to research into it before cheaply shouting slogans to banish it. Krishna, born the son of a king, happily spent his whole childhood as a mere cowherd boy in the village of Brindavan, and Shri Ram who was also born to a king happily spent years in the forest, embracing and befriending and protecting the shoodras like Shabari Mata, Nishaad, Kevat, and many other forest dwellers. Not human beings alone our gentle Sanatan dharm follower Shri Ram also fondly loved and protected birds, animals, even thanked creatures as little as squirrels! We must all labour to remove the hatred and the prejudices that have been created by self serving priests and others through convenient interpretations. This great religion has been honoured as the deepest philosophy that the world has seen, be proud of your own heritage and lofty ideals, Sanatan dharma is our sacred mother, and a mother is always a mother, even if in tatters now. Which son, worthy of that name would even talk of banishing her, or bathe her feet and decorate her in divine garments? Prarthna Saran is the President of Chinmaya Mission Delhi.



THE WISE OWL

OUR THOUGHTS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

If you think you are content, you are right. If you think you can never be content, you are right again. How you think matters more than you think. Talking about neuroplasticity, scientists assure us that even our neurons listen to our thoughts. Every time you think positively, you reinforce new neural pathways in your brain. Vice versa, negative thoughts too create certain patterns in our body compelling our brain to think and react in the same manner. Dennis Waitley, a motivational speaker would tell his listeners: "The winners in life think constantly in terms of I can, I will, and I am. Losers, on the other hand, concentrate their waking thoughts on what they should have or would have done, or what they can't do." Circumstances may not always be in our hands; certain situations may elicit negative response much beyond your control. But when time passes, you can definitely come back to your positive self, counting your blessings, carrying yourself to move on again. Those who have come out of the worst believed that they can do it. And they were right. Those who refused to come out of the abyss and drowned, were led to that path by their thoughts. They were right too. Our thoughts make all the difference.

OBSESSED WITH THE EXTERIOR



MYSTIC MUSING

RAJESH M. IYER

The royal court of King Janak's kingdom was filled to the brim. Educated people from various kingdoms had assembled to listen to the finest minds discussing matters pertaining to the soul. Janak was the patron of numerous seers and scholars and regularly held such spiritual assemblies. Far away in his village, the young scholar Ashtavakra was keen to participate in one such session. He had another connection to these sessions: his father. Sage Kahola was reciting mantras when the unborn child in his wife's womb corrected him regarding his pronunciations. An angry Kahola cursed his unborn child, who was born with eight deformities in his body and hence was called Ashtavakra. Incidentally, Kahola lost a fierce debate in King Janak's royal court a few years later and was banished to the Yamuna riverbed according to the rules of the debate. The moment Ashtavakra set foot inside the royal court, he was met with laughter. In response, he laughed louder, shocking the entire assembly. When Janak's counsellors introduced Ashtavakra, Janak was elated since he had heard about the young seer and accorded him respect in tune with the protocol. "What's the subject of the discussion, O king?" Ashtavakra wanted to know. "There was one question being debat-

ed until now. It was about the soul,' the king replied. 'Now there's another. I know others laughed at your unusual way of walking. The second question I would like an answer to is, What made you laugh?' 'I too was laughing at myself,' Ashtavakra replied. 'I don't understand,' said Janak, intrigued, as were others in the royal court. 'I came expecting astute minds discussing the soul,' Ashtavakra explained. 'However, what I find is a congregation of traders obsessed with the exterior—the skin, the body, the looks—like shoemakers discussing the quality of leather. Hence, I laughed at having made the mistake of coming to the wrong place.' As the meaning of Ashtavakra's words dawned upon them, everyone became quiet. Oh, how today we might scorn those mocking Ashtavakra in the assembly of Janak, little realising that these mockers are still among us. Nay, within us! Aren't we forever enamoured by external features without a clue of what's shining deep within, not just in the mind but in the soul? It's time our vision improved and turned inward. Rajesh M. Iyer is a storyteller who explores human relationships through meaningful anecdotes, parables, and stories; he shares his work on www.rajeshmjiyer.com.

NEED OF HONESTY (SATYA) IN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE



DR. MANOJ SHARMA

Am I honest with myself in my thoughts, words, and actions? Do I pretend to be honest, or do I truly aspire to be honest? Who can say that as a child we were not instructed to be honest? Then why as adults, do we sometimes engage in being dishonest, deceitful, and non-truthful? These are some questions that often bother us. Honesty is a spiritual virtue that is universally accepted as being the basis of integrity. It is often said that honesty is the best policy. It is well-recognized that honesty leads to happiness and contentment. Honesty needs to translate into our thoughts first, then into words, and then into our actions. Yet at times, we find it difficult to remain honest. Personality researchers have come up with an Honesty-Humility trait. This trait comprises four dimensions. The first dimension is sincerity or the propensity to be truthful and non-manipulative. The second dimension involves fairness or the inclination to have everybody's welfare in mind. The third dimension entails avoiding greed or having a relatively lower focus on the comforts and luxuries of life. The final dimension imbibes modesty or having relatively lower feelings of entitlement and superiority. This trait is negatively associated with a tendency to deceive or exploit others and pursue self-promoting goals. This trait exhibits greater social desirability than others.

Clearly, this trait has a lot of utility in the betterment of our personality and society. This trait must be nourished in our personality. Unfortunately, such claims lower our self-esteem even more and we start living in a life of lies and falsehood which leads to discontent and unhappiness. We must always make efforts to achieve what we do not have and aspire to have. But we must not make false claims for possessing that we have something that we do not or how good we are when we are not at that level. Even if it is for trivial matters we should try and be honest with ourselves and others. What is the point of lying even if it is a small lie? James Faust (1920-2007), an American religious leader, once said, "Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth living, and truth loving." It certainly is an ideal that we must always aspire to in our daily interactions. Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), the father of psychoanalysis, proposed self-analysis for personal growth. He advocated that self-analysis must follow internal associations and reflections honestly. In such reflections, one should constantly check whether one is being honest. If one is not honest with oneself, then no growth can take place. However, such self-analysis is often difficult as there is constant interaction between one's defense mechanisms and conflicting urg-



es. So constant effort must be exercised so that these internal processes do not interfere, and one is as objective as possible. In doing self-analysis one is revisiting one's own beliefs, attitudes, and values. So being honest with oneself can sometimes be painful and one must be prepared for that. However, such self-analysis of our truths and lies is extremely helpful in our development and must be practiced with earnestness and zeal. Honesty is very important in relationships. Taylor Lautner (1992-present), a young contemporary American actor, has said, "Honesty and loyalty are key. If two people can be honest with each other about everything, that's probably the biggest key to success." Honesty is the cement that binds relationships. We see dishonesty in relationships and as a result, we find them breaking up more easily than ever before. Dishonesty breaches trust and that is often unrepairable. Dishonesty can manifest as a distortion of the truth or something that should have been shared but was not shared or plain deceit. In relationships, people are often hurt more by the

cover-up of the truth rather than by the truth itself. Honesty in relationships helps one live at the level of reality and not in a world of fantasy which is crucial for the survival of any relationship. Honesty in a relationship whether is with a family member, a friend, or in a romantic context ensures security in that relationship. If one is not honest with oneself then it is likely that the person cannot be honest with the other person. The quest for honesty must begin with the self, then with the family, then with friends, and then with everyone. Plato (428-328 BC), the ancient Greek philosopher, once said, "Honesty is for the most part less profitable than dishonesty." This seems to be happening in present-day society at the societal level. There are several measures and institutions in our society that try to regulate honesty. Yet we find various forms of cheating rampant in our society such as tax evasion, corruption, political fraud, criminal behaviors, and so on. These forms of cheating are present in both individualistic as well as collectivist cultures and no country is completely free from these

practices. Regulation of all forms of cheating and adherence to honesty ultimately boils down to internal reflection and integrity. Standards for honesty are often set up by influential people. First, the responsibility for setting standards lies with parents and teachers. Role models in our society such as leaders, politicians, and other important dignitaries have a moral obligation to set ideals for honesty. Unfortunately, such influential people do the exact opposite and set bad examples which have detrimental effects on common people. Gächter and Schulz in a study published in Nature in 2016 from 23 countries from around the world studied the prevalence of rule violations (PRVs) and their relationship to intrinsic honesty among young people. They found that intrinsic honesty was stronger among young people from those countries that had low PRVs than those from countries with high PRVs. Here are five points for introspection to incultivate honesty into our lives:

- Do I falsely claim an attribute that I do not possess?
- Have I lied about anything, even a trivial matter during the past day?
- What should have been a truthful way to conduct myself if I had lied?
- Can a remedial measure be taken by me to correct my lie now?
- What measures do I need to have in place so that I do not lie in the future?

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We are forever enamoured by the external features without a clue of what's shining deep within. It's time our vision turned inward.

