

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Governance(GSII)/Internal Security(GSIII)- Page 1

ED can summon anyone for 'any information': SC

Top court orders four T.N. District Collectors to appear in person before ED on April 25, raps them for not responding to agency summons, says they have no respect for law, court, and Constitution

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday endorsed the sweeping powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), saying the Central agency could call "anybody for any information" even as it castigated four Tamil Nadu District Collectors for failing to appear in person in response to a summons issued to them by the anti-money laundering body.

The Tamil Nadu government and the Collectors informed a Bench headed by Justice Bela M. Trivedi that they had written to the ED expressing their inability to appear in person as the Lok Sabha election in Tamil Nadu was due on April

Sharp censure

SC reprimands District Collectors of Vellore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchi in T.N. for not appearing before investigative agency

■ Bench states that Section 50(2) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) empowered the ED to summon 'any person' whose attendance was considered necessary for giving evidence or production of records

■ District Collectors express inability to compile data and present it to ED on time owing to poll work and implementation of welfare programmes

■ Bench refuses to accept argument; lists case for May 6



tion sought by the Central agency about sand mining sites in their districts.

The Collectors said the information sought was not in their offices, but had to be collected from other branches of the district administration, verified and compiled to be presented before the ED. They had

cept the Collectors' explanation. Justice Trivedi said their conduct showed scant respect for the court's February 27 order to appear in person before the ED on whatever date it summoned them.

"Such a cavalier approach may land them [District Collectors] in a

on February 27... Their conduct shows that these officers have no respect for this court, the law and much less to the Constitution. Such an approach is strongly deprecated," Justice Trivedi addressed senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Amit Anand Tiwari, representing the District Collectors of Vellore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchi.

Mr. Sibal submitted that the officials were still gathering the data for the ED from the various offices. They were also, as District Magistrates, saddled with the responsibility of maintaining law and order and fulfilment of programmes in their jurisdictions.

- The Directorate of Enforcement is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with investigation of offence of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- Presently, the Directorate is under the administrative control of Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- 50(2) of the PMLA empowered the ED to summon "any person" whose attendance was considered necessary for giving evidence or production of records in the course of "any investigation or proceeding" under the statute.
- Section 50(3) mandated that the individual summoned was "bound to attend in person or through authorised agents" and would be required to make truthful statements and produce the required documents.
- ED has been given the responsibility to conduct investigation into suspected contraventions of foreign exchange laws and regulations,
- Directorate is mandated to attach the properties of the fugitive economic offenders who have escaped from the India

'India risking demographic dividend'

World Bank says from 2000-2022, India's employment ratio fell by more than in other South Asian nations except Nepal; India's robust economic expansion has, however, kept the region's output growth stronger than in other emerging markets

The Hindu Bureau
LONDON

The World Bank has warned that the South Asia region including India was not making use of its demographic dividend as the pace of job creation in the region fell short of growth in the working-age population, even as it projected a strong 6.0-6.1% growth for 2024-25 for the region in its South Asia regional update, *Jobs for Resilience*, released on Tuesday.

Observing that India's employment growth was "well below" the average

Jobless growth

World Bank warns South Asia, India risk squandering the demographic dividend if pace of job creation is not improved

Bank projects strong 6.0-6.1% growth for 2024-25 for the region in its regional update

Region could have 16% higher growth if share of its working-age population with jobs was on par with other EMDEs



Weak employment concentrated in non-agricultural sectors, notes lender

growth in its working age population for the 2000-23 period, the multilateral lender said consequently the country's employment ratio had declined more

than in any other country in the region except Nepal up till 2022. However, preliminary data suggested a 3-percentage point rebound in 2023, which had

partially reversed the decline.

Noting that India's economy was expected to post a "robust growth" of 7.5% in FY23/24, the lender said this growth coupled with recoveries in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, was largely driving the strong numbers for the South Asian region.

Still, the region could have 16% higher output growth if the share of its working-age population that was employed was on a par with other EMDEs, stressed Franziska Ohnsorge, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia.

"South Asia is failing

right now to fully capitalise on its demographic dividend," said Ms. Ohnsorge. "This is a missed opportunity," she added.

The weak employment trends in the region were concentrated in non-agricultural sectors, the World Bank said, reflecting challenges in the institutional and economic climate, which had stifled the growth of businesses.

To encourage job growth the Bank recommended supporting the participation of women in the economy, increasing openness to trade, and improving education.

- South Asia region including India was not making use of its demographic dividend as the pace of job creation in the region fell short of growth in the working-age population
 - India's economy was expected to post a "robust growth" of 7.5% in FY23/24,
- Growth in South Asia is expected to be strong at 6.0% in 2024, driven mainly by robust growth in India and recoveries in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. But persistent structural challenges threaten to undermine sustained growth, hindering the region's ability to create jobs and respond to climate shocks,
- the latest **South Asia Development Update** released today, South Asia is expected to remain the fastest-growing region in the world for the next two years, with growth projected to be 6.1% in 2025.
- To encourage job growth the Bank recommended supporting the participation of women in the economy, increasing openness to trade, and improving education.

Indian Express-Geography(GSI)-Page 15

What is Kallakkadal, which has flooded houses in Kerala's coastal areas?

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 2

HUNDREDS OF houses have been flooded in several coastal areas of Kerala due to high sea waves, also known as swell waves, since Sunday. The worst affected regions include Alappuzha, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram districts. Authorities have opened relief camps for the affected local communities.

Such flooding events are called swell surge or Kallakkadal in Malayalam. Here is a look at the phenomenon, why it happens, and how it is different from a tsunami.

What is Kallakkadal?

Kallakkadal is essentially coastal flood-

ing during the pre-monsoon (April-May) season by swell waves on the southwest coast of India, according to a paper, *Teleconnection between the North Indian Ocean high swell events and meteorological conditions over the Southern Indian Ocean*, which was published in the journal *AGU* in 2016. The study was authored by P.G. Remya, S. Vishnu, B. Praveen Kumar, T.M. Balakrishnan Nair, and B. Rohith—all from the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad.

The term Kallakkadal, used by local fishermen, is a combination of two Malayalam words, including Kallan and Kadal. "Kallan means thief and Kadal means sea. In spoken language, these words were combined and pronounced as Kallakkadal, meaning ocean that arrives as a thief," the study said.



Houses damaged due to a Kallakkadal event in Kollam on Tuesday. ANI

In 2012, the term was formally approved by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

What causes Kallakkadal?

Kallakkadal is caused by waves that are formed by an ocean swell, hence the name swell surge. Ocean swells occur not due to the local winds, but rather due to distant storms like hurricanes, or even long periods of fierce gale winds. During such storms, huge energy transfer takes place from the air into the water, leading to the formation of very high waves. Such waves can travel thousands of kilometres from the storm centre until they strike shore.

Usually, Kallakkadal is a consequence of the strong winds in the southern part of the Indian Ocean, where an ocean swell is generated, and the waves then travel north to reach the coast in two or three days.

The latest instance took place after a low atmospheric pressure system moved over the

region around March 25 from the South Atlantic Ocean—10,000 kilometres off the Indian coast. The arrival of the pressure system resulted in strong winds, which led to the formation of swell waves of up to 11 metres in height. These waves have been hitting the Kerala coast and Lakshadweep since Sunday.

Kallakkadal occurs without precursors or any kind of local wind activity and as a result, it has been very difficult for the coastal population to get an advance warning. However, early warning systems like the Swell Surge Forecast System—launched by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in 2020—gives forecasting seven days in advance.

Why is Kallakkadal different from tsunami?

Kallakkadal came under the spotlight after the 2004 tsunami that killed more than 10,000 people. However, Kallakkadal is often mistaken to be a tsunami, which is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean.

What is the forecast?

The swell surge is likely to continue impacting Kerala and other western coast regions of the country for the next two days before they gradually weaken.

INCOIS has stated high waves will move to the Tamil Nadu coast on Tuesday night. It has alerted people in coastal areas vulnerable to sea erosion to take precautionary steps and ensure the safety of fishing vessels.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu-S&T(GSIII)

Ministry of Science & Technology

Kodaikanal Solar Observatory celebrates 125 years of studying the Sun.

Posted On: 02 APR 2024 6:21PM by PIB Delhi



- The 125th anniversary of the iconic Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO) was celebrated on 1 April 2024 by Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), to remember the history of KSO, felicitate its scientists, and honour its legacy was a milestone for astronomy in India. The KSO houses a digital repository of 1.2 lakh digitised solar images and thousands of other images of the Sun recorded every day since the start of the 20th century.
- Established on 1 April 1899 by the British, the Observatory has one of the longest continuous daily records of the Sun in the world, and this unique database has been digitised and is publicly available for astronomers from across the globe.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

News on air :IR(GSII)

Nepal's Lower House Endorses The BIMSTEC Charter Today



- BIMSTEC was formed in 1997 to enhance regional cooperation on issues like economic prosperity, social progress, scientific achievement, peace, stability and connectivity.
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand are members of BIMSTEC.
- Nepal became a member of BIMSTEC in 2004.