

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Art and Culture(GSI)Page 5

Archaeologist finds first evidence of rock art in form of footprints in Mangaluru city

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The first evidence of rock art in Mangaluru city has been found near Bloor Panne Koteda Babbu Swamy shrine, according to T. Murugeshi, retired Associate Professor, Ancient History and Archaeology, MSRS College, Shirva.

Mr. Murugeshi said the rock art is in the form of a pair of human footprints, found on a natural stone boulder near the shrine. These footprints might have been created in the first or second century A.D.

“This will make us rethink about the origin of Babbu Swamy, a revered le-



Rock art in the form of a pair of human footprints was found in Mangaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gend of the region,” he said.

This discovery, Mr. Murugeshi said, is part of the work of recreating history of Babbu Swamy, taken up in association with Minchi-

nabavi Kordabba Trust, Padubidri, Udupi district. “This discovery gives a clue to search for similar art forms near other shrines of Babbu Swamy,” he told *The Hindu*.

Rock art, he said, is referred to paintings and rock paintings, which were unquestionable cognitive evidences of illiterate societies.

He discovered a rock site in Buddhanajeddu in Udupi district in 2009, which, he said, was an important rock art site of coastal Karnataka. In this site, he found more than 20 footprints on laterite surface, and it belonged to the first or second century A.D. There was evidence of pottery and stone tools of neolithic period at the Buddhanajeddu site.

The rock art form discovered near Babbu Swamy shrine in Bloor does not have any relative evidence.

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- These footprints might have been created in the first or second century A.D. “This will make us rethink about the origin of Babbu Swamy, a revered legend of the region,

The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 11

U.N. forecasts 2.7% growth for world economy

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations reported improved prospects for the world economy since its January forecast on Thursday, pointing to a better outlook in the U.S and several large emerging economies including India.

According to its mid-2024 report, the world economy is now projected to grow by 2.7% this year, up from the 2.4% forecast in its January report - and by 2.8% in 2025. A 2.7% growth rate would equal growth in 2023, but still be lower than the 3% growth rate before the pandemic.

- The world economy is now forecast to grow by 2.7% in 2024 (an increase of 0.3 percentage points from the forecast in January) and 2.8% in 2025 (an increase of 0.1 percentage points).
- The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2024, released, said, “India’s economy is forecast to expand by 6.9% in 2024 and 6.6% in 2025, mainly driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu- Environment(GSIII)



Back there: A lynx released during the first experimental reintroduction of two Iberian lynxes in Spain. AFP

Endangered Iberian lynx population doubles in 3 years

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

The number of endangered Iberian lynx in the wild in Spain and Portugal has nearly doubled since 2020 to surpass 2,000 last year, the Spanish

- The number of endangered Iberian lynx in the wild in Spain and Portugal has nearly doubled since 2020 to surpass 2,000 last year,
 - The Iberian lynx is the world's most endangered feline species
 - listed as Endangered
- The Iberian lynx mostly depends on wild rabbits to feed,
- In the early 19th century the Iberian lynx was found in Spain, Portugal and Southern France

WHY ARE ORCAS SINKING BOATS? ARE THEY PLAYING, OR ARE THEY ANGRY?

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

TWO PEOPLE were rescued on May 12 after a group of orcas, also known as killer whales, sank their 15-metre-long sailing yacht in the Strait of Gibraltar, near the coast of Morocco. The animals approached the yacht and began to slam the hull, damaging the rudder and causing a leak.

This was not an isolated event. Data by the research group GT Atlantic Orca (GTOA) show that since 2020 (when the rise in targeting of boats was first observed), there have been more than 700 interactions between orcas and boats — in some cases, boats sustained critical damage — near the Strait of Gibraltar.

Owing to the high frequency of the interactions, they have now become a multinational issue which involves scientists and officials from Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, according to a report by *The New York Times*.

Despite the growing body of research, scientists are yet to ascertain why the animals have been targeting the boats — such behaviour by orcas is unusual, they have said. However, they have come up with possibilities: either the orcas are playing around, or they are reacting to negative experiences with the boats.

'Orcas are playing around'

A part of the dolphin family, orcas,



Orcas are highly intelligent and curious mammals. *The NYT*

Speaking to the *BBC*, orca specialist Renaud de Stephanis said orcas are just pushing the rudders until they break. "It is a game. Imagine a kid of 6, 7 years, with a weight of three tonnes. That's it, nothing less, nothing more... If they wanted to wreck the boat, they would break it in 10 minutes' time."

'Orcas are attacking boats'

According to this theory, a traumatic event must have happened with one or two orcas, triggering a change in their behaviour, which is being imitated by the rest of the population near the Strait of Gibraltar.

There have been some instances of

- Two people were rescued on May 12 after a group of orcas, also known as killer whales, sank their 15-metre-long sailing yacht in the Strait of Gibraltar, 22.5 kilometres off the coast of Morocco.
- The killer whale, also known as orca, is the ocean's top predator. It is the largest member of the Delphinidae family, or dolphins
- Found in every ocean in the world, they are the most widely distributed of all cetaceans (whales and dolphins)
- They are one of the most recognizable marine mammals, with their distinctive black and white bodies
- Globally, killer whales occur in a wide range of habitats, in both open seas and coastal waters.
- Killer whales are highly social, and most live in social groups called pods
- Killer whales are found in all oceans. While they are most abundant in colder waters like Antarctica, Norway, and Alaska, they are also found in tropical and subtropical waters. The most well-studied killer whale populations occur in the eastern North Pacific Ocean

Indian Express-Polity and Governance(GSII)-Page 14

What happens during remand hearings? This is what a study suggests



EXPERTS EXPLAIN

ZEBHA SIKORA &
JINEE LOKANEETA

THE SUPREME COURT this week directed the release of jailed journalist Prabir Purkayastha on the ground that due-process safeguards were not followed in his arrest and detention, and that his constitutional rights had been violated.

After arrest, Purkayastha was produced before a designated judge early in the morning, and sent to seven days' police custody. He was not given an opportunity to defend himself through legal counsel of his choice, and not informed of the grounds of arrest, as required by Article 22(1) of the Constitution.

Role of the magistrate

The judgment is a reminder of the constitutional rights at stake during first produc-

tion and remand, a critical stage in the criminal legal process. But while the judgment spotlights the right of the accused to know the grounds for arrest to protect their right to life and liberty under Article 21, it does not focus on the role of the judiciary to ensure these safeguards, and to oversee police actions.

Article 22(2) says every arrested person shall be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours — this is called "first production". The magistrate/ judge can authorise further detention in police custody (for interrogation) or judicial custody through remand hearings.

This is not a mechanical procedural step. It requires judicial scrutiny to ensure that statutory and constitutional safeguards are realised in letter and spirit.

What happens in court

An ethnographic study by Project 39A at National Law University Delhi looked at the everyday functioning of magistrate courts during regular hours across the six district court complexes in Delhi over a three-month period, including the role of the magistrate, lawyers, police, and accused.

The researchers observed the manner in which the public interaction of the magistrate, courtroom dynamics, and social hierarchies influenced the experience of the

accused at first production and remand. The findings suggest most magistrates do not fully realise the constitutional and statutory protections at first production and remand. Violations such as those flagged by the SC in Purkayastha's case are not uncommon.

Key findings of the study

■ While the extent of intervention and engagement of magistrates varied, the proceedings tended to emphasise compliance on paper. Most magistrates ensured that the Arrest Memo — which contains information on the circumstances of arrest and intimidation to family — and Medico-Legal Certificate (MLC) — based on a medical examination of the accused — were present on file.

The observations suggested that the legal system acknowledges that these documents are important to protect the accused from illegal detention and torture in this vulnerable phase in custody.

However, the paperwork may not always be comprehensive or even an accurate record of the experience of the accused.

For instance, Arrest Memo was often filled inside the courtroom, with officers at times asking the accused about details of their family minutes before production. This meant that intimidation to family, which

is a crucial safeguard in the arrest process, was not meaningfully realised.

■ Magistrates rarely interacted with the accused to confirm their experience with the information provided in the documents. Meaningful interactions with the accused and their lawyers and family on questions of age, circumstances and grounds of arrest, and experience in custody is crucial to ensure that the constitutional rights of the accused are fully realised during the proceedings.

The study found that violations were often ignored or corrected in the paperwork, without consideration of its consequences or impact on the rights of the accused. At first production, standard explanations for injuries — accident or public beating — were usually accepted without further inquiry.

■ There is no standard format for Arrest Memo or MLC, which adds to the lack of clarity about the information necessary to ensure the rights of the accused are protected. There are also gaps in the forms — for example, in the Arrest Memo in use in Delhi, there is no column for age, and any inquiry in this regard is left to the discretion of the magistrate.

The Supreme Court's emphasis on the distinction between the formal reasons for arrest — often included in the Arrest Memo — and meaningful communication of the

grounds of arrest in writing, highlight another aspect where the presence of the Arrest Memo alone is not adequate confirmation of due-process rights of the accused.

Legal representation

It was observed that most production hearings took place without legal representation for the accused, with magistrates not intervening to secure the accused's right.

Remand lawyers, a category of legal aid counsel who are appointed to ensure defence representation at the pretrial stage, were generally absent from the court. Where remand lawyers were present, they were rarely given the opportunity to consult with the client and seek instructions. Very few intervened and pressed any arguments on behalf of the accused.

While lawyers asked for a copy of the PR, they rarely sought a copy of the Arrest Memo or MLC, to which the accused is entitled.

Purkayastha's case illustrates that occasionally remand counsel may be invited to represent the accused as a way to bypass the right of the accused to their own private counsel in violation of Article 22(1).

Structural barriers

■ First production and remand proceed-

ings do not even appear to be accorded proper time in the daily workload of the magistrate. These matters are heard at random, together with or in between other proceedings.

■ The heavy workload of magistrates, and a perception that pretrial proceedings are unimportant, might lead to magistrates not treating every production matter as warranting careful inquiry. Production matters are not even mentioned in the cause list, the most publicly visible document of the court's schedule. This is not the only category of matters that is excluded — but the exclusion does undermine the substantive importance of this procedural requirement.

■ The lack of publicly available record or schedule of pretrial remand matters, and the overreliance on communication with the police for information on productions from police custody, causes confusion for lawyers and family of the accused and compromises the rights of the accused.

Sikora is Senior Associate, Project 39A, NLU Delhi. Lokaneeta is Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Drew University, USA. They led the first-of-its-kind study, 'Magistrates & Constitutional Protections: An Ethnographic Study of First Production and Remand in Delhi Courts'

The Supreme Court directed the release of jailed journalist Prabir Purkayastha on the ground that due-process safeguards were not followed in his arrest and detention, and that his constitutional rights had been violated.

- He was not given an opportunity to defend himself through legal counsel of his choice, and not informed of the grounds of arrest, as required by Article 22 (1) of the Constitution.

Do you know ?

The right to be informed about the grounds of arrest flows from Article 22(1) (an arrested person shall be informed of the grounds of arrest and allowed to consult a lawyer of his or her choice) of the Constitution and any infringement of this fundamental right would vitiate the process of arrest and remand,"

Article 22(2) says every arrested person shall be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours — this is called "first production". The magistrate/ judge can authorise further detention in police custody (for interrogation) or judicial custody through remand hearings.

Rules for political parties to use state-funded media during polls

AMININATH
DELHI, MAY 17

TWO OPPOSITION leaders — Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and All India Forward Bloc leader G Devarajan — were asked to make certain changes to their speeches made on Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) during the allocated broadcast time in the run-up to the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Yechury had to delete references to the Electoral Bonds scheme, drop the terms "communal authoritarian regime" and "draconian laws", and replace "bankruptcy" (of governance) with "failure". Devarajan was made to

remove the word "Muslims" from his speech about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

According to a Prasar Bharati official, the TV and radio networks were simply following rules set by the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding the use of state-controlled media by recognised parties during elections. Prasar Bharati is India's state-run public broadcaster and the parent organisation of Doordarshan and AIR.

Time allocation on state media

Recognised political parties have been allowed to freely use state-owned television and radio during polls since the 1998 Lok Sabha elections. The ECI decides how much time each recognised national and state

party will be allotted prior to the start of the election campaign.

National parties together get a minimum of 10 hours of telecast time on Doordarshan's national channel, and at least 15 hours on its regional channels. They also get 10 hours of broadcast time on the national hook-up of AIR and 15 hours of broadcasting on regional AIR stations. All state parties together get a minimum of 30 hours of telecast

time on the appropriate regional Doordarshan channel and AIR radio station.

On March 28, the ECI allocated broadcast and telecast time to each of the six national parties — AAP, BSP, BJP, CPI(M), Congress, and

Conrad Sangma's National People's Party — and 59 state parties for the 2024 elections.

For national parties, out of the 10 hours prescribed, a total of 4.5 hours (45 minutes each) was allocated in both Doordarshan and AIR. The remaining 5.5 hours was further allocated on the basis of voteshares in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Similar formulae were followed while allocating time to state parties.

EXPLAINED POLITICS

Content of speeches

Parties and their speakers are expected to submit transcripts of their speeches three to four days before recording — these have to be approved by the authorities concerned in the respective AIR and Doordarshan stations.

The ECI's guidelines forbid "criticism of other countries; attack on religions or communities; anything obscene or defamatory; incitement of violence; anything amounting to contempt of court; aspersions against the integrity of the President and judiciary; anything affecting the unity, sovereignty and integrity of the nation; and any criticism by name of any person".

However, both Devarajan and Yechury, whose edited speeches were aired on Doordarshan on April 16, were not happy with the changes made to their speech.

"The censorship applied to the text of my address on Doordarshan is a patent denial of the right to dissent in a democracy... The deletion of the word 'bankruptcy' of govern-

ance and the suggestion to replace it with 'failure' only endorses the authoritarian character of the government," Yechury wrote in a letter to Director General Doordarshan.

Devarajan told *The Indian Express* that after he was told to drop the word 'Muslims' from his speech, he (unsuccessfully) argued for the need to use the word to emphasise that the CAA is "discriminatory to Muslims as the law mentions every other minority community eligible for citizenship".

The ECI had allocated 54 minutes each on Doordarshan and AIR to CPI(M) and 26 minutes each on the two media to AIFB.

LONGER VERSION ON indianexpress.com/explained

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- Recognised political parties have been allowed to freely use state-owned television and radio during polls since the 1998 Lok Sabha elections. The ECI decides how much time each recognised national and state party will be allotted prior to the start of the election campaign.
- National parties, all put together, get a minimum of 10 hours of telecasting time on Doordarshan's national channel, and at least 15 hours on its regional channels.
- They also get 10 hours of broadcasting time on the national hook-up of AIR and 15 hours of broadcasting on regional AIR stations. State parties, all put together, get a minimum of 30 hours of telecasting time on the appropriate regional Doordarshan channel and AIR radio station.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-IR(GSII)

Ministry of Defence

12th India-Mongolia Joint Working Group meeting to bolster bilateral defence ties held in Ulaanbaatar

Posted On: 17 MAY 2024 10:20AM by PIB Delhi

The 12th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the Defence Ministries of India and Mongolia took place in Ulaanbaatar on May 16-17, 2024. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary, MoD, India Shri Amitabh Prasad and State Secretary of MoD, Mongolia Brigadier General Gankhuyag Davagdorj. India's Ambassador to Mongolia Shri Atul Malhari Gotsurve also attended the meeting.

During the JWG, both sides expressed satisfaction at the ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries. They reviewed the progress on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives and identified means to further enhance cooperation in these areas, articulating steps in this direction. Both sides also exchanged views on the current geopolitical situation.

The Joint Secretary highlighted the potential of the capacity & capability of the Indian defence industry, and looked forward to a fruitful partnership with the Armed Forces of Mongolia. The Mongolian side exuded confidence in the capacity & capability of the Indian industry. Both sides also acknowledged the growing ties between the two countries.

The Joint Secretary & the Indian Ambassador also called on Deputy Defence Minister of Mongolia Mr B Bayarmagnai, and discussed bilateral cooperation issues. The delegation visited a training establishment in Ulaanbaatar and reviewed the ongoing engagements.

India enjoys age-old historical, cultural and civilisational ties with Mongolia. Both countries regard each other as 'Spiritual Neighbours'. In the modern times, values like democracy, freedom and market economy hold the two nations closer.

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