

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu :_GS 2-Health –Page 10

‘Peer support from TB survivors aids treatment of over four lakh patients’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Over four lakh people with tuberculosis across India received essential peer support and person-centred care from 2,000 TB survivors trained as ‘champions’, said the Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH), a non-profit organisation working on TB, at the national dissemination meeting of the Unite to ACT Project in New Delhi on Friday.

At the meeting, former NITI Aayog member Vinod Kumar Paul emphasised the vital role of community engagement in eliminating TB in India and appreciated REACH for developing a model worthy of emulation, with the ‘TB Champions’ at the forefront, said a press release from REACH. As part of the Unite to Act project, ‘TB



Dignitaries releasing the National Impact Report on Unite to ACT project in New Delhi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Champions’ or survivors work as community role models to raise awareness about the disease and provide valuable care and support to the affected people.

REACH director Ramya Ananthakrishnan said, “Through the Unite to ACT project, we have witnessed first-hand the commitment of TB Champions in transforming lives and reducing stigma within communities, by drawing on their own personal experiences of TB and driven by the motivation that no one should suffer like they did.

As a result, we have been able to improve the overall treatment success rates for people with TB.”

Arun Kumar Jha, former Economic Adviser, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Raghuram Rao, Assistant Director General, Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Nishant Kumar, Joint Director, Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Sarabjit Chadha, Regional Technical Director (India & South-East Asia), FIND, participated.

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable.
- TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air. A person needs to inhale only a few of these germs to become infected.
- About a quarter of the global population is estimated to have been infected with TB bacteria,

The Hindu :GS2-IR(Page 12)

Armenia becomes the latest nation to recognise Palestine

With the move, Yerevan joins the ranks of Spain, Ireland, and Norway who officially recognised Palestine last month; the former Soviet republic also condemns Hamas's kidnapping of civilians

Agence France-Presse
YEREVAN

Armenia announced on Friday it was recognising the State of Palestine, the latest country to do so during the war in Gaza, saying it was against "violence towards civilian populations."

A series of nations have recognised the State of Palestine amid the war between Israel and Hamas, drawing strong rebukes from Israeli officials.

Envoy summoned

Shortly after the former Soviet republic announced the recognition, Israel's Foreign Ministry said it summoned Yerevan's Ambas-



Sorry state: Armenia also criticised Israel's military conduct in Gaza where more than 37,000 people have been killed. REUTERS

sador for a "severe reprimand".

Yerevan noted it is "genuinely interested in establishing long-term peace and stability in the Middle East [West Asia]."

"Confirming its commitment to international law, equality of nations, sovereignty and peaceful coexistence, the Republic of Armenia recognises the State of Palestine," Armenia ad-

ded. Yerevan, which has itself been ridden by conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan for decades, slammed Israel's military conduct in Gaza.

Call for freedom

It also criticised Hamas for "the captivity of civilian persons" and said Armenia "joins the demands of international community on freeing them."

In late May, Spain, Ireland, and Norway officially recognised the State of Palestine, stating they saw the move as a step towards peace in the region.

Israeli authorities accused the European trio of "rewarding terrorism" with their actions.

- **Armenia recognizes a Palestinian state**
- Three-quarters of the 193 United Nations member nations have recognized a Palestinian state,
- Earlier on May 29, Norway, Spain and Ireland had recognised a state of Palestine
- Palestinians believe the recognitions confer international legitimacy on their struggle, especially as Israel's war against Hamas,

Do you know ?

India was the first non-Arab State to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1974. India was also one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine in 1988 and in 1996, Delhi opened its Representative Office to the Palestine Authority in Gaza, which was later shifted to Ramallah in 2003.

Indian Express- GS 3/Money Laundering-Page 15

Bail in money laundering cases, and the 'twin test' under PMLA

PURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

A DVJ after a trial court granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who is in jail on charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Delhi High Court stayed the order.

A Bench headed by Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain on Friday heard an urgent plea by the Enforcement Directorate seeking a stay on the bail, and reserved its order until next week. The ED challenged the trial court's order on the ground that the court had failed to apply the 'twin test' for granting bail under PMLA.

What is the twin test, and why is bail under PMLA so contentious?

Section 45 and twin test

Section 45 of the PMLA, which deals with bail, first states that no court can grant bail for offences under this law, and then proceeds to mention a few exceptions. The negative lan-

guage in the provision itself shows that bail is not the rule but the exception under PMLA.

The provision makes it mandatory to hear the public prosecutor in all bail applications, and when the prosecutor opposes bail, the court is required to apply a twin test.

These two conditions are: (i) that there are "reasonable grounds for believing that [the accused] is not guilty of such offence"; and (ii) that "he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail".

There are similar provisions in several other laws that deal with serious offences – for example, Section 36A of The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, Section 37 of The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and Section 43D(5) of The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967.

The provision in the UAPA, for example, states that "no person accused of an offence punishable under Chapters IV (Punishment for Terrorist Activities) and VI (Terrorist Organisations) of this Act shall be released on bail or on his own bond unless the Public

Prosecutor has been given an opportunity of being heard", or if the court "is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation...is prima facie true".

Legal challenges to twin test

The first blow to the constitutional validity of the twin test came in a 2017 ruling, *Nilesh Tarachand Shah v Union of India*.

A two-judge Bench comprising Justices Rohinton Nariman and Sanjay Kishan Kaul struck down the bail provision as unconstitutional on the ground that the onerous conditions were not a reasonable classification. "Reasonable classification" is a feature of the right to equality, which is a fundamental right.

However, by a subsequent amendment, Parliament put these provisions back in the law through the Finance Act, 2018. This reinsertion was challenged before various High Courts and eventually before the Supreme Court, culminating in a batch of petitions that

were heard in 2022 as *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v Union of India*.

The petitioners argued that the underlying reasoning in *Nilesh Tarachand Shah* was valid even if Parliament brought back the law. However, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar (now retired) refused to accept the previous ruling.

"We are unable to agree with the observations in *Nilesh Tarachand Shah* distinguishing the enunciation of the

EXPLAINED LAW

Constitution Bench decision in *Kartar Singh*; and other observations suggestive of doubting the perception of Parliament in regard to the seriousness of the offence of money-laundering, including about it posing serious threat to the sovereignty and integrity of the country," the court said.

Legal experts have questioned the logic of equating money laundering with stringent anti-terror and narcotics laws when the offence of money laundering, however serious, carries a maximum sentence of only seven

years. Only in money laundering cases where the scheduled offence involves narcotics, is the maximum sentence extended to 10 years.

In response, the government had argued in court that persons who are involved in money laundering are "influential, intelligent, and resourceful, and the crime is committed with full pre-meditation, which ensures that offence is not detected and even if it is detected, investigation agency cannot trace the evidence".

The government has defended the onerous bail conditions on the ground that the offence is committed "with the help of advanced technology so as to conceal the transaction".

Current position in law

One key aspect of the challenge to the amendment on bail conditions still remains open even after the *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary* ruling: the passing of these amendments through the Money Bill route.

A separate larger Bench challenge is pending before the SC on whether certain

laws, such as the Aadhaar Act, service conditions of Tribunal members etc. can be passed as a Money Bill. A Bench is yet to be constituted on that issue.

Although the Supreme Court has agreed to review its *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary* ruling itself, it is still valid law since no stay is operating on the judgment.

As per the ruling, the twin test has to be rigorously applied by all courts – special courts trying money laundering offences as well as constitutional courts. It would also apply in the same way for both regular bail and anticipatory bail.

However, an accused can still get the benefit available under Section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), under which he is entitled to bail after serving half of the maximum sentence as an undertrial.

This means that in most money laundering cases, if the Enforcement Directorate is not able to finish the trial within three and a half years, the accused is entitled to bail, irrespective of the twin test.

The PMLA was enacted with the objective to prevent money laundering. The Act provides for a higher threshold for the grant of bail as compared to the standard procedure under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Section 45 of the PMLA, which deals with bail, first states that no court can grant bail for offences under this law, and then proceeds to mention a few exceptions.

These two conditions are: (i) that there are "reasonable grounds for believing that [the accused] is not guilty of such offence"; and (ii) that "he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail".

- Section 45(1) of the PMLA requires that before a person is released on bail or bond, the public prosecutor must initially be given an opportunity to oppose the application and secondly, when the application is opposed, the court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of the offence and is not likely to commit any crime while out on bail.

WHAT IS CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET & HOW IS IT BETTER THAN ITS RIVAL AI MODELS?

BIJIN JOSE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

ANTHROPIC, OPENAI'S biggest rival, has launched its latest AI model called Claude 3.5 Sonnet — the company's first release in the upcoming Claude 3.5 AI model series. Anthropic has claimed that its latest offering outperforms its peers such as OpenAI's GPT-4o, Google's Gemini-1.5 Pro, Meta's Llama-400b, and even the company's proprietary models — Claude 3 Haiku and Claude 3 Opus.

"Claude 3.5 Sonnet operates at twice the speed of Claude 3 Opus. This performance boost, combined with cost-effective pricing, makes Claude 3.5 Sonnet ideal for complex tasks such as context-sensitive customer support and orchestrating multi-step workflows," Anthropic said in a statement.

What is Claude 3.5 Sonnet?

Claude 3.5 Sonnet is a large language model (LLM), and is part of the family of LLMs which is being developed by Anthropic. These models are known as generative pre-trained transformers, which means they have been pre-trained to predict the next word in large amounts of text. Claude 3.5 Sonnet is the predecessor to the Claude 3 Sonnet, introduced in March this year.

Claude 3.5 Sonnet is likely to be the middle model (based on parameter size) in the upcoming series of AI models by Anthropic — the smallest and biggest models are yet to be released. Anthropic

marks in capabilities such as coding proficiency (HumanEval), graduate-level reasoning (GPQA), and undergraduate-level knowledge (MMLU).

The company claims that the new model has also shown significant improvement in grasping nuance, humour, and complex instructions. Claude 3.5 Sonnet is exceptional at writing high-quality content with a natural and relatable tone, according to Anthropic.

Based on the benchmark scores shared by Anthropic on its official website, Claude 3.5 Sonnet seems outstanding. It has outdone GPT-4o, Gemini 1.5 Pro, and Meta's Llama 3.400B in seven out of eight overall benchmarks.

However, benchmark scores should not be taken too seriously — many AI startups have been accused of cherry-picking scores under categories that make them look good.

What about Claude 3.5 Sonnet's vision capabilities?

Anthropic claims that Claude 3.5 Sonnet is its strongest vision model. A vision model in AI is a model capable of interpreting and analysing visual data such as images and videos.

According to the company, the improvements in Claude 3.5 Sonnet are most noticeable for tasks that require visual reasoning such as decoding charts and graphs. The model is also capable of accurately transcribing text from imperfect images. For instance, *The Indian Express* clicked a random picture from Claude's iOS app and asked about the lo-

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- Claude 3.5 Sonnet sets some new industry benchmarks in capabilities such as coding proficiency (HumanEval), graduate-level reasoning (GPQA), and undergraduate-level knowledge (MMLU).

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB –Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

Release of Publication 'Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors 2024'

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

- The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is releasing Publication- 'Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors 2024'.
- The publication is a comprehensive and insightful document which provides detailed tables and analysis of values of output of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing sectors from 2011-12 to 2022-23
- The shares of Crop, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing sub-sectors in value of output of Agriculture and allied sector were 54.3%, 30.9%, 7.9% and 6.9% respectively in 2022-23.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Air – Polity and Governance(GSII)

Centre Enacted Stringent Laws To Curb Malpractices, Irregularities In Competitive Exams



- The Centre has enacted a stringent law that aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations. The law entails provisions for a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to 1 crore rupees for offenders. In a notification published in the official gazette, the Ministry of Personnel said that provisions of the law will come into force today. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on February 6 and 9, respectively. President Droupadi Murmu gave approval to the bill on February 12, turning it into a law. .
- The Act aims to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, National Testing Agency (NTA), Railway Recruitment Board, and banking recruitment examination bodies, among others. It has provisions for a minimum of three to five years of imprisonment to curb cheating, and those involved in organised crimes of cheating will face five to 10 years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of 1 crore rupees.