

DAILY PT POINTERS

14 September, 2024



The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

SC grants bail, Kejriwal walks free

Bench reinforces conditions from July 12 order granting bail in a related money laundering case; Justice Bhuyan writes separate opinion, questioning the timing and necessity of arrest, asking the CBI to dispel the notion of being a caged parrot

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to be released on regular bail in a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in relation to the now-scrapped excise policy.

Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan concurred to grant bail to Mr. Kejriwal but differed on the point of the legality of his arrest.

Justice Kant barred Mr. Kejriwal from visiting the office of the Chief Minister and the Delhi Secretariat or signing official files unless it was required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. These conditions were adopted from the July 12 order of the apex court granting the Chief Minister bail in a connected money



Big win: Arvind Kejriwal being welcomed by Aam Aadmi Party workers and supporters after coming out of Tihar jail on bail, on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

laundering case investigated by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED).

Justice Bhuyan said he had "serious reservations" about the two bail conditions but refrained from delving further into them as they were part of the July 12 order in a different case heard by a coordinate Bench of the apex court.

His restraint would mean the two bail conditions would now be effective.

The verdict was based on petitions filed by Mr. Kejriwal, seeking bail and the quashing of his arrest by the CBI on June 26. Later in the day, he stepped out of Tihar jail to a resounding welcome by AAP leaders and supporters.

While Justice Kant said the CBI arrest warranted no interference as it did not suffer from any "procedural infirmity", Justice Bhuyan chose to write a separate opinion questioning both its timing and necessity without mincing words. He questioned the urgency shown by the CBI to arrest Mr. Kejriwal 22

months after the registration of the First Information Report in the case.

Noting that the power of arrest must be used sparingly and is not a ruse for harassment, Justice Bhuyan urged the CBI to be above board in its actions like "Caesar's wife" and give the public the perception of an "uncaged parrot".

"In a functional democracy governed by the rule of law, perception matters. Like Caesar's wife, an investigating agency must be above board. Not so long ago, the Supreme Court had castigated the CBI for being a caged parrot. It is imperative that CBI dispel this notion. Rather, the perception should be that of an uncaged parrot," Justice Bhuyan wrote.

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- The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 governs the terms of the bail in India.
- **Types of bail**
 - **Regular Bail:** A regular bail is basically the release of an accused from custody to ensure his presence at the trial.
 - The grant of regular bail is usually guided by what is referred to as the triple test — the ascertainment of whether the accused is at flight risk; possibility of tampering with the evidence and influencing witnesses.
 - **Interim Bail:** This bail is provided as a temporary measure and is valid only while an application is ongoing or when the court is considering an application for anticipatory or regular bail.
 - **Anticipatory bail:** It is a type of bail that is given to someone who is in anticipation of getting arrested for a non-bailable offense by the police.

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Port Blair to be renamed Sri Vijaya Puram, says Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that Port Blair, the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will be renamed Sri Vijaya Puram to “free the nation from colonial imprints”. Announcing the decision on X, Mr. Shah said, “While the earlier name had a colonial legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in our freedom struggle and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands’ unique role in the same.” The island territory that once served as the naval base of the Chola Empire is today poised to be the critical base for our strategic and development aspirations, the Union Minister added.

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Do you know ?

Port Blair is the capital of the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It is located on the east coast of the South Andaman Island. Port Blair is the gateway to the pristine islands.

The Hindu-Economy (GSIII)-Page 11

'Floods may cut jute production by 20%'

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Jute production is expected to drop by 20% this financial year, said Shashi Bhushan Singh, Secretary of the National Jute Board.

Mr. Singh, who was in Coimbatore for an exposition organised by the Board, told *The Hindu* on Thursday that cultivation was affected in West Bengal and Assam on account of natural calamities this year. Floods had damaged the crop in some areas, impacting production.

There was potential to touch ₹4,500 crore in annual jute exports. It was ₹3,000 crore last financial year and was projected to be almost ₹3,500 crore during the current fiscal.

The Board was prepar-



ing a draft for Jute Technology Mission 2.0 and held meetings with stakeholders. It was also supporting research projects to find more applications for jute. Lab testing was completed for extracting ethanol from jute plants.

It was estimated one tonne of jute plant would give 495 litre of ethanol. There were plans to set up a pilot unit, he said. Another project was to make jute composite materials.

Jute production is expected to drop by 20% this financial year, said Shashi Bhushan Singh, Secretary of the National Jute Board.

Jute is soft, flexible and hard-wearing bast fibre. Jute fibres are long, lustrous, resilient and softer to touch. It has a natural colour in light tan to brown range and its fibre can be bleached and can be dyed well.

The leading world's jute producing countries are India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand

The cultivation of jute in India is mainly confined to the eastern region of the country

The Hindu-Health(GSII)-Page 12

WHO clears Bavarian Nordic's shot for Mpox

Reuters
GENEVA

The World Health Organisation said on Friday it had cleared Bavarian Nordic's vaccine as the first shot against Mpox.

The approval is an official list of medicines used as a benchmark for procurement by developing countries.

"This first prequalification of a vaccine against Mpox is an important step in our fight against the disease, both in the context of the current outbreaks in Africa, and in future," WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Mpox was declared a public emergency of international concern by WHO last month.

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- Mpox is a rare zoonotic (disease that spreads from animals to humans) caused by the monkeypox virus which belongs to the *Orthopoxvirus* genus in the *Poxviridae* family.
- Other diseases caused by viruses from this family include smallpox, cowpox, and more. Mpox virus is transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone infectious – it can happen through direct contact with infected blood, fluids, or skin or mucus lesions (damaged or broken areas). The virus enters the body through broken skin, mucosal surfaces (oral, pharyngeal, ocular, genital, or anorectal), or the respiratory tract. Mpox can also spread through contact with contaminated materials, or infected animals from bites or scratches, or through activities like hunting, skinning, trapping, cooking, playing with carcasses, or eating animals.

Indian Express-Science and Tech (GSIII)-Page9

IISc proposes 'human brain-inspired' computing platform to boost AI tools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 13

IN A pathbreaking technological progress in the field of AI, a group of researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed an analogous computing platform within a molecular film which is able to mimic human brain-like functioning.

The Bengaluru-based researchers working at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) at IISc said that the 'brain on the chip' design, even though it is analogous, could perform functions like processing and data storage which showed close resemblance to that of a human brain. And more importantly, it offers 16,500 conductance states within the molecular film. For comparison, the existing digital computing platform needs to be programmed and it operates on the binary states of 0 and 1. They

can also be bulky on energy and time consumption, thus offering a reduced speed in comparison to the estimated AI-based calculation speeds with this platform.

This could revolutionise and shatter the glass ceiling of overall AI capabilities present today. The new platform, researchers said, offers flexibility and easy deployability of AI-based tasks onto one's personal electronic gadgets like smart phones, laptops and desktops. This would also significantly find use in computing applications, in Machine Learning and scientific computing, the IISc team on their work which addressed some of the pressing gaps in the present-day neuromorphic (following human brain-like computing techniques) operations.

Unlike the energy-heavy operability in the digital platforms used for extensive computing purposes, use of molecular films permitted researchers to track free ionic movements, which widened



'Brain on the chip' design can process and store data which showed close resemblance to that of human brain: IISc

the memory pathways.

The latest paper published in Nature also described how kinetic controls were established over the molecular transition, enabling almost all quintessential neuromorphic traits in a single circuit element. The researchers applied timed voltage pulses and managed to trace large number of molecular movements and map each of them to a distinct electrical sig-

nal, forming an extensive 'molecular diary' of different states.

"Due to this free ionic movement, countless unique memory states and pathways were generated. Such intermediary states had remained inaccessible, so far as most digital devices are only able to access two either high and low conductance states. This platform allowed us to control molecular kinetics very precisely inside an electronic circuit powered by nanosecond voltage pulses," said Sreebrata Goswami from CeNSE.

In the realm of AI, several milestones in neuromorphic computing, like edge training, deployment of advanced models could be unlocked. Several of these endeavours are currently being pursued at IISc.

"This is a completely indigenous effort. With this discovery challenges of the neuromorphic computing stand addressed," Sreebrata Goswami, visiting professor at the CeNSE said.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Defense(GSIII)

DRDO successfully conducts first phase of Developmental Field Firing Trials of Indian Light Tank 'Zorawar'

Posted On: 13 SEP 2024 6:53PM by PIB Delhi

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), on September 13, 2024, successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the Indian light Tank, Zorawar, a highly versatile platform capable of deployment in high-altitude areas. During the field trials conducted in the desert terrain, the Light Tank demonstrated exceptional performance, efficiently meeting all the intended objectives. In the initial phase, the tank's firing performance was rigorously evaluated and it achieved the required accuracy on designated targets.

Zorawar has been successfully developed by the Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), a unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Ltd. Numerous Indian industries, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), contributed to the development of various sub-systems, showcasing the strength of indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities within the country.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh lauded DRDO, the Indian Army, and all associated industry partners for the successful trials of the Indian Light Tank. He described the achievement as a significant milestone towards India's goal of self-reliance in critical defence systems and technologies.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat also extended congratulations to the entire team involved in the project.



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PIB-Defense(GSIII)

Third edition of INDUS-X Summit concludes in California

iDEX & Defence Innovation Unit ink MoU to increase co-operation in defence innovation

Posted On: 13 SEP 2024 9:42AM by PIB Delhi

The third edition of the INDUS-X Summit concluded in the United States, marking a progress in the advancement of a joint defence innovation ecosystem in India and the USA. Held on 9-10 September 2024, the Summit was a landmark event jointly organised by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and Stanford University.

During the summit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between iDEX and the Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) under the US Department of Defence, to increase co-operation in defence innovation and deepen collaboration to facilitate industry, research, and investment partnerships among the stakeholders. Other key highlights of the Summit included announcement of a new challenge under INDUS-X, release of the INDUS-X Impact Report and launch of the official INDUS-X webpage on the iDEX and DIU websites.

The Summit offers a platform for joint showcase of next generation technologies by startups/MSMEs. It also enables critical dialogue through Senior Advisory Group and Senior Leaders Forum, the two advisory forums under INDUS-X. The discussions focused, inter-alia, on future technology trends, capacity building of startups, funding opportunities for defence innovations and strengthening defence supply chains. Distinguished experts from defence industry, investment firms, startups, academia, think tanks, accelerators, policymakers, etc. from both nations participated.

Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Promotion) Sh. Amit Satija who led the Indian delegation said that the third edition of INDUS-X Summit reaffirmed the commitment of both the countries in advancing defence technology through innovation and strategic collaboration.

The INDUS-X initiative is being steered by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) on behalf of Ministry of Defence and Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) under the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). Since the launch of INDUS-X during the Prime Minister's State visit to the United States in June 2023, the initiative has been able to achieve significant milestones in a short span of time.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Environment(GSIII)

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

World Ozone Day 2024 celebrated in New Delhi with the theme: "Montreal Protocol - Advancing Climate Actions"

Union Environment Secretary Stresses the importance of the Montreal Protocol for Effective Climate Change Mitigation

Prime Minister's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative promotes a sustainable future and protects Mother Earth: Ms. Leena Nandan

Posted On: 13 SEP 2024 5:34PM by PIB Delhi

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised an event to mark the 30th World Ozone Day in New Delhi today. The theme for World Ozone Day 2024 is "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions" reflecting the Montreal Protocol's crucial role in both protecting the ozone layer and driving broader climate action initiatives globally. World Ozone Day reminds us that the ozone layer is essential for life on Earth and highlights the need for ongoing climate action to protect it for future generations. Ms Leena Nandan, Union Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presided over the event.



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- India, as a Party to the Montreal Protocol since June 1992, has been successfully implementing the Montreal Protocol and its ozone-depleting substances phase-out projects and activities in line with the phase-out schedule of the Protocol. India has phased out Chlorofluorocarbons, Carbon tetrachloride, Halons, Methyl Bromide and Methyl Chloroform for controlled uses as on 1 January 2010, in line with the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule. Currently, Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are being phased out as per the accelerated schedule of the Montreal Protocol.