

DAILY PT POINTERS

2nd November, 2024



The Hindu-Internal Security(GSIII)-Page 1

Sickness, infirmity are grounds for bail in PMLA case, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has highlighted that sickness and infirmity of an accused are grounds for bail even under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud in

Apex court grants interim bail to ex-chairperson of Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank

firm” may be released on bail if the Special Court so directs.

Section 45 of the PMLA covers bail. Clause (1) of the

possible task.

However, the proviso to Clause (1) allows courts the discretion to exempt persons below 16 years, women, and the sick or the infirm from these dual conditions for bail, providing humane relief.

In the current case, the court noted that Mr. Mulchandani was 67 years old and had already spent

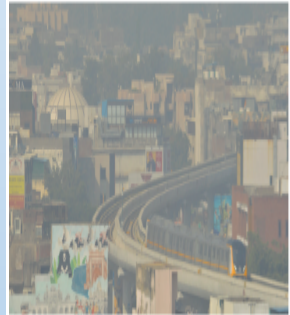
- The Supreme Court of India, under Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, has affirmed that sickness and infirmity can be valid grounds for bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- In a recent ruling, the court granted interim bail to Amar Sadharam Mulchandani, a 67-year-old former bank chairperson, due to his deteriorating health after spending over a year in custody.
- While the PMLA sets strict conditions for bail, a proviso allows exceptions for certain vulnerable groups, including the sick. The court concluded that Mulchandani met the criteria for bail based on his medical condition.

The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 1

99 cities recorded 'poor' air quality a day after Deepavali

Peak Pollution

Ambala in Haryana registered the highest AQI value of 367 on November 1 (24 hours till 4 p.m.)



Here is a list of cities that registered a "very poor" air quality, according to the Central Pollution Control Board

City	AQI value	Prominent pollutant	City	AQI value	Prominent pollutant
Ambala, Haryana	367	PM2.5	Gurugram, Haryana	309	PM2.5
Amritsar, Punjab	350	PM2.5	Ghaziabad, U.P.	306	PM2.5
Delhi	339	PM2.5	Mumbai	306	PM10

The Hindu Data Team CHENNAI

Ninety-nine of the 265 cities for which Air Quality Index (AQI) data were available on the Central Pollution Control Board website reported "poor" air quality on Friday (data for 24 hours prior to 4 p.m. on this day).

An AQI value of 200 or above corresponded to "poor" quality.

Thirteen cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad in the National Capital Territory Region, recorded "very poor" air quality – AQI of 300 or

average AQI was 339.

These 24 hours corresponded to the period when Deepavali revellers took to burning crackers, defying a ban on it in places such as Delhi. People burnt crackers before 4 p.m. on Thursday as well.

On Thursday, the number of cities that had "very poor" and "poor" air quality was relatively fewer – six, including Delhi (second highest AQI of 328), and 43, respectively. On Wednesday, a day prior to Deepavali celebrations, only Delhi registered "very poor" air quality with an AQI of 307. The number of

cities that registered "poor" AQI on Friday, but even among them, the AQI values had jumped from those registered on October 30.

Data from 2023 corresponding to Deepavali celebrations show that Delhi's AQI was high at 358 on November 12, corresponding to a "very poor" air quality, jumping from 218 ("poor") the previous day.

Similar to this year, 53 and 85 cities had "very poor" and "poor" AQI respectively on November 12-13 as compared with eight and 42 cities the previous day.

ing, and construction work, besides stubble burning after the paddy season in neighbouring States, with particles being trapped in the cold air.

Unfavourable winds in the early winter months that don't flush the pollutants out also lead to a faster build-up. Firecracker burning has also contributed to exacerbating air quality during this period.

On Friday, Delhi's Anand Vihar station recorded its 10th highest concentration of PM2.5 this year (273.04 micrograms per cubic metre) if 24-hour values were

- 99 out of 265 cities reported "poor" air quality (AQI 200+), with 13 cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad, classified as "very poor" (AQI 300+). Highest AQI Levels: Ambala recorded the highest AQI at 367, followed by Amritsar at 350; Delhi's average AQI was 339.
- Firecracker Ban Violations: The reported AQI levels coincided with Deepavali celebrations, during which many people burned firecrackers, defying local bans.
- In the winter, pollution levels in northern India peak due to vehicle emissions, industrial activities, garbage burning, construction, and stubble burning, with cold air trapping pollutants.
- Impact of Weather: Unfavorable wind conditions in early winter contribute to pollutant buildup.

The Hindu-Space(GSIII)-Page 5

India's first analog space mission kicks off at Leh in Ladakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's first Mars and Moon analog mission at Leh in Ladakh to simulate life in an interplanetary habitat has been inaugurated.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), AAKA Space Studio Pvt. Ltd, the University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council have collaborated in this endeavour.

ISRO on Friday posted on X, "India's first analog space mission kicks off in Leh! A collaborative effort

by Human Spaceflight Centre, ISRO, AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and supported by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, this mission will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat to tackle the challenges of a base station beyond Earth."

Aastha Kacha, founder of AAKA Space Studio Pvt. Ltd said this mission is designed to simulate extraterrestrial conditions on Mars and the Moon, enabling India to enhance its human spaceflight capabilities.

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The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 10

India spells out finance needs for biodiversity, conservation

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India expects to spend around ₹81,664 crore on biodiversity and conservation from the financial year 2025 to 2030. From 2018 to 2022, India spent ₹32,207 crore, and to meet the higher financing requirements would require funds



Indian officials at the conference said that lot of ground needs have

- India plans to invest approximately ₹81,664 crore in biodiversity and conservation from 2025 to 2030, as stated at the ongoing 16th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Colombia. From 2018 to 2022, the country spent ₹32,207 crore, which was allocated solely by the central government to various ministries and statutory bodies for conservation efforts.
- Indian officials emphasized the need for international financing to achieve these ambitious goals. Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State (Environment), highlighted the importance of financial resources, technology, and capacity building, in line with target 19 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This framework aims to halt biodiversity loss by 2030.
- Additionally, the concept of Digital Sequence Information (DSI), which involves sharing benefits from genetic data uploaded to global databases, is being discussed at the conference.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express – Space(GSIII)-Page 13

FIRST 'BLACK HOLE TRIPLE' SYSTEM DISCOVERED: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

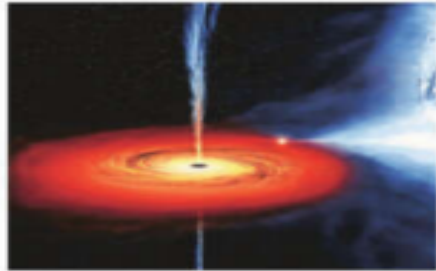
A NEW study says scientists have discovered a "black hole triple" in space for the first time. The system comprises a black hole at its centre, currently in the process of consuming a small star spiralling very close to it. There is also a second star, which appears to be circling the black hole but is actually far away.

The discovery of the system, located about 8,000 light years away from Earth (one light year is the distance light travels in a year, 9.5 trillion kilometre), has raised questions about how black holes are formed.

A black hole is a region in space where the pull of gravity is so strong that no matter or light can escape it. Astronomers believe most black holes are formed after massive stars explode at the end of their lives — known as a supernova. However, the triple system suggests a gentler process.

The study, 'The black hole low-mass X-ray binary V404 Cygni is part of a wide triple', was carried out by researchers at the California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was published in *Nature* last month.

The triple system



An artist's impression of a black hole, pulling matter towards it. The pull of gravity in a black hole is so strong that nothing — not even light — can escape it. X/NASA

[black hole triple] is almost certainly not a coincidence or accident... We're seeing two stars that are following each other because they're attached by this weak string of gravity. So this has to be a triple system."

'Failed supernova'

Burdge and his colleagues have proposed that V404 Cygni has two stars around it as the black hole did not arise from a supernova, which typically kicks away outer stars in the explosion.


- Scientists have discovered a "black hole triple" system for the first time, featuring a central black hole, V404 Cygni, that is consuming a nearby small star while a distant star orbits it.
- Located about 8,000 light years away in the constellation Cygnus, this system challenges traditional beliefs about black hole formation.
- Researchers propose that V404 Cygni formed through a "failed supernova," a direct collapse of a star that does not explode, rather than the typical supernova process. This discovery suggests that some previously identified binary systems may have once been triples before the black hole consumed one of its companions.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB –Governance(GSII)

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has released the Operational Guidelines of Central Sector Scheme "NAMO DRONE DIDI"

Government has approved the Central Sector Scheme 'Namo Drone Didi' for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM, with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores

The scheme aims to provide drones to 14500 selected Women SHGs during the period from 2024-25 to 2025-2026 for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose

Posted On: 01 NOV 2024 12:04PM by PIB Delhi

- The Government has approved the Central Sector Scheme 'Namo Drone Didi' for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM, with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores.
- The scheme aims to provide drones to 14500 selected Women SHGs during the period from 2024-25 to 2025-2026 for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose (application of liquid fertilizers and pesticides for the present). The Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has released the Operational Guidelines this scheme and all the stakeholders have been requested to make meaningful use of these operational guidelines to ensure prompt roll out and implementation of the 'Namo Drone Didi' Scheme.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB –Defense(GSIII)



- The Indian Army contingent departed today for the 15th edition of India- US joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 2nd to 22nd November 2024 at Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in December 2023. This will be second exercise of the year between Indian and the US Army, the previous being Exercise YUDH ABHYAS 2024, conducted at Rajasthan in September 2024.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB –Defense(GSIII)



- The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel departed for Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia to take part in the 9th edition of India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24. The Exercise will be conducted from 1st to 12th of November 2024.
- The Indian contingent is being represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) and Indonesian contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented by Indonesian Special Forces Kopassus.
- The aim of Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24 is to acquaint both the sides with each other's operating procedures, enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies. The Exercise is designed to develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen bond between two armies through conduct of discussions and rehearsal of tactical military drills.