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1. Gujarat court sentences Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail (March 23, 2023)

A court in Surat in Gujarat has convicted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case filed in 2019 over his remarks on Modi's surname.

An overview of the news

- The court also sentenced him to **two years in jail.**
- The court of **Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Verma** convicted **Rahul Gandhi under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code.**
- The court granted bail to Rahul Gandhi and stayed the sentence for **30 days so that he can appeal in a higher court during this period.**
- After this decision, **Rahul Gandhi's membership of Parliament can also go from Wayanad parliamentary constituency.**
- **Before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections,** Rahul Gandhi made an objectionable comment on the Modi surname while addressing a public meeting in Kollar, Karnataka.

What will be the effect of this decision?

- The disqualification of an MP convicted of an offense can be in **two cases.**
- If the offense for which he is convicted is listed in **section 8(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.** This includes offenses such as section **153A** (offence of promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc. and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) or section 171E (offence of bribery). Are.
- **Section 171F** (offence of undue influence or impersonation at election) and certain others.
- **Second, Section 8(3)** of the RPA states that an MP can be disqualified if convicted and sentenced to a minimum of 2 years' imprisonment.
- However, the section also states that disqualification takes effect only "**after the lapse of three months**" from the date of conviction.
- Within that period, Gandhi can file an **appeal against the conviction before the High Court.**

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3. Asia's largest 4-meter telescope inaugurated in Uttarakhand (March 23, 2023)

Asia's largest 4-meter telescope inaugurated in Uttarakhand

Asia's largest 4-meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope was launched in **Devasthal in Uttarakhand** on 21 March.

An overview of the news

- The telescope was officially inaugurated by Science and Technology Minister **Jitendra Singh**.
- It has been established at the **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) located in Nainital, Uttarakhand**.

- The observatory will explore the deep sky, collecting an assortment of objects ranging from asteroids to supernovae and space debris.

About the International Liquid Mirror Telescope

- It consists of a **4-metre-diameter rotating mirror** made of a thin layer of **liquid mercury to collect light**.
- It mainly consists of **three components**.
- **The first bowl contains a reflective liquid metal (mercury)**.
- **The second air pressure driven motor** on which the liquid mirror rests.
- **Third is a system to run the motor**. The surface of liquid mirror binoculars naturally takes on a parabolic shape as it rotates, which is ideal for focusing light.
- A thin transparent film of micellar liquid protects the mercury from wind abrasion, which can create ripples on the surface of the mercury.
- The reflected light passes through a sophisticated multi lens optical corrector which produces clear images over a wide field of view.

Why was the telescope made?

- It is designed to survey the night sky and detect variable and transient objects such as **supernovae, space debris and gravitational lenses**.
- Through its data, the telescope can analyze objects in the sky using machine learning and artificial intelligence.

4. Union Health Ministry organises 2-day technical symposium for Dengue control in India (March 23, 2023)

Union Health Ministry organises 2-day technical symposium for Dengue control in India

Union Health Ministry on 22 March organised a **two-day technical symposium to develop a strategic framework and roadmap for Dengue control in India**.

An overview of the news

- The objective of this symposium is to bring the identified Ministries, States, Government Institutions and development partners on a common platform to develop a strategic framework for dengue control.
- Health Secretary **Rajesh Bhushan stressed the importance of timely detection and reporting of dengue cases for effective management and control**.

- He also suggested inclusion of dengue under the Integrated **Health Information Platform** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, where 33 diseases are already covered.

What is Dengue?

- Commonly known as **break bone fever**, it is a flu-like illness caused by the **dengue virus**.
- It occurs when an **Aedes mosquito** carrying the virus bites a healthy person.
- The disease is mainly found in **tropical and sub-tropical regions** of the world.

Causes of Dengue

- It is caused due to four viruses, namely - **DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4**.
- The virus enters the mosquito when it bites an already infected person.
- The disease is transmitted when it bites a healthy person, and the virus is spread through the person's bloodstream.

Symptoms of Dengue

- Headache, Muscle, bone and joint pain, Nausea, Vomiting, swollen glands, Rash.

Treatment

- There is no specific treatment for dengue.
- Early detection of severe dengue-associated illness and access to appropriate medical care reduce deaths from severe dengue.
- Diagnosis of dengue infection is done with a blood test.

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6. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav chairs 1st General Body Meeting of NCSCM (March 23, 2023)

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Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** chaired the **1st General Body Meeting of National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)** on 22 March in New Delhi.

An overview of the news

- He emphasized the Blue Economy which focuses on **sustainable and climate-resilient coastal infrastructure and livelihoods** of coastal communities.
- The Government is moving forward with a **Marine Spatial Plan** for area-based management with multiple management objectives.
- The minister also directed the NCSCM to contribute to **Mission Mishti (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Income)** for mangrove conservation with a focus on generating income for coastal communities.

Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)

- It is an institute under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It was established in **February 2011**, as a research institution to support the **protection, conservation, restoration, management, and policy advice on coasts**.
- Its vision is to promote sustainable coasts through increased **partnerships, conservation practices, scientific research, and knowledge management** for the benefit and well-being of current and future generations.

7. Income tax dept launches mobile app AIS for Taxpayers (March 23, 2023)

The **Income Tax Department** has launched a **free mobile app** named '**AIS for Taxpayers**'.

An overview of the news

- Taxpayers can use the app **to view their information related to Tax deducted at Source (TDS), interest, dividends, share transactions, tax payments, Income Tax refunds and other Information**.
- They can also view **GST Data and foreign Remittances** as available in **Annual Information Statement (AIS)**.
- Taxpayers will also have the **option and facility to provide feedback** on the information displayed in the app.
- Taxpayers can access the information by registering on the app through **PAN number, OTP sent** to the mobile number and authenticating with the e-mail registered on the e-filing portal.
- The app is available on Google Play and App Store.

8. PM Modi inaugurates new ITU Area Office and Innovation Center in New Delhi (March 22, 2023)

agreement with ITU in March 2022

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the new **International Telecommunication Union (ITU) field office and innovation center in India** on 22 March in New Delhi.

An overview of the news

- India had signed an **agreement with ITU in March 2022** for setting up the Area Office.
- The regional office in India has also envisaged an innovation centre, which makes it unique among other regional offices of ITU.
- The regional office, which is **fully funded by India**, is located on the **second floor of the Center for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) building in Mehrauli** in the national capital.
- The ITU field office will serve **India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran**, enhancing coordination among nations and promoting mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the region.

6G Vision Document

- During the event, the Prime Minister also unveiled the **India 6G Vision Document and launched the 6G Research and Development Test Bed.**
- The India 6G vision document has been prepared by the **Technology Innovation Group.**
- It was formed in **November 2021** with various ministries and departments, research and development institutes, academia and telecom service providers and industry to develop a roadmap and action plan for 6G in India.
- The 6G test bed will provide a platform to academic institutions, industries, start-ups, MSMEs and industry to test and validate emerging ICT technologies.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ITU is the **United Nations specialised agency** for information and communication technologies - ICTs.
- It was established in the year **1865** to facilitate **international connectivity in communications networks.**
- It is committed to connecting all the **world's people.**
- In line with its mandate and the WSIS outcome documents, it continues playing a key role in WSIS implementation.
- Its members come from all over the globe.

- Its global membership includes **193 Member States as well as 900 companies, universities, and international and regional organisations.**

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10. 26th edition of 'Elevate' held in Dubai (March 22, 2023)

The **sixth pitching session of the second season of Elevate concluded in Dubai** 22 March.

An overview of the news

- The event saw the **participation of six startups from India** and the registration of **180 investors**.
- The six startups that participated in the Elevate session were **winners of the National Startup Awards 2022**.
- **Season II to Session VI** hosted a special guest, **Padmaja Ruparel**, Co-Founder, Indian Angel Network (IAN).
- She is a member of the **Government's NEAC, the National Expert Advisory Committee on Innovation**, Incubation and Technology Entrepreneurship.
- She shared her insights and thoughts on the **opportunities in the growing startup ecosystem in India**.
- India's Commercial Representative in Dubai Kalimuthu welcomed the guests and set the tone for the programme.

Six startups from India who participated

- Film board Movie Technologies inc,
- Trascender Services Pvt Ltd,
- Cogos Technologies Pvt Ltd,
- Changejar Technologies Pvt Ltd,
- Makerinme Technologies Pvt Ltd,
- Revamp Moto Pvt Ltd

About Elevate

- Elevate is a **pitching series organized by the Consulate General of India in Dubai**, providing a platform for startups to connect with investors and global counterparts.
- The **first season of Elevate started at the India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai** and consisted of **twenty sessions**.
- The **second season** debuts in **May 2022**, and this episode marks the **sixth installment of the season**.