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THE HINDU ANALYSIS
IN HINDI
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Towards transparency

- Disclosures on judicial appointments are welcome, but the reasons must be spelt out.
- Supreme Court collegium’s decision to disclose the reasons for its recommendations marks a historic step.
- The collegium, comprising the Chief Justice of India and four senior judges, has said it would indicate the reasons behind decisions on the
  - 1) Initial appointment of candidates to High Court benches,
  - 2) Their conformation as permanent judges and
  - 3) Elevation as High Court Chief Justices and to the Supreme Court, and
  - 4) Transfer of judges and Chief Justices from one High Court to another.
- Perception that family members and former colleagues of judges are more likely to be appointed high court judges.
- There are 387 vacancies in the various High Courts as on October.
- The introduction of transparency should be backed by a continuous process of addressing perceived shortcomings.
- The present disclosure norm is a commendable beginning.
Foggy thinking on SC restoring ban on cracker sales in Delhi

- Delhi’s firecracker ban may not work any better than Punjab’s stubble-burning ban did.
- Second time since November 2016, the Supreme Court has temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers in the National Capital Region.
- The idea is to test whether it cuts the deadly pollution levels seen in Delhi during and after Deepavali. Fine particulate matter seen in 2016 to merely life-threatening levels- that Delhi usually sees in winter.
- Given that it came just about 10 days before the festival, it will be tough to impose the ban on an industry that has already produced stocks to order.
- Even-odd licence number scheme of the Delhi government in 2015.
- North India needs a more holistic solution to toxic air that residents breathe at the onset of winter.
- To tackle each of these will take decisive and persistent policy actions, not panic-driven and ill-considered bans.
Take the 2015 ban on crop-residue burning in Punjab and Haryana for example.

Two years later, farmers continue to violate it, because the State governments have still not taken the steps required to solve the underlying problem — the high cost of cleaning the paddy stubble instead of burning it to prepare the field to sow wheat.

Though the government has offered subsidies on a machine called Happy Seeder, which doesn’t require a stubble-free field to plant wheat, farmers haven’t taken to it as burning remains cheaper.

Another option is biomass-energy plants that buy paddy straw from farmers for use in generating power.

Yet, government incentives for biomass-energy plants haven’t been enough to galvanise industry. This, in turn, leaves farmers wary.
Conclusion

- The only answer is for the Punjab and Haryana governments to move purposefully on the solutions they know will work just as the only option for the Delhi government is to raise awareness on the impact of firecrackers, while also tackling vehicular pollution, construction dust and other pollution sources.

- In the absence of these less dramatic, but more feasible solutions, it is unlikely a firecracker sale ban will avert the kind of health emergency that struck Delhi last year.
Is ‘deep sea fishing’ the silver bullet?

- The Palk Bay conflict requires a **multi-dimensional approach**
- September 8, Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (TNFU) organised a one-day workshop in Chennai on deep sea fishing- aim being to promote deep sea fishing as an alternative to trawling in the Palk Bay.
- Deep sea fishing has always been an **integral part of the country’s Blue Revolution vision to exploit fishing resources to maximum within the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).**
- The **present plan in the Palk Bay** is to **extract 2,000 trawlers** from the bay and replace them with deep sea vessels that fish in the **Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mannar.**
- The time period for this **transition is three years (2017-2020),** with 500 boats to be replaced in the first year alone.
- The Central and Tamil Nadu governments have committed ₹800 crore and ₹320 crore, respectively, to the plan.
The Palk Bay fishing conflict has figured prominently in high-level meetings between India and Sri Lanka. The origins of the conflict are complex and it is difficult to resolve. Tamil Nadu trawlers that fish regularly in Sri Lankan waters, often damaging the boats and gear of small-scale Tamil fishers from the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government has not only passed a legislation banning trawling but its navy has also been vigilantly patrolling the International Maritime Boundary Line, ‘capturing’ Indian trawl boats. The plan is to remove as many trawl vessels from the Palk Bay as possible. Some fishermen have expressed doubts about the high operational costs of deep sea fishing. The Palk Bay conflict requires a multi-dimensional approach. Various other solutions such as alternative livelihoods and skill development need to be rolled out. Only then can this intransient fishing conflict be finally resolved.
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

- Palk Strait
- Palk Bay
- Adam’s Bridge
- Gulf of Mannar
‘Focus should be on scaling up the use of innovations’

- SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN
  - Director-General (DG) of the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
  - The newly appointed Deputy Director-General for Programmes at the WHO says her elevation reflects on the growing importance of India in global health diplomacy.
  - WHO- first Indian to be elevated.
  - Focus should be on bringing affordable, quality healthcare and scaling up the use of innovations.
  - There are several diseases now with elimination targets — for kala-azar, filariasis, and measles.
  - There are also neglected diseases like snake bite which causes an estimated 50,000 deaths in India and is an important cause of death in both India and Africa.
  - Problem was we targeted only children- Universal Health Coverage, a priority laid out in the National Health Policy.
  - How are we going to reach large populations that do not have access to doctors?
  - Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
  - Diabetes stage, TB, Cancer etc. (Balanced Diet)
IMF lowers forecasts for India

India’s economic growth for 2017 and 2018 will be slower than earlier projected, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its latest World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday.

The report cited “lingering impact” of demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax for the expected slowdown during the current and the next year.

IMF projected India to grow at **6.7% in 2017 and 7.4% in 2018**.
Passive euthanasia already a law, says govt.

Passive euthanasia, the act of withdrawing life support to a terminally-ill patient, is already the law of the land, the government told a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

The government said it was finalising a draft law on passive euthanasia called 'The Management of Patients With Terminal Illness – Withdrawal of Medical Life Support Bill', which was drawn up in line with the recommendations of the Law Commission of India that life support can be withdrawn for patients in persistent vegetative state (PVS) or suffering an irreversible medical condition.

Centre, however, objected to legalising the concept of ‘Living Will’ — an advance written directive to physicians for end-of-life medical care.

It pointed out that this may lead to the abuse and neglect of the elderly, especially if they were financially well-off.
**Bottlescarred**

*A river lost*: Plastic bottles, puja material and remnants of Durga idols remain on the banks of the polluted Yamuna river, 10 days after the mass immersion, at Kudsia Ghat in Delhi on Tuesday.  • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR
Post- Doklam, the healing touch of yoga
India is banking on its soft power to restore normalcy in relations with China
China’s Minzu University is offering the country’s first master’s degree in Yoga, in what appears to be a clear signal that soft power is being deployed to reactivate China-India ties in the aftermath of the tense Doklam standoff.
Three States cut VAT on petrol, diesel

The governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday announced reduction in the value added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel, effective midnight on Tuesday.

While Gujarat reduced the VAT by 4%,

Maharashtra reducted the price of petrol per litre by ₹1 and diesel by ₹2.

The Himachal government cut the VAT on both fuels by 1%.
**DATA POINT**

**Piling up weapons**

India topped the list of arms importers in two five-year time periods - 2007-11 and 2012-16. Its purchases during 2012-16 amounted to more than 18 bn dollars in TIV* – 13% of arms imported – going by estimates of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The line-up of the top 10 global arms importers includes China and Pakistan.

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*TIV is SIPRI's unique system to measure the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons using a common unit.
U.P. plans 100-metre Ram statue
To come up on the banks of the Saryu river under the Navya Ayodhya scheme
The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has proposed to build a giant statue of Lord Ram on the banks of the Saryu river in Ayodhya.
Though the details are not finalised, the statue is proposed to be 100 metres in height, as per a presentation of the State Tourism Department.
Sour loans increase 4.5% in six months to June

A review of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data obtained through right-to-information requests shows banks’ total stressed loans — including non-performing and restructured or rolled over loans — rose 4.5% in the six months to end-June.

In the previous six months, they had risen 5.8%.
WHO releases new guidelines to manage obesity in children
Assessment of eating habits and counselling to be part of intervention strategy
With increasing evidence that childhood obesity is a "global epidemic" affecting even the poorer nations, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released new guidelines on how trained professionals can better identify youngsters in need of help
India has the second highest number of obese children in the world after China,
Fiji is an Island of "Oceania Continent." (Australia)

First & Last Indian Viceroy - C Rajgopalachari

Last- 19th meeting of SAARC - Islamabad, Pakistan.
SAARC- South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation

Dr. Amartya Sen- Economics Nobel Prize- 1998.
"Learning is priceless"

Green city, clean city, My dream city.
हम सब का एक ही नारा,
साफ सुथरा हो देश हमारा.

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle"

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