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Kerala Governor suspends V-C over death of student
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Chinese 'nuclear' cargo heading to Pakistan seized

Karachi-bound 'dual-use' consignment was intercepted on January 22 in Mumbai; machines in it could be used in nuclear weapons programme

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the latest discovery of the possible transfer of dual-use items from China that could be used in Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, two advanced Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines manufactured by GKD, Italy and bound for the port of Karachi were seized by Indian customs at Mumbai Port in January. They continue to remain in Indian custody, according to sources in the security establishment.

The consignment was shipped on January 9 on a merchant vessel *CMA CGM Attila*, a Malta-flagged vessel from Shekou Port in



The consignment seized in Mumbai. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

China, and was heading to Karachi Port with Cosmos Engineering being the consignee, a source said. "The vessel reached Nhava Sheva Port (JNPT) Mumbai on January 22, 2024 and the consignment was seized by Indian customs officials based on intelligence inputs on possible proliferation concerns by Pakistan and China," the source said. The equipment could be used in manufacturing critical parts for Pakistan's missile development programme, said another source.

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BJP's first list for Lok Sabha poll out; PM keeps Varanasi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP came out with its first list of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha poll on Saturday, announcing 195 candidates across 16 States and two Union Territories. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will contest from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, his parliamentary seat for the last two Lok Sabha elections.

Out of the 195 candidates, 107 belong to backward communities, with 27 Scheduled Caste candidates, 18 Scheduled Tribe candidates, and 57 from other backward classes (OBCs).

There are 28 women candidates on the list, and 47 candidates who are under the age of 50. One Muslim candidate, Abdul Salam, has been fielded from Malappuram in Kerala.

Controversial sitting MPs – like Malegaon blast case accused Pragya Singh Thakur from Bhopal, and



Narendra Modi will be contesting from Varanasi for the third time. PTI

Ramesh Bidhuri from South Delhi who was accused of casting communal slurs at fellow MP Danish Ali on the floor of the Lok Sabha – have been replaced by former Bhopal Mayor Alok Sharma, and Ram Vir Singh Bidhuri, respectively.

There are 34 Union Ministers who have found a place in the first list, including Ministers Rajnath Singh (Lucknow), Amit Shah (Gandhinagar), and Smriti Irani (Amethi). Minister of State Mee-

nakshi Lekhi has been dropped from her New Delhi seat. Interestingly, the former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, now a regular MLA in the State, will fight for a Lok Sabha seat from Vidisha, while Biplab Deb, former Chief Minister of Tripura will be contesting from Tripura (West).

Rajya Sabha MPs in fray
Among the Ministers who were Rajya Sabha MPs and are now in the fray for the Lok Sabha are Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav, who is being fielded from Alwar in Rajasthan, Health Minister Mansukhbhai Mandaviya from Porbandar in Gujarat, and Rajeev Chandrashekar from Thiruvananthapuram who will face off against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

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A vivo India CSR initiative

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Ignite
Technology & Innovation Awards

Empowering Tomorrow's Changemakers
A platform for young minds to innovate for social good



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Vedanshi Mehta, Aarav Mohanraj, Arushi Ganguly
Smart Street
₹7 Lakhs

2nd
Shubhashree Sahu
Multi-functional Eco-friendly Agro-machine
₹5 Lakhs

3rd
Shreyansh Nayak
Automatic Machine for Ready-to-grow Oyster Mushroom Bags
₹4 Lakhs

4th
Sharvi Baisiwala
Optimisation for Cyclists' Posture Using Real-time Embedded System and Data Analysis
₹3 Lakhs

5th
Yash Yadav
STEMLY
₹2 Lakhs

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Hilltop struggles: Many girls drop out of school to support their families by collecting firewood from the forest near Theni, Tamil Nadu.



Finding joy: Kavi, a class four student after school hours. She is one of the four students in a primary school in Velappar Kovil settlement.



Creating awareness: Vijayaraja, a hostel warden in Periyakulam, volunteers to identify education and career opportunities for tribal families in Theni and Dindigul districts.

Forest turmoil

Tribal communities, who have relied on resources from the hills around Theni in Tamil Nadu, face challenges after the enforcement of the Forest Act; education could help them stay connected to their roots



Akhila Easwaran
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Originating from the Palani hills, the Paliyar tribe is renowned for their extensive expertise in forests and wildlife. Their primary occupations include gathering firewood, farming, cultivating tubers, and beekeeping. Over the years, their survival has depended on the resources within the hills. The enforcement of the Forest Act has compelled many indigenous people to relocate to the plains, where they are compelled to reside in government settlements. The case of the people of Velappar Kovil is one such. The 125 acres of fertile land that once belonged to the Kaara Paarai tribe have been given to the forest department, resulting in the gradual loss of their connection to the land, and their livelihoods. Moreover, they stand on the verge of losing their cultural heritage, as they aren't able to pass their knowledge of the forest to the next generation. The younger members of the community find themselves grappling with the challenge of adapting to the external world and preserving their traditions. Here is where higher education could help, as

the students would feel more empowered to choose their own paths. Vijayaraja, a hostel warden at the Government Adi Dravidar Welfare boys hostel in Periyakulam, has been working for the education of tribal students in the regions of Theni and Dindigul districts over the past four years. His voluntary work involves frequent visits to tribal villages, engaging with parents, and providing information about government initiatives, free educational resources, and scholarship opportunities. Categorising his students into two groups, Mr. Vijayaraja works with school-age dropouts who remain eligible for reapplication and those who have exceeded the school age but are still eligible for tutorial exams. Currently, he is on a mission to enrol students who have completed the tenth grade in coaching classes for the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPS) Group 4 exam in 2024. This exam offers 288 positions in the Forest Department specifically reserved for Scheduled Tribes. Such opportunities would help the students keep in touch with their roots.



Second chances: Students who had previously dropped out, now enrolled in a school in Kottur, Theni.



Reaching heights: The Government Tribal Residential Primary School, Kannarakai, is both home and education hub.



All smiles: Enrolment at the primary level of schooling has seen improvement.



Campus chronicles: The Government Tribal Residential Primary School at Kannarakai has classrooms, a dining area, kitchen, and separate residential facilities for boys and girls.



High spirits: Students practise Silambam as part of their extra-curricular activities. The two girls recently won first place in a competition organised by the Theni Lions Club.



Defeating hurdles: Lalitha Karuppaiya, a 23-year-old resident of Chockanalai village who pursued B.Sc. Chemistry but had to drop, is now working towards clearing the upcoming TNPSC Group 4 exam.