



# DAILY PT POINTERS

26<sup>th</sup> March , 2024



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**AIR: Culture**

## Dol Purnima Being Celebrated Across West Bengal With Religious Fervors And Color



- Dol Purnima, also known as Dolo Jatra, DouL Utsav or Deul, is a **Hindu swing festival** celebrated in the states of Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Tripura, Gujarat, etc during the Holi festival.
- The festival honours the divine couple, **Radha and Krishna**.

## The Hindu-IR-Page 1

# EU probe into tech giants for 'violation' of new law may trigger hefty fines

**Sriram Lakshman**  
LONDON

The European Union, on Monday, launched probes into whether Apple, Alphabet and Meta violated a new law, the Digital Markets Act (DMA), in what is the latest instance of governments trying to exercise greater control over the functioning of big tech companies. The companies could be fined up to 10% of their global revenues and 20% for repeat infringements of the DMA. The announcement of the investigations comes

## Under lens

What do the EU probes mean for Alphabet, Apple and Meta



Apple



Facebook



Google

- The probes will examine whether the companies violated the Digital Markets Act

- If found so, they could be fined up to 10% of their global revenue

- The investigations, which are likely to conclude in a year, will also look at issues around user choice, stifling competition, use of targeted advertising etc

- The European Union launched probes into whether Apple, Alphabet and Meta violated a new law, the Digital Markets Act (DMA).
  - The companies could be fined up to 10% of their global revenues and 20% for repeat infringements of the DMA.
- The DMA fully came into effect on March 7 and seeks to regulate large online companies called 'gatekeepers', whose products and services are used by around 450 million EU users.

## Do you know ?

Gatekeepers are large digital platforms providing so called core platform services, such as online search engines, app stores, messenger services.



## The Hindu-Governance-Page 10

### On campaigning in the name of religion

What does Section 123(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 stipulate? What about the Model Code of Conduct laid down by the Election Commission of India? Have the Courts ever convicted leaders for corrupt electoral practices?

#### EXPLAINER

Rangarajan, R

#### The story so far:

Recently the Bharatiya Jansata Party (BJP) lodged a complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI) against Rahul Gandhi for hurting the sentiments of Hindus through his remark on 'shakti'. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), in turn, filed a counter complaint against the Prime Minister for appealing to religious sentiments during his campaign on the same issue.

#### What does the law say?

Section 123(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) provides that appeals by a candidate, or any other person with the consent of a candidate, to vote or refrain from voting on the ground of his religion, race, caste, community or language is a corrupt electoral practice. Section 123(3A) denounces any attempt by a candidate to promote feelings of enmity or hatred among citizens on these grounds during elections. The RP Act further provides that anyone found guilty of corrupt electoral practice can be debarred from contesting elections for a maximum period of up to six years.

#### What does the MCC provide?

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the



Secular values: A view of the Election Commission of India in New Delhi. SHYAM SUKUMAR/ISTOCK

communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, churches, temples or other places of worship shall not be used as a forum for election announcements. Through

1961. This meant that even a stray appeal for success in the elections on the ground of one's religion or narrow communal affiliation would be viewed with disfavour

a short period of two to three days.

#### What has the Supreme Court ruled?

In *Abhiram Singh versus C. D. Commachen* (2017) a seven-judge Bench by a majority of 4:3 held that candidates shall not appeal for votes on the basis of not just his/her religion but also that of the voters. The majority view provided a 'purposive interpretation' to Section 123(3) rather than just a literal one thereby rendering any appeal in the name of religion of even the voters as a corrupt electoral practice. The elections to Parliament or State legislatures are a secular exercise; constitutional ethos forbids the mixing of religious considerations with the secular functions of the State. Religion should remain a matter of personal faith.

#### What is needed?

Political parties and candidates are likely to raise legitimate concerns of citizens faced by them on the basis of traits having origin in religion, caste, community or language in a democratic election process. However, it should be to only address their grievances through appropriate policies without jeopardising the secular fabric and fraternity of the country. Any appeal in the name of religion only results in the further polarisation of our multi-religious society.

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#### THE GIST

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- **Section 123(3)** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) provides that appeals by a candidate, or any other person with the consent of a candidate, to vote or refrain from voting on the grounds of his **religion, race, caste, community or language** is a corrupt electoral practice.
- **Section 123(3A)** denounces any attempt by a candidate to promote feelings of enmity or hatred among citizens on these grounds during elections. The RP Act further provides that anyone found guilty of corrupt electoral practice **can be debarred** from contesting elections for a **maximum period of up to six years**.
- The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)**, provides that no party or candidate shall indulge in any activity that may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred, or cause tension between **different castes, religious or linguistic communities**.

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# What is the district election management plan?

What goes into a smooth and efficient electoral process? How are electoral booths prepared before polling?

Ravi Mittal  
Rajat Bansal

The conduct of elections has become increasingly complex and multifaceted, requiring meticulous planning and execution to ensure a free, fair, and inclusive electoral process. A cornerstone of this planning process is the District Election Management Plan (DEMP), a comprehensive document that uses statistics and analysis to ensure the smooth conduct of elections.

### When is the DEMP prepared?

As per the Election Commission of India, the DEMP is to be prepared at least six months before the tentative poll day. However, many things become clearer as the election is notified, so it becomes

Regular interactions with political parties and media are also planned to brief them on electoral rules.

### What are the elements of DEMP?

The plan starts with a district profile that serves as the foundation of the electoral strategy. This includes a political map outlining constituencies, key demographic and infrastructure statistics, a brief on the district's administrative setup and socio-economic features.

The plan encompasses detailed strategies for improving the availability and accessibility of polling stations, ensuring that all stations have essential facilities like ramps, electricity, lighting, drinking water, toilets, and internet connectivity. Special attention is given to voters with disabilities (PwD) and senior citizens through help desks. 24/7 control

Participation (SVEEP) plan, which focuses on increasing electoral participation. It involves analysing voter turnout data to identify polling stations with below-average or significantly low turnout and tailoring activities to address these issues. Activities under the SVEEP plan include the use of social media, engagement with various community and youth organisations, and organising events leading up to the poll day to increase awareness and participation.

Additionally, DEMP outlines a comprehensive strategy for the planning, training, welfare, and deployment of election personnel. It highlights the importance of creating a poll personnel database, categorising available personnel by cadre and group while assessing their requirement and strategies to address gaps in personnel needs across various

voter turnout. The plan also includes training district-level teams to enforce the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and providing a training program for all election personnel to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge.

### What about EVMs?

Material management is a crucial component of the DEMP involving procuring 61 essential items, including indelible ink, seals, stamps, stationary and statutory forms. These items are categorised based on the level at which they are to be procured (State/U.T. or district level), with timelines ranging from two-to-three weeks to four months before the election. Similarly, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) management is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the electoral process, with plans necessary for secure storage and availability of EVMs and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), including plans for their transportation and maintenance.

The DEMP enhances the voting experience by making it more organised and accessible for everyone. Beyond elections, its approach of meticulous planning, collaboration and transparency offers lessons for broader governance. It emphasises the importance of advanced planning, data-driven decisions, and

### THE GIST

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- A cornerstone of the election planning process is the District Election Management Plan (DEMP).
- As per the Election Commission of India, the DEMP is to be prepared **at least six months before** the tentative poll day. However, many things become clearer as the election is notified, so it becomes necessary to revise/update the plan occasionally.
- Executing the DEMP requires a collaborative effort involving election officials, administrative authorities, law enforcement agencies etc. Regular interactions with political parties and media are also planned to brief them on electoral rules.
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## The Hindu-Space

### It's official: 'Statio Shiv Shakti' approved as name of Chandrayaan-3 landing site

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) working group for Planetary System Nomenclature has approved the name "Statio Shiv Shakti" for the landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander. The approval was given on March 19.

Planetary nomenclature, like terrestrial nomenclature, is used to uniquely identify a feature on the surface of a planet or satellite so that it can be easily located, described, and discussed.

The Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature "contains detailed information about all names of topographic and albedo fea-



**Etched in history:** An image of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander clicked by a navigation camera onboard the Pragyan rover. ISRO

tures on planets and satellites [and some planetary ring and ring-gap systems] that the IAU has named and approved from its founding in 1919 through the present time".

The IAU is the internationally recognised author-

ity for assigning names to planetary surface features. It follows some rules and conventions to do so.

The IAU's Rule 9 states: "No names having political, military or religious significance may be used, except for names of politi-

cal figures prior to the 19th century." The citation in the gazetteer for the name of the landing site of the Vikram lander reads: "Compound word from Indian mythology that depicts the masculine ["Shiva"] and feminine ["Shakti"] duality of nature."

On August 26, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the point where the moon lander of Chandrayaan-3 touched down would be called "Shiv Shakti".

"In Shiv, there is a resolution for the welfare of humanity and Shakti gives us the strength to fulfil those resolutions," Mr. Modi had said while announcing the name.

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- The Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature "contains detailed information about all names of topographic and albedo features on planets and satellites [and some planetary ring and ring-gap systems] that the IAU has named and approved from its founding in 1919 through the present time".
- The IAU is the internationally recognised authority for assigning names to planetary surface features.