



SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU



DISHA RAVI SENT TO 3-DAY CUSTODY

New Delhi, 19 Feb: A Delhi court on Friday sent climate activist Disha Ravi, arrested for allegedly being involved in sharing a "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest, to three-day judicial custody. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Akash Jain sent Ravi, 21, to jail after Delhi Police produced her before the court on expiry of her five-day custodial interrogation. Police said that her custodial interrogation was not required for the time being and the agency may seek her further interrogation once her co-accused - Shantanu Mukul and Nikita Jacob -- join the interrogation. Police said Ravi was evasive during her previous interrogation and tried to shift blame on the co-accused. Mukul and Jacob have been asked to appear before the investigating agency on 22 Feb, the agency told the court. The defence lawyer said that there was an apprehension of tampering of the evidence by police as the case diary is not properly made...and in volume form. There's no ground to keep her in any custody, police custody or judicial custody. Ravi ought to be released right now. —PTI

LALU'S BAIL APPLICATION REJECTED

Ranchi, 19 Feb: The Jharkhand High Court on Friday rejected Lalu Prasad's bail application in a fodder scam case, dashing the RJD president's chance of immediate release from jail. Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh turned down Prasad's bail request in the Dumka treasury case, an offshoot of the multi-crore rupees fodder scam. The court said the bail plea is not granted and asked him to file a fresh application after two months. Prasad has already acquired bail in three out of the four cases of the fodder scam in which he has been convicted and acceptance of his request in the case could have helped him come out of the jail. Prasad is in AIMS Delhi presently. —PTI

China admits 4 PLA soldiers killed in Galwan Valley clash

It is the first time China has admitted to any casualties

BEIJING, 19 FEB

Four Chinese soldiers were killed in the fierce clash with the Indian Army in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June last year, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) officially acknowledged for the first time on Friday. Five Chinese frontier officers and soldiers stationed in the Karakoram Mountains have been recognised by the Central Military Commission of China (CMC) for their sacrifice in the border confrontation with India, which occurred in the Galwan Valley in June 2020, the PLA Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese military reported on Friday. The border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on 5 May last year following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry. Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in the fierce hand-to-hand combat on 15



June in Galwan Valley, an incident that marked the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in over four decades. The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs in carrying out brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a

surveillance post by China on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control in Galwan. The PLA Daily report claimed that the Indian soldiers attacked the Chinese military personnel with steel tubes and cudgels and threw stones. This is the first time

China has acknowledged casualties and details of these officers and soldiers' sacrifice, four of whom died when dealing with the Indian military's "illegal trespassing" of the Galwan Valley Line of Actual Control (LAC), the report said. While India has

announced the casualties immediately after the incident, China did not officially acknowledge the casualties until Friday. The Russian official news agency TASS reported on 10 February that 45 Chinese servicemen were killed in the Galwan Valley clash. According to an American intelligence report last year, the number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35. The Global Times, a tabloid, part of the ruling Communist Party of China-run People's Daily group of publications, said the PLA Daily while acknowledging the Galwan Valley casualties stated that the five were killed fighting the "foreign military". It is noticeable that the PLA Daily report used "foreign military" to refer to the Indian military, a move that showed China's kindness of not inciting sentiments of the people against the background of the current disengagement of troops from China and India along the border areas, the Global Times report said. —PTI

India-China to hold military-level talks today

NEW DELHI, 19 FEB

After completing the withdrawal of troops and weapons from the north and south banks of Pangong lake, India and China will hold a fresh round of high-level military talks on Saturday to take forward the disengagement process in Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang in eastern Ladakh, official sources said on Friday. The tenth round of Corps Commander-level talks are scheduled to start at 10 am at the Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control, and will be the first engagement between the two sides at a senior level after conclusion of the disengagement process in Pangong lake areas, they said. Sources said pulling back of troops, weapons and other military hardware as well as dismantling of bunkers, tents and temporary structures in north and south banks of Pangong lake were completed on Thursday and both sides have carried out a verification of the same. "Both sides will also carry out a comprehensive review

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of the disengagement process in Pangong lake areas," said a source. Also on Friday, China for the first time officially acknowledged that four of its soldiers were killed in the fierce clash with the Indian Army in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh during June last year. India had lost 20 soldiers in the fierce hand-to-hand combat. Sources indicated that during Saturday's talks, India will insist on a faster disengagement process in remaining areas to bring down tension in the region, which has witnessed a tense standoff between the two militaries for over nine months. —PTI



India rejects UN comments on J&K

NEW DELHI, 19 FEB

India on Thursday hit out at two UN Special Rapporteurs for criticising its policies towards Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the region is an "integral and inalienable" part of the country. India's reaction came after Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, and Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, made adverse comments on withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers in 2019. Their comments were published on the website

of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In response, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the press release has been deliberately timed to coincide with the visit of a group of ambassadors to Jammu and Kashmir. "The press release disregards the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India and the decision of August 5, 2019, regarding the change in the status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory of India was taken by the Parliament of India," he said. —PTI

3 militants, policeman killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, 19 FEB

Three unidentified militants and a policeman were killed in two separate encounters in Budgam and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Zanigam village in the Beerwah area of Budgam district following information about the presence of militants there, the officials said. They said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants opened fire towards security forces' positions. Two policemen were injured in the gun battle. They were rushed to a hospital here for treatment but one of them succumbed to his injuries, the officials said. In another encounter at Badigam in Shopian district, three militants were killed by security forces, they said. The officials said identity and group affiliation of the slain ultras is being ascertained. —PTI

Meet Swati Mohan, the Indian-American behind Perseverance

WASHINGTON, 19 FEB

As the world witnessed the historic landing of NASA's Perseverance rover on the Martian surface, it was Indian-American scientist Swati Mohan, who led the guidance, navigation, and control operations of the Mars 2020 mission. Mohan also confirmed that the rover had survived a particularly tricky plunge through the Martian atmosphere. "Touchdown confirmed," exclaimed Mohan, who emigrated from India to the US when she was only a year old. She says the Guidance, Navigation, and Controls Operations (GN&C) are the "eyes and ears" of the space-



craft. Raised in Northern Virginia and the Washington DC metro area, she completed her bachelor's from Cornell University in Mechanical &

Aerospace Engineering, and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Aeronautics/Astronautics. Over the course of her career with NASA, Mohan

has worked on the Cassini mission to Saturn and GRAIL—a pair of formation flown spacecraft to the Moon, and has been a mainstay with the Mars 2020 mission since its beginning in 2013. According to the Mohan, her interest in space was peaked after watching the popular TV show Star Trek when she was 9. "Seeing the beautiful depictions of the new regions of the universe that they were exploring. I remember thinking I want to do that. I want to find new and beautiful places in the universe. The vastness of space holds so much knowledge that we have only begun to learn," she told NASA. —PTI

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