

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Counterterrorism teams from Russia, China, Pakistan and Central Asian countries will gather in Delhi on the weekend ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Regional Anti Terror Structure (SCO-RATS) meeting hosted by India from May 16 to 19. These are the first such official discussions to be held in India since the standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) where Chinese PLA troops transgressed in 2020, and since the Russian invasion in Ukraine this year.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the static test of the HS200 solid rocket booster, taking the space agency one more step closer to the keenly awaited Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission. The test was held at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) here has established the "proof of principle" of the first indigenous mRNA vaccine technology coming from a scientific institution in India, Vinay K. Nandicoori, Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research institution, said.

The Ministry of Railways will confine the usage of Divyangjan to Hindi and replace the term with 'Persons with Disabilities' in English communications. On the suggestion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the word Viklang was replaced with Divyaang (divine body) to refer to persons with disabilities in 2016.

A Right to Information (RTI) reply this week showed that most of the electoral bonds sold in April were encashed in Hyderabad, at a time when speculation of early election to the Telangana Assembly was rife. In response to a query by RTI activist Kanhaiya Kumar, the State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday said electoral bonds worth ₹648 crore were sold in the 20th tranche of the scheme from April 1 to 10.

The Supreme Court directed the Centre to file an affidavit responding to a challenge to the delimitation exercise undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir following the withdrawal of special status granted to the State under Article 370 and its subsequent bifurcation.

Tesla Inc. has put on hold plans to

### PROTECTED MOBILITY VEHICLES

1.The Army has floated a Request for Information (RFI) to purchase Protected Mobility Vehicles for high-altitude areas above the height of 4000 metres and for deserts and plains. The Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) is essentially a wheeled armoured personnel carrier. It provides protection to the soldiers travelling inside the vehicle from mine blasts and sudden attack by small arms.

2.**Technical specifications - The Army-requested PMVs should be able to carry ten personnel excluding the driver and co-driver with each person carrying a combat load of not less than 30 kg.** The PMVs must have ballistic protection and should be able to protect the vehicle from grenade and mine blasts. It should have a maximum speed of 90 km on road and 40 kmph on cross country terrain.

3.They should be able to operate in temperature range of 40 °C to (-) 15 °C in high-altitude areas. They are required to have a weapon mount to enable a Light Machine Gun (LMG) to be fitted and a turret with 360 degree rotation for a LMG.

4.The PMV should be able to ford in water with depth of 1000 mm without any special preparation. Earlier this year (2022), the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) handed over the first of such Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicles (IPMVs) to the Army. It was co-developed with the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

### INDIA HYPERTENSION CONTROL INITIATIVE

1.The India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) project finds that nearly 23% out of 2.1 million Indians have uncontrolled blood pressure. Hypertension is defined as having systolic blood pressure level greater than or equal to 140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure level greater than or equal to 90 mmHg or/and taking anti-hypertensive medication to lower his/her blood pressure. In 2017, the IHCI is a 5-year multi-partner initiative to strengthen the hypertension treatment component till community level.

2.**It was begun by the Health Ministry, the Indian Council of Medical Research, Resolve to Save Lives, State Governments, and WHO-India. It aims to strengthen the Government of India's program by strengthening the management of diagnosed hypertension in primary health care settings.** The IHCI Strategies are based on the WHO HEARTS package. India has committed to a '25 by 25' goal, which aims to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 25% by 2025. One of the nine voluntary targets includes reducing the prevalence of high blood pressure by 25% by 2025.

3.Prevalence of hypertension Southern States have a higher prevalence of hypertension than the national average, according to the latest edition of the National Family Health Survey. While 21.3% of women and 24% of men aged above 15 have hypertension in the country, the prevalence is the highest in Kerala, followed by Telangana. About one-fourth of women and men aged 40 to 49 years have hypertension.

4.Even at an earlier age, one in eight women and more than one in five men aged 30 to 39 years have hypertension. The prevalence of hypertension is higher among Sikhs (37% for men and 31% for women), Jains (30% for men and 25% for women), and Christians (29% for men and 26% for women) than the rest.

### PROTON EXCHANGE MEMBRANE ELECTROLYSIS

1.In line with the National Hydrogen Mission, GAIL (India) Ltd has awarded a contract to set up a Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Electrolyser in India. Proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolysis is industrially important as a green source of high-purity hydrogen, for chemical applications as well as energy storage.

2.**PEM electrolyzers can produce hydrogen fuel using renewable electricity. PEM electrolysis technologies can potentially be advanced in new directions and high efficacies by the application of molecular catalysts,** including CO<sub>2</sub>

sell electric cars in India, abandoned a search for showroom space, and reassigned some of its domestic team after failing to secure lower import taxes. The decision caps more than a year of deadlocked talks with government representatives as Elon Musk's Tesla sought to first test demand by selling electric vehicles (EVs) imported from production hubs in the United States and China, at lower tariffs.

Stalled negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme have been unblocked after fresh talks in Tehran, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said, adding that he believed a final deal was within reach.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday that his country is "not favourable" toward Finland and Sweden joining NATO, indicating that Turkey could use its status as a member of the Western military alliance to veto moves to admit the two countries.

More than 18 crore health cards have been issued under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) scheme so far and over 3.2 crore people have availed the hospital facilities, the Health Ministry said.

A rhino found moving around the Orang National Park with its horn sawed off posed a new challenge for the wildlife officials in Assam. Two days ago, forest guards found the sub-adult rhino bleeding from the spot where the horn was removed. The officials said the rhino, a Schedule 1 animal under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, was made unconscious before the miscreants removed the horn.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart, Sher Bahadur Deuba, will focus on connectivity and electricity projects during their bilateral talks on Monday, when Mr. Modi travels to Lumbini to attend Buddha Purnima celebrations.

The Indian embassy in Ukraine, which was "temporarily" working out of Polish capital Warsaw since March 13, will return to Kyiv from May 17, the Ministry of External Affairs announced in New Delhi.

Bitterness between Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits may have aggravated in the recent past. However, a Kashmiri Muslim filmmaker, Danish Renu, and a Kashmiri Pandit writer producer, Sunayana Kachroo, have collaborated on a 10minute movie

reduction catalysts for production of carbon-based fuels. Currently, only noble metal catalysts can be used in PEM electrolyzers. **3.** However, molecular catalysts may bring new opportunities as a replacement. Most of these catalysts tolerate high acidity as they were initially developed, evaluated, and deeply studied under such conditions.

### **MENSTRUAL LEAVE**

**1.** Menstrual leave is a type of leave where women may have the option of taking a paid or unpaid leave from their workplace when they are menstruating. Having a measure like menstrual leave at their disposal allows women to be at the comfort of their home instead of at the office.

**2. Countries - Menstrual leaves are allowed to women in some Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. In Zambia, women are legally entitled to take a day off each month due to their menstrual leave policy, which is known as "Mother's Day".**

**3.** Menstrual leave in India - There is no legal infrastructure in India to allow women the right to take menstrual leave. Bihar is the only state in the country that has government-approved period leaves. In 1992, Bihar declared that all women employees would get two consecutive days of leave every month, apart from their usual offs. In 2017, the 'Menstruation Benefits Bill, 2017' in Parliament introduced.

**4.** Under the Bill, women employed by both public and private establishments registered with the Central and/or state governments, would have been entitled to 2 days of menstrual leave every month, which would amount to 24 days of leave annually.

### **VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK(VPN)**

**1.** Companies in India must collect and maintain customer data for at least 5 years, according to the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). The mandate applies to Virtual Private Server (VPS) providers, VPN service providers, cloud service providers, data centers. It is aimed at maintaining accurate information on customer registrations details.

**2.** A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is an encrypted connection over the Internet from a device to a public network. The encrypted connection helps ensure that sensitive data is safely transmitted. It prevents unauthorized people from eavesdropping on the traffic and allows the user to conduct work remotely.

**3.** VPN technology is widely used in corporate environments. Working - A VPN extends a corporate network through encrypted connections made over the Internet. VPNs encrypt your internet traffic and disguise your online identity.

**4.** Because the traffic is encrypted between the device and the network, traffic remains private as it travels. This makes it more difficult for third parties to track your activities online and steal data. The encryption takes place in real time.

### **REGULATORS DON'T NEED CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS**

**1.** It talks about the need for giving constitutional status to regulators, rationale behind the present arrangements by the constitution and what are the alternatives available.

**2.** Arguments in favour: **Too much political pressure on Indian regulatory agencies. This affects the way they perform their functions. Providing constitutional status would restore symmetry between regulatory agencies and the elected government.**

**3.** This gives rise to cascading effects. For instance, we detest government intervention in the affairs of higher educational institutions, stock exchanges (also mini-regulators) banks. Should we then confer constitutional status on the IITs, stock exchanges and public sector banks? Even if given, that would make for a bulky and potentially an easily amendable Constitution. This violates the original spirit of the Indian Constitution.

**4.** The Constitution fortifies institutions that are designed to exercise checks and balances on elected bodies and safeguard against majoritarian tendencies. For instance, it fortifies the position of the higher judiciary, the comptroller and auditor general's office and the election commission, all of them meant to exercise checks on an elected government.

**5.** Why do regulatory agencies not need constitutional backing? Regulatory agencies do not comprise elected representatives of the people. In fact, many argue that they comprise technocratic elites who make regulations that have the binding effect of the

**titled The Good News to heal the wounds of the embittered communities by looking at their common past and sufferings. The Good News, starring Salonie Patel and Gauri Batra as Hindu Muslim friends, is scheduled to be premiered during the Tongues on Fire UK Asian Film Festival in London.**

law, license and regulate intermediating firms.

**6.**Alternatives available-Provide “fair contract terms” for these agencies under their governing law. Align the incentives of the persons heading the regulatory agencies with public interest. Require them to consistently explain their actions to the public. Transparency of conduct is one of the most effective ways of incentivising the agency to act in public interest.