

Law, Policy and Governance



Daily snippets

1. [Give Rs1 lakh each to two custodial torture victims'](#)

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs pay Rs1 lakh each to two victims of custodial torture at Delhi's Adarsh Nagar police station in a 2019 case.
- *"The commission was convinced that from the material on record, prima facie it is established that the complainant and his nephew were given third degree torture. They were assaulted by the police personnel, as named in the FIR, and are now facing trial before the court,...the commission held that since the police officers failed to act as responsible public servants, therefore, departmental proceedings against them should also be initiated, and they should be punished accordingly. The State is vicariously liable for the action of public servants/police officers and hence the victims are entitled for compensation."*

2. [Schools told to sensitise students on cyber bullying](#)

- The Delhi government has issued a circular to all the heads of schools to educate students and their parents about the **safe use of Internet and sensitise them about cyberbullying** and online threats as they continue to attend classes online due to the pandemic.
- The Directorate of Education (DoE) said a study has been conducted by **India Child Protection Fund (ICPF)** regarding online exploitation of children and increase in activities related to **child sexual abuse material**, which indicates a sharp rise in demand for **online child pornography during the lockdown**.

3. [Delhi court grants bail to Disha](#)

- Terming the 'toolkit' shared by climate change activist Disha Ravi as *"innocuous"*, a Delhi court granted her bail. Additional sessions judge Dharmender Rana said, *"The perusal of the said 'toolkit' reveals that any call for any kind of violence is conspicuously absent."*

- Dealing with the interpretation of the word 'sedition', a charge slapped by the Delhi Police on the 22-year old activist, the judge said, "*Law proscribes only such activities as would be intended, or have a tendency, to create disorder or disturbance of public peace by resort to violence*".

National News/ Interventions



Daily snippets

1. Xi may visit India for BRICS summit

- **China's President Xi Jinping** may visit India in the second half of this year to attend the **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)** leaders' meeting, if a physical summit is held as is increasingly expected. The visit will come in the aftermath of the most serious border crisis between the neighbours in decades. China on Monday expressed its "*support*" for India hosting this year's meeting, and said the meeting would not be impacted by the border crisis.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is expected to make his first overseas trip after the pandemic to Bangladesh in March and is also likely to attend the **India-E.U. meet in Portugal in May** and the **G7 summit in the U.K., where India has been invited as a guest country**, the following month.
- In **2017, Prime Minister Modi visited China to attend the BRICS summit** five days after Indian and Chinese troops ended a **72-day standoff on the Doklam plateau**. The timing of the summit, officials in India and China said at the time, pushed both sides to arrive at a deal. While **disengagement is under way along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in Ladakh, having been completed last week at Pangong Lake and now in progress in other areas, de-escalation is yet to take place, with thousands of troops on both sides still present in depth areas beyond the LAC and yet to return to their peacetime positions.

2. '₹70,221 cr. reserved for domestic buying'

- About ₹70,000 crore of the capital allocation of ₹1.35 lakh crore in the defence budget would be reserved for **domestic procurements** and a second negative list of items that could be procured only locally by the Services would be issued, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** said.
- In the budgetary allocation for 2021-22, the capital allocation for defence saw an increase of ₹21,326 crore or 18.75% compared to Budget Estimates (BE) of last year. Last year, **for the first time, the government introduced a separate allocation for domestic procurement within the defence budget** and reserved ₹52,000 crore for 2020-21. Mr. Singh announced that to support start-ups, the Ministry planned to channelise about ₹1000 crore during 2021-22 for procurement from start-ups under the **Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** initiative.

3. Ministry disowns 'cow science' examination

- With the **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)** having cancelled its "*indigenous cow science*" examination after widespread criticism about its promotion of fake claims and pseudoscience, the **Animal Husbandry Department** said the two year old body had "*no mandate*" to conduct such an examination. Any future awareness programme would be conducted "*on a scientific basis*", said a senior official overseeing the RKA.
- Under the leadership of Vallabhbbhai Kathiria, the body's Chairman, the RKA had announced a national "**Kamdhenu Gau Vigyan Prachar Prasar Exam**" to be held on February 25. Reference materials for the exam

made a number of unscientific claims, including that the dung of indigenous cows protected against radioactivity, their milk had traces of gold, and that cow slaughter caused earthquakes. The **RKA had the backing of the University Grants Commission (UGC)**, which publicised the examination, causing widespread outrage.

4. **Indradhanush 3.0 to fill gap in immunisation due to COVID**

- The States and Union Territories (UTs) have rolled out the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0** scheme to cover children and pregnant women who missed routine immunisation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Ministry said. More than 29,000 children and 5,000 pregnant women were covered on the first day, it added. The campaign is scheduled to have **two rounds of immunisation lasting 15 days** (excluding routine immunisation and holidays). It is being conducted in 250 pre-identified districts/urban areas across 29 States/UTs.

5. **Animal Husbandry**

- The center announced the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) last year. As an allied industry of agriculture, the animal husbandry and dairy sector **collectively employs more than 100 million people**. Since the bulk of establishments in this sector is **concentrated in rural India**, the socio-economic relevance of this sector cannot be overstated.
- The AHIDF has been set up with an **outlay of ₹15,000 crore**. As per the provisions of AHIDF, a project will be eligible for a loan amount that covers up to 90% of the estimated cost - with an interest subvention of 3% for all eligible entities. This is the first major fund launched by the government that includes a diverse set of stakeholders such as FPOs, private dairy players, individual entrepreneurs, and non-profits within its ambit.
- There is also considerable potential to increase the productivity of cattle, especially by **enhancing the quality of animal feed**. With this in mind, the AHIDF has been designed to support the establishment of animal feed plants of varying capacities. The Ministry in collaboration with Invest India has invited ideas from domestic start-ups for the development of new varieties of green fodder and enriched animal feed. In a similar vein, there are not only **economic but nutritional benefits to boosting the poultry segment's output**, efficiency and quality. India is the **fourth largest chicken meat producer** and the **second largest egg producer** in the world.
- Macro benefits regarding climate change and employment are linked to this sector. Enhanced infrastructure can make processing units more energy efficient and help mitigate their carbon footprint.

6. **Railways stung by IT breaches**

- Following **instances of cyber attacks** during the ongoing pandemic across its network, the Ministry of Railways has roped in the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)** to educate its officials on **Internet ethics, cyber hygiene and best practices** in the use of IT equipment, including mobile phones. This is a part of its **National Cyber Security Strategy**. The Railway Board said a number of incidents had come to notice regarding **breaches in various IT applications** as electronic working has further proliferated. A majority of them were applications related. Incidents occurred due to *"improper handling of the IT assets by the personnel"*.

7. **Mizoram group seeks asylum for coup-hit Myanmar villagers**

- **Mizoram's apex students' body** has asked the State government to provide asylum to some villagers in Myanmar affected by the military coup there. The **State's Mizo National Front (MNF) government, headed by Chief Minister Zoramthanga**, said asylum would be considered if there was a formal request cleared by the Centre.
- People belonging to **Myanmar's Chin community** were seeking to migrate to Mizoram to escape a military crackdown, primarily because of the **Chin National Army (CNA)**, an extremist group seeking self determination in Chin State across the border. The **Chin community and the Mizos** in India belong to the **Zo ethnic group**, which share the same ancestry. Claiming that the **Chins have been affected by the civil unrest in Myanmar**, the

Mizo Students' Union appealed to the State government to play a proactive role and accept those affected as refugees.

8. Terrorism is a crime against humanity

- Terrorism is a “*crime against humanity*”, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on. Addressing the **High Level Segment of the 46th Session of Human Rights Council (HRC)**, he said India’s commitment to human rights is seen in the way the government has handled the pandemic. Mr. Jaishankar said human rights agenda in the world is facing a major challenge from terrorism and expressed **India’s desire to work with other members of the HRC**. He highlighted the special importance of the rights that are **enshrined in the Constitution as the Fundamental Rights**.
- The Minister’s comments came days after India reacted angrily to observations by the **Special Rapporteurs on Minority Issues and Freedom of Religion or Belief** on *apparent erosion of rights in Kashmir and the rest of India*. The Ministry had termed the observations as “*deplorable*”.
- Mr. Jaishankar reached out to the HRC: “*Our approach to the UN Human Rights Council is guided by our spirit of engagement, dialogue and consultation. We believe that equal emphasis should be placed on both promotion and protection of human rights. Both are best pursued through dialogue, consultation and cooperation among States as well as technical assistance and capacity building.*” He said the government provided “*direct food support to 800 million Indians and financial support to 400 million*” to counter the impact of the pandemic.

9. Government will ensure healthcare for all : Prime Minister

- Stating that the **budget allocation for the health sector** this financial year has been unprecedented, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this indicated his **government’s commitment to providing healthcare to every citizen**. The Prime Minister said this was the inspiration behind the **PM AtmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat scheme**.
- “*The government is working with a four pronged strategy for a healthy India. The first is prevention of illness and promotion of wellness, including measures such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, yoga, timely care and treatment of pregnant women and children. The second is to provide cheap and effective treatment to the poorest of the poor. The third is to increase the quality of health infrastructure and health care professionals, while the fourth is to work on a mission mode to overcome obstacles,*” he said.



International NEWS/Events/ Personalities

Daily snippets

1. Iran, IAEA reach deal on inspections

- The UN nuclear watchdog chief announced a “*temporary solution*” to allow Iranian facility inspections to continue after days of talks with officials, giving some much needed breathing space for diplomatic negotiations. However, **IAEA Director General, Rafael Grossi**, admitted that under the new three month arrangement, the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would not have the same level of access after a law comes into force limiting some inspections.

- Mr. Grossi's visit to Iran came amid stepped up efforts between the **U.S. President Joe Biden's** administration, **European powers and Tehran** to salvage the **2015 nuclear deal** that has been on the brink of collapse since the former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from it and went on to impose sanctions on the nation. In December, Iran's conservative-dominated Parliament passed the law **demanding a suspension of some inspections** if the U.S. failed to lift sanctions by this Sunday.
- However, **Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** said that the Islamic republic could boost uranium enrichment to 60% if needed, vowing to *"not back down on the nuclear issue"*. That would be far above the **3.67% limit Iran had accepted under the 2015 nuclear deal** with world powers, but still short of the around **90% required to make an atomic bomb**.

2. [Pandemic used as 'pretext' to crush dissent: UN chief](#)

- The UN on Monday **slammed countries that are using the pandemic to justify cracking down on dissent** and suppressing criticism. Speaking at the opening of the **UN Human Rights Council's main annual session**, **Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** charged that authorities in a number of nations were using restrictions meant to halt the spread of COVID-19 to weaken opposition.
- In addition to inequalities within countries, the UN chief slammed **inequalities between nations when it comes to accessing the COVID-19 vaccines** coming to market as a *"moral outrage"*. A full 75% of all vaccine doses have been administered in just 10 countries, he pointed out, while more than **130 countries have yet to receive a single dose**.

3. [Maldives Parliament debates defence deal with India](#)

- A day after Male and New Delhi signed an agreement to jointly develop the **Maldives National Defence Force Coast Guard Harbour**, Maldives's Parliament, *'the People's Majlis'*, took up an emergency motion, demanding greater transparency on the bilateral pact.
- Concerns over **"Indian military presence" were flagged in 2018 too**, when the Yameen government asked India to take back two helicopters it had gifted, with a crew and support staff, causing a major strain in bilateral ties. Following the **September 2018 defeat of the Yameen administration**, which was known for its China tilt, **President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's** government has been pursuing an *"India first"* policy.
- However, not all in the ruling coalition agree with the government's current foreign policy. During Monday's debate in Parliament, government MP Ali Hussain said Male should avoid seeking assistance on military matters from any big power. *"Whether it is India, China or the U.S., their agreements here are bound to have conflicting interests. We should not end up in a situation where we have to choose one partner over another, we should not become part of a proxy [geopolitical] war"*. Last year, New Delhi welcomed the Maldives's decision to sign a military agreement with the U.S.

4. [Facebook to end Australia news blackout](#)

- **Facebook** said it would lift a contentious ban on Australian news and **pay local media companies for content**, after a lastgasp deal on pending landmark legislation. Australia's Treasurer Josh Frydenberg announced a face saving compromise that will see **Google and Facebook plunge tens of millions of dollars into the struggling local news sector**. In return the U.S. digital firms will, for now, avoid being subjected to mandatory payments that could cost them vastly more and create what they see as an alarming global precedent.

- The social media firm sparked global outrage last week by blacking out news for its Australian users in protest against the proposed legislation, and inadvertently blocking a series of non-news Facebook pages linked to everything from cancer charities to emergency response services.
- **Prime Minister Scott Morrison** angrily accused Facebook of making a decision to “unfriend” Australia. **Google** has already brokered deals worth millions of dollars with local media companies, including the two largest: Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp and Nine Entertainment.

5. [Imran pitches economic corridor to Sri Lanka](#)

- Pitching the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** as a connectivity booster, **Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan**, said Pakistan would find “*ways and means to enhance trade and connectivity*” with Sri Lanka. Mr. Khan is the first head of government to visit Sri Lanka since the pandemic struck the world. He held a one-on-one bilateral meeting with counterpart **Mahinda Rajapaksa**, and is scheduled to meet **President Gotabaya Rajapaksa** on Wednesday.
- Members of Sri Lanka’s minority Muslim community held a demonstration on Tuesday, urging the government to reverse its **mandatory cremations policy for COVID-19 victims**. The Sri Lankan government, which had earlier said Mr. Khan would address Parliament, cancelled the programme closer to his arrival, citing “scheduling issues” and safety concerns linked to the pandemic.

6. [Biden, Trudeau to lay out road map to rebuild ties](#)

- **U.S President Joe Biden** and **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** will lay out a “road map” for rebuilding U.S.-Canada relations during their first bilateral meeting, a senior official said, although the **scrapped Keystone pipeline** could present a hurdle. Mr. Biden and Mr. Trudeau will address several mutual priorities, including **tackling climate change**, revving up the North American economy, the Arctic, and **threats to democracy in Myanmar and Venezuela**.

7. [Afghanistan warring sides return to table](#)

- With violence spiking, **Afghanistan’s** warring sides have returned to the negotiation table, ending more than a month of delays amid hopes that the two sides can agree on a reduction of violence — and eventually, an outright ceasefire. **Taliban** spokesman Mohammad Naeem tweeted that **talks had resumed in Qatar**, where the insurgent movement maintains a political office.
- When talks ended abruptly in January, just days after beginning, both sides submitted their wish lists for agendas. The task now is for the two sides to sift through the respective wish lists, agree on items to negotiate and the order in which they will be tackled.
- The priority for the **Afghan government, Washington and NATO is a serious reduction in violence** leading to a ceasefire. The Taliban has said it is negotiable, but until now has resisted any immediate ceasefire. Washington is reviewing the February 2020 peace deal the previous Trump administration signed with the Taliban that calls for the **final withdrawal of international forces by May 1**. The Taliban has resisted suggestions of even a brief extension, but a consensus is mounting in Washington for a delay in the withdrawal deadline. There is even a suggestion of a smaller intelligence based force staying behind.

8. [Hong Kong to disqualify officials, politicians ‘disloyal’ to China](#)

- Hong Kong announced plans to ramp up the ideological vetting of politicians and officials, with **anyone seen to be disloyal to China or a national security threat barred from office**. The draft law will be sent next month to the city’s legislature, a body now devoid of opposition after a number of figures were disqualified because their political views were deemed a security threat.

- Officials have detailed a “*negative list*” of offences that could see their colleagues removed from office, including **acts that endanger national security**, advocating for independence or **refusing to accept China’s sovereignty over Hong Kong**.



Opinions and Analysis

Commentary : Dealing with the bigger neighbour, China

1. Background

- Since 1993, **India and China had reached a number of agreements to maintain peace and tranquillity** and promote **confidence building measures (CBMs)** in the border areas.

2. Key features of the agreements

- The boundary question would be resolved peacefully; neither side would use or threaten to use force against the other “by any means”.
- That the two sides would **respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- That they would **jointly check and determine the segments** of the LAC where they had different views as to its alignment and further, speed up clarification and confirmation of the LAC since a common understanding of the Line was necessary.
- That military forces (including field army, border defence forces, paramilitary forces) and major categories of armaments in mutually agreed geographical zones along the LAC **would be kept to a minimum level compatible with friendly and good neighbourly relations** and the “*requirements of mutual and equal security*”.
- Military exercises would be undertaken **only at specified levels with prior notification** being given for such exercises near the LAC; prior notice would be given regarding flights of combat aircraft within 10 kilometres from the LAC.
- If border personnel of the two sides came face-to-face due to differences in alignment of the LAC they would **exercise self-restraint and avoid an escalation of the situation**; channels of communication and border personnel meetings in case of contingencies were stipulated.

3. Where our experience with China on CBMs and tension reduction along the border differs from the experience of Russia

- **First**, the five Agreements we signed between 1993 and 2013 were not nurtured in an environment of a steady enhancement of mutual trust and political commitment for building a strong infrastructure of bilateral relations between India and China that promoted both bilateral and regional understanding and cooperative endeavour.
- **Second**, unlike in the Russia-China case, no final boundary settlement accompanied these CBMs to sustain and strengthen their operation. Even a joint clarification of the LAC remained unattainable.

- **Third**, China as the bigger power, unlike the Soviet Union under Gorbachev in its dealings with Beijing, has never signalled willingness to make asymmetric or unilateral concessions to India or act in a manner, especially in our neighbourhood, that enhances India's trust or confidence.

Commentary : Tibetology

1. **Background**

- A media report on January 28 said that officers would study "*Tibetan history, culture, and language on both sides of the Line of Actual Control*" in order to "*counter Chinese influence and propaganda*". Indeed, India-China relations cannot be approached through a strictly bilateral prism that excludes Tibet and the Himalaya.

2. **Tibetan span**

- According to the Proceedings of the Tenth Seminar of the **International Association for Tibetan Studies (2003)**, the region includes not just **UTsang** (present day **Tibet Autonomous Region**), Amdo, and Kham, but large areas in the Himalaya, including parts of Nepal and Bhutan, Sikkim, Ladakh, and Tawang.

3. **Tibet & British India**

- Colonial Britain recognised the **importance of Sikkim and Bhutan** in securing its interests in Tibet, and its Political Officer in Sikkim cultivated close relations with aristocratic families in the region. Simultaneously, from Warren Hastings in the 1770s to Francis Younghusband in 1903-04, an army of cartographers, mountaineers, missionaries, linguists, and botanists worked to produce definitive knowledge about Tibet for British India.

4. **Tibet's importance in Independent India**

- Independent India **recognised the economic and cultural ties** that traversed the Himalayas and the role of Buddhism as the connecting tissue. Dedicated to Tibetan and Buddhist studies, the *Central Institute for Buddhist Studies* and the *Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies* were established in Leh and Sarnath, Varanasi, respectively, as was the *Namgyal Institute of Tibetology* in the erstwhile kingdom of Sikkim.
- By understanding **Tibet as a buffer zone in India-China relations**, the former often leads to an ahistorical narrative of India and Tibet as "*natural allies*", eschewing the history of **complex political engagements** between successive administrations in Lhasa and India over issues ranging from frontiers to customary rights of grazing and trade. It does not account for the **centrality of Tibet in India's relationship with Bhutan and Sikkim (before 1975)**.

5. **Defining Tibetology**

- In **defining Tibetology** so narrowly, we miss an opportunity to understand contemporary India. The postcolonial Indian state was not forged in the centres of Delhi and Calcutta alone. Nor were its mountains and plains integrated into a single nation state uniformly. The Himalaya is home to interconnected yet diverse ecologies, societies, and polities that crisscross many contemporary borders. **India hosts the Fourteenth Dalai Lama**, the Central Tibetan Administration, Tibetan refugee settlements and a plethora of Tibetan institutes.

Commentary : Sedition lies in the effect, not in the content

1. **Background**

- Recent charges of sedition against individuals have brought back focus to a law introduced in the **Indian Penal Code in 1870**. In *Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar (1962)*, the Supreme Court upheld the **constitutional validity**

of **sedition** and noted it as being a *reasonable restriction on free speech as provided in Article 19(2)* of the Constitution. Following the Kedar Nath case, the Bombay High Court, in the case of cartoonist Aseem Trivedi, issued guidelines which the police must follow prior to invoking the provisions of sedition.

2. How the law stands

- Courts have on numerous occasions cautioned law enforcement agencies not to misuse the provisions on sedition, and follow court directions, regrettably, **they are grossly ignored**. The problem therefore lies in the poor implementation of the law and guidelines. This is evident from recent reports, based on **data from the National Crime Records Bureau** on cases of sedition. Notably, many charged were **individuals protesting government action**, which the Constitution Bench in KedarNath held falls outside the ambit of sedition.
- This data and the gross misuse of the legal provisions compel one to state that even though a Constitution Bench upheld the vires of the law of sedition, the circumstances now require a complete relook at the provision.

3. Need to relook

- The U.K. **repealed the offence of sedition in 2010** and India is holding onto a relic of the British Empire. It also sought consideration on whether keeping Section 124A would serve any purpose and whether reducing the rigour of the law of sedition would be detrimental or beneficial to the nation.
- Courts must adopt what Western countries follow: **an effect based test** which examines the *effects of the seditious text* rather than a content-based test which reviews the text alone.
- To conclude, the only 'toolkit' we all really need is our **Constitution and the principles it enshrines to protect citizen freedoms, life and liberty**. It is not the alleged seditious acts that are creating fragments in our society; it is in fact the persecution of individuals and labelling them that are really creating cracks in our socio-politico ecosystem.



Economics and Finance

Daily snippets

1. India Ratings raises banking sector outlook to stable

- **India Ratings and Research** revised its outlook on the overall banking sector to 'stable' for FY22 from 'negative' even as it saw higher stress emerging in the retail loan segment. It estimated that **overall stressed assets** (gross non performing assets + restructured assets) could rise 30% for the banking system; the increase is almost 1.7 times in the retail segment in the second half of FY22.
- The agency also revised credit growth estimates to 6.9% for FY21 from the earlier 1.8%, and forecast 8.9% for FY22. It said that a lot of the retail stress was coming from **unsecured advances** and that it would be seen more in private banks because of their **higher exposure to unsecured loans**. The agency also expected deposit rates to rise as credit growth revives and capital market flows are enhanced.

2. Growth momentum needs to be strengthened

- The growth momentum needs to be strengthened for a **sustained revival of the economy** and a quick return to the pre-COVID trajectory, **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** said. *“Growth, although uneven, is recovering and gathering momentum, and the outlook has improved significantly with the rollout of the vaccine programme in the country. The growth momentum, however, needs to strengthen further for a sustained revival of the economy and for a quick return of the level of output to the pre-COVID trajectory,”* he added.
- Given the sharp moderation in inflation along with a stable near-term outlook, he said, **the monetary policy** needed to continue with the **accommodative stance** to ensure that the recovery gained greater traction and became broad-based. **Deputy Governor Michael Patra** said overall, the near-term outlook for inflation appeared less risky than the near-term challenges for growth which **warrant continuing policy support**.
- **What is monetary policy?** It is the macroeconomic **policy** laid down by the central bank. It involves management of money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic **policy** used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth and liquidity.

3. Government to review anti-dumping duty on Chinese products

- The **Commerce Ministry’s investigation arm DGTR** has initiated a probe to review the need for continuing **imposition of antidumping duty on certain types of steel products** - seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of iron, alloy or non alloy steel imported from China, following complaints from domestic industry, according to a notification.
- The complaint alleges that dumping of these products from China have continued even after imposition of antidumping duty, and there has been a significant increase in the volume of imports. DGTR would **review the need for continued imposition of the duties** in force and examine whether the **expiry of existing duties** is likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping and impact the domestic industry.

4. Pharma exports to Arab countries

- India has urged Arab countries to **make it easier to export pharmaceutical products** to the region and asked them to **tap Indian farms** to secure food supplies, as it seeks to diversify the **\$160 billion trade basket** with the Arab bloc beyond hydrocarbons. **India-Arab trade accounts for 20% of India’s overall trade**, but is still concentrated in hydrocarbons.



Sports

Daily snippets

1. National TT championship

- **G. Sathiyam's** wait to lay his hands on the winner's trophy of the **National table tennis championship** has finally ended. Playing his fourth final in seven years, Sathiyam ended the jinx by beating **nine time winner Sharath**

Kamal 11-6, 11-7, 10-12, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8 in under 50 minutes. Sathiyar received ₹2.50 lakh and a trophy while Sharath collected ₹1.65 lakh and the runner-up trophy.

Suggested Readings

1. Statutory Provisions of arrest and remand, [Link to article](#)
 2. Dissent is not sedition, [Link to article](#)
 3. Appointment of the Chief Justice of India, [Link to article](#)
 4. Suspecting the disquiet in democracy, [Link to article](#)
 5. Excise duty-fiscal policy contradiction, [Link to article](#)
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Sources referred to : [The Hindu](#), [The Indian Express](#), [Live Law](#), [Bar & Bench](#)

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