

16th June 2021

1. One year of Galwan

On June 15 last year, Ladakh's Galwan Valley witnessed a violent clash between the Armies of India and China. The clash, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, was one of the worst in 45 years, and led to a military standoff with China and at least 11 rounds of military talks for the disengagement process.

2. In bid to stifle dissent, state blurs line between right to protest, terrorism: Delhi High Court

Ending the year-long detention of three student activists booked by Delhi Police under the UAPA anti-terror law, the Delhi High Court granted them bail, saying "it seems, that in its anxiety to suppress dissent, in the mind of the State, the line between the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity seems to be getting somewhat blurred. If this mindset gains traction, it would be a sad day for democracy".

Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita and Asif Iqbal Tanha were arrested in May 2020 for their alleged role in the Northeast Delhi riots conspiracy case and were later booked under the UAPA.

The bench said that the allegations against the accused do not prima facie disclose the commission of any offence under UAPA section 15 (terrorist act), section 17 (punishment for raising funds for terrorist act) and section 18 (punishment for conspiracy) of the UAPA. And therefore, the additional conditions, limitations and restrictions on grant of bail under section 43 D (5) of UAPA do not apply.

3. MP district brings more children under Covid relief umbrella

With a Madhya Pradesh government scheme for Covid relief only covering those orphaned by the virus, the Mandsaur district administration has floated a separate programme for those left destitute by death of a single parent.

The **Muskurata Mandsaur initiative**, launched with the help of private donors, will offer Rs 2,000 monthly for such children for the next two years, as well as ensure free education in both government and private schools.

4. 2012 shooting of fishermen off Kerala coast: SC closes proceedings against Italian marines after tribunal award

The Supreme Court closed all proceedings pending in the country against two Italian marines accused of shooting two fishermen off the coast of Kerala on February 15, 2012, and directed that the criminal investigation in the matter can resume in Italy.

A bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and M R Shah quashed the FIR registered in connection with the case and discharged the bail bonds of the two marines Master Sergeant Massimiliano Latorre and Sergeant Major Salvatore Girone.

The bench took into account the fact that the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982, – of which India is a party – had delivered its award on May 21, 2020, under which the Republic of Italy agreed to pay Rs 10 crore in compensation, over and above the ex-gratia amount already paid (Rs 2.17 crore) and also that the tribunal had duly recorded Italy’s commitment that it will resume its criminal investigation into the incident.

5. Twitter may ‘lose’ safe harbour protection as government says it ‘failed’ to fill key positions

Microblogging platform Twitter is likely to lose its status as a social media intermediary and, in turn, the legal protection accorded to it under Section 79 of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

“The government believes that whoever has not yet complied with the guidelines has lost the intermediary status. For Twitter now, any and all penal action that is applicable under the Indian Penal Code will be applicable”.

Section 79 says any intermediary shall not be held legally or otherwise liable for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted on its platform.

As of June 15, Twitter remained the only platform among significant social media intermediaries to not have appointed the required executives in those roles despite reminders from the government, sources said.

In response to an emailed query on the development, Twitter said it was keeping the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) updated of the progress of appointments at each stage of the process.

Guidelines issued in February required all significant social media intermediaries to designate executives for these roles by May 26. On May 26, the ministry had written to these intermediaries asking them to furnish the details of all the appointments made as soon as possible. Over the next week, all major social media intermediaries complied.

6. India achieve the bare minimum, qualify for Round 3 of Asian Cup qualifiers

India needed a draw against Afghanistan to secure the third spot in Group E of the World Cup Qualifiers and make it to the third round of the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, a target they achieved after a 1-1 stalemate at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha. Seven points from eight games means India finished this campaign with four more points than what they achieved in the 2018 World Cup qualifiers.