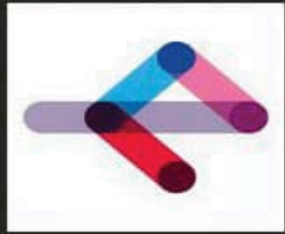


THE PULSE OF HBTU

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER



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Creative Cluster

HBTU Welcome it's new Vice Chancellor

On 7th April, 2021 Respected Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chancellor of the university Anandi Ben Patel appointment Dr. Samsher as the new Vice Chancellor of our university for the term of next three years.

Dr. Samsher perused his B.Tech in Mechanical engineering from Harcourt Butler Technical University and was graduated in the year 1987.



He pursued his Masters from IIT Delhi in Energy studies in the year 1994. He did his PhD from IIT Delhi in Mechanical engineering in the year 2005. We at Harcourt Butler Technical University welcome Dr Shamsheer with a lot of respect. We are sure that he will give the best of his knowledge and wisdom to this university. We hope that our university and students reach several heights under his guidance.

Congratulations on your appointment! May you guide this fine university with compassionate confidence!

The entire H.B.T.U. faculty, students and staff bid farewell to our Vice Chancellor, Prof Narendra Bahadur Singh who is retiring from our prestigious college after serving with full dedication during beautiful journey of his tenure.

Under his guidance and support, our university witnessed a lot of ups & downs, he was a true torch-bearer during these grave times of pandemic.



We have been so inspired by your deep commitment to students, to impactful high quality research.

Your compassion, thoughtfulness, ethic of care and strategic vision have shaped our university in significant ways, and the positive effects of your leadership will be felt for years to come. Wishing you all the very best in your next adventure, whatever it may be.

We wish him a great personal and a professional life ahead. This university will be indebted to him for years to come.

IN & AROUND

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Orientation programme for the Association of Food Technology

With the bare minimum interaction that the new comers had with the faculty and their seniors, the Department of Food Technology, HBTU, Kanpur organized an interactive orientation programme for the Association of Food Technology on March 8, 2021.

Guest alumni who presided over the programme were:

- **Mr. Nitin Sonker:** QA Manager, Perfetti India Ltd, Manesar plant.
- **Mr. Arvind Kumar Tiwari:** Group Processing head, Valency International, Singapore.
- **Mr. Ajeet pratap Singh:** Manager Application Group, Nestle India Ltd, Ponda Factory, Goa.
- **Mr. Lalit Kumar:** Managing Director/CEO, Mirchandani Dynamech Spices.

With talks about the recent strides on the respective field along with providing an opportunity to delve deep into major and possible horizons of the field, the programme was a success.

High student participation was noticed and the seminar hall packed the ambiance of learning in a long while ever since the pandemic hit the world.

OTAI NZ organized a webinar by Alfa Laval:

Edible oil refining technology: Current and Future Trends on 5th March 2021 from 3 to 4.30 pm on Microsoft Teams Meeting. Please join. Regards. Dinesh Khanna. Links attached.

The topic was Utilization of distilled corned oil into industrial resins and possible applications in coating and adhesives by Dr E Krishna Rajan.

Graduate of HBTU in 1975, Dr. E. Krishnarajan, is currently President and Chief Technical Officer of Diversitak an Automotive Adhesive supplier located in Detroit, MI, USA. He is also President and CEO of Creative Materials and Innovations LLC, USA and CMI India Pvt Ltd. His educational background includes a PH. D in Polymer Science (1986) and M. E in Chemical Engineering (1981) from the University of Detroit, Detroit, MI, USA. A MS in Polymer Science (1976) from the University of Aston, Birmingham, UK. Graduated from HBTU with BSc. Tech in 1975 with Paint Technology specialization and with B.Sc in 1972 from Andhra University, India. Rajan holds more than 10 patents and publications in the polymer related commercial applications. Long term member of American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and Society of Plastics Engineers. He Resides in Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

In Proctur placement



In which Package of 6 lpa Is offered
Placed candidates:

- Amit Kumar (CS)
- Vishal Maurya (MCA)

In Lohia Corp placement



In which Package of 5.3 lpa Is offered
Placed candidate

- Anil Chaturvedi (PL)
- Anuj Singh (PL)

Evalueserve Placement



In which a package of 5 lpa Is offered
Placed candidate :

- Astha Kapoor (CH)

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin visits India, sends signal to China



In the years since 2016, India has signed three "foundational agreements" with the US, which enable deeper cooperation and the exchange of classified information and equipment.

US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Signalling an emphatic break from the Trump administration's neglect of alliances and allies, top officials from President Joe Biden's administration fanned out across the Asia-Pacific this week to engage countries that the US considers strategic partners against a rising and aggressive China. A key part of this messaging was the visit of America's Secretary of Defense, General Lloyd Austin III, who arrived in New Delhi on Friday evening to discuss "deepening the US-India Major Defence Partnership" and to advance cooperation "for a free, prosperous and open Indo-Pacific and Western Indian Ocean Region." After Austin's meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Friday, he met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for what he termed "a comprehensive and fruitful discussion" on Saturday. "At the top of my agenda I wanted to convey the Biden-Harris administration's message of our strong commitment to our allies and partners. India, in particular, is an increasingly important partner amid today's rapidly shifting international dynamics. And I reaffirmed our commitment to a comprehensive and forward-looking defence partnership with India as a central pillar of our approach to the (Indo-Pacific) region," said Austin after talks with Rajnath. Reflecting the steady increase in military-to-military ties between the two countries and the fact that the US military does more joint exercises with India's military than with any other, the MoD stated: "We reviewed the wide gamut of bilateral and multilateral exercises and agreed to pursue enhanced cooperation with the US Indo-Pacific Command, Central Command and Africa Command. Until recently, India dealt only with the Hawaii-based US Indo-Pacific Command. However, the US and Indian navies began cooperating in West Asia and East Africa. India's military has begun interacting with the other two geographical commands as well. An Indian liaison officer is now stationed full-time at the US military headquarters in Manama, Bahrain. In the years since 2016, India has signed three "foundational agreements" with the US, which enable deeper cooperation and the exchange of classified information and equipment. "Acknowledging that we have in place the foundational agreements, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence (BECA), we discussed steps to be taken to realise their full potential for mutual benefit," said the Indian MoD. "We (US and India) are continuing to advance new areas of collaboration, including: Information-sharing, logistics cooperation, artificial intelligence, and cooperation in new domains such as space and cyber," stated Austin. Biden himself kicked off this diplomatic flurry last Friday with the first-ever (virtual) meeting of the leaders of the Quadrilateral (Quad) countries – Australia, India, Japan and the US. Formed in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami and formalized in 2007, the Quad has met at the working and foreign minister level. Friday was the first meeting at the leader level. In a joint statement after their meeting, the Quad leaders had sent out a blunt message to Beijing, vowing to promote a "free, open, rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond." "We support the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity. We commit to work together and with a range of partners. We reaffirm our strong support for ASEAN's unity and centrality as well as the ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific," said the Quad's joint statement.

President gives assent to Bill that says 'government' in Delhi means 'Lieutenant Governor'

The central government announced about the presidential assent to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 through a gazette notification. President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday gave his assent to a Bill that accords primacy to Delhi's Lieutenant Governor (L-G) over the elected government. The central government announced about the presidential assent to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 through a gazette notification. According to the legislation, the "government" in Delhi means the "Lieutenant Governor" and the city government will now have to seek the opinion of the L-G before taking any executive action.

Chief Justice of India SA Bobde recommends Justice NV Ramana as his successor

In a letter to the Law Ministry, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde recommended Justice Ramana as his successor. Justice NV Ramana is the senior-most judge in the top court after the Chief Justice of India. Born on August 27, 1957, Justice Ramana has a tenure till August 26, 2022. With a little over a month left before Chief Justice of India SA Bobde retires, the government had started the process of appointing of the next Chief Justice of India, asking the incumbent to recommend his successor. Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had sent a letter to Justice Bobde, who is set to retire on April 23, seeking his recommendations.

UP MP sign Ken-Betwa river link pact

Get Notifications on latest India News NEW DELHI: India's first river interlinking project, connecting the Ken and Betwa rivers in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, is finally set to be implemented. After resolving their differences over sharing of water, the chief ministers of the two states, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Yogi Adityanath, on Monday signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre in the virtual presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The revised deal will allow MP get additional water from the project, which will be implemented at an estimated cost of more than Rs 37,600 crore. The dispute between the states could be settled after UP agreed to drop its demand for a higher share.

EU imposes sanctions in response to Myanmar coup

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the EU could not avoid imposing sanctions on individuals responsible for violence in Myanmar. He said the number of "murders" in the country has "reached an unbearable extent." An estimated 250 anti-coup protesters have been killed so far in Myanmar (Reuters). The European Union approved sanctions against individuals tied to the Myanmar coup, at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels. The sanctions mark the most significant EU response so far to the coup. At least 250 people have been killed so far in violent crackdowns on the ongoing anti-junta protests. Among those sanctioned was junta Chief Min Aung Hlaing, who has been slapped with an assets freeze and visa ban. "Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing has been directly involved in and responsible for decision making concerning state functions and is therefore responsible for undermining democracy and the rule of law," the bloc's official journal said. A total of 11 individuals involved in Myanmar's military coup and the repression of demonstrators were targeted.

Germany calls for 'peaceful solution'

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Monday that the EU intended to only target individuals who were responsible for violence in Myanmar. "The number of murders has reached an unbearable extent, which is why we will not be able to avoid imposing sanctions," Maas told reporters as he arrived in Brussels. "We are still pushing to stay in dialogue for a peaceful solution," he added.

UN calls for 'firm' measures

UN rapporteur Tom Andrews had urged the international community to cut the coup leaders' access to resources and called for sanctions in response to their "ruthless" attacks on people. "The world must respond by cutting their access to money and weapons," he tweeted. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres also condemned the military's continuing violent crackdown. A "firm, unified international response" is urgently needed, he said, according to his spokesman. Parts of the military's conglomerates, Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL) and Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), are expected to be targeted in coming weeks. The EU has had an arms embargo on Myanmar since 2018, and had already targeted several senior army officials with sanctions.

Other EU sanctions target human rights abuses

Outside of Myanmar, the EU ministers are also expected to endorse sanctions against various individuals and entities for human rights atrocities. Under consideration are sanctions against four individuals and one entity from China for their involvement in human rights abuses of the Uighur Muslim population in Xinjiang province. The EU is also on course to sanction several individuals and entities from North Korea, Russia, Libya, Eritrea and South Sudan over human rights abuses, according to diplomatic sources.

UN begins monitoring Sri Lanka after adverse resolution at rights body, says new report

The critical resolution against Sri Lanka's human rights policies which was adopted by the UNHRC will take immediate effect with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights beginning the process to closely monitor the country, according to a media report on Wednesday. The resolution titled 'Promotion of Reconciliation Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted by the 47-member Human Rights Council after 22 members voted in favour of the document at the ongoing 46th UNHRC session in Geneva on Tuesday. India and Japan were among 14 countries which abstained from voting. Eleven countries, including Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Russia, voted against the resolution. "Monitoring Sri Lanka will be carried out immediately with existing staff while other related work will be implemented once the UN General Assembly approves funding later this year," the paper said. The resolution may not have an immediate impact on Sri Lanka but with over 40 co-sponsors, sources said that in the long term there could be an impact on trade with some countries and travel restrictions imposed on some officials as a result of the resolution, the paper reported. The US, EU and a number of other countries were among the co-sponsors of the resolution, some with no voting rights in the UNHRC.

The resolution has called on the OHCHR to enhance its monitoring and reporting on the situation of human rights in Sri Lanka, including on progress in reconciliation and accountability, and to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its 48th session, as well as a written update at its 49th session. The resolution was adopted despite intense lobbying by the government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who had dubbed it as an act of political vendetta moved by the Western nations against Sri Lanka. Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that the majority of the countries in the UNHRC did not back the resolution. "They (sponsors of the resolution against Sri Lanka) could harness only 22 votes, 25 countries do not approve it," Gunawardena told reporters on Tuesday. "Western South wants to dominate the global North" at a time the priority before all countries was to tackle COVID-19 pandemic by arranging vaccination, he said. India's decision to abstain from voting was questioned by a section of the Tamil media based both in Colombo and in the Northern capital of Jaffna. The Tamil press reporting on the outcome was positive in their quest to deliver justice to victims of the three-decade long civil war. The English press opined that the resolution does not impose any sanctions on Sri Lanka. It said that the UN will create an office with an annual budget of USD 2.8 million to collect information about war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country. The Sri Lankan Army denies the charge, claiming it as a humanitarian operation to rid the Tamils of LTTE's control.

India is strangely silent about Myanmar's coup – there are two strategic reasons

With China announcing plans to mediate between Myanmar's military junta and political parties, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations stepping up the pressure on its return to parliamentary democracy, India seems to be standing out as a reluctant neighbour with neither the heart nor the intent to play any role in the biggest ongoing crisis in the region. Chinese ambassador to the United Nations made a significant statement this week, saying that it was "time for dialogue" and not confrontation in Myanmar. Clearly the Chinese, after the adverse impact their handling of Covid-19 had on their globally made image, do not want to be seen as backing a military takeover. They would seek to make a virtue out of necessity and play the role of mediator in Myanmar's conflict resolution matrix – a role one would imagine India to play, given our credibility with Burmese political parties and the positive military relations between the Indian Army and the Tatmadaw. India's Ministry of External Affairs, in its first and only statement after the 1 February military takeover, did express 'deep concern' over the developments in Myanmar. But since then, India has been strangely silent on Myanmar, avoiding direct criticism of the military junta that has unleashed a fierce 1988-style repression of peaceful democratic protests. Now India has joined China, Russia, and Vietnam to oppose and water down a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution drafted by the United Kingdom that was much more critical of the military junta than the one that was finally issued on 12 February. Diplomats of these four countries say they want to give dialogue a chance. Is democratic India in the right company on this may well be asked.

An illegal coup

At least 126 Myanmar citizens have died so far during the protests against the coup, with more than 400 injured, and close to 2,000 arrests reported across the country. The Myanmar military, the Tatmadaw, has especially targeted Aung San Suu Kyi's party, National League of Democracy (NLD), in a determined bid to weaken its organisation so that it cannot repeat its landslide win from November 2020 in the next election. The Tatmadaw knows it has to let Myanmar return to electoral democracy but it is in damage control mode, trying desperately to weaken the NLD. When President Win Myint refused to sign the proclamation of emergency that he alone was authorised to sanction, the army threw him in prison, and made military-backed Vice President Myint Swe hastily sign the proclamation as 'Acting President'. So, the military takeover based on this very flawed use of emergency powers is completely illegal.

India's reaction

India's silence, regardless of its realpolitik constraints, makes it stand out in the global community of democracies, which the West is trying to forge to control and combat an assertive, authoritarian China. India has two primary considerations in avoiding direct criticism of the Myanmar military junta. First, it does not want to upset the Tatmadaw so as to not provoke it into inaction against the rebel groups from India's Northeast based in Myanmar's Sagaing Division, the last trans-border base area for these groups. Second, it does not want to push the military junta into the waiting arms of the Chinese, who will do business with whoever runs the country, obviously unconstrained by hangups about democracy. Both these concerns are misplaced. The Tatmadaw needs the Indian Army more to fight the Arakan Army, which has challenged Burmese control of the conflict-scarred Rakhine province, than Indians need the Tatmadaw to light the weakened insurgencies of Northeast. India's Home Ministry has reported an eighty per cent drop in insurgent-related violence in Northeast, and the Assam Rifles and the Army can take credit for it.

Suez Canal: How did they move the Ever Given?

Efforts to free a container ship wedged diagonally across the Suez Canal have succeeded. The 400m (1300ft) Ever Given was stuck in the mud and sand right across the southern end of the canal since Tuesday.

How was the ship moved?

A fleet of tugs using cables or placing themselves directly alongside the stricken ship, worked for many days to free it. Ship tracking software shows the ship was free from both banks and moving northwards along the canal. As tugs struggled in their attempts to move the ship through the week, dredgers were brought in to dig mud and sand from under the bow and stern of the ship. As tugs struggled in their attempts to move the ship through the week, dredgers were brought in to dig mud and sand from under the bow and stern of the ship. These dredges are a familiar sight on the Suez Canal, said maritime expert Sal Mercogliano, and are used to continually dredge the waterway to keep it navigable. "Large machines stick down into the water and basically pull dirt up from the bottom, which you can then deposit onshore." The company which manages the running of the vessel, Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement (BSM) said an additional specialist "suction dredger" had been brought in, able to shift 2,000 cubic metres (440,000 gallons) of material every hour. The combination of the tug boats and dredging equipment dislodged the ship and fuel from the boat. It would have required a delicate and lengthy operation. Draining fuel from the ship's tanks might have helped, but was unlikely to be sufficient without other load-lightening measures. A ship the size of the Ever Given can carry as many as 20,000 twenty-foot containers and an operation to remove these by crane would have been highly challenging. Apart from the difficulties associated with getting suitable cranes close enough to the ship, the process could have caused damage and even unbalanced the ship.

Time Interval for Second Dose of Covishield Vaccine Increased by Up to 8 Weeks: All You Need to Know

The interval between the first and second doses of Covishield has been increased to up to eight weeks in its ongoing vaccination drive against the novel coronavirus. As Covid-19 infections continue to rise unabated in India, the government has announced the opening of vaccination for people above the age of 45 from April 1. Meanwhile, on experts' advice, the interval between the first and second doses of Covishield was increased to up to eight weeks in its ongoing vaccination drive against the novel coronavirus. The vaccine is Serum Institute of India's version of AZD1222 – Developed by AstraZeneca in collaboration with the University of Oxford.

IPL 2021 Schedule Announced, Opener on 9 April & Final on 30 May

IPL 2021's schedule has been announced. It will start on 9 April with the final on 30 May, 2021. The 2021 Indian Premier League dates have been announced by the BCCI and the 14th season of the tournament will kickstart on 9 April, 2021 in Chennai with a match between defending champions Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore. The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad will host the Playoffs as well as the final on 30th May, 2021. The tournament will be played entirely in India with Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai & Kolkata hosting the matches.

Anju Seth quits as director of IIM-Calcutta, says board maligned her

Seth's resignation comes two days after she went on sick leave, leaving Prashant Mishra, Dean (New Initiatives and External Relations), in charge as acting director. Her term was to end in February 2022. The newspaper couldn't reach her for a comment. Almost a month after the Board of Governors (BoG) of IIM-Calcutta clipped her powers, Anju Seth, the first woman director of the institute, resigned from her post on Sunday. Seth cited a "breakdown of confidence" between her and board chairman Shrikrishna Kulkarni.

FAREWELL

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Farewell note, Vice-Chancellor, H.B.T.U., Kanpur

1- The post of Vice Chancellor is administrative, executive and ceremonial. In the past 3 years, what according to you is the definition of this post?

You have to be a motivator, facilitator along with demonstrating discipline. A facilitator is one who creates facilities primarily for major stake holders being students and then other people those who are associated with the university. Motivator in terms of faculty and staff to work for the university and for students to create major groups and small groups to transfer their knowledge among each other. The maximum knowledge transferred is not only from the teachers but it's from amongst students as the students possess diverse talents some are very good in physics, some in chemistry, some in mathematics, some in programming. Now since interdisciplinary and multiple knowledge peripherals are essentially required for overall growth and development of any student of any student.



2- When you took your post as Vice Chancellor you came with a thought in mind. Now you are completing your tenure so elaborate about that thought and now on completing your tenure what changes do you feel for the same?

Add a There is one front where I am not satisfied because of non-support of the various corners. I was not successful to get recruited faculty although I tried my level best to get recruited faculty such that vacant post should be minimized. little bit of body text.

Talking about non-academic aspect in my first year most of the things were included in the ordinance for the benefitting of students so I am satisfied on that part. Talking about number of admissions I am satisfied as now we are getting very good students in very lesser attempts. We got 7 branches accredited with the exception of 2 branches who could not get accreditation one being chemical and another being civil. In spite of this more than fifty percent accreditation is still there. I requested to chairman of UGC for constituting new committee and registration of 12B but due to various factors I was not successful. 12B authorizes any university to apply for grants from UGC. Many students are interested in placements rather than higher education. Last year more than 82 % placement is achieved even in covid period. We have selections in companies like Google, Microsoft, Amazon and other companies like Morgan Stanley, J P Morgan, Goldman Sachs also visited us. That I think is the biggest achievement.

3- When you entered HBTU it was under transforming phase from institute to university. How difficult was it for you to work in these circumstances?

I have enjoyed my stay despite some hurdles. But since students were happy most of the time due to the developing facilities, I can proudly say that I have created the ecosystem of a university. The 24-hour trespassing has been controlled, the buildings which were rotting here and there are now shining and many of the projects are likely to be completed.

4- You are the type of Vice Chancellor who is not bounded by protocols and you are highly committed towards the welfare of students. What is the major thrust behind it?

The students are the major stake holders. A university is there if students are there. If university is there then teachers and other staff are there and then there is the need of vice chancellor.

5- What would be your message to team PSMSC?

Add a little blt is a very nice initiative from students and I am looking forward to more such initiatives in the future. Students should be encouraged to form subgroups and through them they must support each other. There must be a personality building club and vocabulary building club of body text

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Tesla's first-quarter deliveries break previous record despite chip shortage



The number was more than double the deliveries for the same period last year. And it beat Wall Street estimates of 168,000 for January through March. Tesla says it delivered nearly 185,000 electric vehicles in the first quarter despite a shortage of computer chips that has hit the global auto industry. The number was more than double the deliveries for the same period last year. And it beat Wall Street estimates of 168,000 for January through March. The company says in a statement that the Model Y small SUV in China has been well received. Tesla lists no production figures for its older models, the S sedan and X SUV, during the quarter, but it delivered just over 2,000 of them. It says new equipment has been installed at the Fremont, California, factory and production of new versions is in the early stages. The strong sales are a sign that demand for the company's relatively expensive vehicles remains strong despite the pandemic. Shares of Tesla Inc. are down more than 9% so far this year as some of the share wore off electric vehicle and tech stocks, which had experienced a big run up last year. The stock closed Thursday down just under 1% at \$661.75. Markets are closed for the Good Friday holiday. Tesla sold just under 500,000 vehicles last year, barely missing a target set by CEO Elon Musk. The company hasn't given much guidance for this year's sales figures. Wedbush analyst Dan Ives called the first-quarter numbers a "jaw dropper," and a huge home run in the eyes of bullish investors. "We believe China and Europe were particularly robust this quarter as the trajectory now puts Musk & Co. to exceed 850k for the year which is well ahead of whisper expectations," he wrote Friday. The Model 3 small car and the Model Y accounted for nearly all of the Palo Alto, California, company's first-quarter sales. Tesla said it sold 182,780 of both models combined. Ives wrote that analysts expected more than 12,000 sales of Models S and X, with the miss driven by the chip shortage. The strong sales came even though the company shut down much of its Fremont production for several weeks in late February and early March. It did not say why, but it's likely that the company ran short of computer chips. President Joe Biden's announcement this week of \$174 billion in spending on electric vehicle incentives and charging stations, and rising global demand for electric vehicles should shift sentiment toward Tesla stock, Ives wrote.

IOC launches battery swapping facility for quick recharge of electric vehicles

A pilot project will be set at one of IOC's outlets in Chandigarh and it will be scaled up to 20 stations later on. India's top oil firm IOC on Friday launched a battery swapping facility for electric vehicles (EVs) at its petrol pumps, offering to replace discharged batteries with fully charged ones in just a couple of minutes. Indian Oil Corp (IOC) will begin with a pilot of battery swapping at one of its outlets in Chandigarh and gradually scale it up to 20 stations, company chairman Sanjiv Singh said at the launch. Battery swapping technology offers the best alternative to slow charging and helps the drivers make optimum use of the operational hours, he said adding the battery swapping model is initially targeted at the commercial vehicles such as electric autos, rickshaws and electric two-wheelers and EVs that are either factory fitted or retrofitted. IOC is the country's top fuel retailer, controlling close to half of the market. But, it is now making a foray into EV charging. It has partnered with Sun Mobility for setting up battery swapping facility, called Quick Interchange Station (QIS). Any EV can drive into IOC's QIS pumps, insert fully discharged battery into a dispensing station and get a fully charged one in just 1-2 minutes, he said. All three/four batteries of EVs can be replaced with fully charged ones at the QIS. At the end of the process, a bill for charging the batteries will be generated. The Pilot QIS has 14 batteries, a touch screen for swapping preloaded cards, and an electricity sub-meter. These QIS will play a pivotal role in providing an alternative energy solution to the 3-wheeler segment, he said. "While users may be receptive to switching to EV, they may not want to struggle through the cumbersome recharging process. This is where battery swapping comes into the picture," he said. "Not only will battery swapping eliminate the unnecessary waiting time for battery recharging, but it will also help with better land use, reduce the size of batteries in vehicles, and ensure an increased run time." In this direction, we are developing sustainable models of renewable energy, and taken many initiatives like the introduction of BS-VI fuels, spreading the network of CNG and PNG stations, making available LPG to a majority of the population, targeting 20% ethanol blending, producing biodiesel from used cooking oil, and widespread use of solar energy for mobility purposes," he said. India, he said, is the third-largest energy consumer in the world. "Our energy consumption is set to grow." Launching the initiative of IOC for the battery swapping service at one of the cleanest cities of the country, the Minister said the oil marketing companies in future will not confine themselves to selling conventional fossil fuels, but also retail CNG, LNG, PNG and act as the electric charging stations.

Robots made from stem cells of frogs

Researchers at Tufts University have developed robots from stem cells of frogs. These robots are named Xenobots and they can self-heal after damage, record memories and work together in groups. These biological robots can record information about their surroundings and move using cilia -- minute hair like particles present on their surface. Researchers say the soft-body living machines can have several applications in biomedicine and the environment. So far robots have been made from artificial materials, but making self-organized living machines has remained a major challenge, researchers said.

Hackers target LinkedIn users with fake job offers



According to researchers, hackers are spear phishing with a malicious zip file using the job position listed on the target's LinkedIn profile. A hacking group is spear phishing business professionals on LinkedIn with fake job offers to get remote control over the victim's computer, according to researchers at eSentire. Spear phishing is an email or electronics communications scam in which a victim receives an email that leads them to a fake website infected with malware. The aim of the attack is to steal data or install malware on victims' device. According to researchers, hackers are spear phishing with a malicious zip file using the job position listed on the target's LinkedIn profile. For instance, if the LinkedIn member's job is listed as Senior Account Executive--International Freight, the malicious zip file would be titled Senior Account Executive--International Freight position. Once a user open the fake job offer, they initiate the installation of file-less backdoor, titled 'more eggs'. Once loaded, the backdoor Trojan can download additional malicious plugins and provide hands-on access to the victim's computer. Besides, it can infect the system with any type of malware including ransomware, credential stealers, banking malware, or simply use the backdoor as a foothold into the victim's network so as to exfiltrate data. More eggs possess a significant threat to business as it uses normal Windows processes to run, meaning it is not going to typically be picked up by anti-virus and automated security solutions. Cybercriminals are taking advantage of the rising unemployment rates since the COVID pandemic. Luring job seekers is more enticing in these times.

NASA exchanges data of its Mars mission with India, China, UAE & European Space Agency

The purpose of exchanges was to lower the risk of a collision, as their spacecraft are orbiting the red planet, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. The U.S. space agency NASA has exchanged data of its current Mars mission with its counterparts in China, India, the UAE and the European Space Agency to lower the risk of a collision as their spacecraft were also currently hovering the red planet, a media report said on March 31. The purpose of exchanges was to lower the risk of a collision, as their spacecraft are orbiting the red planet, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported, quoting a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) statement as saying, "To assure the safety of our respective missions, NASA is coordinating with the UAE, European Space Agency, Indian Space Research Organisation and the China National Space Administration, all of which have spacecraft in orbit around Mars, to exchange information on our respective Mars missions to ensure the safety of our respective spacecraft," NASA's statement said. "This limited exchange of information is consistent with customary good practices used to ensure effective communication among satellite operators and spacecraft safety in orbit," the report said. ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission, Mangalyaan, spacecraft remained in Mars orbit since it entered there in 2014. India is the first Asian country to successfully send a spacecraft to Mars. NASA's Perseverance has landed on Mars last month and its rover is currently exploring its surface, while China's Tianwen-1 consisting of an orbiter, a lander and a rover, entered the parking lot of orbit around Mars on February 24 and expected to land there in the next few months. United Arab Emirates (UAE) spacecraft, Hope, is also orbiting the Mars planet. There are two spacecraft from the European Space Agency in the Martian orbit, the report said. For information exchange cooperation with China, NASA had sought approval from the U.S. Congress and spoke to CNSA, the U.S. space agency confirmed on Monday, the Post report said. Previously the U.S., Russia, EU besides India have succeeded in sending spacecraft to Mars regarded as the most complex space mission.

Govt blocks ByteDance India bank accounts

Authorities have blocked bank accounts of ByteDance in India for alleged tax evasion and the company has asked a court to quash the directive which it fears will hit its operations hard, two people with direct knowledge told Reuters. ByteDance in January cut its India workforce after New Delhi decided to retain a ban on its popular video app Tik Tok, first prohibited last year following a border clash between India and China. China has repeatedly criticized India's move and said it suspected it was against World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

Intel Used Its Supply Chain to Reshape Company Culture -- and Make Millions

Since the dawn of "supply chain" in popular business jargon more than 15 years ago, Intel Corp. has focused on value-chain optimization as part of its core company strategy. Until recent years, this meant driving efficiency and cutting costs across thousands of suppliers and customers. Today, an innovative approach to corporate collaboration is leveraging supply chain at Intel to not only achieve these results -- but also grow a new source of revenue. The benefits go far beyond financial results.

A Data-Centric Vision

For the better part of the decade, Intel has aimed to address explosive demands for a data-driven future -- growing beyond its traditional PC and server businesses into products and services that process, analyze, store and transform data, with an emphasis on internet of things (IoT) technology.

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Intel's supply chain reflects its global operations: The California-based company does business in more than 100 countries, with over 14,000 suppliers, 2,000 customers and 12,000 SKUs. Over a terabyte of supply-chain and manufacturing data is processed every day.

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