

**PANGONG DRAWING**  
**THE NEW LINE**

**INDIA TODAY CONCLAVE**  
**EYES ON THE EAST**

**AVIATION**  
**TURBULENCE AHEAD**

MARCH 1, 2021 ₹75

# INDIA TODAY



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OF MUTANT STRAINS MEAN THE BATTLE IS FAR FROM WON**

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### FREEDOM SONG

A protest in Bengaluru demanding Disha Ravi's release, Feb. 15

## DISHA RAVI'S ARREST

JAGADEESH NV/EPA

# NO ROOM FOR DISSSENT?

By Kaushik Deka

**T**he arrest of Disha Ravi, a 21-year-old Bengaluru-based climate activist, on charges of sedition has again set off a national debate over a draconian legal provision to curb the citizen's right to protest in a democracy. Ravi, along with Mumbai-based lawyer Nikita Jacob and Pune-based engineer Shantanu Muluk, has been accused of making edits on a controversial online 'toolkit' for the farmers' protests, which is now

being probed for its alleged role in the violence that erupted on January 26 in Delhi. Protests against the three newly enacted farm laws have been on in the capital since November last.

The toolkit came into global focus after it was tweeted by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg on February 2. On February 4, the Delhi Police registered an FIR against its 'creators', charging them with sedition, criminal conspiracy and promoting hatred under

Sections 124A, 120A and 153A of the Indian Penal Code. The police claim the toolkit was created by a pro-Khalistan group, the Canada-based Poetic Justice Foundation (PJF), and was edited by Ravi, who later shared it with Thunberg. They also claim that Jacob and Muluk attended a PJF Zoom meeting, and cite as further evidence Muluk's presence at the protests at the Tikri border in Delhi between January 21 and 27.

While Jacob and Muluk have moved