**OPINION 6** 

FOR THE FIRST TIME

THE 'AMUL GIRL' CRIES | 'BELARUSIAN LEADER ALLOWED FORCED | ECONOMY RECOVERED DESPITE

**WORLD 9** 

TRANSFERS OF UKRAINIAN KIDS'

**MONEY 10** 

**GLOBAL TURMOIL: RBI** 

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JUNE 29, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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LYON **CREATES** HISTORY

the pioneer

11 SPORT

## **UCC STORM BEGINS TO RAGE**

SAD, AIMPLB oppose; Cong, JD(U) say bid to divert attention from price rise, unemployment; AAP lone voice of support

Aday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and for ending the "duality of laws" in the country, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday announced support to it, while major Opposition parties dubbed it as a diversionary ploy. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIM-PLB) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) outright rejected it.

The Congress and Janata Dal (U) have taken a potshot at the PM for raising the issue of the UCC, saying it was an attempt to divert attention from issues of price rise and employment. At the same time Sharad Pawar-led NCP said broaching the issue of a UCC ahead of elections was a political ploy and that such decisions should not be rushed through

Modi's comments on the UCC before the BJP workers in Bhopal on Tuesday triggered an animated debate between the BJP and the main Opposition

The AAP has declared its stance on the UCC, citing Article 44 of the Constitution as a reason for its support. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak, though, emphasised the need for wider consultation before implementing the UCC, considering its implications for all religions.

"The Aam Aadmi Party supports the ideological stance of the UCC. Article 44 also states that there should be a Uniform Civil Code. However, the Aam Aadmi Party believes



that consensus should be reached after discussions with all religions and political parties before implementing it," Pathak said.

The SAD said the UCC would have an adverse impact on minority and tribal communities. ŚAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema said that the party believed that faith, belief, caste, and customs impact laws in the country. These were different for different religions, he added.

The Opposition party in Punjab also criticised the ruling AAP for extending "inprinciple" support to the UCC and said it will oppose the law both in Parliament and in front of the 22nd Law Commission.

The AIMPLB held an emergency online meeting late on Tuesday evening and decided that the Board will oppose the UCC. AIMPLB president Saifullah Rehmani and Board members and lawyers, who attended the meeting, decided to present their views in front of the Law Commission. Documents to be submitted to the Law Commission were also finalised at the meeting.

The AIMPLB member and Islamic Centre of India chairman Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali said, "For the past several years, politicians have been raising the issue of the Uniform Civil Code just before the elections. This time too, the issue has come up before the 2024 elections.

He said that the Board has decided to fight the proposal tooth and nail and is in the process of chalking out a strategy to counter the proposed move of the Government "by presenting our view in front of the law commission more powerfully." Mahali on Wednesday said at Lucknow, "Our stand is that UCC is against the spirit of the Constitution and we will oppose it strongly. India is a country where many religions and cultures are followed. So, the UCC is not only going to affect the Muslims, but also the Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains,

cule minorities. Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said the Prime Minister was batting for UCC to divert people's attention from issues of unemployment, price rise, and hate crimes. He also alleged the BJP was using UCC to polarise the society. "The Hon'ble PM is making it appear that UCC is a simple

exercise. He should read the

report of the last Law

Jews, Parsis, and other minus-

Commission that pointed out it was not feasible at this time. The nation is divided today owing to the words and deeds of the BJP. A UCC imposed on the people will only widen the divisions," Chidambaram said.

The Congress also hit out at Modi for drawing a comparison between a family and the nation to justify UCC. In a tweet, the former Union Minister said, "The Hon'ble PM has equated a nation to a family while pitching for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). While in an abstract sense, his comparison may appear true, the reality is very different. A family is knit together by blood relationships

Chidambaram said a nation is brought together by a Constitution which is a political-legal document and the UCC cannot be forced. "Even in a family, there is diversity. The Constitution of India recognised diversity and plurality among the people of India. A UCC is an aspiration. An agenda-driven majoritarian Government cannot force it on the people." AIMIM

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has target-ed Modi for backing UCC, claiming the Prime Minister was trying to bring in a 'Hindu Civil Code.' "India's Prime Minister is now talking about Uniform Civil Code. Ăre you going to snatch away pluralism, diversity in the name of Uniform Civil Code?" Owaisi said. "They will treat all Islamic references of practices as illegal and the Prime Minister will protect Hindu practices under the law," he said.

Continued on Page 2

## 6 electrocuted, 15 hurt as Rath touches wires Toll expected to rise in

Tripura 'Ulta Rath' procession tragedy as some injured critically

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In a tragic accident during the 'Ulta Rath' procession in Kumarghat, Unakoti district of Tripura, six people, including three women and two children, lost their lives after a chariot carrying Lord Jagannath came into contact with high-tension power transmission lines on Wednesday. The incident left 15 others injured. Shocking video footage of the electrocution incident quickly spread across social media platforms, capturing the horrifying moment.

The incident happened around 4.30 PM in the Kumarghat area during the 'Ulta Rath Yatra' which marks the return journey of Lord Jagannath and his siblings — Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhdara — after the conclusion of the annual Rath Yatra festival. Unfortunately, tragedy struck as the crest of the chariot made contact with the overhead power lines, leading to fatal electrocutions.

The victims have been identified as Sima Pal (33), Sushmita Baishya (30), Suma Biswas (28), Rupak Das (40), Rohan Das (9), and Shan Malakar (9), each succumbing to the electric shock Authorities are currently collecting details on the injured,

who have been admitted to the Unakoti District Hospital in Kailasahar. Some of the injured individuals are reported to be in critical condition, warranting immediate medical attention.

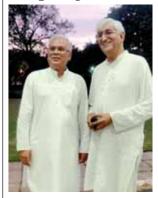
Assistant Inspector General (Law and Order) Jyotishman Das Chowdhury provided updates on the situation, stating, "We are collecting details on the injured persons who have been admitted to Unakoti District Hospital in Kailasahar. Some of them are known to be critical.

Upon learning of the tragic incident, Chief Minister Manik Saha expressed his condolences and immediately traveled to Kumarghat to assess the situation. He took to Twitter to

express his sympathies, saying, "In a tragic incident, several devotees have lost their lives & some other people sustained injuries due to electrocution during Ulta Rath Yatra at Kumarghat today. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families who lost their near and dear ones in the tragedy. In this difficult time, the State Government stands by the side of the affected families."

Pradyot Debbarma, the Royal Scion and TIPRA Motha party chief, also conveyed his condolences and urged his party legislators and members of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) to extend all possible assistance. Taking to Twitter, he wrote, 'Hearing about a terrible incident in Kumarghat during Rath Yatra, my prayers and condolences to all those who have been affected. Contd on P 2

### **Singh Deo** appointed **CM** Baghel's **Deputy**



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/RAIPLIR

Ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, the Congress has appointed veteran leader TS Singh Deo as the Deputy Chief Minister of the State. The decision aims to quell a potential rebellion within the party, which has been brewing for the past few years, and avoid a situation similar to the ongoing controversy in Rajasthan involving Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot.

The Congress is keen to prevent any factional disputes that could jeopardise its unity and electoral prospects. The defection of Jyotiraditya Scindia in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, which led to the downfall of the Kamal Nath-led Government, serves as a cautionary tale for the party. Party general secretary KC Venugopal announced the appointment, stating, "The honorable Congress president has approved the proposal for the appointment of TS Singh Deo as the Deputy Chief

Minister of Chhattisgarh." Continued on Page 2

## <u>CAPSULE</u>

₹100 CR RELEASED FOR 12 DU COLLEGES New Delhi: The Delhi 100 crore for 12 Delhi

University colleges that are fully funded by it, considering the administration's financial mismanagement, Delhi Education Minister Atishi said

### K'TAKA TO GIVE CASH INSTEAD OF RICE

on Wednesday. P3

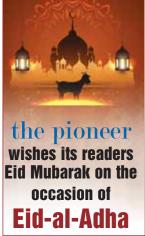
Bengaluru: As the Karnataka Government is facing difficulty in procuring large quantities of rice required to fulfil its poll guarantee, it has decided to pav beneficiaries cash at the rate of Rs 34 per kilo, for the additional 5kg of the foodgrain promised under the 'Anna Bhagya'

### SUPERTECH'S ARORA IN ED CUSTODY TILL JULY

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday granted the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till July 10 the custody of RK Arora, the chairman and promoter of real estate major Supertech Group, arrested in a money laundering case.

### NEET ASPIRANT KILLS SELF IN KOTA

Kota: The body of a 17-year-old NEET aspirant was found hanging in his hostel room in this Rajasthan city, police said on Wednesday. This is second suicide by a coaching student here in span of 24 hours.



# assassination attempt

#### **Bullet grazes** Ravan as assailants fire at his car in Deoband

PNS DEOBAND (UP)

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad 'Ravan' narrowly escaped an assassination attempt on Wednesday when unidentified assailants opened fire on his vehicle in Deoband. The attack took place as Azad was leaving a 'terhavi' ritual at a supporter's home. Reports said that some armed men travelling in a car fired at Azad. Azad sustained injuries in the incident and was injuries in the incident and was immediately rushed to a local hospital for medical care.



The damaged car of Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad's convoy which was shot at by armed men in Deoband on Wednesday

According to the police, one of the bullets grazed Azad, while the other struck his car."A bullet grazed his abdomen. He has been admitted to a hospital," Superintendent of Police (City),

Abimanyu Manglik, said. In his statement to the police, Azad said although his memory of the incident was

hazy, his companions were able to identify the attackers. They noticed the assailants'

> their vehicle around. Azad was accompanied by five individuals, including his younger brother, during the assault. Continued on Page 2

> car heading towards Saharanpur and swiftly turned

## Bhim Army chief escapes | Canada opens doors for H1-B visa holders It aims to attract skilled workers from US to its shores

PNS/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/TORONTO

July 16.

In welcome news for Indians having American H1-B visas, Canada's Immigration Minister, Sean Fraser, has announced that the Government will establish an open work-permit stream for 10,000 such visa holders. The scheme starts on

This initiative aims to attract skilled workers from the United States (US) and provide them with employment opportunities in Canada. In addition, the program will also allow for study or work permits for family members of H-1B visa holders. The approved applicants under this new decision will receive an open work permit valid for up to three years. This permit will enable them to work throughout Canada. Indian technical workers, who accounted for nearly 75 per cent of the H1B visas granted in 2020



Canada's Immigration Minister, Sean Fraser

and 2021 in the US, are expected to be prime beneficiaries of this initiative by Canada. An official release issued by Canada's Ministry of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship late on Tuesday said, "Thousands of workers in high tech fields are ampleted." high-tech fields are employed with companies that have large

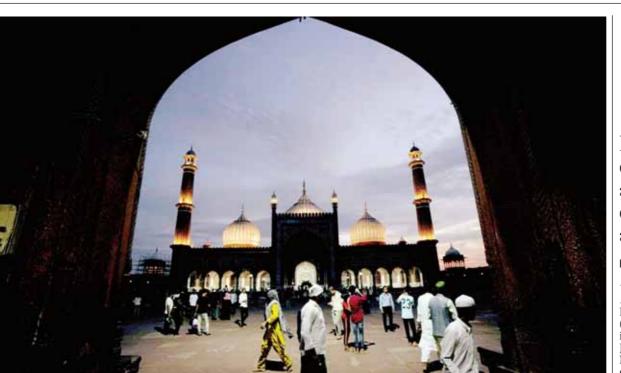
operations in both Canada and the US, and those working in the US often hold an H-1B specialty occupation visa. As of July 16, 2023, H-1B special occupation visa holders in the US, and their accompanying immediate family members, will be eligible to apply to come to Canada." The release read, "They will be

able to work for almost any employer anywhere in Canada. Their spouses and dependants will also be eligible to apply for a temporary resident visa, with a work or study permit, as needed." Fraser said by the end of this year, the Canadian federal Government will be developing an immigration stream specifically designed for highly skilled individuals worldwide, allowing them to work for tech companies in Canada, regard-less of whether they have a job

offer or not.
The H-1B visa program in the US grants temporary work permits to foreign nationals in specialised occupations, par-ticularly in the technology and skilled sector. As tech companies experienced a surge in hiring during the pandemic but subsequently faced layoffs, many H-1B visa holders found themselves in need of new job

opportunities.

Continued on Page 2



Devotees at Jama Masjid on the eve of Eid al-Adha, in New Delhi on Wednesday

## IAF's Rafales to join in Bastille Day parade

Modi will be guest of honour at event as India, France celebrate 25th anniv of their ties

PNS NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n}}$  a demonstration of the close ties between India and France, the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Rafale jets will take part in the Bastille Day Parade on Iulv 14 in Paris. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the guest of honour at the event,

which marks France's National



Day. The Indian jets will fly alongside French airplanes, symbolising the strong strate-gic partnership between the two nations as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their ties. French President

Emmanuel Macron had tweeted in French and Hindi on May 6, "Dear Narendra, it will be my pleasure to welcome you to Paris as the guest of honor for the 14th of July parade." Continued on Page 2

# front to take on MVA in 2024

Having realised that it will have tough task on hand to take on a formidable Opposition Maha Vikas Agadhi (MVA) in the 2024 Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls, the ruling BJP- Eknath Shindeled Shiv Sena alliance on Wednesday came to an under-standing with nine smaller parties to float a nine-party front to take on the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance in the forthcoming polls.

At a meeting held at the BJP headquarters in south Mumbai, the leaders of the two ruling alliance partners forged an electoral tie-up with seven smaller parties and decided to forthcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls.

Maharashtra has 48 Lok Sabha seats, while there are 288 Assembly seats in the state. The seven parties that have reached a formal understanding with thee ruling Shinde Sena-BJP alliance are: Ramdas Athawale led Republic Party of India (Athawale), Prof Jogendra Kawad-led People's Republican Party, late Vinayak Metefounded Shiv Sangram, Sulekha Kumbhare-led Bahujan Republican Ekta Manch, Sadabhau Khot-led Rayat Kranti Sangathana,



Jansurajya Party and Mahadev Jankar-led Rashtriya Samaj

Talking to media persons after the joint meeting, state BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule said: "Maha Yuti (grand alliance) of nine parties will contest the forthcoming polls. The Maha Yuti is going to be the NDA in Maharashtra".

Bawankule exprewssed confidence that the BJP-Shinde Sena alliance-led "Maha Yuti" would win more than 45 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats, while it would bag more than 200 seats in the State Assembly seats.

'Though we have come to understanding with the seven smaller parties, we have not had seat-sharing talks with them. We will talk to them about the sharing of seats in the coming days.

After our talks, Chief

Minister Eknath Shinde, the chief leader of Shiv Sena and

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP will take final decision in the matter," Bawankule "At today's meeting, we discussed issues relating to the polls. We are confident that the

grand alliance will be a stronger than it was in the 2014 and 2019 LS polls," the State BJP chief said. "In the coming weeks, we will work towards increasing the coordination among the parties and leaders in the nine-party Maha Yuti... We will also facilitate increased coordination between the Maha Yuti constituents and our government in the state,

The MVA opposition comprises Congress, Sharad Pawarled NCP and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), which has in principle decided to contest the 2024 polls together.

It may be recalled that of the 48 Lok Sabha seats, the BJP had contested 25 seats and bagged 23, while Shiv Sena fielded candidates in the 23 constituencies and bagged 18

subsequent October 2019 Vidhan Sabha polls, the BJP had contested in 164 seats and won 105, while Shiv Sena bagged 56 seats after putting up candidates in 124 seats.

The mishap took place

when Aaditya war arriving at

the Shiv Sena Bhavan, the head-

quarters of the party, to take part

in a meeting called to review the

preparations for a massive mor-

cha that the Shiv Sena (UBT) is

taking out on July 1 in protest

against the alleged irregularities

Municipal Corporation (BMC)

the right side of Aaditya's SUV

after he lost control of his two-

wheeler, managed to get up, as

the security detail rushed to the

Sena leader's to help.

Apprehending serious conse-

quences, the unidentified biker

attempted to start the bike and

Known to all that my client KAVITA CHAUHAN is owner of PLOT AREA 234 725 Q XARS OUT OF KHASRA NO.165MI VILLAGE GIJHODA PARGANA AND TEHSIL DADRI IDIST. GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR UP. and mortgaging the same with Shiriram Housing Finance Ltd. and Kavita Chauhan have Not Original 1.Death Certificates,

rtition deed so, it is informed that any dee h said documents by any person except m d client and said institution regarding sai sperty, shall be deemed as null and void. If an srson having any claim, right in said gropert in he may contact and handover the same an orise his claim to undersigned within 8 days or sublication.

Th. No. 760, Dwaka Court Sectors 10 Dwards March 11 1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client Rajiv is in process to purchase (availing loan from Piramal

Capital & Housing Finance Limited) the Plot No. A-736, (Old Plot No. 86-B), area measuring 45 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No. 7/10, Situated in the area of

illage Mirzapur, in the Colony Known as Mahavii nclave, Gali No. 19, New Delhi-110059 from Safa

umar who is the owner of the said property by virtue f GPA, ATS & Will dated 10.11.2010 (duly notarized)

of GPA, ATS & Will dated 10, 11, 2010 (duly nofarized) executed by Premwati in his favour.
All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, falling which the claim or claims, if any, of

nereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of

such person or persons will be considered to have een waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)

M:- 9899013918

in south Mumbai.

the Brihanmumbai

The biker rammed onto

## BJP-Shinde to lead 9-party NHAI to engage agency to avoid waterlogging

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In order to address the prob-lem of water logging on the National Highways in the NCR, the central road making agency

NHAI on Wednesday announced to hire a specialized agency to engage to suggest remedial measures to avoid water logging on the NHs that leads to acute traffic prob-

In addition to finding immediate and permanent solutions to avoid water logging problems on the national highways in the region, the officials also discussed various aspects of finding effective solutions to prevent trespassing, unauthorized cutting and illegal connection to the national high-

The meeting was chaired by NHAI President Santosh Kumar Yadav and attended by Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) CEO, Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA) officials, Municipal Corporation Manesar (MCM), Municipal Corporation Delhi (MCD) Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB) and other senior NHAI officials. Officials deliberated on developing a multi-pronged



strategy to provide an effective solution to water logging. As an immediate measure, the installation of water pumps in lowlying areas was discussed together with suitable measures for effective rainwater

The NHAI President stressed better coordination across the entire government. agencies for timely intervention to address the problem.

In order to study the reasons for the backwater around Dhaula Kuan and Subroto Park, a specialized agency will be commissioned to suggest the measures. corrective Furthermore, design issues of Gurugram- Pataudi- Rewari, Dwarka Expressway and Gurugram, Sohna were also discussed during the meeting to provide a safe and seamless travel experience to the National Highway commuters.

There are around 100 illegal cuts on NH-8 in Gurgaon and Rewari, which are not only a traffic hazard but also cause waterlogging whenever it rains, disrupting vehicular movement.

The meeting also discussed around 200 big and small dhabas and fuel stations that have come up along the highway in these two areas. The district administration had earlier directed the highways authority to clean surface drains alongstretch to ensure free flow of rainwater.

## TMC will not last more than three months: Adhikari

Another TMC cadre shot dead; toll reaches 12

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** KOLKATA

day after Bengal Chief Aday after Bengar Englished issued a six-month time limit to the BJP saying the saffron gov-ernment would not last beyond February-March when the general elections would take place, State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday put out d a counter deadline for the Trinamool Congress Government saying his party would not let it last more than three months.

"The TMC Government has exhausted its time and it will soon be a thing of the past .. it will not last more than three months ... yesterday Mamata Banerjee had said that the coming panchayat elec-tions are the semi-finals and the finals would be played in February-March ... and the BJP government would fall in six months time ... after general elections ... But we remind her that the panchayat elections are quarter finals after which her fall will begin," Adhikari addressing an election rally in East Midnapore district said.

#### Job scam: ED calls TMC youth wing chief Sayani

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate investigating the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam has summoned high-profile Trinamool Congress youth wing president Sayani Ghosh. She has been asked to appear before the ED officials on Friday, sources

Ghosh, also a busy Bengali film actress who is reportedly close to TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has been summoned to explain her alleged dealings with a TMC State general secretary Kuntal Ghosh who is present-ly cooling his heels behind the bar in the same scam. PNS

#### PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. VEHICLE'S FOR SALE 1)PRO 2095XP REG. NO.

DL1MA9415- YOM -2022 2) MAH BOLMAXITRK REG. NO. DL1LAG6614 - YOM - 2022

3) TATA 1512 -REG. NO. DL1GE0409 - YOM - 2022

4) LARSEN 1190 D - REG. NO. UP14GT1916 -YOM -2017 5) TATA ACE- REG. NO.

UP12BT9546 -YOM- 2022 6) TELCO - BODY FOR GOODS CHASSIS- REG. NO.

NL01AC9213 - YOM - 2019 7) TATA ACE- REG. NO. DL1LAJ6121 -YOM -2023

8) TATA ACE- REG. NO. DL1LAF9053 -YOM- 2021

9) TATA ACE - REG. NO. DL1LAF9053 -YOM -2021

10) TATA ACE - REG. NO. DL1LAF9053 -YOM -2021 1) TATAMOTORS T INTRAV10 REG.NO.UP12CT0263-YOM12023

12) TATAMOTORS TATA610CBC REG.NO.UP14KT1858-YOM- 2021 13) TATAMOTORS ULTRA 1918

REG.NO.UP14KT1869-YOM-2018 14) TATAMOTORS TATA 2523 REG.NO.UP14HT5232-YOM-2018

15) TATAMOTORS TATA 2523 REG.NO.UP14HT5017-YOM-2018 16) TATAMOTORS TATA 2523

REG.NO.UP14HT5016-YOM-2018 17) TATAMOTORS TATA 2523 REG.NO.UP14HT5016-YOM-2018 18) EICHR VECV PRO2114CBC REG.NO.DL1GE0581-YOM- 2022

19) TATAMOTORS TATA 1512 REG.NO.HR38AC7120-YOM -2021 20) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD

REG.NO.UP12CT0042-YOM-2022 21) ASHOK\_LEY AL1615- REG. NO UP16HT8541 -YOM -2022 22) ASHOK\_LEY AL1615-REG. NO

UP16HT8542 -YOM -2022 23) TATAMOTORS TATAACE REG.NO.DL1LAJ0260-YOM-2022

24) TATAMOTORS TATAACE

REG.NO.DL1LAH9339-YOM-2022 25) TATAMOTORS TATAACE- REG NO. DL1LAG5457-YOM-2022

26) BOLERO MAXI TRUCK- REG. NO.UP16ET5774 -YOM- 2017

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT BRANCHADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT: ABHINAV LAL

CONTACT NO.7798988481

EMAIL-abhinav.lal@kotak.com

### **Security scare as biker** rams into Aaditya's SUV

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

n a development that exposed **L**security lapse, a biker rammed into the SUV of Maharashtra's former minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray near the Shiv Sena Bhavan at Dadar in north-central Mumbai on



#### • CHANGE OF NAME I, No. JC734048M, Rank NB

SUB Sandeep Kumar S/o Sh. Suraj Bhan R/o H.NO. 746/29, Vikas Nagar, Sonipat declares that in my army PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client KAVITA CHATIHAN Irecord, my wife's name was wrongly entered as Kusum. Her actual name is Kusum

PD(079)C

I, No. JC734048M, Rank NB SUB Sandeep Kumar S/o Sh. Suraj Bhan R/o H.NO. 746/29, Vikas Nagar, Sonipat delcares that in my army record, my daughter's name as wrongly entered as Anjali. Her actual name is Anjali Paliwal.

#### PD(080)C

I, Bimla Chouhan, W/o Sh. Chandu Lal R/o D-27, Majnu Ka Tila, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054, declare that by mistake my name is written as Bimla Devi in office records, however my correct name is Bimla Chouhan.

#### India hub of youth power: UNICEF regional director

New Delhi: In his first visit to India as UNICEF Regional Director of South Asia, Sanjay Wijesekara, on Wednesday said that India is a hub of youth power, and it has tremendous role and potential in the world achieving the SDGs.

He further stated India has the world's largest child population and therefore plays a pivotal role in shaping progress for children in the region and around the world.

"From 2025 to 2055, India will witness an unprecedented demographic dividend, which is a great opportunity to pro-vide education and skills to young people, with a billion Indians joining the workforce said Wijesekara.

"With Canada's first-ever

immigration Tech Talent

Strategy, we're targeting new-

comers that can help enshrine

Canada as a world leader in a

variety of emerging technolo-

gies," Sean Fraser said. The new

work permits will be available

from July 16 with duration of

those securing these permits will also be eligible to apply for

a temporary resident visa, with

a work or study permit, as

needed. This special pro-

gramme will be in place for one

year or until the ministry

receives 10,000 applications.

earlier announced several other

measures while launching

Canada's first Tech Talent

Strategy at the Collision

Conference, a tech industry

The Immigration Minister

Spouses and dependents of

three years.

### Maha to name Mumbai trans harbour link after Vajpayee

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government has decided to name the iconic Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) after late Prime Minister A B Vajpayee and the Versova-Bandra Sea Link (VBSL) after 'Swatantryaveer' Vinayak Damodar Śavarkar.

The 22 km MRHL, construction of which is nearing completion, will be thrown open for traffic in November 2023.The VBSL which is a 17.17-kilometre sea- link will connect Versova to the 5.6km-long Bandra Worli Sea Link, Hither-to known as Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link, this sea-link was inaugurated around a

Canada opens ...

Canada will soon offer open

work-permits for up to five

years for highly-skilled people

in select roles that are in high

also seek to attract "digital

nomads" that will allow those

working for foreign employers

to live and work in Canada for

six months. "Should they

receive a job offer while they're

here, we're going to allow them

to continue to stay at work in

Canada is hoping to become a world leader in a

variety of emerging technolo-

gies and it hopes to attract pro-

fessionals affected by massive

Canadian ministry said the

programme will also provide

for study or work permits for

In its news release, the

layoffs by US tech giants.

Canada," he said.

Fraser said Canada would

involves construction of a 22 km six-lane bridge with three lanes on either side of the km of the bridge will be in sea while 5.5 kms is on land. In other words, it will be at least 16.5 km long creek bridge with 5.5km via ducts on land on

The MTHL will cut down the travel time from the Island City to Navi Mumbai by 30 minutes. The sea bridge will be 27 meters in width, in addition to edge strip and crash barrier. The decision to name MRHL and rename VBSL was taken at the weekly State Cabinet meeting presided over by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday.

enthusiastic about the ambi-

tious goals we have set in

immigration because they

aren't just about numbers-they

a hiring binge during the pan-

demic but have since started

laying people off in large num-

bers. That's left a lot of H-1B

visa holders scrambling to find

new jobs before they're forced

to leave the US, the Canadian

Broadcasting Corporation

Thousands of highly skilled foreign-born workers,

including Indians, in the US,

have lost their jobs due to the

series of recent layoffs at com-

panies like Google, Microsoft

and Amazon. According to US

media reports, nearly 200,000

IT workers have been laid off

since November last year.

Tech companies went on

are strategic.

reported.

### **UCC** storm begins... political party, but others too have to hold discussions if

Questioning whether the BJP would abolish the 'Hindu Undivided Family" (HUF), Owaisi said Modi should speak about the intention to bring in the UCC in Punjab and see what would be the reaction.

Meanwhile, TNCP working Praful Patel president said, "If any law is to be brought for common good, it should not be rushed through. There should be a proper discussion." "In this case, the Law Commission kept aside the previous recommendations and sought fresh consultations within a short period. This appears to be an attempt to rush things through," he said.

"Suddenly, after nine-anda-half years the government is now talking of UCC, this is a political ploy keeping in view the upcoming elections," Patel

The NCP working president said that India was a diverse country where different religious communities follow their personal laws and social need to hold extensive consultations on the issue. Patel said even the NCP has not formed an opinion on the UCC as it would like to consult various groups and study its implica-

"I could understand if this code was for one particular community, but we would be able to make our stand clear only after consultations with different groups. Not only our

everyone has to be taken along," Patel said. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia hit out at Asaduddin

Owaisi, stating that he reads the Quran but not the Constitution. "If Owaisi's degree is not fake, then at first he should advise the Law Commission as sought till July 14," the BJP spokesperson said at a television news debate. "All those who are slamming UCC should give their suggestions to the commission," the BJP leader said.

BJP leader and former Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Ábbas Naqvi also took a swipe at opposition parties saying the time has come to make the UCC free of these "communal crafters" as it is not for any particular community but for the entire soci-

He said the Congress should clarify whether it stands with the constitutional commitment to the UCC or is a part of a "communal conspiracy" Naqvi said from the constituent assembly to Parliament, from the streets to civil society and the Supreme Court, the demand and need for the UCC was raised on several occasions.

A key aide of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar claimed that the Prime Minister's speech in Bhopal betrayed "worry" in the BJP camp following the "supreme success" of the opposition meeting here last week.

### 6 electrocuted, 15 hurt ...

From Page 1 I have immediately asked all my local MLAs and MDC to extend all help possible." The electrocution incident has left the community in shock and mourning, emphasizing the need for a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to this tragic accident. As the affected families grieve their loved ones, the government, political leaders, and local authorities must unite in providing support and assistance during this difficult time.

### Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351 Office of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Haldwani (E-mail: eecdujnramnagar@gmail.com, Phone: 05947-251259

Letter No. 2225 / 613 / 215

#### E-Tender Notice

Superintending Engineer

Name of the work:- Source work, OHT/Reservoir construction, Rising/Supply main, providing & laying jointing of distribution system and appurtenant works for the following drinking water schemes of Betalghat, Kotabagh and Ramnagar blocks of Nainital district under Jal Jeevan Mission Programme with supply of all materials, labour and T&P etc complete including testing, commissioning

П	1	Date of Calling of tenders	28-06-2023	
	2	Date of Online publication	29-06-2023 at 17:00 hrs.	
	3	Document download : Start Date	30-06-2023 at 10:00 hrs.	
	4	Pre Bid Meeting	02-07-2023 at 13:00 hrs.	
Ш	5	Bid Submission : Start date	03-07-2023 at 10:00 hrs.	
Ш	6	Bid Submission : End date	10-07-2023 at 17:00 hrs.	
	7	Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification)	11-07-2023 upto 17:00 hrs.	
	8	Date of Technical Bid Opening	12-07-2023 at 11:00 hrs.	
	9	Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be announced later	
	Note:- For full details of the tender, corrigendum and cancellation etc., please log-in to the website			

### Bhim Army chief escapes...

From Page 1 Confirming that car-borne

assailants fired at Azad's convoy, Saharanpur SSP Dr Vipin Tada said, "Approximately half an hour ago, a few armed men in a car opened fire on Chandra Shekhar Azad's convoy.

Fortunately, he sustained only minor injuries as a bullet grazed him. He has been transported to the Community Health Center for medical treatment. The police are actively investigating the matter," stated the senior police officer.

This incident has sparked concerns about the safety and security of activists and leaders associated with Ambedkarite movement.

### IAF's Rafales...

The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) stated that Prime Minister Modi has accepted Macron's invitation, emphasising that the visit holds significant importance as it is expected to pave the way for the next phase of the India-France strategic partnership.

The visit aims to establish new and ambitious goals for cooperation in strategic, cultural, scientific, academic, and economic domains, including various industries.

India and France share a common vision on peace and security, particularly in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, and uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter, which form the basis of their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The MEA highlighted that the

visit will also focus on addressing key global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and achieving the Sustainable Development Additionally, it will serve as an opportunity for India and France to reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism, especially within the context of

The French Émbassy

emphasised that July 14, known as Bastille Day, is a momentous occasion for France, representing the values of "liberty, equality, fraternity." The day is com-memorated with a military parade on Paris' iconic avenue, the Champs-Elysées. This will be the second time an Indian Prime Minister serves as the guest of honor at the Bastille Day parade, following Manmohan Singh in 2009.

India's G20 presidency.

#### Singh...

From Page 1 The decision came after a meeting chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge at the

AICC headquarters, where the party's strategy and preparedness for the forthcoming elections in Chhattisgarh were discussed. Singh Deo and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel were in attendance, along with former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and party state in-charge Kumari Selja.

Following the meeting, Baghel expressed confidence in the party's readiness for the assembly polls. He highlighted the transformative impact of the "Nava Chhattisgarh" (New Chhattisgarh) model on people's lives. Singh Deo and Baghel have been embroiled in a power struggle since the Congress came to power in Chhattisgarh in 2018.

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## **Vigilance Dept seeks action** against malpractice in DERC

The Vigilance Department of the Delhi government has recommended to the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) to take action against he Vigilance Department of the then Additional Chief Secretary (Power), Ashok Kumar Singhal and Member of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), AK Ambasht for their nexus and gross complicity and nonadherence to the orders of APTEL and the directions of the Supreme Court.

In a report submitted to Justice Ramesh Ranganathan (Former Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court), Chairperson (APTEL), the Vigilance Department alleged serious malpractice in the DERC including in the appointment of Principal Advisor (Tariff) and recommended action against them. Singhal, who was DERC's Principal Adviser (tariff) resigned from his post in March this year after the Delhi government Vigilance Department issued a memorandum to him regarding alleged serious malpractice in the DERC in which it was pointed out that his appointment as Principal Advisor (Tariff) was in violation of all rules and regulations. The



inquiry was prompted by concerns regarding DERC's alleged failure to adhere to various orders and principles governing tariff determination.

According to report, DERC's decision to allow Regulatory Assets to accumulate instead of addressing them, as well as the violation of prescribed limits for cross-subsidization of different consumer categories, have raised alarm. These actions are deemed inconsistent with the Tariff Policy, 2016, and APTEL's previous judgments, which emphasized timely tariff determination and the recovery of Regulatory Assets within a specified timeframe.

The report flagged instances of misrule, maladministration, non-adherence to judicial pronouncements, not following the tariff policy,

Non implementation of the judgment of Supreme Court and the letter of Ministry of Power was the resultant factor of nexus between the Office of Minister (Power), DERC and Power Department Officials (the then Additional Chief Secretary). This nexus is corroborated by post retirement rehabilitation of Delhi government officials, according to the report.

"The Power Department has not objected for such arrangement. After superannuation of Additional Chief Secretary (Power), he was appointed as RERA Chief, Punjab which amounts to quid pro quo," the report said.

"Singhal, is an example in this regard, he was earlier in the Personal Branch of Power

be appointed as Member in DERC in connivance with Power Department Officials. It is not desirable to appoint the Personal Staff to independent body like DERC. He was appointed by virtue of his alleged closeness and his admittedly working in the Office of Minister (Power), Satyender Jain," the report said.

After Singhal's appointment as Member Advisor (Tariff), he had started receiving pay and perks as per the scale of Executive Director (Tariff) contrary to the advertisement.

The report said DERC has not examined the issue legally and was totally biased in selecting Singhal as Principal Advisor (Tariff), DERC after he demitted the office as Member, The post of Principal

Advisor (Tariff), DERC is a lower post to that of the Member (DERC) and DERC had erred in appointing him as Principal Advisor (Tariff), DERC after his demitting the office as "Member", DERC and also after crossing the age limit of 65 years. He is barred to take such assignment at least for two years as per Section 89 (5) of the Delhi Electricity Act, 2003, the report stressed.

## ₹100 cr for 12 DU colleges: Atishi

Delhi Education Minister Atishi on Wednesday said the Delhi government has released Rs 100 crore for 12 Delhi University colleges that are fully funded by it, considering the administration's financial mismanagement.

"There has been certain financial mismanagement in the government colleges in the last few years. We think teachers and students shouldn't suffer because of this. Keeping their welfare in mind, a fund of Rs 100 crore is being released to these 12 colleges," Atishi said.

She said that even though some colleges are currently undergoing audits, the Delhi government is ensuring that teachers continue to get their salaries, medical benefits and pension benefits that were delayed due to financial mismanagement.

'If any financial irregularities are found in any college after the audit process, strict action will be taken against the administration. However, the teachers should not worry as they will receive their salaries on time, as well as timely medical and pension benefits," she

The Delhi Education Minister said that the budget for education in the national



capital increased three-fold under the Arvind Kejriwal government, which also added four new colleges to the state's tally since its coming to

"One-fourth of the assembly budget is always sanctioned for education purposes in Delhi. Four new universities have been opened and there are 12 Delhi government colleges here. Ever since the AAP government came to power, funds to these colleges have increased three-fold," she said.

The AAP leader said that these 12 DU colleges play an important role in girl education, located as they are in the rural areas of the city.

"In the financial year 2023-24, an amount of Rs 400 crore has been allocated by the government. Out of this, the first quarter of Rs 100 crore is being released today. It is our priority to provide access to quality higher education to kejriwal asking that "mis every child in Delhi," she said. In history" be corrected.

Govt has released NDMC OK's name change of Aurangzeb Lane to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lane

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday approved a proposal to change the name of Aurangzeb Lane to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lane. The decision was taken at the Council meeting by its members. The council has also approved a proposal for Conservation & restoration of main Gole Market building as a museum and redevelopment of surrounding area including construction of Service Block and

"An agenda item was placed before the Council to consider renaming 'Aurangzeb Lane' under the NDMC area as 'Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Lane' in terms of clause (a) of subsection (1) of section 231 of the New Delhi Municipal Act, 1994," a statement from NDMC Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay said.

. The Aurangzeb Lane connects the Abdul Kalam Road with Prithvi Raj Road. In 2015, the name of Aurangzeb Road was changed to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road by the council after then East Delhi MP Maheish Girri wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asking that "mistakes



the renaming of Aurangzeb Lane as Dr A.P.J Abdul Kalam Lane. To respect the sentiments of people, the need to recognize and honour great men and women of our times, roads/ streets/ institutions have been re-named in the past," it

A section of historians and scholars had also criticised the renaming of Aurangzeb Road in Lutyens' Delhi, saying it is a result of a "slanted view" of history and cautioned that such renaming exercises will "open up a can of worms.

Noted historian Narayani Gupta said that issues like these arise because people don't have a sense of history "Aurangzeb Road, along-

side a cluster of others named after Mughal rulers like Akbar and Shahjehan, were given by the British when they designed the new imperial capital of New

## CBI registers case in appointment of teachers using forged documents

Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the appointment of some teachers on the basis of forged documents in a school aided by the Delhi government and run by Vedic Agricultural Sanskrit Educational Society. According to officials, the CBI has conducted searches at 13 locations in Delhi, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh recently in connection with the case. The agency registered the FIR 14 months after a preliminary enquiry showed that 16 candidates were recruited in V S Agriculture Senior Secondary School against 18 vacancies.

candidates -- Praveen Bazad, PGT (Political Science), Chitre Rekha, TGT (English), Sonia, TGT (SST), Pratibha, PGT (Economics), Pinki Arya, TGT (Sanskrit), and Manish Kumar, PGT (Commerce) -- were allegedly selected on the basis of forged documents.

It said the irregularities were committed in connivance with Krishan Rana, the then chairman of management committee of Vedic Sanskrit Agriculture Senior Secondary School, and Shashikant Singh, the then office-bearer of Jim



Corbett Senior Secondary School, besides unidentified The CBI has registered the

FIR against Rana, Singh, the six candidates and unidentified officials of the Directorate of Education of the Delhi government under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery.

"All the selected candidates their selection. Almost all the experience certificates were issued after the last date of submission of forms, and it was managed by the chairman before the scrutiny of the applications," the FIR alleged. The CBI has found that, apparently, the direction was issued to the known candidates to prepare experience certificates for coming within parameters of merit and were given an advantage "deliberately and dishonestly" in the interview by awarding higher marks to the selected candidates.

### Inclusivity lies at heart of Delhi 2041 Master Plan: LG Saxena urban areas, vide Green as well

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{Vinai Kumar Saxena on}}^{\text{elhi Lieutenant Governor}}$ Wednesday said here inclusivity lay at the heart of the Delhi 2041 Master Plan adding its draft is almost ready taking into account the importance of providing equal opportunities to all segments of society by ensuring equitable access to resources, services, and economic opportunities.

Addressing an interactive session organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce on the theme, Delhi 2041 - New Master Plan, he also said the plan aims to foster inclusive growth and prosperity. Entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation will be nurtured, contributing to the overall economic development of the city, Saxena said.

ture development is one of the key focus areas of the plan and has tried to take into account the population growth trends and projected economic trajectory over the next 20 years, he said.

Saxena identified five key areas around which the Master Plan has shaped its provisions. They include Efficient Transport

Affordable Housing, Healthcare Facilities, Educational Institutions and

Digital Connectivity.

Preservation of the City's rich heritage, revitalizing our

as Brown Field development and connectivity and mobility that essentially take into consideration environmental sustainability are other equally prominent aspects of plan, he said. Saxena took the opportunity to also underline his experience during the last one year as the Lt. Governor. Highlighting the key areas that he had tried to address, Saxena said focus was on permanent employment in government to end contractual ad hocism and favouritism. Over 15,000 permanent appointments in Delhi Government were made during

the last one year. Moreover, 26,000 individuals were provided with skilled development / upskilling training in different vocations like electronics, plumbing, carpentry, wellness etc. by NDMC

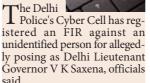
mandated by the NGT through the HLC was taken in the right earnest. Other focus areas were

Restoration of Yamuna floodplains.Cleaning of sewer drains, not carried out for the last 10 years and clogged up to 90% started - 40 kms of the 200 kms were completed.

Innovative means of improving the water quality by way of natural treatment through plants and oxidation was undertaken, he said. Revamp of Roads and arterial stretches was carried out, Saxena

#### Cyber Cell registers FIR against unknown man for impersonating LG

REPORTER



The FIR was filed on May 25 on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Vigilance Department tacted two of its officers on WhatsApp on May 23.

According to the FIR, the two vigilance officers first received WhatsApp calls from an unknown number and the caller introduced himself as

The officers were surprised to hear this and disconnected the calls.

The caller had also put a picture of the LG as his display picture (DP). The accused also sent text messages to the two officers that read, "Hi, I am Delhi LG Vinai Kumar Saxena."

### Authorities directed to prevent incidents like electrocution: Bharadwaj



Taking umbrage at the recent electrocution incidents, Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday said the power department directed to prevent such episodes in the city.

Sakshi Ahuja (34) died after accidentally coming in contact with a live wire at the New Delhi Railway Station complex on Sunday amid

In another instance, a 17year-old boy died after suffering an electric shock in southeast Delhi's Taimoor

Nagar same day.
"I read media reports an auto drivers complaining about electricity passing through a board near the

pole (where the incident happened) at the New Delhi Railway Station. All the civic agencies like the PWD, MCD and the power department have been directed to ensure that such incidents are not repeated, otherwise strict officials responsible for it," the minister told PTI Video.

He also accused the Centre of converting the Delhi Police into a "political tool" amid a political slugfest over the law and order situation in the national capital.

"I was reading in the newspapers that 150 cars are stolen every day in Delhi, which means two cars are stolen in every assembly constituency on a daily basis. Where are these cars going? I feel that the Lt Governor should set his priorities right.

Man robbed of ₹4.5L, scooter in Kashmere Gate area



Abusinessman was alleged-ly robbed of Rs 4.5 lakh and his scooter by at least four unidentified men in north Delhi's Kashmere Gate area, police said on Wednesday.

According to police, the victim stopped his vehicle on the Yudhishthir Setu flyover on Tuesday to attend a phone call when the culprits came there in a scooty and a motorcycle, and took away the money

along with the vehicle. "On Tuesday at 1:15 pm, a PCR call regarding the robbery of Rs 2 lakh and a scooter was received at the Kashmere Gate Commissioner of Police

(north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said. The victim Sunil Kumar Jain (56), a resident of Bihari Colony in Shahdara, told police that two men on a scooter pointed a pistol-like object at nim and demanded the money. Later, two more men came there on a motorcycle.

"One of them asked Jain to give him the scooter keys. They then rode off with the scooter. Jain told us that cash worth Rs 4.5 lakh was inside the scooter's boot," the DCP

## DJB appoints 11 nodal officers to mitigate waterlogging

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) ▲ has appointed 11 nodal officers, assigning each of them four to nine assembly constituencies, to take steps to mitigate the problem of waterlogging in coordination with PWD and MCD officials.

In view of the monsoon, the board in an order issued last week directed officials to monitor 41 vulnerable points, including Lothian Road, the railway underpass on Minto Road, Loni Road, MB Road, Hanuman Setu and Ring Road.

It also said adequate staff should be deployed round the clock for operating sewage pumping stations. The order came into effect from June 27.

The order directed all chief engineers and assistant chief engineers to be in touch with their counterparts in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Public Works Department (PWD), and make joint efforts to mitigate the problem of waterlog-

ging.

It also had the details of nodal officers. Each nodal officer has four to nine assembly



The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) also directed that all pumps and motors of sewage pumping stations should be made functional and generator sets stationed at critical installation. Tappings constructed for

trapping of sewage from storm water drains should be closed to ensure free flow of storm water during monsoon months," read the order. The DJB also directed that

all deep excavation works should be stopped. It should be ensured that trenches are filled and surplus soil removed on a daily basis after completion of work, it said.

"It should be ensured that trenches are properly barricaded, precaution/diversion boards are fixed at appropriate locations and lighting arrangements during night hours are in place. It shall be ensured that all the storm water drains/street drains are cleared of the 'malba'/surplus earth during and after execution of DJB works," it said. The order also directed

that adequate filtered water supply should be arranged to avoid water borne diseases. "During the monsoon, rainwater along with debris is

likely to enter into sewerage system. Accordingly, it will be prudent to keep the super suckers/jetting machine ready for these locations so that prompt and immediate action is taken for the removal of blockages/debris etc," it said. The monsoon arrived in the national capital on Sunday, two days before its scheduled

## DMRC requests commuters to be responsible after metro brawl video goes viral



STAFF REPORTER ■

A video has appeared on social media showing two men engaged in a brawl inside a Delhi Metro coach forcing the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation(DMRC)to say "we request that commuters conduct themselves respon-

sibly while travelling by

Metro. The footage shows two backpack-wearing men engaged in an ugly fight inside a metro coach. While most commuters stand at a safe distance from the two men, some try to intervene



and stop the fight from escalating on the popular public transport.

However, their efforts go

in vain. The men are also seen punching and trying to push each other away. In response, the Delhi

Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has issued a state-"We request that com-

muters conduct themselves responsibly while travelling by Metro. If the other commuters notice any objectionable behaviour, they should immediately report the matter on the DMRC Helpline, detailing the corridor, station, time, etc.

## Police file chargesheet in Shahbad Dairy murder case

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW

The Delhi police have filed ■ a charge sheet against Sahil, the man who repeatedly stabbed and bludgeoned a 16-year-old girl to death in full public view in the national capital's Shahbad Dairy locality on May 28.

The 640-page charge sheet was filed before a POCSO court on Tuesday under section 12 of POCSÓ (punishment for committing sexual harassment upon a child) and sections of the Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, court sources said.

The accused has also been charged under IPC sections 302 (murder), 354 A (punishment for sexual harassment) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) along with the provisions of the Arms Act.

The horrifying murder was caught on a CCTV camera and the footage showed the man thrusting a knife into



as scores of people passed by but none intervened to save her. She had 34 injury marks on her body and her skull was smashed, police had said.

The special POCSO court is likely to take cognisance of the charge sheet on July 1. The accused was identified on the basis of CCTV footage and arrested on May 29 from Bulandshahr after a call from his aunt to his father was traced to a location in Uttar

After his medical examination there, Sahil was

brought to the national capital late evening on June 1. The accused was produced before a duty metropolitan magistrate the next day, who permitted his custodial interrogation for two days. The accused's police cus-

tody was subsequently extended by three days. Police said the investigation revealed that the accused and the victim were in a relationship but they often quarrelled. Both had a fight on May 27, following which Sahil decided to take revenge and murdered her brutally the next day. The weapon of offence-a

knife-along with clothes and shoes which were worn by Sahil at the time of the offence were recovered at the accused's instance, police said.
Other pieces of evidence, including CCTV footage, voice samples and biological

evidence were also collected, they said. A total of 14 biological exhibits, one chemical exhibit, four physical exhibits and one cyber exhibit were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Rohini, police added.

## India, USA can work together to resist Chinese coercion: Garcetti

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

With China flexing its muscle in the Indo-Pacific, US Ambassador to New Delhi Eric Garcetti said here on Wednesday India and the US can work jointly in resisting "coercion" and deploy ships and air forces together in the Indo-Pacific to ensure freedom of the skies and the seas. In an address at an event in IIT-Delhi, the envoy said the two countries are poised to further deepen co-production of military equipment and cited the planned work in aeroengines, artillery and ground vehicles as just a few examples.

Touching on the issues relating to human rights, Garcetti said the US will continue to engage with India on it "as we have always done, and as we do in all countries around the world." He also quoted Mahatma Gandhi: "Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and test of our civiliza-

The US ambassador said India and the US together can build a bulwark against the "might makes right" mentality,



in comments seen as an oblique reference to China.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington last week "crystalised" that the India-US partnership is accelerating at "breathtaking speed" and is having "undeniable impact".

The US and India have the ower to set an example and build a more peaceful world, in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. A key component of peace is protection," he said. "As we've unfortunately seen

over the past three years, we live in a world in which countries ignore sovereign borders, advancing their claims through violence and destruction," he said, in an apparent reference to China and Russia. "This is not the world we want. This is not the world we need," he added.

Cong demands transparency in India-US drone deal

Congress on Wednesday demanded complete transparency in the multi-crore India-US drone deal, while alleging that the 31 MQ-9B Predator UAV drones were being procured for a higher price.

The party said national security was paramount and that several doubts were being raised on the predator drone "The Modi government is

known to jeopardise national interests and the people of in the Rafale deal, where the Modi government bought only 36 Rafale jets instead of 126. We also saw how HAL was denied transfer of technology. We also saw how several unilateral decisions were made, despite widespread



objections from the Defence Acquisition Committee and the Armed Forces. The Rafale scam' is still under scrutiny in France," AICC Media department head Pawan Khera said at a Press conference.

"We demand complete transparency in this Predator Drone deal. India needs answers to the crucial questions. Otherwise, we will be trapped in another 'scam' under the Modi Government," he told

PNS NEW DELHI

Tuesday.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on

Wednesday said it has arrest-

ed Indian Revenue Service

(IRS) officer and Additional

Commissioner of Customs

Sachin Balasaheb Sawant in a money laundering case.

officer and was arrested on

investigation on the basis of

an FIR registered under the

Prevention of Corruption Act

by the Anti-Corruption

the check period Sawant has

ny wherein his father and

It is alleged that during

Branch, CBI, Mumbai.

Sawant is a 2008-batch

The ED had initiated

**ED** arrests Additional

**Commissioner of** 

## Experts find flaws in key components of Dhruv ALH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Following a spate of crashes involving Dhruv advanced light helicopters (ALH), experts have identified critical flaws, including metallurgical and design issues, in a key component. Prompt actions are now being taken on a priority basis to address these concerns and enhance flight safety, reliable sources said here on Wednesday.

The army, air force, navy and coast guard operate more than 330 ALHs, sources said here on Wednesday.

The helicopters are indigenously designed and manufactured by the public sector aerospace conglomerate Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The helicopters are now getting clear-ance for flying in batches for urgent missions after comprehensive checks, sources said. In the past five years, the ALH was involved in 12 accidents, including the crash-landing of an army helicopter in Jammu and Kashmir on May four this year in which a soldier was killed and two pilots were injured.



Earlier, a Coast Guard ALH made a forced landing in Kochi on March 26, and a Navy ALH ditched (emergency landing in water) into the Arabian Sea on

As specified in a government letter dated May 22, the resumption of urgent flights followed the prescribed "satisfactory conduct of independent maintenance flight safety audit" of critical items and systems, and compliance with safety-related special technical instructions and alert notices" issued by technical authorities.

Sources said the helicopters are being operated again, but the parts are being changed on a priority basis and their flying life has been reduced from what it was earlier.

## Env Min prepares draft Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules



As a part of the government's strategy to engage the private sector to help achieve net carbon emission zero by 2070, the Union Environment Ministry has prepared a draft Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules 20223.

The programme proposes to create a market based mechanism for providing incentives in the form of Green Credits to individuals, farmer producer organisations, cooperatives, forestry enterprises, sustainable agriculture enterprises, urban and rural local bodies, private

sectors, industries and organisations for environment pos-

itive actions. The Ministry has issued a notification in this regard to help the entities in the private sector meet their existing obligations, stemming from other legal frameworks, by taking actions which are able to converge with activities relevant for generating or buying Green

The programme also envisages to create a mass movement around environment positive actions and realise the vision of "Mission LiFE" through pro-planet people and entities.

## K'taka police file FIR against Malviya for incitement

PNS NEW DELHI

The Karnataka police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the Chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) IT Cell Amit Malviya, for allegedly promoting enmity within groups and instigating people through a social media video mocking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The BJP has strongly criticized the action, labeling it as "pathetic" and accusing it of attempting to intimidate and silence Malviya.

The FIR against Malviya was filed on the grounds of defamation and incitement against the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi, following a complaint lodged by Ramesh Babu, a member of the

the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the

Borrower/ Loan Account Number

Neeru Puri/ Chander Shekhar Puri/ LBFDB00001427214

Kundal Singh Thapa/ Devki Devi/

Gaurav Mangla/ Santosh Kumar/ LBDEL00003704714

Abhishek Sharma/ Santosh Rawat/

LBFDB00001110195/

LBFDB00001110186

LBFDB00001661095

Place: Delhi/ NCR



Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. The complaint specifically referred to a tweet by Malviya, which contained an animated video allegedly disparaging Rahul Gandhi and portraying the Congress party in a negative light.

In response to these developments, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla claimed on Twitter that the FIR against Malviya was a malicious attempt to stifle free speech. Poonawalla suggested that if

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE** 

that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to dea

Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession

Flat No - B-505, The Maharaja Agarsain

CGHS Ltd, GH- 9 Cghs, Sec-21C, Part-3rd, Faridabad/ June 26, 2022

Flat No-250, Sector 13, Bharat Apartment The Bharat CGHS Ltd, Plot No. 20, Rohini Delhi 110085/ June 27, 2022

Flat No-203, 2nd Floor, P. No. Gh-20 The

Bharti CGHS Ltd, Sector-21C, Part-III Faridabad/ June 26, 2022

Plot No. 35, Block- C, Dayal Bagh Colony, Faridabad/ June 26, 2022

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited

Rahul Gandhi felt aggrieved by any tweet, he should have pursued a defamation case through the judicial system, rather than resorting to involving the police. Poonawalla further criticized the Congress party's communication and social media capabilities, suggesting that their reliance on state authorities demonstrated their incompetence.

Amit Malviya has been charged under sections 153(A), 120(B), 505(2), and 34 of the Indian Penal Code, which pertain to promoting enmity between different groups based on factors such as religion, race, place of birth, residence, and language, as well as engaging in acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony and con-

Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)

Aug 18, 2022 Rs. 8,75,381/-

January 25,2023 Rs.5,32,417/-

February 27,2023

Rs.41,17,443/

July 06,2021

6,12,931/-

Authorized Officer **ICICI Bank Limited** 

Branch

NCR

Delhi

NCR

Delhi/ NCR

NCR

amassed assets disproportionate to his known and legal sources of income, the ED said. During the Investigation conducted so far, it was revealed that cash deposits of Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 around Rs 1.25 crore were The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction made from unexplained sources in the personal bank of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand accounts of family members account of a dummy compa-As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in genera



"It has been found that immovable property was purchased in the name of said dummy company. The source for purchase of the said property was shown as personal loans and other bank loans whose repayments were also made in cash. Although, the flat is in the name of dummy company but Sachin Sawant was occupying the said flat as its real owner," it said.

To identify the proceeds

of crime, Sawant has been arrested. Further, he was produced before the Designated Special PMLA Court, granted the custody of Sawant till July 5 to the ED.

## Philippines will continue to challenge Chinese assertiveness: Foreign Secy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

With growing assertiveness of China in the South China Sea, the Philippines has "repeatedly" challenged its presence and will continue to do so, its Foreign Secretary Enrique A Manalo said here on

He also said his country wants to develop a "very robust" defence partnership with India and is looking forward to procuring military hardware from it. The visiting minister is scheduled to hold talks here with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday.

The defence and security ties between India and the Philippines are on an upswing. In January last year, the Philippines concluded a USD 375 million deal with India for the procurement of three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile.

Delivering a lecture at a leading think tank here, Manalo said his country has Chinese presence in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of



China sea and will continue to The Filipino foreign secre-

tary, on a four-day visit to India, said the 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and China have been engaged to formulate a code of conduct (CoC) for the South China Sea, but he appeared unsure about a positive outcome. The code is envisioned to

prevent any military conflict in the South China Sea, a region that has overlapping territorial claims by China, Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia "We may not be seeing the

light at the end of the tunnel

but we see the tunnel," he said in an address at the Indian Council of World Affairs

Describing India as a key partner of the Philippines, Manalo said Manila wants to expand the bilateral cooperation in areas of maritime security, cyber-terrorism, education, healthcare and climate technologies among others.

"We hope to develop very robust defence cooperation arrangements with India. We have already entered into some potential deals and I think we will be looking forward to having more," he said when asked at procuring more military hardware from India.



कार्यालय प्रधान महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण)-आर उ.प्र. राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, ए–1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

प्रत्यवारा यूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के विद्युत विकास कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के विद्युत विकास कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/पिखरों/नगर निकारों में पंजीकृत की जाती है जो दिनांक 03.07.2023 को पूर्वन्ह 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 10.07.2023 को अपरान्ह 5.00 बजे तक अपलोंड की जा सकती हैं निविदाओं को दिनांक 11.07.2023 को पूर्वन्ह 11.00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 13.07.2023 को साय 5.00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती हैं। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा संबंधी विवरण निम्नवत है:—

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लाग रु. (लाख में)
1.	Up-gradation with (3 years) Maintenance of electrical system of street light under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission Mathura Site-B	108.32
2.	Up-gradation with (3 years) Maintenance of electrical system of street light under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission Kosi Kotwan I & II. Distt. Mathura.	225.15

नोट:-- १. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी एस टी सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उ.प्र. शासन , लखनऊ में श्रेणी क' अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा , अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थित ई-लिंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: http://etnedxup.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। **वरिल** मन्यक (मू.) **विद्यत** उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्रो., कानपुर

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues

ICICI BANK LTD. VS. SANJU KUMAR, CS (COMM) 2975/19 Model- HYUNDAI MOTORS INDIA

Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-

Contact Person- Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708)/ Rajeev Ranjan

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who

shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission

in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore

requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with

regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before

submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from

the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NÉFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, SHAL TOWERS, Ploi

No 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi - 110005 for details and

Auction Date: July 15, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

original KYC documents to participate in the auction.

spection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

**Asset Details** 

LTD XCENT. Manu Year- 2018

Vehicle No.- UP14DM9083, Make and Model- RENAULT KWID, Manu

Vehicle No.- DL6CJ1774, Make and Model- CHEVROLET OPTRA, Manu

Vehicle No.- UP14GT8288, Make

and Model- SWARAJ MAZDA LTD SAMRAT, Manu Year- 2017

as per court orders, in the following cases

ICICI BANK LIMITED VS ASHISH SHARMA, CS

PONG MARKETING LTD,

ICICI BANK LIMITED VS. PING

ICICI BANK LTD VS AKSHAY

(COMM) No. 711/22

RFA NO. 499 OF 19

IA 2240/2019

## NIA conducts searches in case related to BJYM leader Nettaru's death



The National Investigation ▲ Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted extensive searches at the houses of three absconding suspects in the case related to the murder of BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Nettaru by cadres of the banned terror group Popular Front of India (PFI) in Karnataka last year.

The NIA searched three locations in two districts of Karnataka as part of its efforts to hunt down the absconders. The agency seized several electronic gadgets and documents during the searches at the houses of Abdul Nasir, Abdul Rahaman in Kodagu district and Naushad in Dakshina Kannada district, the NIA

"All three are suspected of harbouring the main assailants of Parveen Nettaru at various hideouts across

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu State. Besides the trio, five other accused are still absconding in the case, which NIA had taken over in August

2022," it said.

A total of 21 persons, including the absconders, have so far been chargesheeted by NIA under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Arms

Nettaru was hacked to death on July 26, 2022 in Bellare village of Sullia Taluk at Dakshina Kannada district by PFI 'Killer Squads' or 'Service Teams', it said.

"PFI has been indulging in such targeted 'hate killings' with the aim of driving a communal wedge and spreading communal hatred with its ultimate objective of establishing an Islamic Rule in India by 2047. Efforts to track down the absconding accused are continuing," the NIA

### **CBI** registers case against Guj businessman for defrauding banks



PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case **1** on complaint from Union Bank of India, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) against a private company and its Managing Director among others for allegedly defrauding the public sector lender to the tune of over Rs 55

It was alleged that the accused was sanctioned and disbursed Term Loans of Rs 50.25 crore by the consortium of banks (e-Corporation Bank now Union Bank of India, Union Bank of India and Central Bank of India) for establishing sugar factory in village Vadod, Surat (Gujarat) to manufacture sugar

and related by-products. It was further alleged that the said accused through its Managing Director and others had cheated the said three consortium banks by resorting to misappropriation, diversion/ siphoning off disbursed Term Loan funds and caused a loss to the tune of Rs 55.39 crore on July 16, 2022 to the said consortium banks, the CBI said in a state-

Searches were conducted at three official and residential premises of the accused, situated at Surat (Gujarat) which led to recovery of incriminating documents/articles, the agency

### कार्यालय पर्यावरण वानिकी वनमंडल भोपाल ( म.प्र. )

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per

the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

पता- सी.पी.ए. बिल्डिंग ई-5 अरेरा कॉलोनी, बिट्टन मार्केट भोपाल-462016

E-Mail :- dfoevaniki.bpl@mp.gov.in

#### **Corrigendum**

Following changes may kindly be noted for submission of technical and financial proposal for the REOI for "Assessment and Valuation of Plantation done under Paryavaravan Vaniki Vanmandal, Bhopal (Former Capital Project Forestry Wing), Bhopal in terms of Ecological and Project Impact Assessment, Biodiversity assessment. Carbon Stocks measurement and Ecosystem Services Valuation'

- 1. Page 2 : at the end of paragraph 1, following will added: "the cunsulting firm will includ Firms Companies, Societies, NOG's Public Sector undertakings, academic institutions etc. Appli cation deadline as mentioned in SI. No 5 to be read as" 15.07.2023 in Place of "30.06.2023"
- 3. Scope of work, point 2 will read as below
- 2. Satellite image analysis (pre and current) using google images for the project sites (1986 to 2002), if and where available, on google earth.
- Scope of work point 5 will read as follows 5. Assessment of Floral biodiversity
- 3. Page 6
  - 5. Deliverable and Payment Schedule, point 4 to read as follows 4. Assessment of Floral biodiversity

  - footnote no 2 on page 6 to read as follows

The consulting agency needs to submit 03 seperate reports (i) for Bhoj wetland (Buffer and Roadside Biodiversity) Should include qualitative input on avifauna) (ii) Parks and Nagar Van (iii) Urban Plantation (Where area of plantation is more than 1 hac.) 4. Page no 9; in the last line of paragraph 14, "15th July 2023 is to be read in place of "30th

June 2023"

पर्यावरण वानिकी वनमंडल

वनमंडलाधिकारी

#### G-15688/23

## **BJP** workers intensify people contact drive

Inspired by the tips given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his virtual address a day ago, the workers of Bharatiya Janaa Party (BJP) have intensified their door-todoor contact campaign to apprise the people of the achievements of the Central Government during the last nine years. Though the 2024 parliamentary election is still far away and the opposition parties are busy in making a strong joint alliance, the BJP continued its activities to reach the voters as at present, its booth workers are doing contact with each voter under its on-going month long Maha Sampark Abhiyan, which was launched last month and it will continue till June 30.

During this month, the party had organised several big programmes including a public meeting of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath apart from many others addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Union Minister SP Singh Baghel and senior BJP leaders. According to regional party chief (Kashi Region) Dilip Singh Patel, one big public meeting was held in each of 14 parliamentary constituencies of the region including Varanasi, Chandauli, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Machhalishahr, Sonbhadra, Ghazipur, Prayagraj, Phulpur, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Kaushambi and Amethi.

Besides, the party has also made arrangements of big LED screens and other facilities so that the party workers could listen to the PM's virtual addresses on many occasions during the month including one from Bhopal when Modi interacted with party workers in 'Mera Booth, Sabse Mazboot' pro-



Regional BJP chief DS Patel making door-to-door contact in Varanasi on Tuesday

gramme. During this month, the senior party leaders contacted at least 250 special families of Padam award winners, sportspersons, artistes, entrepreneurs, doctors, former judges, martyrs and others in view that they would play as opinion leaders for the party in the upcoming elections. Recently, the party had performed superbly well in UP Urban Body polls, as usual the party did in the past but its leaders are confident about doing well in forthcoming panchayat elections as well as in recent time, the party has strengthened its organisational structure in rural areas especially in this part of Purvanchal

In the last phase of the ongoing Maha Sampark Abhiyan, party workers are contacting the people at their doorsteps and handing over leaflets highlighting all the achievements of central governments during the last nine years. In this parliamentary constituency of the PM, the people have also been apprised about the overall development work done in the city areas under the leadership of Modi. In view of summer days, the BJP teams of workers generalcontacted the people during the morning and evening

Under this Maha Sampark Abhiyan, regional president Dilip Singh Patel, along with

MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari contacted people in booth number 206 (Adampur) and distributed leaflets of nine years achievements of the central government.

They also asked the people to fill forms and if they support the work of the PM, they should give a missed call on mobile number 9090902024. Such exercise will help the party to understand the reality of its ground level support from the people.

Regional spokesman Navratan Rathi said that doorto-door public contact drives at the booth level in all the Lok Sabha constituencies of Kashi Region will continue till June

## Speed up civil engineering works, says CORE GM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

conference of deputy chief Aengineers and executive engineers of rail electrification projects was held at Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) headquarters here on Wednesday. The progress of engineering works in all projects located in every corner of the country was reviewed.

The conference was presided over by Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE)/CORE and directed the officers of Engineering department to work in a planned manner to achieve the target of FY 2023-

Addressing the conference, the chief guest, Pramod Kumar, CORE/Prayagraj, directed to speed up the civil engineering works related to rail electrification works so that the rail electrification works going on in various sections are completed within the stipulated time. He heartily congratulated all the officials who came from the project for the highest railway



General Manager CORE. Pramod Kumar addressing a conference with official concerned

electrification of 4,767 route kilometers in the year 2022-23.

Prominent among those present included Anupam Singhal, Chief Administrative

Officer (CAO), PK Singh, Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer (CSTE)/Project, VK Garg, Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM), Vinay Ambade, Principal Chief Material Manager (PCMM), Kumar Gupta, Financial Advisor and Chief

## 75,47,660 saplings to be planted

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■ PRAYAGRAJ

During this year's monsoon, the Forest department here will be increasing the greenery of the district by planting 75,47,660 saplings. The mega exercise will commence from the first week of July.

The target of planting the saplings has been distributed among different departments of the district administration, majority of which will be shared between Forest department, Irrigation department and the Rural Development department.

The department, every year, enhances its efforts to increase the green cover of the district and thereby increasing the oxygen output by planting saplings in a huge number. They have planned to plant 75,47,660 saplings within the next month which is over 3.54

lakh more as compared to last year. The previous year's data shows that 71,92,852 saplings were planted in the year 2022-23 and 60,88,947 in 2021-22.

The department has already prepared 70 per cent of the pits across urban and rural areas of the district and nowadays is busy transporting the saplings to the respective sites so that they can be planted during the 'Van Mahotsava' (plantation festival) starting next month. According to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Mahaveer Kaujalgi, We have 41 nurseries in which we have 81,57,110 saplings of different species of trees which would be planted during the drive." These include Sheesham (20 lakh saplings), Sagwan (teakwood, 7.5 lakh), Keji (8.5 lakh), Arjun (2 lakh), jamun (Java Plum) (1.25 lakh), tamarind (2.25 lakh), amla

(4.50 lakh) and guava (5 lakh). The task of planting the

saplings has been distributed among different departments of the district administration which include the Forest department with the target of 24,77,880, the Environment department will plant 2,27,000 saplings, tĥe Rural Development department will plant 29,87,000 saplings, the Revenue department 25,10,00, the Panchayati Raj department 3,04,000, the Urban Development department 1,37,000, the Agriculture department 5,99,000, the Housing development department 5000, the Animal Husbandry department 9,000, the Cooperative department 13,300, the Industries department 8,000, the Department of Energy 6,580 and the Irrigation department will plant 13,000

Excluding the above the other departments also included in the target are the Basic Education department with 30,000, Technical Education 6,000, Higher Education 24,000, Labour department 1,900, Health department 12,000, Transport department 1,800, Railway department 5,000, Department of Defence 4,000, Horticulture department 3,69,000 and Home department 7,280.

However, with these promising figures Prayagraj ĥas also seen a substantial number of trees being cut down for different developmental works, foremost being widening of major national and state highways. In the last three years, a total of 7,794 trees were cut down. This includes. 2,570 trees during the year 2022-23, 2,353 trees in 2021-22 and 2,871 in the year 2020-21.

## Govt flayed for rising prices of vegetables

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The local activists of National L Students Union of India (NSUI) staged a dharna at Chandua Satti (vegetables' market) near Bharat Mata Mandir here on Wednesday in protest against skyrocketing prices of vegetables. Speaking on the occasion, district NSUI president Rishabh Pandey said that under the government of the burdens of the housewives have increased as the prices of all the items being used in kitchens have increased alarmingly.

According to him, the price of cooking gas (LPG) has gone up to Rs 1,200 per cylinder, while tomatoes are being sold at the price of diamonds and the prices of ginger have gone upto Rs 250 per kg. He said that the BJP is celebrating the completion of nine years of Prime Minister by telling the people about the government achievements but it is keeping mum on the issues of inflation and



NSUI activists protesting against price hike of vegetables in Varanasi on Wednesday.

price-rise of most of the essential items and vegetables.

He said that today the people are worried and feel cheated. He said that the NSUI president Sandeep Pal, state

would continue its protest against the price rise and inflation. Among others also present in the dharna were city

vice president Prafulla Pandey, state secretary Shivam Choubey, Gautam Sharma, Lorik Yadav and Anurag Rai.

## Maidagin-Godowlia route to be 'no vehicle zone' on Mondays

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

In view of the heavy rush in Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, there will be complete restriction on 'sparsh darshan' of Baba Vishwanath on each Monday during the Shrawan. And, the Maidagin-Godowlia route will be 'no vehicle zone' on Mondays during the auspicious month.

It is noteworthy that this year, the Shrawan will be of two months because of adhimaas and it will begin from July 4 and end on August 31. Eight Mondays will fall during the auspicious month.

The Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma held a meeting with the officers of concerned departments and temple authorities in Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham late Wednesday afternoon and took stock of the arrangements to be made in the temple during the auspicious month in view of the security and darshan of the



The DC Kaushal Raj Sharma and the CP Mutha Ashok Jain holding meeting with the officers in Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir.

The temple authorities apprised that there would be complete restriction on 'sparsh darshan' on each Monday and no ticket would be provided for the sugam darshan and any aarti except mangla aarti. There devotees will exit from the same gate from which they will enter and the devotees coming towards gang-dhwar will be given entrance from eastern

gate of sanctum-sanctorum while the devotees coming towards Maidagin, Saraswati gate and Dhudhiraj Gali will enter from northern, southern and western gate respectively.

As the Shrawan is of two months because of adhimaas and so, the devotees across the country will reach the temple to have darshan of Baba Vishwanath, the DC said and

pay attention on the arrangements and facilities of devotees instead of engaging themselves in getting darshan to their

The DC directed the authorities to write a letter to all the departments for no VIP darshan because no vehicle will be allowed to ply on the route from Maidagin to Godowlia.

The DC directed the health officers to hold emergency medical camps at four places in the temple premises. There should be arrange-

ment of e-rickshaw fir the elderly person and divyangjan, he added. The Commissioner of Police (CP) Mutha Ashok Jain directed the police officers to

erect barricading and make arrangements of PS System to facilitate the devotees. The DM S Rajalingam, ACP Santosh Kumar Singh, SOD Umesh Kumar Singh, ACEO Nikhilesh Mishra, SDM Shambhu Sharan were mainly present in the

"REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE" Petitions for Approval of True-up of FY 2021-22

**Determination of ARR & Tariff for FY 2023-24** 

1. New Delhi Municipal Council (hereinafter referred to as "NDMC") has filed petitions before the Hon'ble Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as "DERC or Commission") for True-up of FY 2021-22 on November 4, 2022 and Aggregate Revenue Requirement & Determination of Tariff for FY 2023-24 on May 15, 2023 under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, DERC (Business Plan) Regulations, 2017, 2019 & 2023 and the provisions of the DERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2017 vide notification dated 31st January, 2017 and DERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations (First Amendment), 2023. DERC Has admitted the Petitions vide Orders dated 19/01/2023 & 26/05/2023

The salient features of Petitions are as follows:

Table 1:Summary of ARR and Revenues for NDMC at existing Retail Supply Tariff					
Sr.No	Particulars	Units	FY 2021-22	FY 2023-24	
Α	Energy Input for sale to consumers	MU	1204.57	1443.69	
В	Energy Billed	MU	1104.02	1332.24	
С	Distribution Losses for the year	%	8.35%	7.72%	
D	AT&C Losses for the year	%	6.80%	7.90%	
E	Power Purchase (includes Transmission) Cost	Rs. Crore	936.74	1168.09	
F	O&M Expenses	Rs. Crore	371.80	332.12	
G	Depreciation	Rs. Crore	40.42	46.28	
Н	RoCE (Including Interest on Working Capital)	Rs. Crore	57.82	83.56	
I	Income tax	Rs. Crore	0.00	0.00	
J	Less: Non-Tariff Income	Rs. Crore	7.40	4.00	
K	Aggregate Revenue Requirement	Rs. Crore	1399.38	1626.05	
L	Revenue available at Existing Tariff	Rs. Crore	1147.75	1269.29	
М	Revenue (Gap)/ Surplus at Existing Tariff	Rs. Crore	(251.63)	(356.76)	

\*At. DISCOM Periphery

Recovery of Revenue Gap: As per ARR and revenue at the existing tariff, NDMC has a Revenue Gap of Rs. 251.63 Crore for FY 2021-22 and Rs. 356.76 Crore for FY 2023-24. The above Revenue Gap is planned to be bridged by proposing revised tariff rates. NDMC has requested Hon'ble Commission to decide appropriate hike in tariff so as to reduce this revenue gap.
 Performance of NDMC during FY 2021-22. The Distribution losses in FY 2021-22 were 8.35% and AT&C loss level in FY 2021-22.

were 6.80% with a collection efficiency of 101.69%. Going forward NDMC has assumed Distribution losses and AT&C losses of 7.72% and 7.90% respectively for FY 2023-24.

5. In accordance with the provisions of *Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations*,

2001 notified by the Commission, the consumers and stakeholders are requested to submit the response on the above Petitions. The response my be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at the following address latest by 10/07/2023 or date of Public Hearing, whichever is later. The response may be submitted personally or by post to the Commission at the address given below. The response can also be e-mailed to the Secretary of the Commission at the e-mail address mentioned below:-

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017
Email id: secyderc@nic.in Tele fax 011-22673608
6. The Commission may hold a Public Hearings (Virtually/ in person) with the responding stakeholders, and the date of hearing may be notified separately.

A copy of the Petitions can be purchased from the head office of the Petitioner located at Palika Kendra, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001 on any working day till 10/07/2023 or the date of Public Hearing, whichever is later between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Payment of Rs 25/- per CD or Rs.100 per Hard Copy either by cash or by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of 'Secretary NDMC" Payable at New Delhi.

"Secretary NDMC" Payable at New Delhi.

The Complete Petitions are available at our website (www.ndmc.gov.in) as well as at the website of the Commission (http://www.derc.gov.in). Copy of the Petitions are available for inspection at our Head Office as well as the Commission's office at the addresses provided herewith, on any working day till 10/07/2023 or the date of Public Hearing whichever is later between 11:00AM to 4:00PM.

For NDMC

Secretary

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Uniform Civil Code**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is rooting for the Uniform Civil Code, but is it actually feasible?

he Prime Minister has once again made a strong pitch for implementing a uniform civil code in the country. He recently reiterated his views on the subject, saying a country cannot function when there are two sets of laws and that it was sanctioned in the Constitution itself. This in fact opens a Pandora's box as this topic is sure to generate a lot of heat and arguments. The recent proposition by the Prime Minister for a uniform civil code has ignited a contentious debate within our society. While the concept of a uniform set of laws for all citizens might seem appealing at first, it is crucial to examine its potential ramifications. We must carefully consider the implications of such a code, particularly on personal rights and cultural diversity of minority communities. The protection and preservation of individual rights and cultural autonomy should always take precedence over any drive towards uniformity. In the first place, the Prime Minister has always been in favour of one nation, one election, one leader, one party



and what-have-you. But this is not such a great idea for a diverse country like ours. Plurality is what makes the Indian democracy work. If it were not for the system's flexibility, it would have crashed long back. Interestingly, the country does have a uniform civil code; only personal laws such as marriage are governed separately. Even if you had a uniform civil code, you would have to give latitude to regional and cultural differences.

Any diverse and pluralistic society thrives when it recognises and respects the individual rights of its citizens. The idea of a uniform civil code may seem egalitarian on the surface, but it must not be pursued at the cost of compromising people's personal rights. Our

Constitution guarantees the freedom to practice and uphold one's cultural and religious beliefs but the introduction of a uniform civil code erases these differences as these are a direct infringement on such fundamental rights. India's diversity has been the bedrock of our nation, fostering tolerance and inclusivity. A uniform civil code threatens to homogenise this rich cultural tapestry and suppress the unique identity of minority communities. Personal laws, shaped by religious and cultural practices, have played a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and interests of minority communities. These laws have evolved organically, considering the specific needs and aspirations of these communities. Imposing a uniform civil code would risk negating these protections and imposing a one-size-fits-all approach, which may not adequately address the concerns of all citizens. Therefore, rather than imposing a uniform civil code, the focus should be on fostering dialogue and understanding among different communities. It is through open conversations and mutual respect that we can bridge the treacherous gaps and find common ground. Collaboration and consensus-building should be the guiding principle as we work towards creating a just society that respects individual rights while cherishing our diversity. Maybe we need to ultimately go down this path, but let's find another way.



Devotees throng chariots during the Bahuda Yatra (return car festival of Lord Jagannath), in Puri

# The 'Amul Girl' cries for the first time



A tribute to Sylvester daCunha, the man who created 'Amul Girl' campaign to take Dr Kurien's cooperative movement forward

Oxford has included the word 'sadilicious' in its dictionary, I am taking the liberty of expression to write: "Utterly Butterly, sadilicious". I am feeling sad, and perhaps many of us. For, a generation that has grown up seeing the smile in the eyes of the 'Amul Girl' for over five decades since her inception in 1966, has seen tears dropping down. The "Utterly Butterly Delicious' girl has cried for the first time. She bereaved her creator the iconic advertising veteran Sylvester daCunha who died on Tuesday, June 20, leaving a void in the world of creativity. Sylvester was

In all these years, the 'Amul Girl campaign has not only stood the test of time but has also become a symbol of creativity, wit, and effective brand communication. With its ingenious use of humour, satire and social commentary, the brand Amul has successfully captured the hearts of the Indian audience, making it one of the most beloved and memorable and longest-running advertising campaigns ever.

The year was 1966 when Sylvester daCunha, the mastermind behind the 'Amul Girl' campaign, teamed up with artist Eustace Fernandes to create a character that would capture the essence of Amul's brand philosophy. The idea was to craft a mascot that would embody the purity, richness, and taste of Amul butter, while simultaneously appealing to the masses through humour and relatability. The result was the birth of the 'Amul Girl', a cherubic, polka-dotted little girl, wearing traditional attire, who would go on to become the face of the brand for decades to come. Her mischievous smile and clever one-liners became synonymous with the brand and its tagline, "Utterly Butterly Delicious... Amul"

However, this iconic creation was not a random stroke of advertising genius but a strategic move by Amui to establish brand recognition, build identity, and connect with consumers on a deeper level. The need for a innocence, purity, and aspirastrong and relatable brand mas- tions of Indian farmers and

cot became apparent as Amul, India's leading dairy brand, sought to carve a distinct space in the market and capture the hearts of consumers.

Amul, a cooperative society – formed by the genius late Verghese Kurien to empower farmers and provide a stable market for their milk - needed a compelling and memorable advertising campaign to differentiate itself from other brands and establish a strong foothold in the market with two-fold objectives. First, to create a visual identity that would resonate with consumers and evoke positive emotions associated with the brand, and second, to communicate the key attributes of its flagship product, 'Amul Butter', in a simple yet effective and appealing manner, both catering to the taste, quality, and richness of Amul butter and simultaneously capturing the attention and imagination of the Indian audience.

Dr Kurien's unwavering commitment to the cooperative movement and his passion for empowering farmers found expression in the 'Amul Girl' campaign through the ingenuity of Sylvester. Their collaboration was the icing on the cake. By featuring a young girl, the campaign celebrated the



**AMUL HAS** CONSISTENTLY STRUCK A CHORD WITH THE INDIAN **AUDIENCE DUE TO** ITS ABILITY TO **EVOKE** LAUGHTER, STIR EMOTIONS, AND **DELIVER MEMORABLE MESSAGES** 

their families and conveyed the message that Amul, as a cooperative society, was dedicated to supporting and uplifting the lives of farmers, ensuring their prosperity and well-being.

The clever wordplay and topical references employed in the ads over the years have made a deep bonding with the audience, making the brand's messaging memorable and shareable. The 'Amul Girl' soon became a ubiquitous presence in the lives of Indians. Without any exaggeration, it can be said that through these ads, Amul not only promoted its products but also fostered a sense of social consciousness and encouraged public dis-

By leveraging the topicality of its ads, Amul has managed to stay relevant and capture the imagination of the Indian audience to date. The 'Amul Girl' has often been depicted alongside famous personalities from various fields, including sports, entertainment, and politics. These ads not only celebrated the achievements of these legends but also served as a testimony to the brand's association with the cultural fabric of the counand thus became a part of the collective consciousness of

Tendulkar's 100th internation-

and political campaigns, Amul has consistently struck a chord with the Indian audience due to its ability to evoke laughter, stir emotions, and deliver memorable messages. Over the years, the brand 'Amul' has managed to maintain its distinct identity while adapting to changing times and consumer preferences. Amul has also been quick to adapt to the changing media landscape. It has effectively utilized digital platforms and social media to amplify its campaigns and engage with a wider audience. Simultaneously, by adapting to diverse cultural nuances and crafting campaigns that reflect the aspirations, concerns, and shared experiences of the people, the

al century or other promotions

identity While the void left by the death of the doyen of Indian advertising Sylvester daCunha is hard to be filled, one may rightfully say that the enduring 'Amul Girl' will continue to be a symbol of wit, charm, and social commentary and will keep us entertained and smiling again.

'Amul Girl' has also transcend-

ed the boundaries of being just

another brand and becoming

an integral part of the Indian

(The writer is Programme Whether it was Sachin Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)

### THE EDITOR

## Real estate industry caters to digital nomads



The industry recognises the aspirations of digital nomads and their desire to have a house that suits their nomadic lifestyle and career

n today's digital age, the traditional office environ-Lement is no longer the only place where work gets done. The rise of remote work and digital nomadism has revolutionized the way we approach our careers and lifestyles. According to recent studies, the number of people working remotely has been steadily increasing, with a significant surge in the past few years. A report by FlexJobs and Global Workplace Analytics found that remote work has grown by 159% in the last 12 years.

With this shift in work dynamics, the role of real estate in supporting remote work and digital nomadism has become paramount. Realizing the potential of this emerging trend, we at Ambience Group have embraced the concept and are spearheading innovative projects to cater to the needs of remote workers and digital nomads. One such project is the Real estate industry, an upcoming residential development located in the heart of Gurugram. The real estate industry aims to create an ideal environment that fosters

high quality of life for individuals seeking a flexible work lifestyle with amenities and facilities that make living all the way better.

The State of Remote Work 2020 report highlights that 98% of remote workers would like to continue working remotely, at least some of the time, for the rest of their

A Home for Productivity: The real estate industry understands that a conducive work environment is crucial for remote workers. The project offers thoughtfully designed homes with enough space that can easily be turned into a home office, ensuring that residents have the ideal setting to focus and be productive. These homes are equipped with world-class amenities and facilities, and productivity, connectivity, and the in-house clubhouse has rative environment for profes-

such a way that it inspires creativity and efficiency.

The real estate industry recognizes the aspirations of digital nomads and their desire to explore the world while maintaining a fulfilling career. Each of our residential projects offers easy connectivity, allowing individuals to adapt their living arrangements based on their travel plans. With the freedom to move seamlessly between locations, digital nomads can experience new cultures and environments without compromising their work commitments.

**Amenities:** Real estate industry has a strong emphasis on connectivity, providing residents with robust internet infrastructure and uninterrupted connectivity. This ensures that remote workers can stay connected to their teams and clients, even while enjoying the serenity of their luxurious homes. The project also offers business suites, meeting rooms, multi-purpose halls, and a lot more within the premises, creating a collabo-

been designed and created in sionals to network and exchange ideas. Lifestyle:

The real estate industry goes beyond providing luxurious living spaces; it offers an array of lifestyle amenities to enhance the overall living experience. The project features state-of-the-art fitness centres, swimming pools, spa facilities, and recreational areas, ensuring that residents can relax and unwind after a productive day of work.

As remote work and digital nomadism become more prevalent, real estate developers should proactively embrace this trend. Ambience Group takes pride in being at the forefront of shaping the future of living and working. With thoughtfully crafted spaces, flexible living options, connectivity infrastructure, serene surroundings, and lifestyle amenities companies like Ambience Group provides the ideal environment for individuals seeking a seamless blend of work and leisure. As the world embraces remote work and digital nomadism.

(The writer is a Chief Business Officer, at *Ambience Group)* 

#### PM PUSHES UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

Tuesday pitched for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across the country. He said that running a country with multiple sets of laws is impractical and reiterated the need to provide equal rights as enshrined in the Constitution. But what is UCC and why it is necessary to be brought? The Constitution states that there should be no discrimination against any citizen on the basis of caste, religion, colour, or language. If the same crime is committed by criminals belonging to two different communities, both will get the same punishment. According to section 494 of the IPC, no man or woman can remarry without divorcing the wife or husband. If he does so, he can be sentenced to seven years. But this section does not apply to the Muslim community because, according to the personal law of Muslims, they have the right to do 4 marriages. Communities that have their own personal laws continue to oppose the Uniform Civil Code. They believe that the Uniform Civil Code is tantamount to interfering in their religious affairs. It is believed that after its arrival, the condition of Indian women will improve. The rights of women are limited by the personal law of some communities. After the implementation of UCC, uniform rules will apply on issues like marriage, rights to ancestral property and adoption. There may have been a political tussle in the country regarding the UCC, but there is also a state in the country where the Uniform Civil Code has been in force since 154 years ago. It is Goa.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### **GROUNDBREAKING DEAL**

Sir — Micron Technology's groundbreaking proposal to establish a \$2.75-billion semiconductor facility in Gujarat marks a significant milestone for India's semiconductor industry. This investment showcases India's determination to develop a robust chip manufacturing ecosystem and reduce dependence on China. However, it is cru-

cial to sustain this momentum and con-

## **Letters to the Editor**

## LETTERS To The Editor

etters to the Editor' are among the most widely read features in a newspaper, and they allow you to reach a large audience. Letters shape and influence public opinion, and they are a great way to increase awareness of the topic that one writes about. In addition to stirring debates on several issues, the letters section demonstrates that the newspaper is open to different perspectives

Therefore, the LTE section fits perfectly in the democratic image of the Press as the 'Fourth

The 'Editorial' and 'Op-Ed' or 'Opinion' pages, which carry articles from experts, offer plenty of scopes for readers to express their views in the form of letters. The advantage of these sections is that they inform and educate a large audience about an issue that is vitally important. Living in the digital era, the name "Op-Ed" may seem antiquated to readers. Yet, the section still holds its ace in many erstwhile newspapers across the world. Newspapers that do not have a section for letters, must provide space for the same, as readers' feedback act as a vital bridge between them and the newspaper

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

at Maharashtra and the hate mongers

tinue attracting investments and fostering domestic capabilities. India can position itself as a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing and innovation by prioritizing training, research and development, capitalizing on geopolitical shifts and leveraging its talent pool along with creating an enabling business environment. Bishal Kumar Saha | Murshidabad

#### **ALL IS NOT WELL**

Sir — Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India after a foreign tour and asked BJP President J.P.Nadda " what is happening in India?" Nadda in reply said all is well and the country is happy. PM Modi's question raises doubts that the PM was not keeping up with what was happening at home while he was away. When Modiji in the USA passionately reaffirmed the deeply rooted democratic values ingrained in Índia, in Jammu Kashmir unidentified soldiers attacked a masjid in Jammu Kashmir and allegedly forced the Namazis to chant the slogan "Jai Shri Ram". When you stressed that the country is run based on the constitution and strong fundamentals of democracy, which is in the DNA - a Dharam Sansad was carried out

spewed venom on a particular community and incited ethnic cleansing of a particular community. When you were doing yoga in New York to mark Yoga day here in India female wrestlers who alleged Brij Bhushan of sexual harassment approached Delhi Court to request a copy of the Charge sheet filed against him. While in the US you boasted that your Govt emphasises all religions equality here in India Manipur is under a boil and the delegation committee of Manipur said that the PM does not have five minutes for us. When USA former President Barack Obama in an interview talked about the conditions of Minorities in India, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma frankly abused his constitutional position by declaring that the Assam Police will prioritize going after the many "Hussain Obama" in the country. So when you received Egypt's highest civilian award and were treated as India's hero, here in India were not happy and were facing innumerable problems as usual. Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

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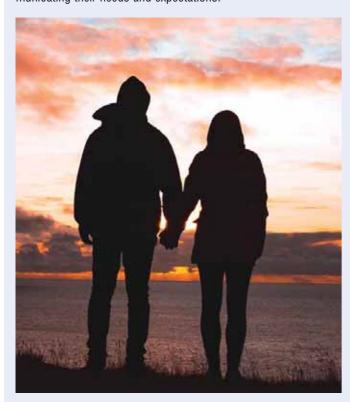
### **FIRST COLUMN ARE WE LACKING COMMUNICATION?**

Communicate well to express yourself and to know the expectations of others



In the words of Theo Gold, "Communication is the ticket to success if one pays attention and learn to do it effectively." Friendships and romantic relationships make the lives of an individual go merry-go-round. Without them, their lives would be dull and lonely. Communication means understanding that people will not know what they think unless one tells them. It is one of the most important things that one needs to establish in all relationships. When one talks about communication, it means one is talking about telling the people around them, their wants, their needs, their likes and dislikes. The importance of communication can never be ignored. One needs to understand that communicating effectively depends on more variables and how we manage them. Quite often an individual misses out on communication because of little time to spare and thinks that chat mode is a much quicker way of communicating even on the go but some situations need to be more personal.

Communicating effectively depends on many more variables and how one manages it can have vastly different outcomes. Effective communication boosts productivity but poor communication can be disastrous. Remember, lack of communication leaves room for imagination because instead of knowing how the other person is feeling, an individual just ends up assuming. The worst part is that the individual already plays the other party's role in the conversation that never took place and creates emotional responses to it. Also, it breeds assumptions about what the other person is thinking or feeling resulting in room for doubt. Lack of communication arises when someone experiences challenges with effectively communicating their needs and expectations.



Healthy communication in any relationship – be it marriage, friendship or workplace helps create space for people to share their thoughts and feelings, express their needs, set healthy boundaries, learn to deal with relationship conflicts together and resolve issues as and when they arise so that they don't become problematic. If there is a problem, one should learn to speak up and tell.

Improving communication skills is an ongoing process and just like most learned skills, the more time and practice an individual puts into it the more improvements can one see. Remember, people who communicate well can clearly express themselves and their needs and understand the expectations that others have set for them. But this isn't a skill that always comes naturally rather it can take time and practice to truly master. Poor communication doesn't have to signal the end of a relationship instead it can be used as an opportunity to practice and improve.

(The writer is an educator)

# Fertiliser subsidies are not the solution



Instead of pumping more subsidies the Government should push for nano fertilisers which are efficient and cost-effective

he Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya has stated that during 2023-24, around Rs 46,000 crore would be needed for fertilizer subsidy payments over and above Rs 175,000 crore being the budget estimate (BE) given by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget presented on February 1, 2023. On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) feels, payments could be even less than BE.

Fertilizer subsidy is payments made to manufacturers or importers to cover the excess of the cost of production/import and distribution (or cost of supply) over a low maximum retail price (MRP) they are directed by the Union government to charge from the farmers. The subsidy on each ton of fertilizer produced (or imported) and sold is the difference between the cost of supply and MRP. Multiplied by the total quantity of fertilizer sold, it gives aggregate subsidy payments. In the case of urea, MRP is under

'statutory' control. The excess cost of supply over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer as a subsidy which varies from unit to unit depending on the cost. These reimbursements are made under the so-called New Pricing Scheme (NPS). For non-urea fertilizers which are de jure decontrolled, the MRP is 'indirectly' controlled. The government gives a 'uniform' subsidy on a per-nutrient basis to all manufacturers and importers under the Nutrient Based Scheme (NBS). The latter must deduct this from the cost to arrive at the MRP. All these exercises/determinations are made by the fertilizer ministry and arrive at the tentative estimates of subsidy requirements under each category viz. urea and non-urea fertilizers. The precise number is finalized in consultation with the MoF.

What makes the fertilizer minister feel that the actual requirement will be more than the BE for 2023-24? For a better understanding, we need

to look at both the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. For 2022-23, against BE of Rs 105, 000 crore, Sitharaman put the revised estimate (RE) at Rs 225,000 crore. This was based on actual payments during the first 10 months of the FY and likely outgo during the remaining two months i.e. February and March 2023. The actual was even higher at Rs 253,000

Under a business-as-usual scenario, if the allocation for 2022-23 had remained frozen at the level of RE i.e. Rs 225,000 crore, the shortfall of Rs 28,000 crore would have to be carried forward to 2023-24 and paid for from the current year's budget. Now, that full amount has been provided in 2022-23 itself, hence no spillover, Rs 28,000 crore need not be paid from the 2023-24 budget.

Subsidy payments during 2022-23 leapfrogged to a peak of over Rs 250,000 crore because global fertilizer prices increased sharply. For instance, in April 2022, the price of urea touched US\$980 per ton while that of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) - a widely used fertilizer in the non-urea category - was US\$925 per ton. The price of phosphoric acid and ammonia - raw materials (RMs) used in the production of nonurea fertilizers - were US\$1,530 per ton



SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN SUBSIDY SHOULD BE POSSIBLE BY PROMOTING THE USE OF NANO FERTILISERS. THESE ARE FERTILISERS IN THE FORM OF **NANOPARTICLES** AND ARE APPLIED IN LIQUID FORM

and US\$1,050 per ton respectively. The price of muriate of potash (MOP) was US\$590 per ton. The price of imported LNG -

it meets over one-third of natural gas requirements for domestic production of urea – was at a high of around US\$24 per million Btu (British thermal unit) in April 2022. The price of domestic gas (it supplies the remaining two-thirds) for old and regulat-ed fields was US\$ 6.1 per mmBtu whereas for supplies from difficult deep water and ultra-deep-water (D/UD) fields, it was US\$ 9.92 per mmBtu. From October 2022, these prices increased to US\$8.57 per mmBtu and US\$12.6 per mmBtu respectively.

Since last year, there has been a substantial drop in the prices of all fertilizers and RMs. Currently, the prices are urea US\$333 per ton; DAP: US\$540/ton; phosphoric acid: US\$ 990 per ton; ammonia: US\$ 248 per ton and MOP: US\$ 422 per ton. The price of imported LNG is down to around US\$12-13 per mmBtu. As for the price of domestic gas, on supplies from old and regulated fields, currently, it is US\$6.50 per mmBtu. For supplies from D/UD, it remains high at US\$12.1 per mmBtu; but their share in domestic gas is only 30 per cent.

In short, during the current year, prices of all fertilizers and RMs are substantially lower than during 2022-23 and these are maintaining their downward trajectory. For instance, the cost of DAP is expected to fall further to around US\$ 300-350 per ton. With no change in the price paid

by farmers (read: MRP), the lower cost should lead to a corresponding reduction in subsidy

Accordingly, on May 19, 2023, the Union Cabinet approved a significant cut in the per kilogram subsidy rate for nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potash (K) for the Kharif 2023 season (April-September) under NBS for P&K fertilizers. The subsidy outgo during this period will be Rs 38,000 crore down from Rs 61,000 crore spent during the last Kharif 2022 season. Given the continuing reduction in prices, there may be a further sizeable reduction in subsidies under NBS during the second half of the current FY. Meanwhile, the government has also reduced the subsidy rates for January – March 2023 'retrospectively' to reflect the reduction in global prices for those three months. This will be adjusted against payments to manufacturers/importers during the current

Significant savings in subsidy should be possible by promoting the use of nano-fertilizers. These are fertilizers in the form of nanoparticles and are applied in liquid form. Their efficiency is many times more than conventional fertilizers. For instance, a 500-ml bottle of nano-DAP is equivalent to a 50-kg bag of conventional DAP. The former is available to farmers for Rs 600 without any subsidy support, against the latter being available at more than double this price or Rs 1,350 and that too with sub-

During 2023-24, the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) which has developed the technology, plans to produce 50 million bottles of nano-DAP. This will replace 2.5 million tons of conventional DAP resulting in significant savings. Following the commissioning of three plants in the public sector (April 2023), domestic production of urea is expected to increase by 2-3 million tons. This will result in an equivalent reduction in import and turn, subsidy payments. All the above factors point towards containing subsidy outgo within the BE of Rs 175,000 crore. Then, why does the fertilizer minister say 'more will be needed?

He argues that at the begin-ning of the current FY, manufacturers were holding inventories stuff that was purchased during 2022-23 at high prices - which should be eligible for subsidy at higher rates. This is a flawed argument. This is because when prices rise and the government gives higher subsidies (for instance, in the second half of 2021-22), it didn't mop up the benefit accruing to manufacturers on the inventory that was earlier bought at a lower price. Likewise, there isn't merit in another argument for a 'less than required cut in subsidy rate' just because they suffered some loss during the second half of 2022-23. To conclude, MoF shouldn't agree to the fertilizer ministry's demand for more funds towards subsidy payments. The latter should make efforts to keep the

## Modi's US visit paves the way for lasting India-US relations

(The writer is a policy

Modi's visit is a path-breaking event that will take India-US ties to a new high and checkmate China's policy of aggression on LoC

·Indian prime minister Narender Modi's recent **⊥** visit to the United States assumes a lot of importance for the rest of the world when US President, Joe Biden says that two great friends, two great powers and two great friends can outline the course and path of the 21st century. One of the biggest takeaways even recognized by the entire world pertains to future strategy which will counter the growing influence of China and its expansionism laced with debt trap policy to create a security threat to India and the US.

Experts opine that PM's visit will carve out the future course of action and strengthen his vision of 'ATAMNIRB-HAR BHART' through defence deals and emerging



technologies. It will be an impetus to trade and defence cooperation as both nations have agreed that General Electronics will produce jet engines in India in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics which will be used for Tejas. Indian Shipyard can be used for repairs by US Navy ships besides agreeing to purchase MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones. Both sides will witness enhanced activities and greater cooperation in the areas of semiconductors, critical minerals, technology, space, and defence. US chip maker, Micron, is poised to establish a USD 2.7 billion semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat which will ensure the participation of the government of

India and Gujarat government thereby investing 50 % and 20% respectively.

Experts say that America has enjoyed an unchallenged prominent position in the world arena, especially after the downfall of Russia in the nineties leading to the end of the Cold War and focused on its self-centred interests only which had dictated its illogical stand on Pakistan's open support to terrorists in Kashmir. In this changed geo-political scenario, India is gradually occupying centre stage which can be attributed to its growing economic potential and meaningful space being attained by it in advanced technology thereby fast emerging as a challenger to China in future.

the united states six months ago when he expressed his opinion about India-US ties to counterpart, Sullivan that "time is running fast hence we do not have much time at our disposal which warrants concrete road map to face challenges including China's threat on security." Sullivan concluded his discussion with Doval in Delhi before Modi visited the US. Both NSAs unveiled ambitious long-term plans for Indo-US collaboration in seven specific hightechnology areas, next-generation telecommunication strategy, semiconductors, defence and artificial intelligence. They announced the second Track-1.5 dialogue on the initiative on Critical It was national security and Emerging Technologies accorded by the Indian dias-

advisor, Ajit Doval's visit to (ICET) which had been organized by industry chamber CII. But both top officials confined themselves to covering bilateral and regional issues only and nothing beyond it. Earlier, the spadework was done by US defence secretary, Lloyd Austin who held several meetings with defence minister Rajnath Singh and senior Indian officials in New Delhi. Similarly, Foreign Secretary, Vinay Kwatra met Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland in the US to prepare the ground for Modi's visit and the above engagements highlighted the shared objectives of the two nations in terms of close cooperation and regional security.

A huge welcome was

pora at the prestigious Kennedy Center organized by Aghi and USISPF who have got a lot of relevance in American politics and India's growth. According to FM Sitharaman, union finance minister, overseas Indians remittances to India increased by 12 % to 100 USD in 2022 as compared to 2021 which is of utmost importance to India's economy. Some human rights activists did raise their concerns about the human rights violation in India and ex-president, Barack Obama was also critical when he said "if you do not protect the rights of ethnic minorities in India, then there is a strong possibility India at some point starts pulling apart and we've seen

what happens when you start

Biden's red carpet to Modi is the evidence of all our efforts in America to take present Indo-US ties to the next level. Biden has even attacked China and praised India's democracy despite some concerns. China has not relished America's open-arm policy towards India hence it has accused the US of trying to block Dragon's progress. Modi's visit was billed as a path-breaking event that will take India-US ties to a new height and checkmate policy of aggression of China on LOC besides helping the US to retain its status of Super Power which seems to be dangerous given over ambition of Dragon to displace it in future.

getting those kinds of large

internal conflicts."

(The writer is a senior journalist)

## Pak, IMF discuss \$2.5 bn 'standby arrangement'

ash-strapped Pakistan and the IMF are discussing a new short-term standby arrangement (SBA) worth about USD 2.5 billion to get the country through the political transition to the newlyelected government in the second quarter of the current fiscal year, according to a media report on Wednesday.

Pakistan's ninth review by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the 2019 Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for the release of a USD 1.2 billion tranche is still pending with the programme's expiry on June 30.

A new short-term — six to nine months — standby arrangement (SBA) is being discussed by Pakistan and the IMF worth about USD 2.5bn, the remaining part of the EEF expiring on June 30, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday discussed the IMF programme with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and expressed hope that coordina-

tion on the points of the bailout programme would lead to a decision from the global lender in a day or two, a statement by the PM Office said.

Pakistan signed a USD 6.5 billion package with the Washington-based IMF in

The plan was derailed several times and the full reimbursement is still pending due to insistence by the donor that Pakistan should complete all formalities.

The SBA is one of the two options currently under discussion by the two sides after the government met all the conditions and prior actions of the ninth review, and also those relating to subsequent 10th and 11th tranches without disbursement of USD 2.5 billion funds outstanding since October 2022, the report

The options have been discussed at the staff level and during recent back-toback engagements between Prime Minister Sharif and Georgieva, including the one through telephone on Tuesday

have completed conditions of not only 9th but with the revised budget, the terms of 10th and 11th reviews had also been met and (Pakistan) deserves disbursement of

entire outstanding approved quota," an official was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

The two sides had exchanged a memorandum of economic and financial policies (MEFP) a few days ago for completion of the 9th review,

the official added. However, the Fund's rules do not provide quick reviews, particularly when the programme's one-year extension expires on June 30. This was explained by Georgieva to rime minister Sharif in Paris.

The IMF has acknowledged Pakistani authorities' swift completion of policy actions. Earlier, IMF staff raised objections over the original budget presented on June 9 but has now confirmed that the revised budget, including additional taxes, expenditure cuts, an end to amnesty scheme for remittances etc, had met its programme

The two options include the disbursement of USD 1.1 billion under the 9th review. But once approved by the IMF executive board, this would mean the end of the programme, without the possibility of release of two subsequent tranches of USD 1.4 billion.

This, however, is not a preferred option for the government because Pakistan would lose USD 1.4 billion worth of quota approved by the IMF executive board, the report added.

The other option under consideration is to enter into a new short-term arrangement with upfront disbursement equivalent to the 9th review (USD 1.1 billion) within the next 15 days, followed by two-three more reviews for up to USD 500 million

This would send a message of stability to the markets as the current government completes its term in less than two months and is to be replaced by a caretaker setup until a new regime takes charge after the general elec-

For both options, the two sides have to announce a stafflevel agreement by June 30 for confidence building. The executive board approval could follow over the next week or so.

"For us, the priority is to secure the entire amount of USD 2.5 billion," sources were quoted as saying by the report, adding the authorities pitched a higher amount for SBA but perhaps that was asking for too

But to achieve this, the government may have to increase the petroleum levy by up to Rs 5 per litre in the coming pricing review to secure at least an average of Rs 55 per litre petroleum levy for the year and commit to the expedited regulatory process for rebasing of electricity tariffs by Rs 5-8 per unit with effect from July 1 even if its approval takes a couple of weeks.

Both EFF and SBA windows are similar in nature except that EFF has a longer (3-4 year) tenure to address the medium-term balance of payment challenges while SBA is generally short-term (9-24

Meanwhile, Pakistan expected inflows from friendly Arab countries over the next couple of days to close the fiscal year with a higher foreign exchange reserve posi-

Pakistan urgently needs the IMF loan which will open avenues for more funding by various multilateral and bilateral donors to support its meagre foreign reserves of around USD 4 billion. Pakistan's economy has

been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet. Pakistan started preparations for the general elections with a meeting of the election commission recently. Assembly will complete its five-year term on August 12 and the fresh general election must be conducted within 60 days as laid down in the Constitution of Pakistan.

## EU leaders forge ahead with tougher borders plans

As rescue efforts in the Mediterranean Sea flagged last week, and bodies were found more frequently than survivors from among the more than 500 people missing after an overcrowded fishing trawler sank, the European Commission's president was asked for her thoughts. "It is horrible, what happened, and the more urgent is that we act," Ursula von der Leyen told reporters at the headquarters of the European Union's executive

branch in Brussels. The priorities, she said, should be to help the authorities in Tunisia — where people bound for Europe sometimes leave from — to stabilise its economy and better manage migration, and to finalise the long-awaited reform of the EU's asylum rules, which is unlikely to happen before next year. Never mind that the trawler left from Libya, or the admittedly slim chance that survivors might be found, or that the disaster might be the worst ever in

Leyen's reply stood in stark contrast to the actions of a predecessor a decade ago.

Standing near the coffins of scores of drowned migrants, having travelled to the small Italian island of Lampedusa after the deaths of around 300 people in October 2013, then European Commission President José Manuel Barroso swore that such tragedies

"should never happen again." In response, the Italian navy set up a search and rescue mission, but it was mothballed a year later over concern that it only encouraged more migrants to come. Fears of a creating a "pull factor" have dogged everything that the EU has tried to do

At a summit starting on Thursday, EU leaders will discuss von der Leyen's plans. As countries like Austria, Hungary and Poland block any meaningful attempt to equitably share out refugees arriving in Greece, Italy, Malta or Spain, the work focuses by default on preventing migrants from entering.

#### **EID AL-ADHA**

## 84 orgs banned from collecting animal hides



Muslim Eid al-Adha, in Islamabad on Tuesday

**AP** ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan's Punjab provincial}}_{\text{government on Wednesday}}$ issued a list of 84 banned organisations prohibited from collecting sacrificial animal hides during Eid ul-Adha, including 10 so-called charity offshoots of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) headed by Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind attack. Eid ul-Adha, also called the festival of sacrifice, will be celebrated on Thursday. Pakistanis are expected to sacrifice millions of animals and terror groups disguised as charities collect animal hides and sell them to raise

The Home Department of Pakistan's Punjab province published a notification with a list of 84 organisations in the local newspapers with a warning that those providing any financial assistance (cash or sacrificial animal hides) to these banned organisations will be booked under the Anti-Terrorism Act. The notification specifically mentions that 10 of the 84 banned organisations are charity offshoots of JuD.

The charity offshoots of JuD are Al-Nafal Trust Lahore, Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq Lahore, Al-Dawatul Irshaad Pakistan, Al Hand Trust Faisalabad, Mosques and Welfare Trust Lahore, Al-Madina Foundation, Maaz Bin Jabal Education Trust, Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation, Al-Fazl Foundation and Al Aisar Foundation Lahore. Apart from the 10 organisations, the Punjab

government has also banned some of the prominent radical and terror organisations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, ISIS, TPP, Jindallah, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Balochistan Liberation Army, 313 Brigade and Pak-Turk International (CAG Education Foundation) from collecting sacrificial animal hides, the notifi-Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM)'s

two sub-organisations - Al Rehmat Trust Bahawalpur and Al Furqan Trust Karachi — are also on the list of banned outfits.

The 10 charity offshoots of JuD seem to be working in 'low profile' in the country since the JuD was banned and the arrest of its chief Hafiz Saeed in early Saeed has been lodged in

Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail in multiple terror financing cases in which he was convicted for over 60 years. However, his sentence will run concurrently meaning he may not spend many years in jail. The JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the LeT which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people. It had been declared as a foreign to properly declared as a foreign terrorist organisation by the US in June 2014. Pakistan's tanning industry is one of the country's oldest and third-largest export sectors. In the fiscal year 2021-22, Pakistan exported products worth USD 1 billion, up from USD 850 million in the previous year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

## 9 family members shot dead by relatives over marriage dispute

Nine members of a family were shot dead by relatives on Wednesday over a marriage dispute in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. The incident occurred in the Batkhela tehsil of Malakand district, and nine members of the same family, including three women and six men, were shot dead in their sleep by relatives who opened indiscriminate fire after barging into their house, police

According to the police, a marriage dispute was the reason behind the brutal killings, and an investigation into the case has been started. After receiving the information, the provincial paramilitary force reached the crime scene and shifted the dead bodies to Batkhela Hospital for postmortem. All entry and exit points of the dis-trict were sealed to help arrest the killers. Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan has directed police to expedite their efforts to arrest the accused.

### Pak security forces kill ISIS commander

 $P^{\text{akistani security forces on}}_{\text{Wednesday killed an}}$ Islamic State group commander and two other militants during a raid on a militant hideout near the border with Afghanistan, the military said. The raid was conducted

in Bajur, a district in the Pakhtunkhwa Khyber province bordering Afghanistan, the military said It said IS commander

Shafi Ullah was one of three insurgents killed. He was wanted by the Pakistani government, which

alleges he was involved in

attacks on security forces and

had killed innocent civilians. Security forces also seized weapons and ammunition from the hideout and were carrying out a clearance operation of the area, the military said. Pakistan's military has



carried out massive operations in recent years in the tribal belt along the Afghan border, which served as a safe haven for local and foreign militants for decades.

However, militants still carry out attacks in the

## **Sudan violence likely to push** over 1 mn refugees by Oct: UN

AP CAIRO

 $T^{\text{he United Nations has said}}_{\text{the surging violence in Sudan is likely to drive more}}$ than 1 million refugees out of the African country by October, as the 10-week conflict shows few signs of easing. Sudan descended into chaos after fighting erupted in mid-April between the military, led by Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Ĝen Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo. Since then, over 3,000 people have been killed, the country's Health Ministry said, while about 2.5 million people have been displaced, according to the UN.

The violence has been most acute in the capital, Khartoum, but also in the western Darfur region, where RSF and Arab militias are reportedly targeting non-Arab tribes, local rights groups and the UN said. Most of those who have escaped have fled east to

"We were talking about 100,000 people in six months (fleeing to) Chad. And now the



colleagues in Chad have revised their figures to 245,000," said Raouf Mazou, assistant secretary-general at United Nations High Commission for Refugees, at a news conference in the Swiss city of Geneva on The province of West

Darfur has seen some of the worst violence. In a report last week issued by the Dar Masalit sultanate, the leader of the African Masalit ethnic community accused the RSF and Arab militias of "committing geno-cide against African civilians." He estimated that more than 5,000 people were killed in the province's capital, Genena, over the past two months.

So far over 560,000 Sudanese have escaped to neighboring countries, with Egypt being the primary destination. "We expect, unfortunately, looking at the trends, that the conflict will continue and that many in Sudan will opt to (go to) Egypt," Mazou

Peace negations mediated by the US and Saudi Arabia in the Saudi coastal town of Jeddah have all but broken down. The talks, which led to at last nine cease-fires, were formally adjourned last week with both mediators publicly criticizing the RSF and the army for continually violating agreed truces.

## DeSantis, Trump clash in New Hampshire duel | Muslims at Hajj

**AP** HOLLIS

 $F^{\text{lorida Gov. Ron DeSantis}}_{\text{and former President Donald}}$ Trump traded barbs on Tuesday as the two leading Republican White House candidates staged duelling events in the critical early voting state of New Hampshire.

Addressing a town hall in Hollis, DeSantis vowed to "actually" build the US-Mexico border wall that Trump tried but failed to complete in his first term while pledging to tear down Washington's traditional power centres in ways that Trump fell short.Speaking later at a Republican women's lun-cheon in the state capital of Concord, Trump countered that DeSantis was being forced to settle for second place in the primary and accused the governor of supporting cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other entitlement programs as a way to tame federal spending.

Beyond the rhetoric, the conflicting events demonstrated each candidate's evolving



strategy. DeSantis took extensive audience questions — a trademark in New Hampshire politics that he eschewed during his previous visit to the state, drawing criticisms that he was stilted and overly scripted.

Trump, meanwhile, offered his traditional, free-wheeling speech for more than hour but didn't take questions. Reporters covering the event were confined to a pen, chaperoned to the bathroom and told they could not speak to attendees in the conference centre ballroom or even in the hallways. DeSantis,

asked about people who had twice voted for Trump over his promises to "drain the swamp," used his answer to draw some of his sharpest contrasts yet with the former president. "He didn't drain it. It's worse today than it's ever been," DeSantis said. He added that such promises don't go far enough because a subsequent president "can just refill it."
"I want to break the swamp," DeSantis said, pledging to take power out of the nation's capital by instructing Cabinet agencies to halve the number of

### **Trump countersues woman** who accused him of rape

New York (AP): Former President Donald Trump is trying to turn the tables on the advice columnist who won a USD 5 million jury award against him after accusing him of rape, saying in a countersuit that she owes him money and a retraction for defaming him by continuing to insist she was raped even after a jury declined to agree. Attorneys Alina Habba and Michael T. Madaio, representing the Republican candidate for president, filed papers late Tuesday to say writer E. Jean Carroll should pay Trump unspecified compensatory and punitive damages and retract her damaging statements. The countersuit came two weeks after US District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan accepted a rewritten defamation lawsuit from Carroll that seeks at least USD 10 million more in compensatory damages and substantially more in punitive damages for comments Trump made after the jury verdict last

month. The jury concluded after a two-week trial that Trump sexually abused Carroll in a luxury department store dressing room in spring 1996. It also found that he defamed her in comments he made denying the attack in a statement last October and in a deposition the same month. But the jury rejected Carroll's claims, first made in a 2019 memoir, that Trump raped her in the dressing room. At trial, Carroll testified that the rape occurred after a chance encounter at the midtown store with Trump filled with frivolity and flirtations turned into a violent assault as they each teased each other to try on a piece of lingerie that Trump was seeking

### brave intense heat to cast stones at pillars

Mina (S Arabia): Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims on Wednesday braved intense heat to perform the symbolic stoning of the devil during the

Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.
With morning temperatures rising past 42 degrees
Celsius (107 degrees Farenheit), huge crowds of pilgrims walked or took buses to the vast Jamarat complex just outside the holy city of Mecca, where large pedestrian bridges lead past three wide pillars repre-



senting the devil. Using pebbles collected the night before at a campsite known as Muzdalifa, the pilgrims stone the pillars.

It's a reenactment of the

story of the Prophet Ibrahim known as Abraham in Christian and Jewish traditions - who is said to have hurled stones at Satan to resist temptation. The ceremony was marred by tragedy on a number of occasions in the 1990s and 2000s, when hundreds died in stampedes during the stoning ritual.Saudi authorities have since built an expand-ed network of massive pedestried network of massive pedestri-an bridges and redesigned the site to make it safer for pilgrims. This year, the biggest danger might be the heat. Temperatures soared past 45 degrees Celsius (113 F) on Tuesday, as Muslims marked the spiritual high point of the the spiritual high point of the pilgrimage by spending the day praying at Mount Arafat,

where there was no breeze and

almost no shade.

## Alarming surge in child recruitment by armed groups in Syria

**AP** QUAMISHLI

13-year-old Kurdish girl Awent missing on her way home from a school exam last month, after being approached by a man from an armed group. Her parents immediately feared the worst — that she had been persuaded to join the group and was taken to one of its training

camps.
The girl, Peyal Aqil, was with friends when she encountered the man who turned out to be a recruiter for a group known as the Revolutionary Youth. She followed him to one of the group's centres in the city of Qamishli in northeast Syria. Her friends waited for her outside, but she never emerged.

Peyal's mother, Hamrin Alouji, said she and her husband complained to local authorities, to no avail.

The group later said Peyal joined willingly, a claim rejected by Alouji.
"We consider that at this

age, she cannot give consent, even if she was convinced" by the group's programme, Alouji said, sitting for an interview in her daughter's room, filled with stuffed animals and school texts. Armed groups have recruited children throughout the past 12 years of conflict and civil war in Syria. A new United Nations report on recruitment, released Tuesday, says the use of



child soldiers in Syria is growing, even as fighting in most parts of Syria is winding down.The number of children recruited by armed groups in

Syria has risen steadily over the past three years — from 813 in 2020 to 1,296 in 2021 and 1,696 in 2022, the UN says. Among those allegedly

in the battle against Islamic State extremists — the Kurdishled Syrian Democratic Forces, according to the UN In 2022, the UN attributed half the cases, or 637, to the SDF and associated groups in northeast The report also said the

recruiting children is a US ally

UN had confirmed 611 recruitment cases by the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army, which has clashed with the SDF in the past, and 383 by the al-Qaida-linked Hayar Tahrir al Sham in northwest Syria. The report cited 25 cases of child recruitment by Syrian government forces and pro-government militias. Children are

being recruited across Syria, said Bassam Alahmad, executive director of Syrians for Truth and Justice, an independent civil society organisation.
In some cases, children are

forcibly conscripted, he said. In others, minors sign up because they or their families need the salary. Some join for ideological reasons, or because of family and tribal loyalties. In some cases, children are sent out of Syria to fight as mercenaries in other conflicts. Attempts to end such recruitment have been complicated by the patchwork of armed groups operating in each part of Syria. In 2019, the SDF signed an agreement with the UN promising to end the enlistment of children younger than 18 and set up a number of child protection offices in its area. The US State Department

defended its ally in a statement, saying, that the SDF "is the only armed actor in Syria to respond to the UN's call to end the use of child soldiers." Nodem Shero, a spokesperson for one of the child protection offices run by the SDF-affiliated local administration, acknowledged that children continue to be recruited in areas under SDF control. However, the complaint mechanism is working, she said. Her office received 20 complaints in the first five months of the year, she said.

#### **RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**

## 'Local man directed missile strike at Pizza outlet'

Ukrainian authorities on Wednesday arrested a man they accused of helping Russia direct a missile strike that killed at least 11 people, including three teenagers, at a popular pizza restaurant in eastern

The Tuesday evening attack on Kramatorsk wounded 61 other people, Ukraine's National Police said. It was the latest bombardment of a Ukrainian city, a tactic Russia has used heavily in the 16-month-old

The strike, and others across Ukraine late Tuesday and early Wednesday, indicated that the Kremlin is not easing its aerial onslaught, despite political and military turmoil at home after a short-lived armed uprising in Russia last weekend.

There has been no apparent military push by Ukraine to exploit that turmoil, though the government has been tightlipped about recent battlefield developments as it seeks to gain momentum in its recently launched counteroffensive.

The Kremlin reeled from the weekend mutiny led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, owner of the Wagner private army of prison recruits and other mercenaries. Wagner has played a key combat role for Russia in Ukraine. The rebellion posed the most serious threat so far to Russian President Vladimir Putin's grip on power.

Prigozhin went into exile in neighbouring Belarus on Tuesday, according to Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, after Russia said he wouldn't face charges for the revolt. Prigozhin's whereabouts could not be independently confirmed. Two sisters, both age 14, died in the Kramatorsk attack, the city council's educational department said. "Russian missiles stopped the beating of the hearts of two angels," it said in a Telegram post. The other dead teenager was 17, according to Prosecutor General Andrii

**Regulators begin** 

final safety

**Fukushima** 

wastewater

the Pacific Ocean.

offshore.

inspection for

Tokyo (AP): Japanese regula-

tors began the final inspection

Wednesday before treated

radioactive wastewater is

released from the wrecked

Fukushima nuclear plant into

day after the plant operator

Tokyo Electric Power

Company Holdings had

installed the last piece of equip-

ment needed for the release -

the outlet of the undersea tun-

Regulation Authority inspec-

ed water transfer and its safe-

three-day inspection through

could start discharging the

water soon after, though an

exact date has not been decid-

protests from local fishing

groups concerned about safe-

ty and reputational damage.

The government and TEPCO

in 2015 promised not to release

the water without consent

from the fishing community,

but many in the fishing com-

munity say the plan was

Neighboring South Korea,

China and some Pacific Island

nations have also raised safe-

officials say the wastewater,

currently stored in about 1,000

tanks at the plant, must be

removed to prevent any acci-

dental leaks and to make room

for the plant's decommission-

ing. They say the treated but

Government and utility

regardless.

pushed

ty concerns.

and marine life.

The plan has faced fierce

The inspection began a



Pizza destroyed by a Russian attack in Kramatorsk, Ukraine on Tuesday

The attack also damaged 18 multistory buildings, 65 houses, five schools, two kindergartens, a shopping centre, an administrative building and a recreational building, regional Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said. Rescuers are still searching

the rubble for bodies and more survivors. Officials initially blamed the strike in Kramatorsk on an S-300 missile, a surface-toair weapon that Russia's forces have repurposed for loosely targeted strikes on cities, but the National Police later said Iskander short-range ballistic missiles were used. Kramatorsk is a front-line city that houses the Ukrainian army's regional headquarters. The pizza restaurant was frequented by journalists, aid workers and soldiers, as well as

The Security Service of Ukraine said the man it detained, an employee of a gas transportation company, is suspected of filming the restaurant for the Russians and informing them about its popularity. It provided

no evidence for its claim. Russia has insisted during the war that it doesn't aim at civilian targets, although its air strikes have killed many civilians. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov repeated that claim on Wednesday. Kramatorsk is in Donetsk, one of four Ukrainian provinces that Russia annexed last September but does not fully control. Russia has also occupied Crimea since 2015.

Ûkrainian-held parts of the partially occupied provinces have been hit especially hard by Russian bombardment, and are a central point of dispute in the war. The Kremlin demands that Kyiv recognize the annexations, while Kyiv has ruled out any talks until Russian troops pull back from all occupied territories. Russia has stepped up its air campaign in Ukraine while fighting continues along the front line. Russian forces on Tuesday and overnight also shelled 16 settlements in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, the Ukrainian presidential office reported.It said a 77-year-old civilian was killed in the frontline town of Orikhiv, and that Russian shelling wounded three people in a nearby village recently retaken by Kyiv. Also, a Russian supersonic cruise missile slammed into a cluster of holiday homes in central Ukraine, sparking a fire which injured a child, the presidential office said.

In other developments: Pope Francis' peace envoy, Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, was to meet with an aide to President Putin, Yury Ushakov, in Moscow on Wednesday. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the talks would include "possible ways of political-diplomatic settlement".

Francis dispatched Zuppi, a veteran of the Catholic Church's peace initiatives, to Moscow in hopes of helping spur peace negotiations after his visit to Kyiv earlier this month. At the Vatican on Wednesday, Francis again appealed for an end to the war, praying that Ukrainians "may soon find peace: There is so much suffering in Ukraine, let us not forget that."

## NATO tells Moscow it has increased preparedness

The power of Russia's military shouldn't be underestimated following the weekend mutiny against it by Wagner Group mercenaries, and said the alliance has increased its readiness to confront Russia in recent days. Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance may decide to further boost its strength and readiness to face Russia and its ally Belarus when NATO leaders meet in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on July 11-12.

"So, no misunderstanding nel dug to discharge the wasteand no room for misunderwater 1 kilometre (1,094 yards) standing in Moscow or Minsk about our ability to defend our TEPCO said the Nuclear allies against any potential threat," Stoltenberg said Tuesday.At a meeting in The tors were to examine the equipment related to the treat-Hague of eight NATO leaders, Lithuanian President Gitanas ty systems as part of their Nauseda said that neighbouring countries would face a Friday. The permit for releasing the water could be issued about a week later, and TEPCO

Wagner Group deploys its "ser- stands ready to permanently

early to draw any conclusions about what Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin and some of his forces might do or whether they all might end up in Belarus. The leaders agreed that, given the short-lived revolt by Wagner fighters in Russia over the weekend, that the allies should continue to bolster their forces along NATO's eastern flank to discourage Russian President Vladimir Putin from attempting to widen his war.

NATO responded to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 by deploying multinational battlegroups in Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. They complement another four deployed in 2017 in the three Baltic states and Poland, to expand NATO's presence from the Baltics to the Black Sea. On heightened danger if the Monday, Germany said that it

met with the presidents of Romania and Poland and leaders of Belgium, Norway, Albania and Lithuania at the Dutch leader's official residence in a leafy suburb of The Hague.

Earlier Tuesday, Russian authorities said they had closed a criminal investigation into the aborted armed rebellion led by Prigozhin and are pressing no charges against him or his troops. The mutiny by Wagner Group forces lasted less than 24 hours, but formed the latest twist in a series of events that have brought the gravest threat to Putin's grip on power in the 16-month-old war in Ukraine.

The war led Sweden and Finland to seek to join NATO. Finland has already become the alliance's latest member, but Sweden's membership is being held up by Turkey.

Belarusian opposition activist says that A Belarusian opposition activist says time has provided the International Criminal Court with materials allegedly detailing President Alexander Lukashenko's involvement in the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to Belarus, accusations angrily rejected by Minsk. Lukashenko has been Moscow's clos-

est ally, allowing the Kremlin to use Belarusian territory to send troops and weapons into Ukraine, welcoming a con-tinued Russian military presence in Belarus and the deployment of some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons there. The authoritarian leader has also agreed to a "union state" project that has seen Moscow and Minsk tighten their eco-

nomic, political and defense ties, while so far stopping short of a full merger. Pavel Latushka, a former Belarusian culture minister, said Tuesday that the materials he has handed over to the ICC indicate that more than 2,100 Ukrainian children from at least 15 Russia-occupied Ukrainian cities have been forcibly taken

Latushka voiced hope that the materials would prompt the ICC to issue a warrant for Lukashenko's arrest, as it did with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The

to Belarus with Lukashenko's approval.



'Belarusian leader approved forced transfers of Ukrainian children'

court's prosecution office on Wednesday didn't immediately confirm receipt of the naterials described by Latushka.

In March, the ICC issued warrants for both Putin and his commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova. Judges in The Hague said they found "reasonable grounds to believe" that the two were responsible for the war crimes of unlawful deportation of children and unlawful transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia. Moscow has angrily rejected the move.

"Ukrainian children, who were under the guardianship of the Ukrainian state, including orphans, children with disabilities and those whose parents were stripped of their parental rights, have been illegally transferred into the territory of Belarus," Latushka told The Associated Press. "The materials handed over to the prosecutors prove that Lukashenko has personally signed the documents under the auspices of the so-called union state of Russia and Belarus that provided a basis for organis-

ing and funding the transfer of Ukrainian children to Belarus," he added.

In an online statement published Tuesday, Latushka's anti-Lukashenko National Anti-Crisis Management Group claims to have gathered evidence that the Ukrainian children were placed in five Ukrainian children were placed in five Belarusian summer camps and health

In a phone interview, Latushka charged that the documents point to Ukrainian children held in Belarusian facilities undergoing ideological brainwashing and "Russification" before being sent to Russia for adoption, activities he said could amount to war crimes. Materials published online by the

National Anti-Crisis Management Group include a video that shows an entertainer on stage wishing death on US President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to cheers and applause from several dozen children gathered in the

## Palestinians to halt West Bank violence

**AP** ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council has urged Israel and the Palestinians to avoid actions that can further inflame tensions in the volatile West Bank. The statement was backed by both the United States and Russia in a moment of unity on a divisive issue, reflecting the widespread international concern at the escalating violence especially by Israeli forces and settlers.

Tuesday's statement followed what UN Mideast envoy Tor Wennesland called "an alarming spike in vio-lence" in the West Bank that led to numerous Palestinian and Israeli casualties. He warned the council that "unless decisive steps are taken now to rein in the violence, there is a significant risk that events could deteriorate further."

Wennesland said he was particularly alarmed by "the extreme levels of settler vio-lence, including large numbers of settlers, many armed, systematically attacking Palestinian villages, terrorizing communities," sometimes forces. Council members called for restraint and "encouraged additional steps to restore a durable calm and de-escalate tensions."

This year has been one of the deadliest for Palestinians in the West Bank in years, and last week saw a major escalation in settler violence. At least 137 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank in 2023. As of Saturday, 24 people on the Israeli side have been killed in Palestinian attacks. The United States, Israel's closest ally, supported the council statement and US deputy ambassador Robert Wood told the council that the Biden administration shares

Wennesland's alarm. He said the United Stated was "horrified by the brutal terror attack against Israelis"

near the West Bank town of Eli on June 21 that killed four and injured several others and condemned it "in the strongest terms." He also condemned "the recent extremist settler attacks against Palestinian civilians, which have resulted in a death, injuries and significant damage to their property." At a time of escalating

violence, there was widespread council criticism of plans by Israel's far-right government to build over 5,000 new homes in Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and speed up settlement approvals. Under international law, all Israeli settlements in occupied territory are illegal. Wennesland warned that

Israel's "relentless expansion" of settlements is fueling violence "and is impeding access by Palestinians to their land and resources, reshaping the geography of the occupied West Bank and threatening the viability of a future Palestinian state." Wood called on Israel to refrain from building settlements, evicting Palestinians and demolishing their homes, and on both ism and incitement to violence, "all of which serve to only further inflame the situ-

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia also expressed serious concern at the escalating violence, pointing to an Israeli raid on June 19 in the Jenin Refugee Camp that killed seven Palestinians, clashes between Israeli settlers and Palestinians, and intensified Israeli activity to broaden and legalize settlements.

Nebenzia warned that the situation will remain "explosive" until negotiations resume on a two-state solution that sees Israel and the Palestinians living side by side in peace. And he reiterated Russia's call for a meeting with the Arab League and neighboring countries to give impetus to longstalled talks.

## UN urges Israel and | Pashupatinath Temple closed for reinstallation of gold ornaments

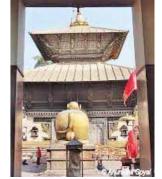
Mepal's Pashupatinath Temple here was closed on Wednesday afternoon till Thursday morning as authorities reinstalled more than 100 kilogrammes of gold ornaments around the Shiva Linga at the fifth-century revered Hindu The gold ornaments were

removed after Prime Minister Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" directed the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (ČÍAA) to probe the jewellery following reports that more than 10 kilograms of gold were missing from the ornaments installed on Maha Shivratri festival last year. Pashupati Development Trust (PADT)

reinstalled the ornaments after they were taken out from the main temple for the purpose of weighing and determining their quality.

All four gates, including the temple's main gate, were

closed and security personnel were deployed at the temple premises, who did not allow devotees inside saying that the The temple will remain closed for the whole night and is likely to reopen for devotees early on Thursday morning around 3



am after a special puja.

Meanwhile, the former treasurer of the PADT told PTI that during the investigation 500 grams of gold was found missng from the ornaments. It is claimed that 500 grams

less gold was used while installing the Jalahari, the gold ornament around the Shiva

However, CIAA spokesperson Bhola Dahal said the outcome of the investigation had not been made public yet. "We will make it public after the investigation is over," he said.

The country's apex antigraft body CIAA had taken con-Temple on Sunday afternoon to investigate the newly installed gold ornaments around the

#### **GURU NANAK DEV** UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR NOTICE

Applications forms allotment of hostel Canteen/ Shops for session 2023-24 upto 30.06.2024 of University Campus, Amritsar, Regional Campus, Gurdaspur, Regional Campus, Jalandhar are invited till 10.07.2023. The details, terms & conditions and forms can be downloaded from the university website link:https://online.gndu.ac.in/ten-

ders-notice.aspx Dean Students' Welfare NA/12/17311/2023/25395

for filling up Six vacancies in Rosemary Apartment CGHS Ltd (Regd No 1174-GH) Apartment CGHS Ltd (Regd No 11/4-GH), which has arisen due to resignation of members, interested persons can collect the application form in person from society office i e H.No WZ-551A,Top Floor,Sri Nagar Shakur Basti Rani Bagh,Delhi-110034 between 10 00 a.m. to 1 00 p.m. (Mon. to Fri ) free of cost and the same have to deposited along with the amount of Rs 6,77,110/- towards share money, land money admission fee and towards land money admission fee and towards administrative charges through Pay order or Demand Draft within 15 days from the date of publication of this public notice to the President / Secretary at H No WZ-551A Top Floor Sri Nagar Shakur Basti, Rani Nagh, Delhi-110034 Equalization will be charges as per DCS Act & Rules(This is a CBI scanner society) sd/- President-The Rosemary CGHS Ltd

### Dated CHD :- 6/28/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Rosemary Apartment Co-Operative
Group Housing Society Ltd.(Regd.No.
1174tH ) H.No.WZ-551A, Top Floor, Sri
Nagar, Shakur Basti, Rani Bagh, Delhi-34 In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, applications are invited from general public of Delhi who fulfill the conditions laid down in rule-19 & 20 of DCS Rules. 2007

## Tesla's EV plug closer to industry standard following a move by an automotive group

Akey US automotive industry organisation says it will set performance standards for Tesla's electric vehicle charging cords in another move toward using the Tesla plug on all EVs. The move on Tuesday by

SAE International, formerly the Society of Automotive Engineers, comes just weeks after Ford, General Motors and Rivian said they would join Tesla's large Supercharger network and adopt its North American Charging Standard connector in new versions of their electric vehicles. But a rival connector called CCS is still in thousands of current EVs

still slightly radioactive water will be diluted to levels safer and will stay in use. Also on Tuesday, Volvo Cars than international standards and will be released gradually said it had become the fourth into the ocean over decades, automaker to sign an agreement making it harmless to people with Tesla to join the company's charging network, starting next

year. Volvo said it will adopt Tesla's charging connector in new electric vehicles starting in 2025. SAE said that it's already working on the standards and hopes to finish them within six months. The standards would govern how the plugs connect with charging stations, cybersecurity measures, charging speeds and reliability requirements, said Frank Menchaca, president of sustainable mobility solutions for the innovation arm of SAE's nonprofit parent company. The move likely spells the

end of CCS, which was developed to standards set by SAE, said Guidehouse Research e-Mobility analyst Sam Abuelsamid. "It's only a matter of time before no one is building new EVs with CCS connectors on them," he said. CCS, he said, is much harder to maneuver and plug into vehicles than Tesla's NACS con-

nector, he said. Most consumers who have used both would choose Tesla's connector, Abuelsamid said. But he said charging stations

will have to accommodate both plugs for many years because so many vehicles are equipped with the CCS connectors. Menchaca said Tesla and

industry engineers are working on the standards in partnership. He said automakers and consumers won't have to pay royalties to Tesla, but EV owners will need to pay Tesla to charge on its network.

The organisation, he said, is not picking which connector will be used and said the industry still wants to support CCS.

Menchaca said SAE is setting standards for NACS because Ford, GM and Rivian have adopt-

ed it and it "looks like it's poised

to become really widely used. So

in talking to all of the stakeholders we decided it needs to be stan-

The standards, he said, will provide more choice and convenience and access to a bigger charging network. "Who knows if others come on board, it could be the dominant way that people charge," he said. Öther automakers such as

Stellantis and Hyundai are considering switching to Tesla's connector. At present, nearly all automakers other than Tesla use CCS. Tesla's Superchargers are are not contactable. coveted by other automakers It is hereby informed that because it has more direct current fast-charging plugs in the US than any other network, and its sta-

tions are in prime locations along freeway travel corridors. GM, Ford, Rivian and Volvo owners will get access to more than 12,000 Tesla Supercharger

## kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mrs. Silky Malhotra and Mr. Abhinav Malhotra having address at-H. NO. 947, Sector 15, Faridabad, Haryana 121007 and Flat No. 204, Building No. E-7, Bramha Sun City, SR No. 7 parts Wadgaon Sheri, Pune, Maharashtra 411014 with Sec. 16 Faridabad Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at SCO No. 2, Sector - 16, District Center, Faridabad (Haryana) 121002 remains un-operated for the past 7

All the 3 letters sent to Mrs. Silky Malhotra and Mr. Abhinav Malhotra calling upon them to operate the locker has returned unserved and they

despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Mrs. Silky Maľhotra and Mr. Abhinav Malhotra within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on September 28, 2023 at around

स सिटी, गाजियाबाद। E-Mail- ed2@upsida.co.in

ई-निविदा सूचना तद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित आद्यौगि क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकास / अनुरक्षण कार्यों हेतू सरकारी विभागों / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों, निगमों / प्राधिकरणों / परिषदों / नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों / ठेकेदारों

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।					
क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	निविदा का प्रकार	कार्य की सागत रू० (साख में)		
1.	Upgradation of Conventional sodium street lights to LED along with AMC for three Years under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA. Etah & IIDC Etah.	अल्पकालीन	59.60		
2.	Upgradation of Conventional sodium street lights to LED along with AMC for three Years under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA. Salempur (Hathras).	अल्पकालीन	55.42		
3.	Upgradation of street lights network along with AMC for 03 years under AIIM at IA. CDF, Aligarh.	अल्पकालीन	67.43		
4.	Providing H.T/L.T. Network on road no. 05, 07, 08 & 09 under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA. Babrala (Sambhal)	अल्पकालीन	368.74		
5.	Upgradation of street light network along with AMC for Three years under Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission at IA. TDS City, Ghaziabad.	पूर्णकालीन	663.30		

क्रमांक 01 से 04 तक की निविदा दिनांक 30.06.2023 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 07.07.2023 को 18:00 बजे तक अपनोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 10,07,2023 को 11:00 बजे य इसके पश्चात् खोला जायेगा एवं क्रमांक 05 पर अंकित निविदा दिनांक 30,06,2023 क 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 20.07.2023 को 18:00 बजे तक अपलोड़ की जा सकती है, जिर दिनांक २१.०७.२०२३ को ११:०० बजे या इसके पश्चात खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वार अपलोड शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्यदिवस में पंजीकृ। डाक / व्यक्तिगत रुप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोटः 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी०एस०टी० सहित दरें अंकिर करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविद अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उ०प्र० शासन, लखनऊ में "क' श्रेणी, अनुमीदि लाइसेन्स एवं Eligibility Criteria के अनुसार समस्त प्रपत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्ततृ जानकार्र website: www.onlineupsidc.com पर स्थापित लिंक यूपीएलसी की website https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है । वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक, उवप्रवरावऔवविवप्राव, गाजियाबाद

## **Govt seeks industry feedback on PLI** scheme to enhance effectiveness

he Government has sought feedback from the industry on the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme with a view to enhancing its effectiveness, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

The commerce and industry ministry, which coordinates the scheme, also urged PLI beneficiaries to take up any procedural challenges/ issues with the respective implementing ministry or department so that positive reforms can be brought about and the scheme can be made more efficient and effec-

Issues pertaining to the scheme were discussed in a workshop called by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on June 27 here.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the government is committed to fostering a conducive business environment and accelerating growth in PLI sectors. "The minister encouraged industry's feedback and collaborative engagement to shape the policies, procedures and effectiveness of the PLI scheme,"



the ministry said in a statement. The government announced the PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme in 2021 for as many as 14 sectors, such as telecommunication, white goods, textiles and pharma with outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

The meeting assumed significance as the government has disbursed only Rs 2,900 crore till March 2023, out of Rs 3,400 crore claims received under the scheme. The minister asked the implementing departments to hold regular consultations and roundtables with their respective PLI beneficiary to resolve their issues. The objective of the workshop was aimed to bring all the key stakeholders on a single platform so that

edge and experiences to ensure effective implementation of the schemes under 14 key sectors. The Workshop witnessed

participation from 10 implementing central departments, companies/ PLI beneficiaries under 14 key sectors, various Project Management Agencies (PMAs) like IFCI (Industrial Finance Corporation of India), Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi), Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (MECON), Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), select industry

promotion councils. Representatives were also there from Wistron, Foxconn, Samsung, Dell, Wipro GE, Dr. Reddy's, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nokia Solutions, ITC, Dabur, JSW, and Reliance

associations and relevant export

among others. "Key executives from these companies, along with Government officials, were actively involved in a collaborative open discussion, interactive session, and presentations throughout the workshop," the ministry said adding the work-

the financial system must work to pre-

financial regulators remain steadfast in

In this fragile global milieu, he said, balancing the policy trade-offs, pre-

serving macroeconomic and financial

stability, shoring up confidence and

"The Reserve Bank and the other

shop provided a unique forum to exchange insights on the impact of the schemes.

The workshop agenda covered various aspects related to PLI schemes, including their scope, eligibility criteria, incentives, and the roadmap for successful implementation including grievance redressal mechanism provided by concerned central departments and PMAs.

"Key topics included fac-tors/ policy nuances contributing to Schemes' success, enhancing domestic value addition, and capitalizing on emerging technologies," it said.

Actual investment of Rs 62,500 crore has been realized (till March) which has resulted in incremental production/ sales of over Rs 6.75 lakh crore and employment generation of around 3,25,000.

PLI schemes have played a significant role in promoting domestic value addition (DVA) in various sectors. It has led to increased value addition in the electronics sector and in smartphone manufacturing, 23 per cent and 20 per cent respectively, from negligible in 2014-15. "Up to 80 per cent, DVA has been reported in various products under pharmaceuticals.

## Formal employment generation rate insufficient; need to create more quality jobs: Jayant Sinha

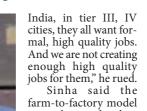
Ruling BJP lawmaker Jayant Sinha on Wednesday said the rate at which India is creating formal jobs is insufficient and there is a need to focus on opening up quality employment avenues for the people.

Speaking at a youth conclave organised by IMC Chamber of Commerce, Sinha said creating quality jobs is a major challenge for India at a time when technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning are staring at us, which can be argued as "job diminishing" ones, the member of Parliament from Hazaribagh said.

"We... Need to do a much better job of creating high quality employment for our young people... We have to be able to create high quality, formal jobs very very quickly and that rate is not sufficient right now," the former Union minister said.

He said India has over a billion people in the working age of between 18-64 years at present, and over 200 million will be added to the workforce over the next decade, which makes it a significantly important task.

"When you ask people in rural



centred around industrailisation and urbanisation which has worked since the indus-

trial revolution, and helped economies from the UK to China, will not work in the future and India will have to evolve its own growth model that will stress on sustainability. India will have to make "rapid and

transformational adjustments" not just on energy systems but the entire econtainable prosperity, Sinha said. Massive amount of investments

will be needed to bend the climate change curve fast enough in order to achieve the net zero commitment by 2070, he said, adding that the corporate sector will also have to participate in it.

At present, Sinha said the top-500 listed companies invest around USD 65-70 billion a year on sustainability efforts and the same will have to double "immediately", if we have to bend the curve and achieve net zero by 2070.



#### **Centre hikes sugarcane** price by ₹10 to ₹315 per quintal for FY2023-24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday increased the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP), the minimum price that mills have to pay to sugarcane growers, by Rs 10 to Rs 315 per quintal for the 2023-24 season starting October.

The decision to increase the FRP of sugarcane was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The FRP of sugarcane has been fixed at

Rs 315 per quintal for the 2023-24 season. 'The Cabinet has increased the FRP of sugarcane to Rs 315 per quintal for 2023-24.

Last year, FRP of sugarcane was Rs 305 per quintal," Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

The Prime Minister has always been with "annadata". The government has given priority to agriculture and the farmers, he said.

The FRP of sugarcane, which stood at Rs 210 per quintal in 2014-15 season, has now been increased to Rs 315 per quintal for 2023-24 season, he added.

## Sensex up by 64K-mark; Economy made solid recovery despite global turmoil: Das Nifty scales 19,000-peak in intra-day trading

 $B^{\text{enchmark equity indices}}_{\text{hit their lifetime high lev-}}$ els on Wednesday, with the Sensex reaching the record 64,000-mark and the Nifty scaling the 19,000 level in intra-day trade, propelled by fresh foreign fund inflows and a rally in the US and European markets.

Buying in market heavyweight stocks like Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank added to the positive momen-

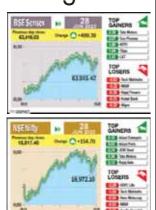
Extending the previous day's rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 499.39 points or 0.79 per cent to settle at its life time closing high of 63,915.42 points. During the day, the index jumped 634.41 points or 1 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 64,050.44

The NSE Nifty climbed to end at a record high of 18,972.10 points. During the day, it zoomed 193.85 points or 1 per cent to reach its lifetime intra-day high of 19,011.25

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, HDFC Bank and Maruti were among the major gainers.

Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies and Wipro were the laggards. "After almost a seven-

month consolidation, the Nifty has surpassed the 19,000 mark and what's more, all sectors are in the green as well. Investors are massively turning positive on risk assets, taking comfort



from the recent fall in inflation, anticipating the end of the rate hike cycle," Amar Ambani, Group President & Head - Institutional Equities at YES SECURITIES, said.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the green while Seoul and Shanghai ended lower. in the positive territory. The US markets ended significantly higher on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.83 per cent to USD 72.86 a barrel.

"After multiple attempts, the domestic market successfully managed to sustain record high levels, thanks to the increased buying interest in heavyweight stocks.

The market's bullish momentum was further supported by strong FII inflows and a narrowing current account deficit, both of which positively impacted investor sentiments.

The gains were widespread, with the pharma and metal sectors leading the way as top performers, outshining other sectors," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

#### $R^{\text{eserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta}}_{\text{Das on Wednesday said that the}}$ Indian economy has made a solid recovery and is among the fastestgrowing large economies despite heightened uncertainties and formidable headwinds. He said that financial stability is non-negotiable and all stakeholders in

their commitment to safeguard financial stability in the face of potential and emerging challenges," he said in a foreword to Financial Stability Report supporting sustainable growth are top priorities for policymakers the world

> Over the last three years, the global economy has been navigating successive high-amplitude shocks: the COVID-19 pandemic waves; protract-

prospects, especially among emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs), he said. Since

the last issue of the FSR in December 2022, the global and Indian financial systems have charted somewhat dif-The global financial system has been impacted by significant strains since early March 2023 from the banking turmoil in the US and Europe. Earlier this year, US-based Silicon

ed geopolitical hostilities; rapid monetary policy tightening; and the recent

threatening macroeconomic

Economic fragmentation is

lapsed. It was followed by the bailout of UBS, the Switzerland's largest bank, by Credit Suisse in March. Since the last issue of the FSR in December 2022, the global and

Indian financial systems have chart-

Valley Bank and Signature Bank col-

said, adding, the global financial system has been impacted by significant strains since early March 2023 from the banking turmoil in the US and

ed somewhat different trajectories, it

In contrast, it said, the financial sector in India has been stable and resilient, as reflected in sustained growth in bank credit, low levels of nonperforming assets and adequate capital and liquidity buffers.

Both banking and corporate sector balance sheets have been strengthened, engendering a 'twin balance sheet advantage' for growth, he said, adding, the reach and depth of financial intermediation are being aided by technology and growing digitalisation, which provide new opportunities for growth and financial inclusion.

As the recent banking turmoil in certain advanced economies (AEs)

suggests, new risks have necessitated reassessment of global standards on financial sector regulations, he said. While international cooperation

among regulators on these issues is of paramount importance, he said, so far as India is concerned, both regulators and regulated entities need to stay the course with an unwavering commitment to ensuring a stable financial system. It has to be remembered that seeds of vulnerability often get sown during good times when risks tend to get overlooked, he said.

International cooperation and regulatory focus are also needed to tackle other challenges such as cyber risks and climate change, he said.

Through its G20 presidency, India is striving to improve the efficacy of multilateralism in several such areas. These efforts are fittingly captured in India's theme for G20: One Earth, One Family, One Future.

### Indian banks' asset quality best in a decade, expected to improve further: RBI

PTI MUMBAI

 $T^{he\ gross\ non-performing}_{assets\ ratio\ for\ Indian\ banks}$ fell further to a ten-year low of 3.9 per cent as of March 2023, the Reserve Bank said on Wednesday.

In the bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR) released on Wednesday, the central bank said the GNPAs are expected to improve further to 3.6 per cent in the baseline scenario.

The banking and corporate sector balance sheets have been strengthened, engendering a 'twin balance sheet advantage' for growth, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his foreword to the report.

He stressed the need for international cooperation and regulatory focus to tackle challenges like cyber risk and climate



"Financial stability is nonnegotiable, and all stakeholders in the financial system must work to preserve this at all times," Das said.

Amid events like some of the banks facing severe stress or even going down globally, Das underlined the need to be watchful, and added that the financial sector regulators and regulated entities in India are committed to stability.

unresolved ethical and IPR

issues around the technology,

Infosys Chairman Nandan

itics, demand volatility and

supply chain dislocations.

"Several practical, ethical and

intellectual property-related

issues, when it comes to AI

remain unresolved. We also

know that the motto of scaling

AI in the enterprise is far from

#### **Gold falls ₹ 300; silver** plunges ₹350

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

old fell Rs 300 to Rs G59,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid a decline in overseas precious metal prices, according to HDFC

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had ended at Rs 59,350 per 10 grams.

Silver also plunged Rs 350 to Rs 71,250 per kg.

"Gold edged lower on Wednesday, with spot gold prices in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 59,050/10 grams down by Rs 300 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Analyst Senior Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international markets, gold and silver were quoting lower at USD 1,910 per ounce and USD 22.75 per ounce, respectively.



Senior Economist (Asia Pacific)

Vishrut Rana said on

Wednesday. He said the economic growth in the current fiscal is expected to come in around 6 per cent, lower than 7.2 per cent clocked in 2022-23.

'We are seeing some headwinds from the trade side which is affecting activity and that is one of the factors that is affecting growth this year," Rana said at a webinar.

The factors that are driving the slowdown from 7.2 per cent growth last fiscal are weaker external environment, moderation in pent-up demand, and

Al-first strategy working for Infosys despite



India's average growth rate likely

to be 6.7% till FY27, consumer

softening private consumption activity, Rana said, adding, with tighter monetary policy there is expected to be some impact on consumer demand.

"We expect 6.7 per cent growth on average over the course of our forecast horizon which extends to FY26-27. This fiscal (2023-24) we expect growth to be 6 per cent," Rana said, adding that consumer activity would be the lead driver of growth.

Reserve Bank of India has projected GDP growth in the current fiscal to be 6.5 per cent.

Further, Rana said there is "strong tailwind" coming from the investment side and the investment outlook is looking significantly stronger. "Inflation is moderating.

We do not expect RBI to be in a hurry to cut interest rates," Rana said, adding, the RBI is likely to wait till early 2024 to cut rates till inflation expectations are anchored fully.

Retail inflation has declined to an over 2-year low of 4.25 per cent in May. The RBI has been mandated to keep inflation at 4 per cent with a band of (+/-) 2 per cent.

Earlier this week, S&P had said that at 6 per cent economic growth, India will be the fastest-growing economy among Asia Pacific nations.

#### Debate is between AI vs human intelligence, says Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

PTI ■ LONDON

rtificial intelligence (AI) and Adigitisation are the order of the day, and the debate now is about balancing this with human intelligence (HI), Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan said on Wednesday.

Addressing India Global Forum's (IGF) UK-India Week summit from his office in New Delhi, the minister joined UK Education Secretary Gillian Keegan in London to highlight the many areas of bilateral cooperation in the field of education and also two-way skills

exchanges "India and the UK are very dependable and old partners in the area of knowledge and education," said Pradhan."We don't have the option to judge whether it is good or bad; AI and ChatGPT are there today as new tools to create ease of living in society. Now, the debate is going on about god-gifted



debate between artificial intelligence, AI, versus human intelligence, HI... digitisation is the order of the day, and globalisation, mobility and the future skills are the need of the hour," he said, responding to a question about the role of ĂI. His views were echoed by

Keegan, who spoke of how AI could be used to free up a lot of teaching time in the classrooms of the future. "In my experience, you don't get to pause technol-

ogy. It happens, so you have to embrace it... there's a huge opportunity within education, said the UK education minister. "I think it (AI) can free up



lighted the innovative and forward-looking partnership between both countries in the field of education and skills, with Keegan welcoming the mutual recognition of qualifications agreed upon recently. "Transnational education

partnerships have been a big focus, where UK universities have opened up campuses in India, and obviously, that is a great moment that we will look to continue. We've got a lot of students coming from India to the UK and students going from the UK to India as well. We also have those mutual recognition qualifications that form a really important foundation," said

#### unresolved ethical, IPR issues, says Nilekani PTI ■ NEW DELHI The Artificial Intelligence-first business strategy adopted by Infosys is working well for the company despite

Nilekani said on Wednesday. simple. And yet, the AI-first In his address at Infosys' 42nd Annual General Meeting, strategy we're embracing already working for us," Nilekani said the company has to be more efficient while nur-Nilekani said. Infosys had long ago donated funds to the develturing readiness for growth, opment of OpenAI but holds given its performance in chalno stake in the platform after lenging scenarios created by inflation, interest rates, geopolit became a for-profit entity.

Responding to a share-holder's query, Nilekani said AI has the potential to make a big improvement in the productivity of people. "You can tivity of people. derive more benefit from AI like automatic code generation and all that. So, definitely, pro-

ductivity will go up. We believe that it will be used to amplify the productivity of existing people," he said. Infosys MD and CEO Salil Parekh said that the company has started using AI in various processes within the company, including software development. "The receding pandemic brought an end to one set of challenges but its aftermath has created new The cocktail of inflation,

interest rate, geopolitics, war, demand volatility, supply chain dislocations, and shift from efficiency to resilience and security — all morphing quickly and without warning is upon us. This makes doing all we can to be efficient in the present as well as nurturing readiness for growth in the future," Nilekani said.He said that the board has approved a dividend of Rs 17.5

per share, taking the total to Rs 34 per share. "The company has returned approximately 86 per cent of free cash flow to shareholders over four years starting FY20," Nilekani said. Infosys also informed that

it has returned USD 3.1 billion last year to shareholders, comprising USD 1.7 billion as dividends and USD 1.4 billion through a share buyback programme. "Total dividend paid for FY23 amounts to Rs 34, which is a 9.7 per cent increase over FY22. With this, the company has announced a total dividend of approximately Rs 14,200 crore approximately for FY23," Nilekani said.

He said that the company recruited over 50,000 college graduates, bringing the total headcount to over 3.4 lakh employees, of which 39 per cent were women. Several

shareholders during the AGM asked the board about the company not taking a tender route for buyback, which they felt could have benefitted them with higher returns.Infosys board, in its meeting on October 13, 2022, approved the buyback of equity shares from the open market route through the Indian stock exchanges, amounting to Rs 9,300 crore at a price not exceeding Rs 1,850 per share. The buyback was completed in February at an average share price of Rs 1,539.06

apiece. The company signed 95 large deals worth Rs 9.8 billion, of which 40 per cent were new deals. The AGM agenda included approval of appointment of Parekh as a director, whose office of directorship is liable to retire at the ensuing meeting, among others.

## Labuschagne and Smith powering Australia in 2nd Ashes test



arnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith hurried Australia to 190-2 against England at the first tea in the second Ashes test at Lord's on Wednesday.

Australia added 117 runs in the second session for the loss of only David Warner's wicket. The opener scored 66.

Labuschagne was 45 not out and Smith on 38.

Josh Tongue, in his Ashes debut, became the first England bowler to bowl out Australia's opening batsmen since 1968, and the first at Lord's since 1884. A new concern for England

was No. 3 batsman Ollie Pope, who left the field soon after

lunch when he injured his right shoulder while making a diving stop of the ball.

England won the toss and made Australia bat on a grassy pitch under cloud cover but then struggled for a breakthrough in ideal bowling conditions.

Labuschagne and Smith have an unbeaten 94-run stand in response to sharing a total of 35 runs across four innings in the win at Edgbaston last week.

Australia captain Pat Cummins expected a big comeback from his two best batters and Labuschagne and Smith began to deliver, scoring at almost 5 an over on a slow pitch and aging ball. They slowed down before tea with the return of Joe Root's part-time spin. Both batters overturned leg

before decisions against them.

In one over against Stuart Broad, Smith hit consecutive boundaries through the covers to reach 24. On the third ball, he was given out, caught behind. But Smith reviewed immediately and video proved he didn't touch the ball

Labuschagne was struggling until after the drinks break, when he took three boundaries off an over by Broad.

Labuschagne was given out lbw to Broad on 33, but the review showed the ball was missing the wickets. When he was on 37, another lbw appeal led by Broad cost England a of Tongue and the introduction review when video showed bat Broad's 13 overs have con-

ceded 48 runs. The only wickets have been

taken by Tongue, who has 2-48. Warner resumed after lunch on 53 and got to 66. He'd been beating up Tongue before lunch but Tongue's extra pace finally beat him when one ball nipped in and hit Warner's leg stump.

Like his opening partner Usman Khawaja (17), who was also bowled by Tongue, Warner was stunned.

Warner, on 1,999 runs in Ashes history, will have to wait until the second innings to become the 18th Australian to reach 2,000.

Smith, typically batting air,



#### Protesters briefly disrupt play

 $A^{\text{group of protesters from}}_{\text{the 'Just Stop Oil' activist}}$ group on Wednesday briefly interrupted the proceedings on the first morning of the second Ashes 2023 Test between England and Australia at

Ahead of the second over of the match, protestors wearing 'Just Stop Oil' t-shirts and holding bags of orange powder, ran onto the ground but neither made it onto the playing

The ground staff then arrived to sweep and remove the orange powder paint which had spilled on the outfield. Bairstow, meanwhile, ran to the dressing room to change his white shirt and wicketkeeping gloves, which was made dirty by orange powder paint. In all, play was delayed for nearly six minutes before action

"Cricket is an important Police matter."

part of our national heritage, but how can we enjoy England vs Australia when much of the cricketing world is becoming unfit for humans to live in? We can no longer afford to distract ourselves when the sports we play, the food we eat, and the culture we cherish is at risk." "It's time for cricket lovers

and all those who understand the severity of this situation, to get onto the streets and demand action from this illegitimate, criminal government. When our children ask us what did we do' to avert this crisis, we better have a good answer," said a spokesperson from Just Stop Oil.
The Marylebone Cricket

Club (MCC) said the protestors who invaded the field have been arrested. "Following the earlier pitch incursion, three people have been arrested for aggravated trespassing and taken into police custody and it is now a Metropolitan



### Indian women's head coach to be picked on June 30

The shortlist for the Indian women team's head coach job includes Amol Muzumdar and Tushar Arothe, who are among those to be interviewed on June 30.

While Arothe has coached the Indian team in the past, Muzumdar, who is also in talks to become Baroda coach, has had stints with IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals and the South African national team.

It has also been learnt that Englishman and ex-Durham head coach, Jon Lewis has also applied for the job.

The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjpe and Sulakshana Naik will conduct the interviews in Mumbai.

"The interviews will be conducted on Friday," a BCCI official told PTI.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led India, guilty of throwing away knock out games from winning positions in multi-team events over the past five years, has been without a head coach since Ramesh Powar was sacked in December.

Batting coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar was in charge of the team in the T20 World Cup in South Africa earlier this year.

India have a tour of Bangladesh scheduled next month and the announcement on the head coach's front will be made before

"I don't think bringing back Tushar will be a good choice. The team needs someone with fresh ideas. Someone like Amol is the right person to take the team forward.

"The management needs to build a big pool of players before the T20 World Cup next year which will also be held in Bangladesh," said a former India

Ajit Agarkar frontrunner for chief selector's post

After picking the head coach for the women's team on Friday, the CAC is likely to appoint the chief selector for the Indian men's team - a post that has been vacant since Chetan Sharma's unceremonious exit in February.

The last date of application is June 30 and the interviews are likely to be held on July 1.

The CAC has the mandate to pick a selector who can stand up to the high profile team management in case there are differences," added the BCCI official.

Agarkar was linked to the chief selector's post in the past as well, but this time, he is likely to get the high pressure job.

## 'Win ODI WC for Kohli like we did for Tendulkar': Sehwag

PNS NEW DELHI

Drawing inspiration from its last World Cup triumph, India is looking to win the upcoming tournament for Virat Kohli like the batch of 2011 won it for Sachin Tendulkar, feels former opener Virender Sehwag.

The ICC on Tuesday announced the schedule for the 50-overs World Cup here, which begins on October 5 in Ahmedabad with England and New Zealand playing the opening match, with the world's largest cricket stadium also hosting the final on November 19.

Since winning the 2011 part of, India have won only one ICC event - the 2013 Champions Trophy - and their wait for lifting a trophy in another global event has now lasted more than

"We played that World Cup for Tendulkar. We won the World Cup, and it was a great exit for Sachin paaji," Sehwag said during an ICC event to announce the World Cup sched-

"Virat Kohli is (now) in Sachin Tendulkar's shoes. The way he plays, he talks, he looks after the others and the way he

plays cricket with his passion, he is the one now. Everybody is looking to win this World Cup for Virat Kohli," he added. "Virat Kohli is the same now.

Everybody will look to win the World Cup for him. He always gives more than 100 per cent. I think Virat Kohli is also looking (forward) to this World Cup.

"(About) 100,000 people will watch you at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Virat knows how the pitches will behave. I am sure he will score a lot of runs and he will do his best to win the World Cup for India." With the country hosting the World Cup later this year will feature in nine different venues alone in the league stage, the expectations will be high for them to go all the way and end their drought.

Sehwag said India are favourites to win their blockbuster clash against Pakistan on October 15 in Ahmedabad because they can handle pressure comparatively better.

Sehwag said, "I feel that now India handles the pressure that is why they win whereas Pakistan have a burden that they haven't won against India. In the 1990s, they were good at deal-



ing with pressure but after 2000, India soak it better.

"If any player says that they don't feel pressure, I don't think it's right. We used to say it too but at the end of the day, we know it's an India versus Pakistan game and emotions run high," he said.

Sehwag said players from countries like England and

Australia tend to do well if the wickets are good but the same players struggle against spin."A player from the subcontinent has a better idea (of playing spin) than someone coming from outside," he said, adding that India and Pakistan could end up playing a final before the final if they meet in the semifinals.

Sri Lankan spin legend

Muttiah Muralitharan said since the World Cup is in the subcontinent, spinners will have a big role to play and agreed with Sehwag that India, England, Australia and Pakistan could be the favourites for the semifinals.

"I am looking forward to the India-England match, that will be a tough match. England is playing really well at the moment. India is one of the favourites in my mind because they are playing at home and they know the conditions really well. They know how to win in India," said Muralitharan, adding that Adil Rashid would be his pick as the most success-

The subcontinent teams will be favoured by the wickets, a lot of good spinners are there. Afghanistan's batting is not that great but their spin attack is tremendous. India and Sri Lanka have good spin attacks.

In the subcontinent, I always believe there is a chance of two teams from the subcontinent coming into the finals, with the exception of 1987 when England and Australia came (in the final). Other than that, last time two best teams came into the final and the best team won in 2011," he added.

## Pak not to play Af in World Cup warm-up Pakistan To Play Australia, New Zealand In World Cup



PNS NEW DELHI

Oll World Cup 2023 schedule was announced by the ICC and BCCI at an event in Mumbai on Tuesday. The tournament will commence on October 5, with defending champions England taking on 2019 runners-up New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Hosts, India will open their campaign against Australia on October 8 before taking on Afghanistan on October 11. The highly-anticipated clash with Pakistan will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium on October 15.

Pakistan, who will be looking to win their first ODI World Cup post the 1992 win, will play their first two games against the qualifier teams in Hyderabad on October 6 and October 12 before taking on India.

Ahead of the main draw, the teams will also play two warmup matches to fine-tune their combination. The warm-up matches will be played in Hyderabad, Trivandrum and Guwahati.

Pakistan have their warmup games scheduled against New Zealand and Australia on September 29th and October 3

2023 Warm Ups

respectively. Notably, Pakistan had requested the International Cricket Council to not schedule their warm-up matches against Afghanistan and other Asian teams. The board had cited reasons that the team will play the sub-continent teams in the prethem again will not help them in any way. The ICC accepted PCB's demand and scheduled the matches against New Zealand and Australia. Meanwhile, the Pakistan

Cricket Board also requested the ICC to change venues for the games against Australia and Afghanistan. Pakistan are scheduled to take on Afghanistan in Chennai and Australia in Bangalore, however, the Men in Green wanted a swap in venues for the matches but the BCCI and the ICC paid no heed to the

## Lyon becomes first specialist bowler to play 100-consecutive Test matches

fter taking the field for the Asecond Test of Ashes 2023 against England at Lord's, veteran Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon on Wednesday became the first specialist bowler to play 100 consecutive matches in the longest format of the

Lyon, who made his Test debut in July 2011, has also become only the sixth player in the history of cricket to feature in 100 consecutive Tests. Other players in the list are Alastair Cook (159), Allan Border (153), Mark Waugh (107), Sunil Gavaskar (106) and Brendon McCullum (101).

Coincidentally, Lyon has achieved this rare landmark at Lord's, the same venue where he was dropped in the format for the last time. This was almost a decade ago during Australia's tour of England for the 2013 Ashes series.

"That's something I'm really proud of. To be able to tick off 100 consecutive Test matches, that's a proper stat in my head. That's a lot of Test cricket, a lot of ups and downs. No wonder



cricket.com.au, ahead of his 100th consecutive Test appear-

Lyon also credited former New South Wales Waratahs rugby representative and Australia women's rugby sevens' head of athletic performance Tom Carter for keeping him in prime physical shape throughfrom acknowledging support from family and friends. "For any athlete to be suc-

cessful over a long period of time, you've got to have really good people around you, and I'm not talking within the Australian cricket team. I feel like my family has been absolutely amazing, with their support and love and care," the spinner said.

"Then there is Tom Carter, who is arguably one of my best mates but also my PT (personal trainer) who I do a lot of work with behind the scenes. It's probably five days a week when we're at home, and he's a psychologist as well as a fitness trainer because I'm able to vent to him and there's no judgement. We have really good conversations, so it's probably having those really good people around you and I dare say a lot of athletes would feel the same, being able to do it for a long period of time," he added. Australia were pushed into

batting first under overcast skies at Lord's by England, who won the toss and elected to bowl first.

For Australia, left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc replaced right-

arm seamer Scott Boland in the playing while England have brought in pacer Josh Tongue in place of off-spin all-rounder Moeen Ali. Australia are currently leading five-match Ashes series 1-0,

after winning the opening match

at Edgbaston by two wickets in

a thrilling fashion.

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Snehasish Ganguly, the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), said on Tuesday that the preparations have started for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and added that an India vs Pakistan match at Eden Gardens would be a dream match. The schedule for CWC 2023 was announced on

Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will square off at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 this October at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The opening game of the World Cup is scheduled to place at the same venue on October 5 with a match between defending champions England and New Zealand in Ahmedabad, the ICC announced on Tuesday.

"Preparations have started. We started preparations after IPL for the World Cup. We are renovating the stadium, corporate boxes. Ground conditions are excellent. Preparations will start from July 1 for the ground. We had a meeting with our curator. Eden Gardens is ready to host the World Cup. There are some patches here and there, within the next two months, we will resolve all those issues," said Ganguly to ANI.

On the WC schedule, Ganguly expressed his satisfaction, saying that they got "what we expected, what we wished for."

semifinal match at Eden," he said.

"We tried that we get a semifinal match this time and at the last moment, we got a



Indo-Pak Semifinal match at Eden Gardens

would be a Dream: Ganguly's brother

Bangladesh on October 28, Pakistan vs Bangladesh on October 31, India vs South Africa on November 5, England vs Pakistan on November 12 and the second semifinal on November 16. "Everyone's first choice will be an India vs Pakistan semifinal at Eden Gardens, it would be a dream match," he

On the pitch, Ganguly said that the staff will go for a sporting wicket, which offers high-scoring contests and helps both bowlers and batters.

"In IPL, everyone enjoyed the match since they were high scoring and the wicket condition was good. We will try maintaining it," he added.

price will be taken in the next couple of days.

Ganguly said that a decision on tickets

"We expect the crowd to come, we have a capacity of 65,000. Keeping this in mind, we will have a reasonable price," he added.

Lastly, he urged fans to come to the stadium to watch the matches or at least enjoy them live on TV. Ganguly said that the matches will be done smoothly with proper security for all during the Durga Puja days, which will take place during the duration of the tournament.

"Last time also during international matches, Kolkata police managed this festival and an international match well. They cooperated with us. We are confident that matches will be carried out in a big way, with proper security and safety," he said.

Ahmedabad will host the tournament opener as well as the final. The other venues are Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamsala, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune. Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram join Hyderabad in hosting the practice matches. Eight teams have qualified for the 46-day event through the Cricket World Cup Super League while the final two spots will be taken by the finalists of the World Cup Qualifier taking place in Zimbabwe.

The tournament retains the round-robin format of last time with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. The top four teams will qualify for the semi-finals to be played in Mumbai on 15 November and in Kolkata on 16 November. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.



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# **CHINA·YUNNAN**

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**EXCHANGE** 

## "India-China cultural exchanges are mutually beneficial"

"This event offers a rare opportunity for our communication," said Professor Rakesh Kumar from India's Jawaharlal Nehru University at the China-India Cultural Exchange Forum (China-India University Presidents Forum) held in Kunming, Yunnan, on June 20. Professor Kumar observed that India and China should continue to carry out cultural exchanges and cooperation for their mutual benefits

On June 20, just one day before the ninth International Day of Yoga, a series of relevant events including China (Kunming) South Asia Culture and Art Week and the China-India Cultural Exchange Forum kicked off in Kunming. Discussions on cultural exchanges and mutual learning between the two countries, covering Chinese Tai Chi, Indi-

Narrow-gauge trains have

been running on the Yun-

nan-Vietnam Railway, the

first railway in Yunnan Prov-

ince, for more than 100 years.

In a section of this railway in

Pingbian County, a Y-shaped

bridge has also been standing

between cliffs for more than

weather, the dark-skinned

bridge guard Yang Youguang

would be seen patrolling

the bridge. Yang has been

stationed here for more than

30 years. Now, Yang and his

wife as well as several of their

colleagues take turns to take

care of the bridge and ensure

Yang has long got accus-

safety of passing trains.

In the past, whatever the

100 years

an yoga, and more, were held in a strongly cultural atmosphere.

"Yoga has been intro-

duced to China since a long time ago, and Tai Chi is also highly popular in India. The two cultural elements have enabled people in both countries to learn from each other and enhance their exchanges," said Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, professor and president of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Indian and Chinese civilizations have been engaging in people-to-people exchanges and mutual learning for generations. "In India, our textbooks include content on Sun Tzu's military thoughts and Confucianism as well. And I'm pleased to learn that Yunnan Minzu University also offers a Hindi language program."

As an exercise method originating from ancient

tomed to walking through

the tunnels and bridge pillars

in overalls, with a torchlight

in hand. Before and after the

Y-shaped bridge, trains need

to pass through two tunnels.

To ensure train safety, Yang

must check the conditions

inside and outside the tunnel.

He also needs to take the

steep stairs to check every

part below the bridge. When

the train passes the bridge, he

always stands astride the door

of the three-square-meter

duty room until it completely

passes through before record-

Y-shaped bridge as my home

a long time ago," he said.

"I began to consider the

ing the passing time.

India, yoga is gaining growing popularity among Chinese people in recent years. Data show that in China's 15 new-recognized first-tier cities such as Chengdu, Chongqing, and Hangzhou, there are already 10,817 yoga venues, accounting for 25.5 percent of the national total. Today, China has as many as 20 million yoga practicers and more than 100,000 yoga training in-

stitutions In 2015, India set up the China-India Yoga Institute, the first of its kind in China, at Yunnan Minzu University. Since its establishment, the college has trained more than 140 yoga undergraduates, 60 Tai Chi undergraduates, and 58 yoga postgradu-

"In recent years, the China-India Yoga College and the China-India Cultural Exchange Center

have been successively established at Yunnan Minzu University. Through in-depth cultural and people-to-people exchanges, these institutions have carried forward the traditional friendship between the two countries to a great extent," said Ma Zuoxin, deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Provincial People's Government.

Mr. Vikash, a yoga instructor from India's North Akhand, now teaches yoga in Kunming. "I've been practicing yoga since I was a teenager. Yoga makes me confident, focused, and happy. Many of my friends are also teaching yoga in Chinese cities," Vikash said, adding that he hopes to live in China for many more years so that he can introduce more Chinese people to the physical and mental

pleasure brought by yoga.

Luo Ronghai has just finished his freshman year as an undergraduate of the China-India Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University. Although he majors in yoga, he also learns Tai Chi as a required course. He said that he hopes to act as a cultural messenger between the two

"I had the privilege of visiting the China-India Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University in 2019. I believe that the college is a bridge for people-to-people exchanges between India and China," said Himadrish Suwan, president of the India's Confederation of Young Leaders. For him, yoga not only represents a civilizational tie between the two countries, but it also represents the two peoples' common efforts for building a community with a shared future for

(Yunnan Daily and



Yunnan Minzu University joined hands with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in establishing the China-India Yoga College (CIYC) in 2015, making CIYC the world's first of its kind outside India. Now, the CIYC has grown to be a most active platform for cultural exchanges between China and India. In June 2018, Yunnan Minzu University and Jawaharlal Nehru University jointly established the Center for China-India People-to-People Exchange Studies.

#### VIEWS

### "China has been constantly improving its people's wellbeing"

"Chinese modernization is about common prosperity for all people, and it reflects the vision of people-centered development," said John Milligan-Whyte, executive chairman of the America-China Partnership Foundation, in a recent interview with our reporter, "Chinese modernization has promoted the formation of a more open and inclusive development path for human civilizations. which is of major significance to the world's countries, especially developing countries."

Over more than 100 years, according to Milligan-Whyte, the Chinese Communist Party has led the Chinese people to put an end to the Chinese nation's history of humiliation since the advent of modern times and made continued progress. "In particular, in the past decade, China has won the battle against poverty and solved the problem of absolute poverty, which is one of the greatest events

in human history."

For Milligan-Whyte, instead of copying the modernization model of Western countries, China has blazed a path of modernization that conforms to its own conditions. By achieving modernization for more than 1.4 billion people, a number larger than the combined population of all developed countries in the world, China has completely changed the world map of human modernization. "China will benefit the world while develop-

ing itself," he said. Milligan-Whyte stressed that China is striving to safeguard world peace and development as it pursues its own development, and will make greater contributions to world peace and development through its own development. "China adheres to peaceful development; it will progress with all countries in the world through win-win cooperation."

(People's Daily)

#### **COUNTY TOWN**

#### Anji: County of coffee shops

visits and achieved a revenue of The county town of Anji. Zhejiang, with a population of fewer than 600,000, is even more densely scattered with coffee shops than most first-tier cities in the country. Among the more than 300 coffee shops here, many have become so wellknown on the internet that they attract a large number of tourists. Then what have made these country coffee shops so popular.

In Hongmiao Village, Meixi Town, Anji County, a group of entrepreneurial post-90s spent eighteen days converting a 20-hectare mine pit that had been abandoned into a coffee shop.

"In this beautiful village, there is a deep blue heart-shaped lake," Cheng continued his story. After discussions, his team decided that it was an ideal setting for a coffee shop, and they also managed to win support from local people.

Since our trial operation during last year's May Day holiday, we've received nearly 300,000 nearly 10 million yuan in less than a year," Cheng recalled.

To reward local people for their support, the coffee shop has devoted 49 percent of its earnings to the village's development. Meanwhile, the rise of tourism in the local area has created a number of jobs for the villagers.

Coffee shops are springing up like mushrooms not just in Anji but also in other Chinese county towns. Apart from catering to today's share culture, these coffee shops also provide people with spaces to spend their leisure time in different ways, and local residents are getting used to socializing and while away time in a quiet, relaxing atmosphere.

As of January 2023, according to statistics, the number of coffee shops in China's third-tier cities and below has exceeded 4,000, accounting for a quarter of the national market.

(Staff correspondents)





Xianrendong Village in Qiubei County, Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, located in the Puzhehei Scenic Area, is inhabited by the Sani branch of Yi people. In recent years, relying on its excellent natural environment, the village has developed tourism and become a well-known tourist attraction. Now villagers can earn money without leaving their hometown by running restaurants and homestay hotels, and their per capita annual income has exceeded 50,000 yuan (US\$ 6,910).

#### **ECONOMY**

### Flower cakes create prosperous industry

A bridge, a lifetime



The producing workshop produces flower cakes. (Photo by Yunnan Daily)

Flower cake, a typical dessert in Yunnan, is a flaky pastry stuffed with edible Yunnan rose. Here, the small cake has become a distinctive product and a prosperous industry for the local people. Data shows that the flower cake industry in Yuman has thousands of enterprises, with the annual output value exceeding 6 billion yuan in Kunming city alone, capital of Yunnan province.

Xu Tianxue, Deputy Director of the Kunming Municipal Rural Industrial Development Division of the Agricultural and Rural Bureau, introduced that when spring came, every comer of the city would be filled with flowers.

The booming industry depends on the flowers. The cultivation of edible roses in

Bajie street of Anning in Kunming, has a history of more than 70 years. Thanks to to the unique geographical and traditional advantages, Bajie street has become the largest production base of edible roses in Yunnan province. In 2022, the street pro-

duced 4,500 tons of edible roses with a value of approximately 54 million yuan, and the comprehensive production and processing value reached 102 million yuan. Efforts are being made

to accelerate brand building. with a focus on creating a brand for edible roses. According to statistics, there are over 200 flower cake brands in Kunming, including both handmade workshops, factory and enterprises.

(Yunnan Daily)

#### INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Ancient Hani songs passed down from generation to generation

"I've never seen happier days, living here with my brothers. Even the sun is too happy to set..." But the sun did set a while ago, and Ma Jianchang, a representative inheritor of ancient Hani songs, a national intangible cultural heritage item in Yuanyang County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, was singing as usual by the fireplace. He was just relating the ancient history of the Hani people

These ancient Hani songs have been passed down from generation to generation. They are about the Hani farming culture as well as Hani customs and values. In a sense, they are an encyclopedia of the Hani

farming civilization and a carrier of the memories deposited in Hani terraced rice paddies.

Chen Xiniang, a villager of Puchun Village, Azhahe Township, Honghe County, is a national inheritor of multi-voice Hani folk songs. She learned to sing and dance in the fields from adults since her girlhood. For her, "even rice won't ripen well without singing and dancing".

Chen said, "I've taught many people to sing multi-voice Hani songs in my workshop and schools. I always teach orally. I hope the kids can learn more so that multi-voice Hani songs can be passed down, and the intangible cultural heritage can thrive on campus.'

"The ancient songs retain the roots of the Hani culture and the soul of Hani people," said an official at the Honghe Prefeetural Intangible Cultural Heritage Center. To better preserve and carry forward the ancient Hani songs, the prefecture has formulated a relevant work program. The government has also allocated special funds and enhanced identification and management of intangible cultural heritage inheritors at all levels.

Based on the ancient Hani songs and dances collected from villages, cultural workers have created a song and dance show entitled "Ancient Hani Songs". The show not only won a major prize at the 8th "Golden Peacock" Literature,

Art, and Dance Awards of Yunnan Province but also won the Best Choreography, Best Playwriting, and Best Stage Art awards at the 15th New Cultural Show Competition of Yunnan Province.

The creatively choreographed "Ancient Hani Songs" has introduced the Hani farming culture to an international audience and showcased the unique charm of farming culture on the world stage. To date, Honghe Prefecture has recognized 352 representative inheritors of Hani intangible cultural heritage items at all levels. These intangible cultural heritage items are exuding fresh charm and radiance in a new era.

(Yunnan Daily)

#### **NEWS**

### Chinese tourists make 106 mln outbound trips in Dragon Boat **Festival**

Chinese tourists made 106 million outbound trips, up 12.8 percent over the same period (People's Daily)

The Dragon Boat Festiva, one of the four most important traditional Chinese festivals, falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month every year, and is usually celebrated by worshiping gods and ancestors, praying for good luck, warding off evil spirits, and eating specially cooked food, and holding various celebrations. According to China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, during this year's Dragon Boat Festival holiday, which lasts

from June 22 to 24,

2023 Dragon Boat Festial holiday Chinese tourists made 106

million outbound trips, up

32.3 percent year-on-year

The revenue from domestic tourism totaled 37.310 billion yuan (USS 5.156 billion), up 44.5 percent