

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

While history is causing some confrontation in some parts of the country, it is being used in Kolkata to build bridges between communities. A social experiment called Know Your Neighbourhood (KYN), which began in 2016, has returned after a pandemic forced gap of two years, and is once again using history — through neighbourhood walks — to dispel apprehensions and promote communal harmony in West Bengal.

51 percent of public sector banks (PSB) reported a dip in the amount involved in frauds during the financial year ended March 2022. According to the RBI data on frauds reported by PSBs in all categories during FY22, the highest amount of ₹9,528.95 crore was reported by the Punjab National Bank (PNB), involving 431 such incidents. The country's largest lender the State Bank of India reported frauds worth ₹6,932.37 crore in as many as 4,192 cases — reflecting incidents of a large number of small value frauds.

8.8 million, people joined the country's workforce in April, as per data provided by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). India's labour force increased by 8.8 million to 437.2 million in April, one of the largest monthly increases since the beginning of the pandemic. The increase in employment in April was in industry and services. Industry added 5.5 million jobs and services added another 6.7 million jobs, as per the data. Employment in the agricultural sector fell by 5.2 million.

80 percentage by which oil giant Saudi Aramco's profits soared in the first three months of the year, as the company cashed in on the volatility in global energy markets and rising oil prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The first quarter earnings by the firm formally known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co show a record net income of \$39.5 billion, up from \$21.7 billion during the same period last year. The figure marks the oil group's highest quarterly profit since 2019.

Finland will apply for NATO membership, the country's president, Sauli Niinisto, confirmed on Sunday. "Today, we, the President and the government's foreign policy committee, have decided that Finland... will apply for NATO membership," he said. Swedish Prime Minister

AMALTHEA

1.The moon Amalthea is one of Jupiter's 53 named satellites; it was the first to be discovered after the four Galilean moons, and it is the fifth-largest overall. In terms of proximity to Jupiter, Amalthea is the planet's third moon — it takes just 12 hours to make a full orbit.

2.Amalthea also contributes to one of the Gossamer Rings of Jupiter — the Amalthea Gossamer Ring — which is the faint innermost Gossamer ring of the planet. The Gossamer Rings are outside the main Jovian ring. Only two missions have visited Amalthea: Voyager and Galileo. Both the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecraft photographed the Jovian moon during their flybys in 1979.

3.Why in News? According to recent findings, Amalthea appears to radiate out more heat than it receives from the sun, which NASA suggests may be due to Jupiter's magnetic field or from tidal stresses. Amalthea is tidally locked to Jupiter in synchronous rotation — it always aligns with the planet along its long axis.

BHARAT TAP INITIATIVE

1.Recently, the Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs launched the BHARAT TAP initiative at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition. **This exhibition is aimed at products and services related to the plumbing, water, and sanitation industry. BHARAT TAP is a concept to use low flow tap and fixtures.**

2.It will provide low-flow, sanitary-ware at scale, and thereby reduce water consumption at the source considerably. It is estimated to save approximately 40% of water.

3.This will in turn result in water saving and energy saving due to less water and energy will be required for pumping, transporting, and purification.

UTKARSH SAMAROH

1.Utkarsh Samaroh was recently held in Bharuch, Gujarat.c The event commemorates the district's 100 percent saturation of four main state government initiatives that will help give prompt financial support to individuals in need.

2.The four schemes are: Indira Gandhi Vrudh Sahay Yojana. Ganga Swaroopa Aarthik Sahay Yojana. Rashtriya Kutumb Sahay Yojana. Niradhar Vrudh Aarthik Sahay Yojana.

POLICE REFORMS

1.Recently, the Vice President of India called for renewed thrust to implement reforms in police forces. Need of the hour: A progressive, modern India must have a police force which meets the democratic aspirations of the people. There is a need to upgrade the skills of our policemen to effectively tackle 21st century crimes such as cybercrimes and economic offences.

2.SC's Prakash Singh judgment on police reforms-**Prakash Singh, who served as DGP of UP Police and Assam Police besides other postings, filed a PIL in the Supreme Court post retirement, in 1996, seeking police reforms. In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court in September 2006 had directed all states and Union Territories to bring in police reforms.**

3.Measures suggested by the Supreme Court-Fixing the tenure and selection of the DGP to avoid situations where officers about to retire in a few months are given the post. In order to ensure no political interference, a minimum tenure was sought for the Inspector General of Police so that they are not transferred mid-term by politicians.

4.Postings of officers should be done by Police Establishment Boards (PEB) comprising police officers and senior bureaucrats to insulate powers of postings and transfers from political leaders. Set up State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA) to give a platform where common people aggrieved by police action could approach. Separate investigation and law and order functions to better improve policing. Set up of State Security Commissions (SSC) that would have members from civil society. Form a National Security Commission.

Magdalena Andersson will seek support to join NATO, she said as her party dropped its opposition to membership.

While fresh COVID19 cases in India remain at manageable levels, doctors in India, as medical experts globally, grapple with a mysterious spike in unexplained hepatitis in children who have tested positive for the infection. A team of doctors from the Bundelkhand Medical College (BMC), Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research, Chandigarh, report that 37 (about 8%) of 475 children who tested COVID19 positive from April to July in 2021 developed COVID acquired hepatitis (CAH).

Sri Lanka on May 15 said it will "duly investigate" the information flagged by Indian intelligence agencies — that ex LTTE were "regrouping to launch attacks" in the island — and "strengthen security", a day after authorities denied the claim. Some erstwhile cadre had entered Tamil Nadu to "plan and execute" attacks in Sri Lanka that is in the grips of a crippling economic crisis and political uncertainty.

A Bengaluru based venture has produced a rugged tactical battery that it is now planning to sell to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces in Europe. The heavy-duty power bank — Pravaig Field Pack — is portable and weighs 14 kilograms. It is of great utility to the digitally connected modern military and special forces personnel who have to operate in high risk zones such as Ukraine and Libya, while using gadgets that require constant power backup.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is conducting a market study on film distribution in the country, with the larger intention of exploring the possibility of a self-regulatory mechanism within the industry to ensure a competitive landscape. The antitrust watchdog has completed a study to understand the scenario where large institutional shareholders hold minority stakes in companies that are active in the same industry.

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday visited the UAE and offered condolences on the demise of former President of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Centre asked wheat producing States and Union Territories whose procurement closing dates were expiring early to keep procuring

5. Model Police Act: The Central Government has also reviewed the Model Police Act, 2006. Accordingly, a draft Model Police Bill, 2015 has been prepared and placed on the website of BPR&D.

6. Issues present-Colonial Law: The Police Act of 1861. Huge vacancies. Poor infrastructure. Accountability and operational freedom issues. Psychological Pressure.

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

1. Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar would take charge as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). About Election commission of India: The constitution under article 324 provides for an Election Commission for the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for the conduct of elections to parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of president and vice president. It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as national voters' day).

2. Composition Election commission of India: The constitution provides for the following provisions in relation to the composition of the election commission: The election commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and a number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president. When any other election commissioner is so appointed the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.

3. The president may also appoint after consultation with the election commission such regional commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the election commission. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine.

4. CEC vs ECs: Though the Chief Election Commissioner is the chairman of the election commission, however, his powers are equal to the other election commissioners. All the matters in the commission are decided by the majority amongst its members. The Chief Election Commissioner and the two other election commissioners receive equal salary, allowances and other benefits.

POWER OF THE CENTRE TO NOTIFY MINORITY COMMUNITIES AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

1. A public interest litigation (PIL) under the consideration of the Supreme Court of India challenges the power of the Centre to notify minority communities at a national level. Who is a minority and who decides that? Section 2(f) of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions or NCMEI Act 2004: "minority," for the purpose of this Act, means a community notified as such by the Central Government." Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992 also gives the Centre similar powers.

2. Main issue now-Centre's power has created an anomalous situation in which the communities declared as minorities by the Centre enjoy the status even in States/UTs where they are in majority (Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir and Christians in Nagaland for instance) while followers of Hinduism, Judaism and Bahaism who are minorities are not accorded the same status under the Act.

3. Demand now-The petition seeks the SC to curtail the Centre's power to notify national minorities or direct the Centre to notify followers of Hinduism, Bahaism and Judaism as minorities in States/UTs where they are actually fewer in numbers; or direct that only those communities that are "socially, economically and politically non-dominant" besides being numerically smaller in States/UTs be allowed the status of minorities.

4. What has the Centre said-The Centre had pointed out that it had concurrent powers with States to take measures for the welfare of minorities. States could have minorities notified as such within their jurisdiction, and it even cited the examples of Maharashtra recognising Jews as a minority community and Karnataka recognising speakers of several languages as linguistic minorities.

5. Minority communities in India at present: Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains.

MACOLIN CONVENTIONS

1. The 12th meeting of Interpol's Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF), in which the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was

wheat till May 31. Extension of the procurement season was “expected to benefit farmers”.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage on Monday during a daylong visit to Lumbini in Nepal. The visit will coincide with the celebrations to mark the Buddha Jayanti. Lumbini is the place where Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born around 623 BC.

one of the participants, concluded with a call for harmonised global efforts to curb competition manipulation.

2.The members deliberated on various mechanisms to improve intelligence sharing “such as the establishment of national platforms, as outlined in the Macolin Convention, that centralise and analyse information on irregular and suspicious trends”.

3.The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, known as the Macolin Convention, is a multilateral treaty aimed at checking match-fixing. It came into force on September 1, 2019.