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News Brief

'Free Kashmir' graffiti found on Delhi park wall, FIR lodged

New Delhi, June 11 (IANS) Delhi Police has registered a case against unknown persons after 'Free Kashmir' graffiti was found on a park wall in Dwarka area, police said on Tuesday.

According to police, on Monday evening the graffiti was found painted on the wall of a Delhi Development Authority (DDA) park located at Sector-13 in Dwarka.

"An FIR under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Defacement of Property Act has been registered at Dwarka North police station," said a senior police official.

Manohar Lal Khattar takes charge as Union Power Minister

New Delhi, June 11 (IANS) Former Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar took charge as Union Minister of Power on Tuesday, in addition to his existing portfolio of Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs. The Union Minister was briefed by senior officials of the Ministry of Power led by the Secretary, Pankaj Agarwal. The minister took a review meeting regarding the power supply position in the country as demand has peaked amid the heat wave sweeping across Northwest India and Delhi-NCR.

The former Minister of Power, Raj Kumar Singh, who lost the Lok Sabha election from the Arrah constituency in Bihar, extended a warm welcome to his successor on his arrival at Shram Shakti Bhawan.

Imam of village mosque shot dead by unidentified assailants

Moradabad (UP), June 11 (IANS) The Imam of a mosque was shot dead by unidentified assailants on Tuesday morning in Bhenasia Village of Moradabad District. The assailants, apparently known to the deceased, first called him out of the mosque and then shot him dead from a point-blank range.

The deceased Maulana Akram was a resident of Rampur District but was living in Bhenasia Village for the last 15 years and was working in the local mosque.

Chirag Paswan assumes office, vows to boost food sector

New Delhi, June 11 (IANS) Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) Chief Chirag Paswan assumed office as Minister for Food Processing Industries on Tuesday, expressing his commitment to the new role entrusted to him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the media after taking charge, he said, "PM Modi has given me the responsibility of Food Processing Ministry, and I will work hard for this. Emphasising the potential for growth in India's food processing sector, Chirag Paswan said: "If you see the involvement of food processing globally, India's involvement is comparatively very less than global involvement in the food processing industry.

Oman's Sultan calls PM as strategic partners look at strengthening ties during Modi 3.0

New Delhi, June 11 (IANS) Sultan of Oman Haitham Bin Tariq's call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday assumes great significance as both countries work on further scaling up the India-Oman partnership during Modi 3.0.

Oman's Head of State, who had travelled to New Delhi last December -- the first visit to India by the Sultanate of Oman's Sultan in over 25 years since late Sultan Qaboos' trip in 1997 -- congratulated PM Modi on his historic third term following the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections.

During the call, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen and strengthen

the India-Oman partnership for the mutual benefit of both countries.

"His Majesty emphasised the centuries-old ties of friendship between Oman and India and conveyed his best wishes for the progress and prosperity of the people of India. Prime Minister thanked His Majesty for his warm wishes and highlighted his historic visit to India in December 2023 which led to the deepening of bilateral cooperation in all areas," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq's India visit in December 2023 marked a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two countries which share a longstand-

ing history of friendship and cooperation, built on the foundation of mutual trust and respect, and strong people-to-people ties going back centuries.

A Joint Vision document titled 'A Partnership For the Future' was adopted during the visit, encompassing a shared vision of the leadership of Oman and India.

It acknowledged the remarkable synergy between Oman Vision 2040 and India's development objectives, under 'Amrit Kaal', affirming commitment to harnessing these complementarities for deepening the partnership between India and Oman.

"The document identifies a range of areas such as maritime cooperation

and connectivity, energy security and green energy, space, technologies, and applications, digital payments and financial cooperation, trade and investment, health, tourism and hospitality, IT & innovation, as well as agriculture and food security with specific action points as part of the future roadmap to deepen ties between both countries for implementation," stated the India-Oman Joint Statement released on December 16, 2023.

Oman, a key strategic partner of India, also remains an important interlocutor at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab League, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora.

India, which is one of the largest markets for Oman's crude oil exports, continues to show its interest in a network of ports and freight corridors in the region that lead into Eurasia and the African continent. This also includes the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) located at a distance of 550 kilometers from Oman's capital Muscat.

PM Modi, during his visit to the country in 2018, lauded the Sultanate's efforts to diversify its economy and welcomed the invitation to Indian companies to invest in various sectors in the special economic zones of Oman, including SEZs in Duqm, Sohar, and Salalah.

Determined to meet PM Modi's expectations for vision of 'Viksit Bharat': Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, June 11 (IANS) Ashwini Vaishnaw, who assumed charge as Minister of Railways, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, on Tuesday said that he is determined to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expectations for the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

"Assumed charge as the Minister of @RailMin-India, @MIB India and @Gol_MeitiY. Inspired by the responsibility and de-

termined to meet PM

@narendramodi Ji's expectations for the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'," Vaishnaw wrote in a post on X. Vaishnaw after taking charge of ministries, said that the people have once again blessed PM Modi to serve the country. "Yesterday, on the very first day of his first tenure, the Prime Minister took decisions dedicated to the poor and farmers. A very strong foundation has to be laid for the youth...I express my gratitude to PM Modi for giving me this op-

portunity," he added.

Meanwhile, top industry bodies have welcomed the appointment of Vaishnaw retaining Railways and IT Ministries, besides getting the key Information and Broadcasting (I&B) portfolio. "Under the visionary leadership of PM Modi, the past decade has been marked by significant efforts to revive the industry and bring the digital revolution to the masses," said Lt Gen Dr S.P. Kochhar (retd), Director General, COAI.



Smt. Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya takes charge as Minister of State of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Shri B.L. Verma takes charge as the Minister of State of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Massive power outage hits Delhi

after fire at substation in UP's Mandola

New Delhi, June 11 (UNI) Hours after a massive power outage hit several parts of the national capital on Tuesday, Delhi Cabinet Minister Atishi clarified that the outage was caused by a fire at a sub-station of the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) in Mandola, Uttar Pradesh.

Expressing concern over the major power failure, Atishi said that she intends to meet with the

Central Power Minister and the Chairman of PGCIL to prevent such incidents from happening again. In a social media post, she said, "There is power outage in many parts of Delhi from 2:11 pm. This is due to a fire at sub-station of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) in Mandola, UP."

"Delhi receives 1200 MW of power from the Mandola sub-station, and therefore many parts of

Delhi have been affected," the Minister said. The power restoration process has begun and electricity is now gradually returning to different areas, she said.

But this major failure in the national power grid is extremely worrying. I am seeking time with the Central Power Minister and the Chairman of PGCIL, to ensure that such a situation is not repeated, Atishi added.



NEW DELHI, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and other dignitaries paid tributes to former Lok Sabha Speaker K S Hegde on his birth anniversary at Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, in New Delhi on Tuesday. UNI

Amaravati is capital of AP, declares Naidu

Amaravati, June 11 (IANS) Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister-designate N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday declared that Amaravati is the state capital. Addressing a meeting of the newly-elected MLAs of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which elected him as the leader, he made it clear that his government would not play with the state's future in the name of three state capitals and would continue development of Amaravati as the state capital.

"Even after 10 years we are not in a position to say where is our state capital," he said, slamming the previous government of YSR Congress Party for putting a halt to the development of Amaravati as the state capital.

In 2019, the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government reversed the decision by the earlier TDP government to develop Amaravati as the state capital and announced that three state capitals would be developed.

The YSRCP government had mooted Visakhapatnam as the administrative capital, Kurnool as the judicial capital and Amaravati as the legislative capital. "Our capital is Amara-

vati," declared Naidu, who is set to take oath as the Chief Minister on Wednesday. Naidu assured that Visakhapatnam will be developed as a financial capital and a modern city and Kurnool will be developed in all respects.

Revealing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NDA leaders will attend the swearing-in ceremony on Wednesday, Naidu said the Centre's help was required for the state's development.

The Chief Minister-designate vowed to complete the Polavaram project. Claiming that the TDP government in the past had completed 72 per cent of the works, he said the remaining works would be completed with the Centre's help.

Stating that their gov-

ernment will be a 'people's government', the TDP chief said there would be no Praja Vedika-like demolitions. He was referring to the demolition of a meeting hall adjacent to his house, which was built when he was the chief minister.

Alleging that the previous government pursued politics of vendetta, he underlined the need to move ahead with constructive politics.

Naidu said the people gave an unprecedented mandate to the TDP and its allies in the state. "We have won 93 per cent of seats. This is the first time in the country," he said.

Asserting that 57 per cent of people voted for the alliance, the TDP chief said it was now time to live up to their expectations by

rebuilding the state. He was all praise for Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan for taking the initiative to ally with the TDP when he (Naidu) was in jail. Later, the BJP also joined hands with them, thus ensuring that the anti-YSRCP votes were not split.

Reiterating that the YSRCP government carried out destruction, Naidu said those who indulged in irregularities would be punished as per the law.

The TDP chief also recalled that his family was insulted in the Assembly. "I called it Kaurava Sabha and came out. I vowed to return to the Assembly after a win in the people's court. People supported me in fulfilling this pledge," he said. Stating that he served as the Chief Minister for 14 years and Leader of Opposition for 15 years, Naidu said he converted every crisis into opportunity. "Andhra Pradesh has many problems. The state is in complete ruins. All sections have suffered. Farmers have landed in debt," he said.

Naidu also assured that during his visits there will be no closure of shops and roads and putting up curtains. "Chief Minister is also an ordinary man.

'Can't do it alone, need a hardworking team', says Shivraj Singh Chouhan

New Delhi/Bhopal, June 11 (IANS) Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said that he needs a hardworking team so that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare can address the challenges faced by the agriculture sector and the farming community of the country.

"We all share equal responsibility and will work together to take India's farming and agriculture to new heights. Any minister can't do it alone. I need a

hardworking team to achieve all these tasks," Chouhan told the ministry officials after taking charge.

Chouhan, who became the Union Minister for the first time was allocated the portfolios of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Ministry of Rural Development on Monday, a day after he was sworn in Modi 3.0 Cabinet on Sunday.

The 65-year-old leader, popularly known as "mama" (maternal uncle) and "paon-paon wale

bhaiya" (foot soldier), governed Madhya Pradesh for over 17 years. He was replaced by Mohan Yadav as Chief Minister on December 3 last year.

With his extensive experience in governance and deep connection with the rural populace, Chouhan's appointment as the Union Agriculture Minister is expected to bring fresh impetus to the government's efforts to address the challenges faced by the people.

Born on March 5, 1959, in a farming family in Jait village, Sehore district, Chouhan's political journey began with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) when he was just 13 years old. He was first elected to the Madhya Pradesh Assembly from Budhni constituency in 1990 and later became a Member of Parliament from Vidisha in 1991.

He was re-elected from the same constituency in 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2004, winning his fifth Lok Sabha election with an impressive margin of over 2,60,000 votes.

On June 4, he won his sixth Lok Sabha election from Vidisha against Congress' Pratap Bhanu Sharma with a margin of over 8 lakh votes.

Calcutta HC extends stay on legal proceedings against Bengal LoP till

Kolkata, June 11 (IANS) A single judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Tuesday, extended the stay on any legal proceedings by the police against the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, in a case related to a late-night raid at his rented residence in Kolaghat last month.

Last month amid the Lok Sabha polls, the police carried out a late-night action and raid at the rented residence at Kolaghat in East Madinapur district. Adhikari challenged the action in the single-judge bench of Justice Amrita Sinha. On May 24, Justice Sinha ordered an interim stay on police action in the matter till June 10. The tenure of that interim stay expired on Monday, following which the matter came up for hearing at Justice Sinha's bench on Tuesday, where the latter finally extended the stay till June 28. The next date of hearing in the matter will be on June 19.



NEW DELHI, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman call on Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, in New Delhi on Tuesday. UNI

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