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NIA charge sheets 17 hardcore ISIS operatives in India involved in radicalising youth

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, June 3: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday chargesheeted 17 hardcore agents of the proscribed global terrorist organisation ISIS for being part of a conspiracy involving radicalisation of youth and fabrication of improvised explosive devices, according to an official statement. The NIA had originally chargesheeted three persons in March 2023 and filed its supplementary chargesheet before the special court at Patiala House in New Delhi on Monday against 17 others, of whom 15 are from Maharashtra and one each from Uttarakhand and Haryana, it said. This takes the total number of accused chargesheeted in the case, which had exposed global linkages with foreign handlers, to 20, said the statement issued by the federal probe agency. The accused, chargesheeted under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act, "were found to have been engaged in a massive ISIS conspiracy involving recruitment, training and propagation of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) ideology among gullible youth, along with fabrication of explosives and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and fundraising for the banned outfit", it said. The NIA, which has been cracking down on various ISIS modules active in the country with the intent to dismantle the nefarious terror network of the international organisation, had registered a case in November 2023 to probe this terror conspiracy.

CEC Kumar dares Opposition to give proof of attempts to influence poll process

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, June 3: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Monday dared the Opposition to share evidence of allegations that returning officers and district magistrates were influenced to vitiate the poll process so the panel could take action against them. India created world record with 64.2 crore people voting in Lok Sabha polls: Election Commission The Opposition should also tell the Commission about those trying to influence the poll process before the counting of votes begins, Kumar said at a press conference. He was flanked by Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu. "You cannot spread a rumour and bring everyone under a cloud of suspicion," Kumar said. The Commission had made preparations to deal with any foreign attempt to influence the poll process but these allegations have come from within the country itself, he said in an apparent dig at the



RAJIV KUMAR influenced and we will punish them. They should tell us before the counting process begins," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had claimed that Home Minister Amit Shah had been calling district magistrates and collectors and indulging in "blatant

and brazen" intimidation. District magistrates and collectors are the returning officers of their respective districts during election. Ramesh claimed that Shah had already spoken with 150 district magistrates or collectors. Kumar had accepted all the demands made by the multi-party delegation that met the panel on Sunday, and asserted that the issues raised by them were part of the election process going on for seven decades. "Some demands were made by a multi-party delegation. We have agreed to all the demands," Kumar said, indicating that most of the issues raised by the multi-party delegation were part of election manuals. "This process has been going on for 70 years... We have instructed every RO/ARO. These are our orders and they are no joke... Everyone has been instructed to follow the handbook/manuals," Kumar said. Kumar admitted that the Election Commission had failed to counter the mischievous narratives spread during the poll process.

Telugu film actress Hema arrested by Central Crime Branch in connection with rave party case

Bengaluru, June 3: The Central Crime Branch probing the Bengaluru rave party case arrested Telugu film actress Hema following interrogation on Monday. The rave party was organised on May 19 at a farmhouse near Electronic City. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) had summoned Hema to its office on Monday. Sources said she deposed before her interrogators wearing a burqa to hide her identity. As her replies were not satisfactory, she was arrested. The rave party was organised on the pretext of a birthday party where most of the people had come from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, according to CCB sources. There were a few people from Bengaluru as well, they added. Based on a tip-off, the CCB raided the location and collected the blood samples of those who attended the party. The blood test reports later confirmed that 86 people, including Hema, had tested positive for narcotics, police sources had said. According to sources, a total of 103 people participated in the party. The participants included 73 men and 30 women. Police seized MDMA (Ecstasy) pills, MDMA crystals, hydro cannabis, cocaine, high-end cars, DJ equipment including sound and lighting worth Rs 1.5 crore during the raid.

INDIA bloc will win maximum seats in UP: Akhilesh

Lucknow, June 3: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav questioned the veracity of exit polls on Monday and claimed the agencies conducting them were only trying to create a conducive atmosphere in favour of the BJP. At a press conference ahead of the Lok Sabha poll results on Tuesday, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said the INDIA bloc's victory will be a victory for the country and its people. "Our exit poll says that the INDIA bloc is winning the maximum number of seats in Uttar Pradesh. I have got an internal survey done that also shows good numbers for us," he said. "We and you (media) were among the people to strengthen democracy. We have seen they (BJP) did not have people (in their rallies), their tents were empty...nothing was seen in their favour," Yadav said. Questioning the exit polls, the SP chief alleged that many agencies that conducted the exit polls used to do work of booth management for the BJP. "They (exit polls agencies) are making a 'mahaul' (conducive atmosphere) in the BJP's favour," he said. "They (BJP) want to threaten the opposition. This has been their politics since the beginning... But this time, people are ready. Our youths and all sections of society are ready to protect the votes cast by them," Yadav said. On the Election Commission revising polling percentages days after voting, Yadav said, "The Election Commission should reply to this. I hope EC will follow all the rules." Urging the poll watchdog to make adequate security arrangements for agents of opposition parties, the SP chief claimed that when the BJP appears weak, it will try to threaten the agents as the administration is with the party. "It might happen that they will slow counting or cut the power at night," he alleged. "The elections are over. The exit polls are showing many things. The BJP is responsible for many things. They disturbed peace and brotherhood. They conspired to end the reservation. They increased crime against women. They made a record of wrong behaviour. They triggered inflation and unemployment. The poor become poorer," he added. Yadav also blamed the BJP for paper leaks in Uttar Pradesh and also referred to atrocities on women in Hathras and Manipur. He alleged that historic corruption was done in the name of electoral bonds. Sharpening his attack on the BJP, Yadav said, "Businesses were ruined by demonetisation. Small shopkeepers were made victims of recession by corrupt GST.



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Man held for assaulting cabin crew, trying to open door of Bahrain-bound Air India Express flight

Mumbai, June 3: The Mumbai police have arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly assaulting the cabin crew onboard an Air India Express flight from Kozhikode to Bahrain and trying to open the door of the aircraft, an official said on Monday. The accused, Abdul Musavir Nadukandee, was arrested after the flight made an emergency landing at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) here on Saturday, an official from Sahar police said. Nadukandee, who hails from Kerala, woke up when the flight took off from Kozhikode and immediately went to the back of the aircraft, where he allegedly assaulted the cabin crew and tried to open the door of the aircraft, he said. When the crew members managed to bring the man back to his seat, he started verbally abusing and assaulting other passengers and threatened to open the emergency door, the official said. Fearing a security threat, the pilot made an emergency landing at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) and alerted the security officials, he said. A case has been registered against the accused under sections 336 (act endangering life), 504 (provocation to breach of the peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Aircraft Act, the official said.

Lok Sabha poll counting: Narendra Modi eyes record-equalling feat

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, June 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi eyes a record-equalling third straight term in power amid the INDIA opposition bloc's hope of springing a surprise as the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha election is set for Tuesday, bringing an end to a marathon polling exercise stretching over 80 days. While most experts have long seen the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as the favourite in the polls, a lot is at stake for the ruling combine in terms of the scale of victory it can pull off and new territories it can conquer. The opposition's stakes are higher still amid its reducing national footprint. Exit polls have been, however, unanimous in their prediction that the NDA is closer to realising Modi's ambitious target of "400 paar" for his alliance than the INDIA bloc is to crossing even the 180 mark, one-third of the total number of seats. Though electoral verdicts have historically been accepted, even though grudgingly, by all parties, there has

been a sharper edge to the questions being raised by opposition parties this time over the polling process, including the Election Commission (EC). In the run-up to the counting, the campaign acrimony between the two battling camps has spilled over into



the post-poll trading of accusations after the exit polls predicted a massive win for the incumbent alliance, a forecast summarily dismissed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as "Modi media poll". INDIA bloc

leaders, who have been raising doubts over the electronic voting machines (EVMs), have accused the prime minister of sending a signal to the bureaucracy through these "fantasy" exit polls and marched to the EC, urging the poll watchdog to follow the counting guidelines. In its counter-attack, the BJP has accused its rivals of trying to undermine the integrity of India's electoral process and asked the EC to prevent any attempt of "violence and unrest" during the counting of votes. The results will show if the Congress has it in its organisation and leadership to challenge the BJP amid its reducing footprint across the country since 2014. It has failed to get even the main opposition party status in two consecutive Lok Sabha polls and has been reduced to a pale shadow of itself in a number of states, especially in the Hindi heartland. Its leaders, including president Mallikarjun Kharge and principal campaigner Rahul Gandhi, have claimed that their alliance will get 295 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, marking an end of the Modi era.

Very hopeful our results will be totally opposite to exit polls: Sonia Gandhi

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, June 3: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Monday said her party is very hopeful that the results of the Lok Sabha elections will be totally opposite to what has been shown in the exit polls. "We have to wait, just wait and see," Sonia Gandhi told PTI when asked about her expectations from the results scheduled to be announced on Tuesday. "We are very hopeful that our results are completely opposite to what the exit polls are showing," the Congress parliamentary party chief added. Sonia Gandhi made the remarks after attending an event held at the DMK office here. She paid tributes to DMK stalwart M Karunanidhi on his 100th birth anniversary. Most exit polls have predicted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will retain power for a third straight term,

with the BJP-led NDA expected to win a big majority in the Lok Sabha polls. While some exit polls have given the NDA more than 400 seats, most have predicted that it will win over 350, which is way above the majority mark of 272 seats



needed to form the government. The Congress and other INDIA bloc parties have trashed the exit polls, claiming that these surveys were a work of "fantasy"

and asserting that the opposition alliance will form the next government. "This is not called an exit poll but its name is 'Modi media poll'. This is Modi ji's poll, it is his fantasy poll," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi had said on Sunday. Congress leaders have said that the INDIA bloc will win 295 seats and form the government. Earlier, speaking at the event marking the 100th birth anniversary of Karunanidhi, Sonia Gandhi said, "It's my pleasure to be here with my colleagues from the DMK on the very auspicious occasion of the 100th anniversary of Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi." "I had the good fortune of meeting him on many occasions, listening to what he had to say and benefiting from his words of wisdom and advice. I feel fortunate to have met him," she said and extended her best wishes to those present on the occasion.

Himachal Pradesh Speaker accepts resignations of 3 Independent MLAs

Shimla, June 3: Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania on Monday accepted the resignation of three Independent MLAs who had voted along with six rebel Congress legislators in favour of the BJP candidate in the recently held Rajya Sabha elections. "Resignations have been accepted and these three MLAs cease to be members of the 14th Vidhan Sabha with immediate effect," said Pathania. Independent MLAs Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra), Ashish Sharma (Hamirpur) and K L Thakur (Nalagarh) had voted in favour of BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan in the February 27 Rajya Sabha elections along with six Congress rebels. The three MLAs resigned from the assembly on March 22 but the speaker did not accept their resignations, saying that he had received a representation from the Congress legislative party that they had resigned under duress and not voluntarily. With this, the strength of the house has been reduced to 59. The Congress has 34 legislators, BJP 25, while the results of six assembly bypolls are awaited.

Supreme Court asks Centre to convene meeting of Upper Yamuna River Board on June 5

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, June 3: As Delhi faced an acute water crisis amid scorching heatwave conditions, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to convene a meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board on June 5 with all the stakeholders to deal with the situation. A Vacation Bench of Justice PK Mishra and Justice KV Viswanathan asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to inform it of the measures suggested by the Upper Yamuna River Board and posted the matter for further hearing on June 6. At the very outset the Bench suggested that there should be a meeting of all stakeholders to resolve the issue and asked Mehta to organise a meeting by Tuesday. Mehta said there was already a mechanism in the form of the Upper Yamuna River Board where all the stakeholders were represented. He, however, said it would take a couple of days to convene

such a meeting. While asking the Centre to convene the meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board on June 5, the Bench sought to emphasise that all the parties - the Centre and the governments of Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have agreed not to treat it as an adversarial issue. The direction came on the Delhi Government's plea seeking a direction to the Haryana Government to release surplus water provided by Himachal Pradesh to deal with the water crisis in the national capital. Senior counsel AM Singhvi told the Bench on behalf of the Delhi Government that Himachal Pradesh Government has agreed to release surplus water to Delhi during June and Haryana should facilitate it and help to maintain the

minimum required level of water at Wazirabad Barrage. Mehta pointed out



that 52.35 per cent of water in Delhi either goes waste or is pilfered by the water tanker mafia thereby leaving just 47.65 per cent of water for Delhiites. Stating that the State of Himachal Pradesh has agreed to share its sur-

plus water with Delhi, the Arvind Kejriwal Government pointed out that Himachal Pradesh does not share a physical boundary with the national capital, and thus, the water is required to be routed through existing water channels/river systems in Haryana, to be eventually released to Delhi at the Wazirabad Barrage. "Access to water is one of basic human rights; water essential for sustenance, access to water also forms an essential component of guarantee of dignity and quality of life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," the Delhi Government submitted. Stating that Delhi is a lower riparian Union Territory, the AAP Government said it has sought additional water supply only in view of the emergent situation created by the dry, arid summer this year.

Delhi excise case: Over Rs 1,100 crore laundered, alleges ED in supplementary charge sheet filed against K Kavitha

New Delhi, June 3: The Enforcement Directorate has alleged in its supplementary charge sheet filed against BRS leader K Kavitha before a court here that more than Rs 1,100 crore was laundered in the alleged Delhi excise scam. According to the ED, out of Rs 1,100 crore, Kavitha was involved in proceeds of crime (PoC) worth Rs 292.8 crore. The allegations were made in a supplementary prosecution complaint, ED's equivalent to a charge sheet, filed before Special Judge Kavari Beweja, who on Monday extended Kavitha's judicial custody till July 3. The judge extended the custody after Kavitha was produced before the court in pursuance of its earlier order issuing a production warrant against her. The court had issued the warrants after taking cognisance of a charge sheet against the BRS leader in the case on May 29. The court also granted bail to three co-accused persons - Prince, Damodar and Arvind Singh. The

three accused were charge sheeted without being arrested during investigation by the ED. "As per the investigation so far, the total proceeds of crime identified is Rs 1,100 crore, out of which PoC of Rs 292.8 crore is being dealt with in this Prosecution Complaint. Through activities of the accused persons, ie, Kavitha, Champreet Singh, Prince Kumar, Damodar Sharma and Arvind Singh, huge proceeds of crime have been generated," the charge sheet alleged. The charge sheet claimed that Kavitha was involved in PoC (money generated and laundered in crime) of Rs 292.8 crore, out of which kickbacks of Rs 100 crore were given to AAP leaders. "Kavitha conspired with the members of the South Group and the AAP leaders through accused Vijay Nair (who was acting on behalf of the top leaders of the AAP) to pay kickbacks to the tune of Rs 100 crore and receive undue benefits," the documents claimed.

Kerala: Candidates, be proficient in incline driving skills!

KOCHI: With a shift towards 'quality' over 'quantity' following the implementation of revised driving test norms, the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) is now emphasising the challenging gradient test. This test assesses a driver's ability to stop and restart the vehicle on a steep upward incline. Previously, the gradient test was a minor factor in evaluating overall driving skills. However, under the new norms, even slight mistakes, such as jerking or stalling of the vehicle, will result in the candidate failing the test. "Earlier, we administered the gradient test randomly. Now, the inclination test is mandatory for every candidate. Each one must demonstrate their driving skills on the inclined stretch, conducted on Infopark Road, which features steep inclines," said a senior MVD inspector. Many candidates find the steepness challenging, as it requires them to stop and restart the vehicle using the handbrake, accelerator, foot brake, and clutch without rolling back. This has led to an increase in the failure rate of driving tests conducted at the Ernakulam RTO since the resumption of the exercise on May 10. For instance, on Tuesday, only 19 out of 80 candidates passed the test, with 42 failing on the rainy day. On Monday, out of 62 candidates, 31 passed. "With the reduction in the number of tests conducted daily, we now have more time to conduct detailed assessments. We have raised the bar in terms of quality," the officer said. According to the new rules, the number of tests conducted daily is capped at 40 for each MVD inspector.

Spiralling vegetable prices hit commoners in Chittoor & Nellore

The limited produce available is being redirected to other regions, creating a supply crunch in local markets.

TIRUPATI: The surge in vegetable prices in both Chittoor and Nellore districts have begun to distress people. The sharp increase in vegetable prices is causing concern among homemakers, who are now carefully selecting more affordable options. Almost all vegetable markets in both the districts are burdening the pockets of the local population, making it difficult for common people to afford their daily needs. Apart from the vegetables which are sourced from other parts of the country and are expensive, such as carrots, capsicum, cabbage, cauliflower, and others, locally grown varieties have become inaccessible to the people. Normally, essential cooking vegetables would be affordable for consumers during this part of the year. However, the current vegetable prices in the markets are beyond the means of the average consumer, having increased nearly Rs 20 to Rs 40 per kilogram for some vegetables and double the prices in case of beans and potatoes in both Tirupati and Chittoor districts. The scorching summer heat has adversely affected the district's vegetable yield, resulting in disappointing harvests. The limited produce available is being redirected to other regions, creating a supply crunch in local markets. "Officials must take action to control prices. Farmers should be educated about crop cultivation methods



and seed selection. There is a difference between the prices at which traders buy from farmers and sell to consumers. If regulated, it will benefit both ryots and consumers," said S Kumar from Chittoor. In western part of Chittoor, where leafy and other vegetables thrive abundantly, farmers are inclined towards vegetable cultivation due to the region's favourable climate. However, there's a concerning trend of farmers focusing solely on crops fetching higher prices, neglecting the demand for a diverse range of vegetables. "Diversifying crop cultivation by allocating acreage to various vegetables like brinjal, beans, cluster beans, carrots, cabbage,

beetroot, and ridge gourd could stabilise prices and prevent losses for farmers, thereby easing the burden on consumers. Also, implementing careful seed selection and increasing the use of organic fertilisers can enhance crop resilience against pests and diseases," said a retired Horticulture official. Many traders and farmers from bordering mandals such as Palamaner, V Kota, and Brahmasamudram frequently visit the Koyambedu market, along with people from Mukalacheruvu, Nagari, Madanapalle, BN Kandriga, Varadiahpalem and Satyavedu, for exporting and importing vegetables from Chittoor.

Passenger traffic soars but cargo movement yet to 'take off' at Tiruchy International Airport

TIRUCHY: While the number of flights operated from the Tiruchy International Airport to various overseas destinations has touched pre-pandemic levels, the volume of cargo handled is yet to pick up. Meanwhile, exporters pitch a dedicated freight service as the lone solution. The airport's old terminal was converted into a cargo terminal and declared a cargo port on November 21, 2011. Following that the Central Board of Excise and Customs notified it an export cargo terminal. Initially, that is during 2012-13, the terminal handled about 2,400 tonnes of cargo which went up to 6,500 tonnes during 2015-16. While passenger traffic at the airport, which stood at 12.5 lakh (domestic traffic included) during 2015-16, recorded a 41% increase to touch 17.63 lakh in 2023-24, cargo shipment failed to register any such significant growth. The volume of cargo handled



during 2023-24, which was 6,612 tonnes, hasn't been far off from the 6,583 tonnes handled during 2015. The maximum figure the airport recorded was during 2019-20, before the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, when about 8,000 tonnes of cargo shipment was handled. With about 90 flights now being operated to overseas destinations like Singapore and Gulf countries every week and the passenger occupancy in almost every flight touching 95%, operators prioritise only passengers and their luggage, and not transporting cargo, rues Managing Director of MB Cargo R Muralidharan. "During pre-Covid period, airlines allowed us to consign five to seven tonnes per flight, as there was space in the belly. Now, we are unable to find space even to transport two tonnes, as passengers' luggage fill up the space. Sometimes passengers' luggage too are offloaded due to space constraints. Operation of dedicated cargo freight will be the only solution to consign the required volume of cargo without encountering offload," he added. Meanwhile, airport authorities admitted that there is a slowdown in cargo shipment since the pandemic. Efforts are, however, being taken to accommodate at least two tonnes in each flight. Being an agrarian region, Tiruchy has the potential to consign perishables. Exporters should strive hard to bring a dedicated freighter at Tiruchy airport, which will pave the way for the growth of all stakeholders, a senior airport official said.

Bengaluru's first car racing track in the offing

An organiser of car racing events is eyeing 2.5 km of space in the layout around the proposed 25-acre stadium in Somashetty Halli, to create a track by November.

BENGALURU: Plans are afoot to develop Bengaluru's first motorsport race track at Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). While the only other race track for the city is expected to get ready in Devanahalli only in 2026, if all goes well and ongoing discussions over realising the race track turn out to be fruitful, the planned track at Shivaram Karanth Layout could be ready by November this year itself. An organiser of car racing events in India, who did not want to be identified, is eyeing 2.5 km of space in the layout around the proposed 25-acre stadium in Somashetty Halli, to create a track by November, BDA sources informed TNIE. "The 2.5-km space will be in the form of a loop encircling the stadium. They will take over the area only during the duration of an event, which will last a few days. The upgradation required for a race and the barricading and other works for racing will be done. Otherwise, the road will be open to BDA

allottees. The stadium is yet to be built, but space has already been earmarked for it," a senior BDA official said. Officials said roads around the proposed stadium — meant as a multi-sport facility — have already been laid around the stadium, which would take much longer to be constructed. A top BDA official confirmed, "A presentation was recently made to the BDA chairman and commissioner by the organiser of racing events to obtain space here for future events." The organiser identified other areas in Bengaluru, but finally narrowed it down to the layout, he added. The layout covers 3,546 acres, spread across 17 villages, and awaits a green signal from the Karnataka High Court to go ahead with the notification for allotment. A motorsport expert said it is very likely that Indian Racing League events and Formula 4-related events could be organised here. An event manager supporting the



organiser, Ghanashyam, said, "We are planning temporary racing tracks, which means that only some modifications, including barricading, will be made at the time of the races." A BDA official said, "Preliminary discussions are on and financial aspects would be worked out in subsequent talks. As of now, the organiser is looking at a 5-year contract that can be extended by another five years, if required, and needs the space possibly for a few days twice a

year." Asked about possible noise pollution and impact on health of the layout's residents, a senior Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) official said, "Decibel levels will definitely shoot up, but most people in Bengaluru reside or work in areas where noise pollution is much higher than what is prescribed for humans — 45 decibels during the day and 55 decibels at night. Bodapati David, a motorsport expert, cited an order passed by the Madras High Court in February this year in connection with a 3.7-km Formula 4 night street car race. Writ petitions had been filed over the noise generated. The court stated that the racing event was for a few days only, and ordered the Tamil Nadu Government to install silencing equipment during the same. David added, "A Formula One event was held at Buddh International Circuit in UP for three years from 2011, but was withdrawn later from the country."

NHAI hikes toll fee at 34 plazas in Tamil Nadu from June 3

CHENNAI: As the Lok Sabha polls were completed on Saturday, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has increased the vehicle user fees by Rs 5 to Rs 25 depending on the vehicle category at 34 toll plazas in Tamil Nadu. The fee revision will take effect from June 3 and will be in force till March 31, 2025, according to official sources. This is expected to cause a price hike for essential goods. Originally scheduled to be enforced from midnight on April 1, the fee revision was postponed following a directive from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. However, the fee hike at seven toll plazas on state highways, including the Thiruvanniyur-Mamallapuram East Coast Road, Vandalur-Minjur Outer Ring Road in Chennai, and

Madurai Ring Road (from Uthangudi to Kappalur), which had also been delayed since April 1, has not been implemented yet. There are a total of 63 toll plazas on the national highways and seven on the state highways in the state. The toll plazas at Vanagaram and Surapattu on the Chennai Bypass, Nallur on the Chennai-Kolkata Highway, and Athur and Paralur on the Tambaram-Tindivanam NH, among others, will undergo a fee revision. Notably, the Tambaram-Tindivanam NH, developed with government funds, has not increased the fee for cars and light motor vehicles. The single journey fee for cars/jeeps and light motor vehicles will remain Rs 70 and Rs 115, respectively, at the Athur and Paralur toll plazas. However, the fee for buses, trucks,



and other heavy vehicles will increase by Rs 5 to Rs 15 per vehicle. The scheduled annual increase of user fees at the Nemili and Chennasamudran toll plazas has been halted since 2019 due to delays in completing the six-laning of the 96-km national highway

from Maduravoyal to Walajahpet on the Bengaluru bypass. The toll rate was last increased on April 1, 2019. About 95% of the 23-km stretch between Maduravoyal and Sriperumbudur on the Chennai-Bengaluru bypass has been widened into six lanes. "Once the remaining work is completed, we will write to the NHAI seeking approval to increase the user fee," said an official. The Tamil Nadu Road Development Company (TNRDC), which manages the ECR and ORR, and the Tamil Nadu Road Infrastructure Development Corporation (TNRIDC), which maintains the Madurai ring road, are expected to issue a notification to revise the fees for seven toll plazas after the Model Code of Conduct is lifted.

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Surya's timely move and customer-centric approach made it a hit among parents and kids, allowing her to reconnect with her younger self.

Kerala: Sreekaryam resident's 'wrap' service garners attention

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Excitement is in the air as schools across the state is set to reopen after a long two-month hiatus. Even the heavy rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of children and parents who embarked on a shopping spree to grab school essentials, from umbrellas boasting new features to trendy bags. Amid the buzz, Surya Heman, a resident of Sreekaryam, introduced a novel service aimed at easing the burden of perfect book wrapping for parents. Under the simple yet ingenious service, the books were picked up, wrapped in brown covers and delivered at the specified location, ready to go in school bags. An employee at the

labour department, Surya unexpectedly found herself at the helm of the flourishing business. The idea arose organically when one of her cousins suggested turning her habit of wrapping books for her nephew and nieces before school reopening into a business. Surya launched the service on May 15, and to her delight it immediately took off. She charged Rs 12 for each textbook, while the charge for wrapping up a notebook was Rs 10. The demand was steady, with Surya getting five to seven orders a day. "Some students received their books late and found themselves pressed for time. That's when they turned to me," said Surya. Her marketing strategy was simple yet

effective. She spread the word through apartment notices, WhatsApp groups and by reaching out to friends. The response was overwhelmingly positive. "I completed about three orders a day, and more during my off days. If customers didn't provide brown paper, I bought it and returned the excess. I also added complimentary stickers and name slips for a personal touch," she said. Surya's timely move and customer-centric approach made it a hit among parents and kids, allowing her to reconnect with her younger self. "This is a seasonal business. I am planning to start the business much earlier during the next vacation to meet the demand," she added.



NEWS BOX

Wound-washing zones at health centres soon in all districts

Gurgaon: National Health Mission (NHM) directed all districts to establish dedicated wound-washing areas at all health centres up to the primary level to manage potential rabies infections by enhancing post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). EP refers to washing an animal bite extensively with water and soap and local treatment of the wound to remove saliva containing rabies virus, reducing the risk of infection. "All the govt health centres in the district have been informed to identify areas where the wound washing areas can be set up," said Dr Virender Yadav, chief medical officer, Gurgaon.

IHMHR Delhi: A beacon of excellence in health, health IT and hospital management education IHMHR Delhi, a leader in health and hospital management education, offers a flagship PGDM in Hospital and Health Management and a Digital Health Certificate Program. With international collaborations and impressive placement records, it prepares graduates for impactful careers in the healthcare sector.

Berry vs Jamun: Which one is better for health in summer? Berries and jamuns are popular summer fruits rich in antioxidants and jamboline. Berries contain antioxidants like anthocyanins and flavonoids, while jamuns regulate blood sugar levels with jamboline and aid collagen production.

Man (23) rams bike into parked car, dies

Gurgaon: A 23-year-old private company employee died when his bike crashed into a parked car near Central Park in Bhandsi. Sanjeev Sharma was from Baluda in Sohna and worked at M3M mall in Sector 65.

According to the police, around 11pm on May 24, Sharma left his workplace on his bike. When he reached near Central Park condominium, his bike crashed into a white sedan from behind that was negligently parked on the carriageway without any indicators. "I received a call from passersby, saying that my brother had met with an accident near Central Park. I rushed there and found him lying injured on the road next to his damaged bike. The driver of the car fled the spot, leaving the vehicle behind. He soon fell unconscious," Sharma's cousin Mohit said.

"He was shifted to Sohna Civil Hospital by Mohit and later was referred to a private hospital in Islamabad. While undergoing treatment, Sharma succumbed to his injuries on Saturday. A fatal road accident case was registered against the car driver," Bhandsi ASI Arjun Singh said. Based on Mohit's complaint, Bhandsi police registered a case under sections 304 A (causing death due to rash or negligent act) and 283 (danger or obstruction in a public way or line of navigation) of the IPC on Saturday afternoon.

"We have seized the white sedan, and the car driver will be identified soon and arrested," Singh said.

We also published the following articles recently: YouTuber courts trouble with his DIY pool-in-car. YouTuber Sanju T S and his friends from Sanju Techy Vlogs converted an SUV into a pool, leading to penalties from the MVD. They will undergo training at IDTR and do community service in Alappuzha after a dangerous stunt inspired by the movie Avesham. My neighbourhood matters: Stray cattle take up roads, damage plants & grass in parks. Stray cattle issues plague Greater Noida, particularly in sectors Beta 1 and Delta 2. Residents face safety risks and park damage due to illegal dairies and lack of cowshed space.

2 men on bike die as tree falls on them in Delhi's Hiranki. Two men, Pushpender and Vijay, lost their lives in Delhi's Hiranki after a tree collapsed on them. Pushpender was pronounced dead at the scene, while Vijay succumbed to his injuries at a nearby medical facility.

Two kill security guard after spat, land in police net

Gurgaon: Two persons were arrested on Saturday for killing a 40-year-old security guard on May 22 after an argument with him in a plot in Ashok Vihar, police said. According to cops, Harsh from Sohna and Himanshu from Rajendra Park came in contact with Ajay Tiwari through social media. Tiwari was from Nawabganj in Uttar Pradesh and was living with his family in West Rajiv Nagar. He used to work as a security guard at a plot in Sector 18. Tiwari went to work on May 22 and did not return home after that. His wife Sarita Devi reached out to police on May 26 and filed a missing person's complaint. Around 8am on May 22, he went to work and was on double shift duty. Around 1pm, he felt unwell on duty and called an acquaintance to pick him up on a bike to buy medicine. After that, neither did he return for work nor reached home. His phone was switched off. "Sarita alleged in her complaint on May 26. On May 31, the police found a dead body at a plot in Ashok Vihar-3 and Sarita was called for identification. Ajay's call records were then traced and cops zeroed in on Harsh and Himanshu — both in their mid-twenties — on Saturday. The accused were arrested from near Maruti Udyog compound in Sector 18 the same day. "During the interrogation, the two confessed to have committed the offense. They said they became friends with the victim through social media. On May 22, they met Ajay at a plot and had an argument over a petty issue. During the argument, the duo roughed up Ajay and smothered him to death after tying his limbs with a vest and a towel. They left the body there." Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson for Gurgaon police said. The accused have been produced before the court and are currently in police custody. We also published the following articles recently: Did Ajit Pawar call Pune police commissioner after Porsche accident? What he said: Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar addressed the actions of his party MLA Sunil Tingare and the involvement of Sassoon general hospital in the Porsche accident case. CCTV footage from a pub visited by the teen accused was also obtained by the police.

YEIDA has allotted over 30k plots so far, but 50% not registered yet

Noida: A survey by Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has revealed that around 50% of plots allotted under various categories across 13 sectors are yet to be registered.

The Authority had recently carried out the survey to assess amenities that still needed to be provided in these sectors to accommodate the growing settlement ahead of the Noida airport's inauguration later this year. YEIDA, the report said, has over 33,000 plots across four categories — industrial, institutional, residential, and mixed-land use.

official said. Arun Vir Singh, the YEIDA CEO, has asked officials to conduct periodic reviews and update the database.

According to the survey, of 33,499 plots that YEIDA has off the Yamuna Expressway, 30,358 have already been allotted. But only 15,368 plots have been registered so far, while lease plans for 17,555 plots have not been sent yet. Moreover, there are 359 plots that are mired in various legal disputes — some of them even hit by farmers' protests. Of the 13 sectors, five are residential ones — 16, 17, 18, 20, and 22D — comprising 30,034

and 85 registered. Four industrial sectors — 28, 29, 32, and 33 — have 3,341 plots in total, with 2,994 allotted and 1,995 registered. Sectors 24 and 24A are for mixed-land use, with a total of 41 plots, of which 8 are allotted and registered.

Basic civic amenities, such as roads, water, electricity, sewers, and parks, have been completed on 15,541 plots, the survey found. The development of amenities on 8,077 plots has been progressing rapidly, officials said, while there are challenges in setting up facilities on 9,523 plots.

YEIDA, however, has set a target of

web targeted Lisa Marie Presley's estate, raising concerns about Graceland's foreclosure by Naussany Investments. The thief claimed the foreclosure was a scam, sparking legal disputes and court involvement. 110578652

Stranger Things Season 5: Plot twists, new characters and more: What to expect Stranger Things Season 5 will introduce new characters and feature a time jump, bringing fresh dynamics to the story. 110458652

'Star Trek' plot twist: 'Spock's home planet' goes missing, Nasa says NASA scientists encounter the mysterious disappearance of

Delhi people demanded immediate resignation of CM Kejriwal from the post of Chief Minister, submitted memorandum: Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia

New Delhi: The delegation of Delhi people, Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia demanded from Delhi people's CM Arvind Kejriwal that he should resign from the post of Chief Minister of Delhi with immediate effect. The demand of resignation of the Chief Minister of the government of the people of Delhi from the post of Chief Minister has been given through this memorandum. Please resign from the post of Chief Minister of Delhi on this memorandum. Because the people of Delhi have themselves passed a proposal to establish their own system in Delhi as the government of the people of Delhi. He further said that Kejriwal came in the name of common man, now he is no longer a common man. The Aam Aadmi Party which came to end corruption has itself been involved in corruption and this party is no longer the Aam Aadmi Party, this party has now become the Arvind Party alone and the kind of

scams that the Aam Aadmi Party and the corrupt Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal have done, whether it is the Delhi Jal Board scam, the liquor scam, the Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinic scam, the classroom scam, the bus purchase scam, today the situation is such that the Aam Aadmi Party has become a party of scams. They have resorted to lying every day, now Kejriwal himself should resign to the LG of Delhi. Bam-Bam Maharaj Nauhattia said that Kejriwal, the people of Delhi did not give you the power of Delhi to run the govern-

ment from jail or in captivity. There is not

administration while being in captivity.

There is no such state in India whose Chief Minister is running the government from imprisonment. He said that Kejriwal ji, the people of Delhi cannot start or ignore a wrong practice and wrong tradition. Therefore, through this letter, we demand you to resign from the post of Chief Minister till you remain a judicial prisoner. If even after this demand letter, you do not submit your resignation from the post of Chief Minister of Delhi to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, then the people of Delhi will be forced to file a petition in the Delhi High Court or the Supreme Court of the Government of India to dismiss you from the post of prisoner Chief Minister, the cost of which will be yours personally.



Govt to set up camps to fix flaws in family IDs

GURGAON. Govt has corrected errors in family identity cards - called Pavitra Pehchan Patra (PPP) - of 2.5 lakh applicants but another 45,000 are pending, officials said on Sunday. They said that a campaign will be initiated after Lok Sabha election results are declared on June 4 to address errors flagged by applicants on their PPPs. Most revision applications for Pavitra Pehchan Patra are related to errors in annual income, which can only be amended after verification by authorities. Haryana introduced PPP in Dec 2020 with the aim to ensure transparency in govt schemes and gather accurate information. The card includes details about families, including occupation of family members and their income. It is a mandatory document to avail any govt scheme benefit. During the hastily launched campaign, people either provided incorrect information or the surveyors uploaded data without physically visiting the households," said Rishikesh Sangwan, a social worker who has been helping people in Rohtak get their PPP rectified. Sangwan said offices of sub-district magistrates are inundated with applications from people seeking to get the errors amended in their family IDs. "Considering the growing number of cases and public discontent, govt has once again decided to set up special camps to address these inaccuracies for the convenience of people," Sangwan added. Satish Khola, state coordinator of the Parivar Pehchan Patra Authority, said that camps will be organised in villages from June 5 and in cities from June 10. "At these camps, any errors in PPP will be addressed. Preparations for these camps have already begun. The camps will primarily focus on rectifying errors in income, employment, names, and adding or removing names from family IDs," he said. The process to amend information is expected to take at least 30 days. Officials said 6,840 CRID (citizen resource information department) panchayat local operators have been appointed for the task, and preparations are underway to deploy 1,800 operators in cities as well.

NAME CHANGE: I. Satish Chander Aggarwal s/o Late Khem Chand... I. Mohd Murtuza S/o Mohd Januudinn... I. Ram Gopal S/o Ram Saran Dass... I. HARSH GOEL W/O AMRIT GOYAL... I. K SANTHA KUMARI mother of NO-16116965Y Rank-SPR Name-SURESH G R/O VPO-NATLALAM, TEH-VILAVANCODE, DISTT KANYAKUMARI, TAMIL NADU-629165 have changed my name from K SANTHA KUMARI to SANTHA KUMARI for all future purposes... I. SAVITI BANJALI alias Savitri Rani D/O Devi Singh Pathania W/O Rashi Singh Baryal R/O B-2/1st floor, Pocket -B, DDA MIG Ashok Vihar Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi -110052, have changed my name to Savitri Rani

NAME CHANGE: I. Aditya S/o Jai Bhagwan r/o house no 637 baidpur post mathapur Sonapat Haryana-131029, have changed the name to Aditya Kumar for all future purposes... NAME CHANGE: I. hitherto known as NANAK CHAND SHARMA alias NAND CHAND SHARMA, R/O H.NO. A-31/19, Netaji Gali No.01, Maujpur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NANAK SHARMA... PUBLIC NOTICE: Information is given to general public at large that our clients Mrs. Sumita Jacion is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Property Bearing Portion of Plot No. 14, land area measuring 66.66 Sq. Yds. Out of Kharsa No. 43/17, Situated in Revenue Estate of Village - Hastasi, Colony known as Mohan Garden, Block - L-1, 408, Nagar, New Delhi 110059. By Virtue of Sale Deed dated 31.08.2023 as Doc. No. 22682, Vol. No. 9484, Book No. 1, Pages No. 150-159, SR - IIB Delhi,, in the chain Documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. Revenue Record/Title Document in favour of Mr. Ram Pat S/o Mr. Paker & (2) Probate order of Regd. WILL dated 30.05.2005 now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property is currently financed by DMI Housing Finance Private Limited and now same is going to be re-financed by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd.. Branch: Dwarka New Delhi If any person has any objection or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 14 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained. [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211,sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 9958871432

NAME CHANGE: I. PRADUMAN JAIN S/O PREM CHAND JAIN residing at H NO-32, GUJRAT VIHAR, VIKAS MARG, DELHI-110092 have changed my name to PRADUMAN KUMAR JAIN all future purposes... NAME CHANGE: I. MADHU BATA W/O Dharam Singh R/O H No-51, Gram Baryawas, Sector 30 Post Majra, Rewari-123401, Haryana, Have Changed My Name to Madhu Yadav For All Purpose... NAME CHANGE: I. SONU W/O Dinesh Residing Brahmanwas, P.O.: Basantpur, Rohtak - 124001 have changed my name from Sonu to Suren for all future purposes... NAME CHANGE: I. JALDEEP SINGH S/O RAMPAL SINGH R/O H.No-1043, Sector 51, N-Block, Mayfield Garden, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name Inaya Singh To Shivanya Gill For All Purpose... NAME CHANGE: I. SHUBHAM GOEL S/O AMRIT GOYAL R/O H.NO-101 POKET-A3 Sector 7 Rohini Delhi 110085 have changed my name to SHUBHAM GOYAL for all future purposes... NAME CHANGE: I. SIMMY KHAN W/O KUSHAL YADAV, R/O G-146/47, Gali No. 2, Mohan Garden, Sai Enclave, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as SANJEEV KUMAR and RAKESH KUMAR in my driving Licence No. DL-0420130274383. The actual name of mine and my father are SANJIV YADAV and RAKESH YADAV respectively.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:- S. Tender No. Brief Description Qty. Closing Date 1. 82241200C Liraglutide Pen Jj 6mg per mL (Long Acting Insulin) 2890 Nos. 24-06-2024 2. 82244100B Tab/Cap, Brutinib 140mg 2670 Nos. 24.06.2024 Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Date:- 01.06.2024 16/47/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE General Public is hereby informed that Mr. Mohd Sabir & Mr. Mohd Sahid & Mr. Mohd Jahid & Mr. Mohd Asif is owner of House no. 5, area measuring 680.46 sq. mtrs. Situated at Residential colony block-7, sector-2, Rajender nagar, Sahibabad, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad. U.P. vide Regd.Freehold deed Dated 06.05.2013 executed by GDA in favour of Mr. Mohd Sabir & Mr. Mohd Sahid & Mr. Mohd Jahid & Mr. Mohd Asif. (As doc no. 4845, Book no.1, Vol. No. 9317, pages no. 211-228, SRO-III Ghaziabad. Now, Mr. Mohd Jahid S/o Sh. Haji Ali Jaid intends to execute Regd. Gift Deed for plot area measuring 160 sq. yds. in favour of Mrs. Samjida W/o Mohd Jahid who intends to mortgage said property for his bonafide requirements with Fedbank Financial Services Ltd. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or acquisition or anyone has claim or right or interest in the property shall contact the undersigned with the objection within 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections. PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE Enrl. No. D/721/02 Office: L-27, GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

NOTICE Public at large is hereby informed that Smt. Sumitra Devi w/o late Om Dutt Sharma is the owner of Property bearing No. C-12/239 (plot no. 239, Block-C-12) area measuring 70 sq mtrs situated at Yamuna Vihar, Ilaqa Shadara Delhi-110053. Initially, Conveyance Deed dated 26.12.2003 executed by DDA in favour of Om Dutt Sharma (earlier as Om Dutt) in respect of said property. Later, Om Dutt Sharma died leaving behind legal heirs Sh. Sudhir Sharma, Sh. Dheeraj Sharma, Sh. Atul Sharma, Smt. Anita Sharma, Smt. Sunita, Smt. Sarita Sharma and Smt. Sumitra Devi, Later, Relinquishment Deed dated 26.02.2021 executed by Sh. Sudhir Sharma, Sh. Dheeraj Sharma, Sh. Atul Sharma, Smt. Anita Sharma, Smt. Sunita and Smt. Sarita Sharma in favour of Smt. Sumitra Devi w/o late Om Dutt Sharma (Doc. No. 531). Finally, Rectification Deed dated 13.06.2023 executed by Sh. Sudhir Sharma, Sh. Dheeraj Sharma, Sh. Atul Sharma, Smt. Anita Sharma, Smt. Sunita and Smt. Sarita Sharma in favour of Smt. Sumitra Devi w/o late Om Dutt Sharma (Doc. No. 1831) regarding wrong mention in the Relinquishment Deed dated 26.02.2021 name Sumantra Devi instead of Smt. Sumitra Devi, Now Smt. Sumitra Devi intends to mortgage the said immovable property for their bonafide requirements to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or anyone has claim or right or interest in the said property shall contact the undersigned with the objection within 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections or claims to this property. NEW DELHI DATE: 3/6/2024 PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE Enrl. No. D/721/02 Office: L-27, GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

NEWS BOX

German police officer stabbed by Afghan refugee dies of injuries

Frankfurt,UPDATED. A 29-year-old German police officer has died of injuries suffered during a mmmmmn, officials said on Sunday (June 2). The officer was stabbed several times in the head and neck by a 25-year-old immigrant from Afghanistan and underwent emergency surgery after the attack on May 31, officials said. The officer was placed in an artificial coma but succumbed to his injuries on June 2. Chancellor Olaf Scholz posted on X, formerly Twitter, that he was "deeply grieved" and that the officer's "commitment to the safety of us all deserves the highest recognition". Two dozen of the officer's colleagues paid tribute to their fallen comrade, removing their hats during a gathering on June 2 at the site of the attack. The suspect was shot and wounded by another officer. He remained hospitalised and a judge has ordered him held on suspicion of attempted murder. Police and prosecutors have not provided a motive for the attack, saying the suspect was not in a condition to be questioned. The attack took place during an event held by Pax Europa, which describes itself as an organisation that informs the public about the dangers posed by the "increasing spread and influence of political Islam". Michael Sturzenberger, a 59-year-old anti-Islamist activist who is one of the group's leading figures and has spoken at its events, was among those wounded. The other victims were four men ages 25, 36, 42 and 54. The 54-year-old man suffered injuries that were initially life-threatening, but he was now out of danger.

Israeli airstrikes near city of Aleppo kills several people, Syrian state media say

BEIRUT. Israeli airstrikes around the Syrian city of Aleppo killed several people early on Monday, Syrian state media reported. The state-run SANA news agency gave no specific toll. It said the strikes were around the southeastern edge of Aleppo. "The aggression led to a number of martyrs and some arterial losses," SANA said. Israel did not immediately acknowledge the strikes and rarely does when it comes to Syria.

Syria and Israel have been at war since Israel's founding in 1948. Syria's President Bashar Assad has been backed by Iran in his country's yearslong war, and Israeli strikes previously have targeted Iranian positions and equipment. The strikes also come while Israel is fighting Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Israel separately has been striking targets in Lebanon as well as Hezbollah continues its cross-border fire into the country.

The Seoul city government sent a text alert to residents on Saturday, warning of an "unidentified object presumed to be North Korean propaganda leaflets". Pyongyang defended its release of the balloons earlier this week, saying the "sincere gifts" were retaliation for the balloons sent into North Korea with propaganda against leader Kim Jong Un.

Zelenskyy in Philippines to promote peace summit he says China and Russia are trying to undermine

MANILA: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in the Philippines on Monday in a rare Asian trip to urge regional leaders to attend a Swiss-organized global peace summit on the war in Ukraine that he accuses Russia, with China's help, of trying to undermine. Zelenskyy arrived unannounced and under heavy security in Manila late Sunday after speaking over the weekend at the Shangri-La defense forum in Singapore.

He had planned but failed to meet with Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on the sidelines of that annual defense gathering and decided to fly here to personally invite Marcos to attend the summit in Switzerland, two Filipino officials told The Associated Press. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss details of Zelenskyy's secretive trip to Manila.

Both leaders spoke critically of China at the defense forum in Singapore, which was attended by top defense and government officials from around the world, including from Washington and Beijing. The talks were held amid the raging wars in Gaza and Ukraine as well as growing tensions and rivalry for influence between the United States and China in the Indo-Pacific region. At a news conference at the Singapore forum Sunday, Zelenskyy accused China of helping Russia to disrupt the Swiss-organized peace summit by pressuring other countries and their leaders not to attend the talks.

"Russia, using Chinese influence in the region, using Chinese diplomats also, does everything to disrupt the peace summit," he said without elaborating. "Regrettably, this is unfortunate that such a big independent powerful country as China is an instrument in the hands of (Russian leader Vladimir) Putin." The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment on Zelenskyy's claim. China has taken what it says is a neutral position on the war, putting it at odds with Ukraine, the U.S. and most of Europe and its trade with Russia has grown, easing the economic impact of Western sanctions. American, Ukrainian and other intelligence agencies say there is evidence that Chinese parts are winding up in Russian weaponry, even if China is not directly arming its neighbor. Switzerland had been hoping China would attend the peace conference in mid-June, but Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning signaled Friday that that was unlikely. At the security forum, Zelenskyy urged top defense officials to participate in the talks in Switzerland, expressing disappointment over the failure of some countries to commit to attending. Ukraine, he said, has proposals to make at the summit as a basis for peace, addressing nuclear security, food security, the release of prisoners of war and the return of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia. Zelenskyy said Ukraine is "ready to hear various proposals and thoughts that lead us... to an end of the war and a sustainable and just peace."

North Korea to stop sending trash balloons, South vows 'unbearable' retaliation

Seoul. North Korea said on Sunday it would stop sending balloons carrying trash over the border to South Korea but vowed to resume the practice if anti-North Korean leaflets are flown over again from the South. South Korea has had enough experience of how unpleasant it is and how much effort it takes to collect trash after North Korea sent 15 tons of it using 3,500 balloons, the North's vice-minister of defence Kim Kang Il said in a statement carried by state media outlet KCNA. South Korea said it would take "unendurable" measures against North Korea for sending the trash balloons over the border, which could include blaring propaganda from loudspeakers directed at the North. The announcement from President Yoon Suk Yeol's office followed a meeting of his National Security Council on a response to what Seoul said were more than 700 balloons carrying trash that Pyongyang sent over the heavily fortified border to annoy its neighbour. The council condemned the balloons, and simultaneous GPS jamming, as an "irrational act of provocation". Seoul did

not rule out resuming the loudspeaker blasts, which it stopped in 2018 after a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a senior official at Yoon's office told reporters.

The democratic South and the communist North remain technically at war since the 1950-1953 Korean War ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty. Seoul is a firm US ally whose sophisticated military regularly holds drills with the US, while Pyongyang is developing missile and nuclear technology that Seoul and Washington say violates UN resolutions. North Korea has said its balloons were in retaliation for a propaganda campaign by North Korean defectors and activists in South Korea, who regularly send inflatables containing anti-Pyongyang leaflets, food, medicine, money and USB sticks loaded with K-pop music videos and dramas across the border. The North Korean balloons carrying garbage such as cigarette butts, cloth, paper waste and plastic were found



North Korea on Wednesday sent hundreds of balloons carrying trash and what was labelled as manure across the border as what it called "gifts of sincerity". Seoul responded angrily, calling the move base and dangerous. North Korea has not commented on the weekend balloons.

South Korean Defence Minister Shin Won-sik told US Defense Secretary Austin Lloyd at a conference in

across the capital Seoul from 8 pm on Saturday to 1 pm on Sunday (1100 GMT on Saturday to 0400 GMT on Sunday), South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

They said the military was monitoring the starting point and conducting aerial reconnaissance to track down and collect the balloons, which have large bags of trash suspended beneath them.

South Korean officers with rifles were picking up and bagging what appeared to be trash from the balloons in cordoned-off areas, local media footage showed.

Singapore on Sunday that the balloons violated the armistice agreement, according to South Korea's military. The two reaffirmed a coordinated response to any North Korean threats and provocations based on the South Korea-US alliance's combined defence posture, it said.

Emergency alerts were issued in North Gyeongsang and Gangwon provinces and some parts of Seoul on Sunday, urging people not to touch the balloons and to alert police.

Pakistan Army gets minority woman brigadier in historic first

Islamabad Dr Helen Mary Roberts, serving in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps, has made history by becoming the first woman from the Christian and minority community to achieve the rank of brigadier in the Muslim-majority country. Roberts was among Pakistan Army officers promoted as brigadiers and full colonels by the Selection Board, The News reported on Sunday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Helen on her promotion as Brigadier, saying the whole nation was proud of her and thousands of hardworking women like her from minority communities who are serving the country with distinction. "I myself and the nation congratulate Brig Helen Mary Roberts on getting the honour of the first female from minority to be promoted as Brigadier in the Pakistan Army", he said. Brigadier Dr Helen is a senior pathologist and has been serving in the Pakistan Army for the last 26 years.

During a Christmas celebration at Christ Church in Rawalpindi last year, Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir had commended the role played by the minority community in the country's development.



According to data released by the

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in 2021, there are 96.47 per cent Muslims in the country, followed by 2.14 per cent Hindus, 1.27 per cent Christians, 0.09 per cent Ahmadi Muslims and 0.02 per cent others.

Mexico set to get first female president as deadly violence mars historic polls

World A majority of the polls closed in Mexico's election on Sunday as the country is expected to elect its first female president, Claudia Sheinbaum.

Marred by violence, the election that was the largest in the country's history was also the bloodiest. Several political candidates and applicants have been killed by criminal organisations trying to influence those in power. At least 38 candidates were killed, triggering concerns about the threat of conflicting drug cartels to democracy, news agency Reuters reported. Claudia Sheinbaum from the ruling leftist Morena party, is expected to defeat Xochitl Gálvez from the conservative PAN party, who is representing a coalition of opposition parties. The third candidate

is Jorge Alvarez Maynez, the youngest in the poll race, who is representing the center-left Citizens' Movement.

Here are top five developments in Mexico elections: The National Electoral Institute said that it had to cancel plans for 170 polling booths, mostly in Michoacan and Chiapas and mostly due to security concerns. In Puebla, four armed assailants attempted to burst into a school where voting booths were installed to steal ballots. In western Mexico, a local candidate was shot dead on June 1, hours before the country voted. Violent crimes have been a top issue in this year's presidential contest. Almost 100 million Mexicans were eligible to cast their vote in Sunday's election. Barring the presidential contest, other

positions up for grabs include Mexico City's mayor, eight governorships and both chambers of Congress. Around 1.4 million Mexicans are eligible to vote abroad as well, CNN reported. About 20,000 elected positions are on ballots, the most in Mexico's history, Reuters reported.

In some regions of Mexico, voters decided to nullify their votes by writing in the names of some of the country's over 1,10,000 missing people as president as part of the 'Vote for the Disappeared' campaign. The Associated Press reported. Such families have criticised outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's government, who they say has sought to minimise the problem of people missing.



did not rule out sending troops to Ukraine, which sent shock waves through much of Europe and unsettled allies including Germany. The Kremlin slammed the remarks, calling them "dangerous". French authorities have suspected foreign -- notably Russian -- interference in domestic affairs in several other recent incidents, including last month when red hand graffiti was painted onto France's Holocaust Memorial.

The three suspects in that case are believed to have fled abroad. France suspects that Russia was behind another high-profile incident, the daubing of dozens of Stars of David on buildings in Paris and its suburbs shortly after the October 7 attack by Hamas militants on Israel.

European powers seek to censure Iran at UN nuclear meeting

VIENNA. Britain, France and Germany will seek to censure Iran over its lack of cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog at its board meeting on Monday despite US opposition, diplomats told AFP.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Tehran is the only non-nuclear weapon state to enrich uranium to 60%, while it keeps accumulating large uranium stockpiles. That is approaching the enrichment levels of 90% needed for atomic weapons. It is also well above the authorised 3.67% used for nuclear power stations. Iran has always denied wanting to acquire a nuclear weapon, but the rapid expansion of its nuclear programme has no "credible civilian justification", said one diplomat who asked not to be named. Diplomats told AFP that submitting a motion against Iran at the Vienna meeting was driven by an "urgency to react to the gravity of the situation". The planned resolution comes after the IAEA board passed the last one of its kind in November 2022.

Even though Iran continued to significantly ramp up its nuclear programme since then, the IAEA's board has refrained from a

censure. At the last board meeting in March, European powers decided to shelve their plans to confront Iran due to a lack of support from Washington.

The United States denies it is hampering European efforts to hold Tehran accountable but fears a censure could aggravate Middle East tensions ahead of presidential elections in November, diplomats say. "Essential and urgent" Cooperation between Iran and the IAEA has severely deteriorated in recent years, with the UN nuclear watchdog struggling for assurances that Iran's nuclear programme is peaceful.

Diplomats say maintaining the current policy of inaction amid Iran's escalation is no longer tenable and the US position could change ahead of the vote scheduled for later this week.

In May, IAEA head Rafael Grossi visited Iran in a bid to improve cooperation, calling for "concrete results... soon".

In the meantime, the death of Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash last month has put negotiations on hold. Diplomats, however, suggest Iran is using the accident as an excuse to stall. The draft resolution obtained by



AFP covers all the points of contention.

The confidential draft says it is "essential and urgent" that Tehran provides "technically credible explanations" for the presence of uranium particles found at two undeclared locations in Iran. Furthermore, Iran has to "reverse its withdrawal of the designations of several experienced Agency inspectors", and "without delay" reconnect the cameras used to monitor nuclear activities.

The draft also notes the "concerns" surrounding "recent public statements made in Iran... regarding its technical capabilities to produce nuclear weapons and possible changes to Iran's nuclear doctrine".

"Wider impasse" Iran has gradually broken away from its commitments under the

2015 nuclear deal it struck with the United States, China, Russia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. The landmark deal provided Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its atomic programme. But it fell apart after the unilateral withdrawal of the United States under then-president Donald Trump in 2018. Efforts to revive the deal have so far failed. "The US has reportedly been hesitant to endorse a resolution because Tehran has previously tended to double down on the very activities that are prompting censure," Naysan Rafati, an Iran analyst at the Crisis Group, told AFP. But Washington "will also be reluctant to publicly break with its European allies", he added. "A showdown at the board reflects a wider impasse over Iran's nuclear activity, with little diplomatic activity but increasing concern over a programme that continues to expand in scale under limited international oversight," Rafati said.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's ambassador to the international organisations in Vienna, wrote on X on Sunday that the IAEA board meeting was likely to become a turbulent one.

New Gen AI studio plans to hire freshers from Chennai colleges

CHENNAI: In a bid to make Chennai a hub of artificial intelligence, New Jersey-headquartered Ascendion, which is into Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered software engineering, has launched its first of the six GenAI Studio in Sholinganallur and is planning to hire 180 freshers from college in addition to people who know to write code. "We plan to quadruple the headcount we have. In Chennai, over 30% of our 1,800 staff are already focused on artificial intelligence and in the next couple of years we want to quadruple it. The focus is on AI impacting lives. We are also training engineers into artificial intelligence so that they can be the consumers of AI," said Karthik Krishnamurthy, chief executive officer of Ascendion. "India is the primary delivery hub in the digital next-generation talent. Core AI experts are in Chennai as it is natural for us to set up an AI studio in the state capital," said Krishnamurthy.

Prakash Balasubramanian, executive vice-president of Ascendion, said, "The Chennai studio is part of Ascendion's six major innovation hubs globally built on successes by fostering creativity, learning and collaboration. This new space will amplify client impact and drive growth by leveraging the high quality Gen AI talent in Chennai." Balasubramanian added that largest part of the core AI team is already in Chennai delivering some of the most important projects. It is learnt that the firm has taken 36 to 40 projects and one of them is providing AI solution to a call centre of a bank.

Illegal bushmeat trade alive and well in Krishnagiri's Sikkarimedu village

KRISHNAGIRI: The age-old banned practice of hunting wild animals for meat and other body parts continues to be popular in Sikkarimedu, a tribal settlement in Krishnagiri that has a majority population of Narikuravars. On Saturday, TNIE visited the tribal village along with Antony Rubin Clement, a member of the state board for wildlife, who had received a tip-off regarding the alleged sale of bushmeat in the region. At 10 am, the team stopped near one Vijay Dhaba, near the entrance to Sikkarimedu on NH 44. Soon, an elderly man, who was seated nearby, approached and identified himself as Sikkandar. Eventually, he asked, in Tamil, if the group was looking for an Udumbu (monitor lizard), a Schedule 1 species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Upon receiving an affirmative response, he escorted the team to the village. After 15 minutes, another villager brought out two subadult monitor lizards, whose legs were tied with copper wire. The villagers offered to cut, cook and serve the lizard meat, and also provide body massages using oil extracted from the reptiles. They further claimed that drinking the lizards' blood was good for health, adding that a popular Kannada actor is a regular client of theirs. Sikkandar told TNIE that people from Bengaluru, Chennai and parts of Andhra Pradesh regularly visit Sikkarimedu for the bushmeat, especially on weekends. Demand for bushmeat is high among



couples with infertility issues and people who are into fitness, due to its perceived medicinal value — a notion that experts have struck down as myth. Despite the Sikkarimedu villagers demanding a huge sum for the two live monitor lizards, Antony managed to convince them, acquire one of the lizards and then exited the village with TNIE.

'Village notorious for animal trade'

The reptile was safely handed over to Hosur District Forest Officer K Karthikeyani, after the team informed Chief Wildlife Warden Srinivas R Reddy about the incident. Reddy told TNIE that Sikkarimedu is notorious for illegal activities involving wildlife. "Bushmeat trade usually happens in a discreet manner, through known channels. However, in this case, it is shocking to see the brazenness with which they

approached strangers and offered live scheduled animals. We are working on a comprehensive plan along with the state wildlife crime control bureau to deal with the issue," he said. DFO Karthikeyani stated that monitor lizards caught in Pudukkottai, Tiruppur and Cuddalore, are brought into Sikkarimedu for sale via public buses. It is a very organised trade, she noted. "We have tried different methods to deter them, including creating alternative livelihoods and empowering the women in the village.

In 2015-16, the state government provided funds to each family in the village to encourage them to seek out a legitimate livelihood and prevent them from hunting wild animals. We installed CCTV cameras, conducted multiple raids, arrested and imposed hefty fines on the accused. Although some change has been observed, there is a section of people who continues to indulge in the illegal trade. Even two months ago we conducted a joint operation with police personnel and rescued a few monitor lizards from their possession," Karthikeyani said. Further, she said the villagers caught are small timers. Nadeson, popularly known as Apple, is the kingpin and owns sizable wealth, she claimed. "He uses village women as human shields when we try to enter the village. All transactions are done in cash leaving no digital footprint. We are working on a strategy to deal with this," Karthikeyani added.

Kerala: 10 years post Kinfra takeover, Travancore Rayons in ruins

KOCHI: More than two decades after the Travancore Rayons unit at Perumbavoor was shut down, the nearly 70-acre property is now nothing more than a collection of ruined buildings, climbing vines, and peeling paint. June marks 10 years since state government-owned Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Kinfra) assumed partial possession of the property. Sixty-eight acres — rich in forestry — lies untouched, unattended and restricted in the heart of Vallam in Perumbavoor. The beginnings of Travancore Rayons, however, held promise. In 1946, Travancore Diwan C P Ramaswamy Iyer, in the hopes of industrialising the area, invited industrialist and business mogul M Ct M Chidambaram Chettyar to Vallam. Chettyar, who was the founder of the Indian Overseas Bank, founded the rayon manufacturing unit at Vallam, which bordered the erstwhile administrative states of Travancore and Cochin.

Following Chettyar's death in a plane crash at Kallang Airport in Singapore in 1954, his children M Ct Muthiah and M Ct Pethachi took over the business.

The company flourished and occupied its position as the first to set up a rayon manufacturing plant in India. Perumbavoor developed into a fully functioning municipality under the growth and influence of the Travancore Rayons. Local residents also claim that Perumbavoor evolved into a developed bus route because of the influence and advancement of the company.

However, in the 1980s, the company started facing issues. According to local residents, mismanagement was one of the major reasons. Chettyar's sons weren't interested in running the business, they added. Travancore Rayons underwent various unnecessary expansions, and it is widely acknowledged that internal power struggles and corruption were prevalent, unchecked by the management. It became apparent that there had been excessive recruitment, resulting in a workforce of over 400 employees.

Consequently, when the company encountered challenges, it resorted to terminating and laying off a portion of its staff. Another significant reason for its fall was the introduction of other alternative products such as the cheaper polythene paper, made out of petroleum, in the market. Travancore Rayons was also notorious for the pollution it caused, which at the time was not discussed widely or even taken seriously.

Exit polls stir a wave of anxiety in Kadapa

KADAPA: The exit polls released by several national and regional news channels and agencies have stirred a wave of anxiety and anticipation among contestants and punters. Kadapa district, a stronghold of the YS family for the past two decades, has witnessed an unprecedented electoral battle in the just concluded general elections between the YSRC and the tripartite alliance. Of the 10 Assembly and two parliamentary constituencies in the erstwhile undivided district, Kadapa, Rajampet, Jammalamadugu, Mydukur and Proddatur are the focal points of the fierce contest.

For Kadapa Lok Sabha seat, there is a triangular contest among the YSRC, TDP and Congress. There seems to be a significant cross-voting across Kadapa parliamentary and Assembly constituencies with APCC chief YS Sharmila entering the poll fray. Barring a few sporadic incidents of violence, the elections concluded peacefully. However, the calm post-poll atmosphere has been charged with excitement as betting rings have gone into overdrive. Enormous sums of money have been wagered on the poll outcome of high-stake constituencies like Kadapa, Rajampet, Jammalamadugu, Mydukur and Proddatur. The betting frenzy has extended beyond party affiliations, drawing in unaffiliated individuals, who placed substantial bets on the poll outcome. Particularly high stakes are involved on the winning majority of Chief Minister YS Jagan

Mohan Reddy in his home constituency Pulivendula. Punters have bet that his majority will be half of the previous count of 90,000 votes. For Kadapa Lok Sabha seat, bets have been placed on Sharmila's winning chances, ranging from losing her deposit to achieving a victory. The release of exit polls has sparked anxiety among candidates with concerns about their potential impact on the election outcome and their political future. Key candidates of various constituencies are on edge as the counting day is just a day away.

A loss or failure to secure her deposit may significantly impact the political career of Sharmila. C Bhupesh Subbarami Reddy of TDP, is another first-time contestant. He is pitted against seasoned campaigner YS Avinash Reddy of YSRC, who eyes a hat-trick of wins from Kadapa. In Rajampet parliamentary constituency, former chief minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy has entered the fray on BJP ticket after a long political hiatus. Kiran Kumar Reddy's political future hinges on poll outcome. In Jammalamadugu Assembly constituency, C Adinarayana Reddy of BJP is in the fray. Having won three consecutive terms, a loss may be a significant blow to his family's political influence.

In Kadapa Assembly constituency, Reddappa Gari Madhavi Reddy of TDP has entered the fray for the first time. She faced a stiff fight from Deputy Chief Minister SB Amzath Basha. A win will make her the first woman MLA from Kadapa.

1,138 school buses in Nellore district yet to get fitness certificate from RTA

NELLORE: It is evident that educational institutions are not heeding the warnings of the Road Transport Authority (RTA) pertaining to the fitness of buses, unmindful of its danger potential. In Nellore district, out of the total 1,517 school buses, only 379 have obtained the mandatory fitness certificate so far. Schools are set to reopen on June 12.

A whopping 1,138 school buses are yet to get the fitness certificate. During the RTA inspection, 71 buses have been outrightly rejected due to their poor condition and significant safety issues. The RTA offices are located in Nellore, Atmakur, Kavali and Kandukur in the district. Each Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) at these offices can inspect up to 10 buses per day. With eight MVIs working at these RTA offices, they can issue fitness certificates to 80 buses a day. Despite the RTA wherewithal to issue fitness certificates, a significant number of school buses in the district are operating without the mandatory certificate, causing a concern to parents about the safety of their children. Though the RTA authorities have urged the school managements to promptly get their buses inspected before the reopening of schools, the response seems to be lukewarm. Hence, the RTA authorities are set to crack a whip on the school buses without fitness certificate to ensure that student safety is not compromised. Around 10 school bus mishaps have occurred in Nellore, Atmakur and Gudur in the last five years. Normally, the school management needs to form a committee with the parents to ensure the safety of students. The committee needs to inspect the condition of the bus every month.

Despite grace marks, SSLC results below par

BENGALURU: Results for Karnataka's Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams have painted a grim picture this year. The pass percentage for 2023-24 averaged 73.40 per cent, yet the actual pass percentage was a mere 54 per cent, meaning only about half of the total 8,59,967 students who appeared passed, according to the previous assessment rules. This has raised serious questions not only about the quality of state board education, but also the future of these children who passed only due to the 'government's grace'.

With the declaration of results on May 8, the Karnataka State Examination Assessment Board (KSEAB), the nodal authority for examinations in the state under the Department of Primary Education and Literacy, stated that due to the decline in pass percentage by 30 per cent since last year, which was

83.89 per cent, the board decided to "enhance normalisation in the interest of students". The qualifying marks for attracting grace from the existing 35 per cent were reduced to 25 per cent, and grace marks increased from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in all subjects, as a one-time measure for all three SSLC exams of 2024. If one recalls, the government on September 5, 2023, had scrapped supplementary exams and introduced three board exam rules, allowing students to choose the best out of three as their final grade. This 'normalisation of qualifying marks' is a point of contention because if students cannot have a basic understanding of the subject, how are they qualified enough to move to higher classes? Many educationists have attributed this move by the government as a face-saving measure. Several individuals,

including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, raised questions on the need for increased grace marks. Some even said if there are two more exams left, why issue grace marks in the first exam?

Meanwhile, officials said that for the first time in SSLC exams, webcasting systems through CCTV were introduced in almost 99 per cent of the 2,750 examination centres throughout the state. Control rooms were set up in all districts to monitor the live feed.

"This has restored integrity and inculcated a habit of writing exams without resorting to unfair practices," defended Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, School Education and Literacy department. This year, malpractices were recorded in single digits for each paper, with two instances of mass copying.

KOCHI: Life is not meant to be spent idling, says K Parameshwaran as he deftly weaves 'kuruthola' or tender coconut palm fronds, turning them into eye-catching shapes and designs. A resident of Amballoor in Thrissur, the multifaceted Parameshwaran has been living his values by continuously engaging in one work or another. TNIE caught up with the 65-year-old at the venue of the school pravesanotsavam at the Government HSS, Elamakkara, where he was setting up a series of corn stalks, complete with the fruit. Unassuming, Parameshwaran is not your run-of-the-mill person. "I come from a poor family and didn't have the means to go for higher studies. But

that didn't deter me from studying as a private candidate. I did my PG in Economics from Calicut University and then worked as a teacher for 16 years," says Parameshwaran, who learnt the art of weaving coconut fronds from his father. All through the years that he studied, and then worked, he has been continuously creating various sculptures using the 'kuruthola'. "This is an inborn talent and my youngest son too has acquired it," says Parameshwaran who has been a regular at the pravesanotsavam venues. For him, this is voluntary service. "Art if commercialised loses its soul," he says. After his



teaching stint, he took up a job as a chef with the ISRO. According to him, that is another talent innate in him. "Everyone asks me whether I learnt the culinary art, and when I say that I have not, they find it difficult to believe me! But the fact can be checked with the researchers and officials who worked at ISRO and ate the food I prepared," he added.

He worked as a chef with

ISRO for six years and then donned the mantle of a sales manager for various companies. Later, he worked as an assistant security supervisor at a shipyard in Dubai. "All these roles that I took up were a means to eke out a living," says Parameshwaran who also pens poems.

Explaining the process of weaving, he says, "Every design takes shape in my mind. And the time required for every piece differs. I am also planning to make small birds out of the banana flower. These will be hung in a string fashioned out of the 'kuruthola'. These will be hung at the entrance." Parameshwaran also helps out with an event management company.

Metro operations stop on MG road-Indira Nagar stretch

BENGALURU: Metro operations came to an abrupt halt between MG Road and Indira Nagar stations on the Purple Line during peak evening hour on Sunday, as a tree fell on the rail tracks due to heavy rain. Train ops were halted at 7.26 pm, between the two points (which cover four stations), while short loop trains were run covering the two ends of the Purple Line. Both the Fire department and the BBMP were trying to remove the tree from the tracks late Sunday night. Halasuru and Trinity stations figure between M G Road and Indira Nagar

stations. "A train operator spotted the fallen tree on the tracks, as he was departing Trinity Metro station towards MG Road. He did not move the train and alerted the station controller. The passengers were deboarded at the station itself," Chief Public Relations Officer, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), BL Yashavanth Chavan told TNIE. Short loop trains were operated between Indira Nagar and Whitefield on one end and MG Road and Challaghatta on the other. "It will take 2-3 hours to clear the tree. Heavy rain is also delaying the process.

After the tree is removed, we need to take stock of the damage to the tracks and then consider the safety angle, which is paramount for us. Only after safety tests are done, can we resume operations along this stretch. We are doing our best to restore it at the earliest," he added. It is still unclear if trains will run along this stretch on Monday morning when operations commence at 5 am. "We have the full night ahead of us. We are hopeful of restoring normal operations by Monday evening. We will issue an update late at night if there will be any



change in that," BMRCL MD Maheshwar Rao said. AS Shankar, Executive Director, Operations and Maintenance, BMRCL,

said, "The train had just left Trinity station when the train operator noticed the fallen tree. The rear end of the train was still near the platform. He just reversed the train a little and passengers ended up alighting at the platform only. There was another train about to start from the MG Road Metro station and staff at Trinity station alerted the train operator not to run that train and passengers were made to alight at the station there. Neither of the trains were stuck midway and so no passenger had to alight along the tracks or use the walkway."

Bitter home truths with 'Jaggi'

Punjabi movie 'Jaggi', released on MUBI, has been getting rave reviews for its brave and honest exploration of issues of sexuality and bullying in a rural setting. Sheetal talks to director Anmol Sidhu. Excerpts: Now that 'Jaggi' is finally available on OTT, what has been the response? I have been flooded with calls and messages. People have shared how they have been through the same trauma. For many, 'Jaggi' represents a personal reality that has for long been ignored or simply buried. The most interesting messages are that such films should be made in Punjab rather than the clichéd ones that hit the theatres every Friday. How difficult was the whole process of scripting, acting and direction? We were all students of theatre and were part of Alankar Theatre Group. Ramnish Chaudhary was a junior and I had directed him in one of my plays. When I narrated the story, he thought it's a subject that deserves a film. The only challenge was the lack of equipment. So, most of the scenes were shot in a single take. There were technical hurdles which we as a team managed to overcome. To keep it real, I preferred long shots and as every actor had a background in theatre, it went off smoothly.

It's a film that's brutally honest and sensitive. To be honest, when we decided to make a film on a disturbing reality that's prevalent in rural Punjab and is still not called out, it meant we were ready to deal with any eventuality. I think we were all very well trained by Chakresh Kumar Sir to approach any scene fearlessly. For the intense role



of Jaggi, Ramnish was handed the script seven months prior to the shoot to imbibe the trauma and struggles. He stayed away from the other actors and the only inputs came from me, so that the ridicule Jaggi faced could transfer well on to the screen.

How has the creative process of making 'Jaggi' and its success changed you and the team?

It has changed everything for us. It was when I thought of making this film that I bought a camera. Ramnish and Harmandeep Singh, who play the main characters, were always there with me. Harman used to work as an Amazon delivery boy. When I asked him if he could assist me, he agreed without thinking twice, despite having only a few scenes. He picked tripods and assisted me throughout the making of 'Jaggi'. Ramnish too pitched in. We made the whole film travelling on a motorcycle to different places. We did everything ourselves, from editing to sound design and would sit for days in a small apartment while also dubbing. My mother was also a great host. We made the film with zero external funding and finally found producers for our next project as they saw our talent and work through international festivals. It motivated us a lot.

Did you fall back upon cinematic references?

I consider Anurag Kashyap as my guru. He once said that one can make a movie through a phone and it really inspired me. It was a great honour to see him present our film. There's a film, '4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days', that inspires me. It is directed by Cristian Mungiu. I like every film of his. It influences my filmmaking.

'Jaggi' supposedly is based on true events.

It's based on facts but there are also fictional inputs. It's a mix of five-six incidents. For instance, one came from my brother's hostel, of seniors sexually assaulting minors. There's also a novel, 'Rohi Biabaan', by Kamjit Singh Kussa. The book did help in research work.

Fire in the hills

Fire & fury marked the speeches of electoral hopefuls. What is of note is that no one mentioned environment and its protection

Turn in any direction and one will see smoke, if not the fire itself. All across the lower and mid-hills of the western Himalayas, forest fires are raging. Fires in the hills, and elsewhere, are not new. When the Kalka-Shimla railway line started functioning in the early 20th century, sparks would fly out of the coal-burning locomotives. These were held responsible for flames along the slopes. Villagers who lived along the track complained that their crops were affected and grasslands, on which their cattle depended, were destroyed. A system of compensation was worked out and, suddenly, there was a spurt in the number of fires. Spark arrestor chimneys, like those used on locomotives that steamed across the American prairies, were installed and other innovations added. The fires caused by the locomotives stopped but the claims for compensation did not.

In 2003, I joined a group of friends that was walking down the Kalka-Shimla railway track to commemorate a centenary of its construction. Along a short stretch, I was going to walk with them for a day. They would take four days and cover the entire length. My reason for choosing a single day was quite simple. I wanted to walk along, arguably, the prettiest stretch which lies between the stations of Kaithlight and Kandaghat. This is the section where the permanent way does not run close to the highway, but veers away to the opposite side of the hill. Open grasslands, patches of woodland and a few small villages mark this stretch. On the walk, marring this image of 'chocolate-box' beauty, there were swathes of charred trees and blackened ground. These were remnants of previous fires. At the same time, I was not prepared for the rubbish which debased this beauty and lay parked in every possible nook and cranny. Fifteen years later, in May 2018, I became a part of a massive clean-up along the Kalka-Shimla railway track. An initiative had been taken by Himachal's Legal Services Authority and hundreds of volunteers removed a significant amount of the rubbish that had accumulated along the line.

A few months later, I was travelling on the train where the area had been cleaned. A father passed an empty bottle to the mother, who passed it to their young child and out of the window it went. One of the passengers, very politely, remarked on this. The gentleman, with whom the empty bottle originated, was ready for a fight; the lady cried, "What else is one supposed to do?" In all likelihood, the child would have learnt that it was acceptable to toss one's rubbish anywhere. In conversation, there are very few things that will put me on the back foot regarding my country. One of these is litter, and our seeming indifference to where we throw our rubbish. That day, everyone in the compartment fell silent. Today, places that once held pristine beauty seem to have embraced filth with open arms. All across the hills, there was a time



we would rejoice when we saw a bit of colour emerge with the spring thaw. 'The first flowers are coming up,' we would tell ourselves. Now, that bit of colour, often enough, is a piece of plastic or an empty sachet that had been covered by the snow and has decided to reveal itself. In the hills, an older generation will tell you that if you can avoid doing so, do not buy land in a chir pine (pinus roxburghii) forest. While the tree has certain medicinal qualities, the cover of pine needles and their chemical content does not allow any substantive undergrowth. The springs can run dry. These are also the woods that are most prone to fires — some of which are accidental and some seem to have been deliberately lit. There is a premise that land cleared with fire will yield a better crop of grass in the monsoon. Tenuous as it may seem, there is a connection between fallen pine needles, litter and fire. Some of the rubbish is flammable and what is not, works its way into channels and adversely affects the springs and streams. Bottles, like the one thrown from

the train, can be the biggest culprits of them all. They act as magnifying glasses and can set the woods alight. Christ Church in Kasauli has a plaque marking the death of two British soldiers, Selby Lane and Richard Reed, who died fighting a forest fire in 1935 which, '...threatened to destroy Kasauli'. Like them, there must be numerous others who have had no plaques to mark their passing. Humans apart, thousands of birds, insects and animals also lose their lives. Those who survive have lost their habitats and their chances of possible recovery. The odds are stacked against them as they are the lowest rung on nature's food chain, which has been broken. There is another blaze raging across the hills. Fire and fury marked the speeches of electoral hopefuls. What is of note is that no one mentioned the environment and its protection. This, after the last devastating monsoon, which is not even a year old. In 2020, there were 16 landslides; in 2023, there were 165. As many as 2,500 homes were destroyed and around 400 persons died.

Bomb threats

No room for complacency despite false alarm

BOMB threats have become alarmingly frequent across the country in recent weeks, even though all have turned out to be hoaxes. Tissue paper with 'bomb@5.30' written on it was found in the lavatory of an IndiGo plane at the Delhi airport on Tuesday morning. The authorities promptly evacuated the crew and passengers and launched a search operation. No suspicious item was found, even as an investigation is in progress. The incident took place a day after the Mumbai traffic police received a message on their WhatsApp helpline number, claiming that bombs had been planted at the Mumbai airport and Hotel Taj Mahal. A thorough search drew a blank at both places.



In recent months, scores of schools in Delhi-NCR, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jaipur, Kolkata and other cities have been rocked by bomb threat emails. Probe agencies have their work cut out — they have to find out which individuals/gangs are involved in these

nefarious activities, where they are based and whether a common thread runs through these threats, which must not be dismissed as mere mischief. The Delhi Police have

traced the IP address of emails sent to 150-odd schools to Budapest, Hungary. A Cyprus-based mailing service company has been identified as the source of threatening emails sent to hospitals, the IGI Airport and Tihar Jail in Delhi earlier this month. The ongoing probe into various cases indicates that gangs of cybercriminals residing in foreign countries are causing widespread disruptions in India with ease. They are apparently working in league with miscreants based in India. There is no room for complacency, especially amid the Lok Sabha elections. Every city needs to be adequately equipped with bomb detection and disposal squads. A comprehensive action plan should be formulated and implemented so that panic and chaos induced by the threats are minimised. All stakeholders must be well prepared for the worst-case scenario — after all, not every such email/call/message may prove to be a hoax.

May the birds continue to soar and sing

The woods would be very silent if no bird sang there' — Henry Van Dyke

Throughout history, humanity has been captivated by the allure of birds. Their sleek, aerodynamic bodies, their mastery of flight over vast distances and heights, and their intricate nest-building skills have served as an inspiration for countless inventions and innovations.

Spotted Flycatcher

Bird observation takes on myriad forms, each individual imbuing it with their own unique passion and perspective. Whether it's the serene pursuit of birdwatching, the thrill of birding, the excitement of twitching, or the artistry of bird photography facilitated by the advent of affordable digital cameras with powerful lenses, a common thread remains: an unwavering fascination with birds, their behaviour, resilience, intelligence, and the tenacity of their existence amidst human interference.

A love for the outdoors and an interest in the world of birds was awakened in me through the nature walks conducted by our teachers, while I was at a boarding school in Shimla. From the tender age of seven, it is a journey that has, over the years, given me invaluable insights into the lives of our feathered companions.

Birdwatching isn't merely a pastime, it's an immersive experience, a portal through which one can gain profound understanding and appreciation for the intricate lives of these tiny creatures.

Crimson Sunbird

Birds are present everywhere; they grace every corner of our planet. All it takes is a moment of stillness, a quiet observation, to invite them into our midst. It's akin to meditation, a tranquil communion with nature. Some of my most cherished birdwatching moments have unfolded right in my own garden.

Amidst the turmoil of the pandemic in 2020, with time hanging heavy on my hands, I embarked on a project to create a small waterbody in my backyard. It was as much for my own solace as it was for the birds. Despite the chaos engulfing the world, the soft murmur and babble



of the water as it trickled down the water channel and fell into the pond was infinitely soothing to the nerves. It attracted a large species of birds, captivating the interest of my entire family.

Ashy Prinia

Observing the hierarchy at the birdbath became a daily ritual, a testament to the intricacies of avian social dynamics. The first to come were the stately doves, followed by the Mynas, Bulbuls and lastly, the spirited

warblers. The antics of the Indian White Eye were a treat to watch as they danced and splashed and fluttered their feathers with great abandon.

The rewards of my backyard oasis were abundant, welcoming a diverse array of avian visitors over the ensuing years. I documented over a hundred species, including a Spotted Flycatcher, a rare gem previously unseen in our region, and several others deemed uncommon.

Among these visitors, the Jungle Babblers stood out, their gregarious nature belying a profound sense of community. Despite their raucous behaviour, they epitomised solidarity, rallying around a fallen nest with unwavering support until the fledglings could fly up into the tree. As parents, birds are unparalleled, embodying a selfless devotion to their offspring. It is a common sight to see the ground nesting Red-wattled Lapwing calling loudly as it 'dive bombs' dogs that might stray close to the nest. The tiniest of birds will work untiringly from building the nest to bringing up the brood, protecting and keeping them from harm, imparting life skills and finally letting them fly off to lead independent lives.

The nest-building ability of many species is amazing. It is common knowledge that the engineering skills shown by Baya Weavers in building their nests are used as study models in architecture. Ashy Prinia and Tailorbird are adept seamstresses. They sew together the edges of the leaves with fine plant fibres. Yet, amidst the awe-inspiring beauty of the avian world, there looms a shadow of concern. Birds are tenacious in their will to survive against all odds. However, habitat loss, driven by human encroachment, pollution and environmental degradation, poses a grave threat worldwide. Wetlands drained, forests felled, grasslands razed, rivers mined for sand — each ecosystem lost is a blow to avian biodiversity. Birdwatching is more than just a hobby; it's a reminder of how we are interconnected with all living beings and are custodians of our planet. Let us, therefore, heed the call to protect and preserve the precious ecosystems that sustain them. During the hot Indian summer, it is important to make sure there is enough water for the birds. Place water bowls at various places while ensuring they are cleaned regularly and filled with fresh water.

5 exotic Hairstyles for Young Brides



Side-parted braid bun

This is a very popular hairdo which shows off great facial features and is especially perfect for those with straight hair. It is a very easy style and barely takes five minutes — all you have to do is part your hair on the side and braid it tightly. If you want to make the braid look more intricate and elaborate, try the fishtail braid or the mermaid braid, which brings a great modern twist. Then wrap the braid around and pin it neatly into a bun with several bobby pins. If you want to add an additional oomph factor, use bedazzled bobby pins or fresh flowers which match your bouquet. This hairdo works best for those that don't have bangs, so that the side partition will be more evident. If, however, you do have bangs, then pin them neatly to the side and make sure you use lots of hair spray to keep in

place. In order to look extra polished, make sure that you comb your hair and keep it tangle free. A hair accessory like a hair comb can also be pinned on the top of the bun for a nice sophisticated effect.

Half updo

This is a lovely romantic hairdo that's elegant but actually very low maintenance, hardly taking two minutes to create. Loosely gather the top half of your hair and pin it in place. Make sure there is a little volume at the top, otherwise it will end up looking flat and limp, so do some gentle backcombing if necessary. "For this style, I recommend using bobby pins that are similar to your hair colour, so that the effect is more subtle and don't forget to use hairspray to keep the hair in place and avoid humidity," says hairstylist Asgar Saboo. Add a flower chain or a string of pearls to add to that romantic bohemian vibe, which is something we are seeing more on celebrities who want to bring a fresh take to their wedding look.

The head wrap chain

If you want to add an exotic vibe to your look, wear a head wrap chain. The style options are endless, ranging from the styles with big stones and crystal to the delicate ones with small chains and bells. "If you have smaller facial features, then I recommend opting for the more delicate and subtle head chain, whilst those with bigger features can get away with a more extravagant look," says Asgar. You can choose to wear the chain with your hair tied up in a bun, but this accessory looks best when the hair is left down and flowing. Also make sure that the hair is parted in the middle, since symmetry is important for this accessory to look glamorous and exotic.

Messy twisted braid

This hairstyle is perfect for women with thick hair, which is very common with my clients from the Middle East and India. To get this look, gather all your hair and braid it loosely. Don't be worried if you have a lot of flyaways, it adds to the charm of the hair style, but make sure that you add bobby pins so the braid stays in place. "If you really want to take the hair style a step further, go into the garden and pluck some flowers," says hair dresser Agnes

Chen. You can find brightly coloured flowers all over the world that look gorgeous when you braid them into your hair. Make sure that when you pick the flowers that they have a small stem at the bottom for you to use. This is a very bold hair style, so pair it with some subtle earrings.

French twist

This is a hairstyle that suits all hair textures and brings glamour to any bride's look. Grab all your hair into a low pony and twist it all around, twice. Tuck the ends inside the twist and secure it firmly with bobby pins - that's how simple this style is to do. You can customise this

hairstyle according to how much volume you want around your face, and you can accessorise by wearing a headband or a hair comb at the back. If you want, you can even tuck some flowers beneath the twist, which gives the style a little edge and modernity. However, it's really important to ensure that you use enough bobby pins to place your locks firmly in place, otherwise you will be fiddling with your hair throughout your big day. Adding some hairspray is all you need to fix the hair once this is done, leaving you to relax and enjoy your wedding day in style.



How to wear coloured mascaras!



Coloured mascaras are not as bizarre a make-up trend as they sound.

There's one for everyone, and there is a right way to wear it, of course. Depending on the colour of your eyes, there's a coloured mascara for everyone. Available in hues of blues, greens, yellows, oranges, pinks and purple, let's have a look at what's meant for you...

Brown eyes: Plum and dark blue look perfect on brown eyes. Its deep look draws attention and you don't need to put on any more eye make-up.

Black eyes: Black eyes can be accentuated well with deeper shades. Thus, plum, navy blue and olive green and great picks.

Blue eyes: For blue eyes, navy blue is a good choice since the layering works well. Due to the lighter tint of the eyes, brown stands out.

Green eyes: Flatter green eyes with purple mascaras. Again, layering works well here and so, green mascara is a good option.

Hazel eyes: Clear, hazel coloured eyes can take on blue, purple and green mascaras well.

With coloured mascaras, you don't have to do much eye make-up. While it can be completely avoided, you can at the most apply a double-liner, a subtle lipstick and subdued eye-shadows.

Go rock the look!



Five-minute Beauty hacks for working women

Manisha Chopra, cosmetologist, beauty expert, co-founder, cosmetic brand SeaSoul Cosmeceuticals, shares five-minute beauty tips:

* Whether your eyes look puffy due to lack of sleep or you've developed a hint of dark circles, applying concealer correctly can save the day. Instead of following the age-old practice of dotting your concealer under the eyes, apply it in a triangular shape. After rubbing it in gently, dab on some translucent yellow powder and watch your whole face come alive.

* You must have noticed that after a few hours at work, your lipstick begins to fade and lose its initial vibrancy. And who has time to reapply colour in between the hectic daily schedule? Apply one coat of your chosen lip colour. Now lightly hold a tissue over your lips and dust off some translucent powder over the tissue. This seals your lip colour for a long time.

* Always wanted that beautiful smokey eye look that the celebrities seem to don so effortlessly? Here's an ultra-cool way of getting perfect smokey eyes for a party or for work. Use your eyeliner and draw a slanted hashtag on the outer corner of your eyelid. Now blend this in with the rest of your make-up and voila, it's done!

* Doing a winged eyeliner at home may seem tough but it really isn't. All you need is a few minutes and some scotch tape. Place a piece of tape at the corner of your eye, going towards your eyebrow. Now use your liner pencil to draw a thin line across your upper lash line extending all the way to the edge of the tape. Trace the edge of the tape with your liner and now

A busy schedule can be a dampener for your beauty regime. But who says you can't do make-up in just five minutes?

make the line thicker on the outside edge than the inside. It makes your whole face look more defined.



* A white eyeliner or kohl pencil can work wonders. It is also a beautiful way to make smaller or droopy eyes pop. Use it on the inner corners of your eyes for a wide-eyed look. Draw a sideways V and then gently blend it in.

Here's how to do minimal make-up

Avoid heavy make-up and dark eyes in monsoon to look chic and be comfortable, says an expert.

Aakriti Kochar, beauty and make-up expert, Oriflame India, suggests how to get minimal make-up looks:

* It is always good to wear a sun block as a good base to protect your skin from any damage during the day. Keep the look minimal, go for soft smudged eyeliner -- maybe brown instead of black. If you are fond of using a mascara, use a waterproof one which stays on keeping in mind the hot and humid weather. A soft matte blush for the day is also a good addition to the look.

Lips with soft pink and coral can add to the fresh look.



* Using a BB cream instead of a foundation is also a good idea since it is an all-in-one moisturizer, SPF, foundation, compact and primer. A good BB cream can compensate for multiple layers since in one layer it does it all. It is light and comfortable on the skin. * Avoid heavy make-up and dark eyes in monsoon. Smokey eyes is a big no! Lip and cheek tint is a good idea for summer or monsoon as well, since it's light weight and gives a natural hint of colour. * Avoid glosses in monsoon since they have a sticky feel to it which makes it extremely uncomfortable in humid weather.

Get your beauty fix from the benefits of Seaweed

Want some TLC for your skin? Forget that exotic Moroccan rose soak or a mint chocolate wrap.

Of late, the new skin pampering comes in the way of seaweed. More people are waking up to the benefits of the stringy, green algae that may look gross, but has powerful ingredients that help to tone and repair the skin. Here's what's the lure is about...

Party quick-fix

Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton reportedly pampers herself with seaweed facials. Closer home, several people in Mumbai are going in for a 'seaweed wrap' before a night out, reveals skin expert, Dr Rashmi Shetty. "It's a no-harm quick-fix for the skin and people are trying this just before they have to get into their dress for a party or walk the red carpet. The wrap is applied to the body and as it's warming, it causes the person to sweat. During this process, the body eliminates excess toxins, urea creatinine and water. This temporarily reduces puffiness and redness (if any), as well as the appearance of cellulite. You feel lighter and drop half an inch all over. But to see extended benefits, one has to try this more often — once a week is quite safe to do so," she says.



Post-holiday skin recovery

Seaweed is also increasingly being touted as the solution to ease skin stress after a holiday. "During this time, various factors like harsh climate, humidity levels, water, an erratic lifestyle, even dehydration on flights — all play havoc on the skin. Seaweed helps to re-mineralise the skin and combat the damages due to these conditions. It has a kind of restorative ability," affirms spa expert Nisha Jhaveri. "People use it on the face, but I recommend it more on the body. What's popular is the seaweed body scrub or polish, which removes dead cells and helps even out the skin tone. You can also try the body envelopment, which has seaweed extract."

Did BJP's thumping win in Arunachal happen at cost of Congress's waning confidence?

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) maintained its hold on power in Arunachal Pradesh for a third consecutive term by securing 46 out of the 60 Assembly seats. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), the National People's Party (NPP) secured five seats, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won three seats, the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) bagged two, the Congress on one, and independents claimed three seats. In the 2019 Assembly election, the BJP secured 41 seats, the Janata Dal (United) won seven, the NPP got five, the Congress bagged four, the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) claimed one, and two independent candidates also succeeded.

AVICTORY ON 'DEVELOPMENT'

The BJP has campaigned on a platform of development and good governance, highlighting infrastructure projects and the Central government's efforts to counter China's territorial claims over Arunachal Pradesh.

Development projects to improve connectivity, like the Donyi Polo Airport in Itanagar, and the Naharlagun Railway Station, contributed to the saffron party's popularity in the state. The India Today-Axis My India Exit Poll delivered a correct prediction of the Arunachal Pradesh election result, as it had predicted that the saffron party would grab 44-51 seats. Meanwhile, the Congress managed only 1 seat in the state, which was at par with the India Today-Axis My India Exit Poll's prediction that the party would get 1-4 seats.

10 UNCONTESTED VICTORIES

In March, the BJP secured victory in 10 seats uncontested within the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly. However, it fell short of the Congress's previous record of 11 unopposed wins in 2014. No Opposition parties fielded candidates in five constituencies, while rivals of the BJP withdrew their nominations in five additional seats.

Among the uncontested winners were Chief Minister Pema Khandu from Mukto and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein from Chowkham. The remaining victorious candidates include Ratu Techi from Sagalee, Jikke Tako from Tali, Nyato Dukam from Taliha, Mutchu Mithi from Roing, Hage Appa from Ziro-Hapoli, Techi Kaso from Itanagar, Dongru Siongju from Bomdila, and Dasanglu Pul from Hayuliang.

CONGRESS CONTESTED ONLY 19 SEATS

Apart from the BJP's big win, another key outcome of the election is the almost complete decimation of the Congress. The grand old party, which ruled the state until Chief Minister Pema Khandu left with 43 MLAs in 2016, now has only one legislator left, winning just the Bameng seat in western Arunachal. Its share of votes dropped significantly from 16.85 per cent in 2019 to 5.56 per cent this time. The party's struggle to survive in the state was evident as



it had difficulty finding candidates to field, ultimately ending up with only 19 candidates in the race.

BJP'S RISE AT COST OF CONGRESS

According to political watchers, the Congress leaders were not confident, resulting in most of the leaders switching to the saffron party in Arunachal Pradesh. Four Congress Zonal Parishad Members (ZPMs) from the Pasighat West and Mebo constituencies joined the BJP. These leaders, including

Aruni Jamoh and Bimol Lego, cited the effective leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pema Khandu as the key reasons for their switch. They expressed satisfaction with the developmental support provided by the BJP, even when they were in Congress, which influenced their decision to join the saffron party. Additionally, prominent Congress legislators such as Ninong Ering and Wanglin Lowangdong also joined the BJP. They were motivated by the principles of good governance and the transformative leadership of PM Modi, which they believe brought positive changes to their constituencies and the state. Further, four MLAs from Congress, along with leaders from the National People's Party (NPP), joined the BJP ahead of the assembly elections. These defections illustrate a broader trend of Congress leaders in Arunachal Pradesh gravitating towards the BJP.

13 die after tractor overturns in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh

New Delhi: Thirteen people, including four children, died after a tractor overturned in Rajgarh in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. A total of 15 people were injured in the incident, which took place during a wedding procession at around 8 pm on Sunday in Piplo di in Rajgarh. An official from the district administration was quoted by news agency PTI as saying that the procession was en route to Kulampur from Motipura in Rajasthan.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said in a post on X that Rajgarh Collector Harsh Dikshit,



Superintendent of Police and minister Narayan Singh Panwar were present at the spot. "We are in touch with the Rajasthan government and Rajasthan police has also reached the spot. The treatment of the injured is going on in the District Hospital, Rajgarh and some seriously injured patients have been referred to Bhopal," he added. President Draupadi Murmu extended condolences to the families of the victims and said in a post on X, "The news of the death of many people in a road accident in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh is very sad. I express my deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured."

Terminal 3 of Delhi airport reduces power consumption per passenger by 57%

New Delhi: Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi has reduced electricity consumption per passenger by 57 per cent, in a major step towards becoming a net-zero emission airport by 2030. GMR group's Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said in a statement that the electricity consumption, which was 5.18 kWh per person in 2010, had been reduced to 2.21 kWh in 2023. "DIAL's energy-saving measures include the integration of green building practices, the use of energy-efficient infrastructure, and ongoing efforts to further optimise consumption," it said in a statement.

"The use of the state-of-the-art and dedicated automation in complex airport systems like heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, baggage handling system, information technology, airside ground light, use of LED lights and very high throughput system to maximise the assets performance and optimise the energy consumption via real time monitoring and controlling," the statement said. DIAL CEO Vihed Kumar Jaipurian said, "DIAL's dedication to sustainability began with the inception of Terminal 3 and remains a core principle in its operations. The continuous implementation of green initiatives ensures the efficient use of resources and a positive impact on the environment." "Our focus will be on implementing innovative solutions and leveraging best practices to achieve year-on-year reductions in specific energy consumption, all the while maintaining the highest standards of service quality and passenger comfort," he added. The company said that IGI Airport sources its entire electricity from renewable resources, including solar and hydropower.

"DIAL has installed a 7.45MW solar power plant on the airside, which is also the first such plant in an Indian airport on the airside," it added.

Agnipath scheme reform towards maintaining youthful profile in defence: Defence chief

New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said on Sunday that the implementation of the 'Agnipath' scheme was one of the major reforms towards maintaining a youthful profile in the defence sector.

During an event at INS Chilka, a premier training facility of the Indian Navy in Odisha, he said that the implementation of the 'Agnipath Scheme' has been one of the major reforms towards maintaining a youthful profile in the three services.

The General advised the Agniveers to focus on training to become technologically proficient sea warriors, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The CDS also took a tour of the training infrastructure to gain insight into Agniveer training in the Navy. The Agnipath recruitment scheme was brought by the government in June 2022 for short-term service



recruitment of the youth into the defence. Under the scheme, Agniveers are recruited for a period of four years, with the option to extend their service for an additional four years. After completing their service, 25 per cent of Agniveers will be selected to join

the regular military as permanent soldiers. The remaining 75 per cent will be discharged from the military and will receive a severance package that includes a lump sum payment, a skill certificate, and support for finding employment.

After Amul, Mother Dairy Increases Milk Prices By 2 Per Litre

New Delhi: Mother Dairy on Monday announced a 2 per litre hike in milk prices in the Delhi-NCR market due to a rise in input cost over the last 15 months. The increase in prices of all variants of milk is effective from Monday (June 3) in Delhi-NCR as well as other markets where it has a presence.

On Sunday, Amul announced an increase in rates. Increases in milk prices by these two leading milk suppliers come just after the completion of the voting process of the Lok Sabha elections.

In a statement, Mother Dairy said it is "increasing its liquid milk prices by 2 per litre across all operating markets from June 03, 2024 onwards." "The increase in consumer price is mainly to compensate the producers for increased production costs, which have

been on the rise for over one year, it said. In Delhi-NCR, Mother Dairy full cream milk will be available now at 68 per litre, while toned and double-toned milk at 56 and 50 per litre, respectively. Buffalo and cow milk prices have been increased to 72 and 58 per litre respectively. Token milk (bulk vended milk) will be sold at 54 per litre. Mother Dairy, which currently sells 35 lakh litre per day of fresh milk in Delhi-NCR, said it had last revised its liquid milk prices in February 2023.

"Despite paying higher prices towards milk procurement in the last few months, the consumer prices were kept intact. Moreover, the heat stress across the country has been unprecedented and it is likely to further impact milk production," Mother Dairy said. The company highlighted that it passes an

average of around 75-80 per cent of the sales realisation from milk towards its procurement. This helps in ensuring the sustenance of dairy farming and the availability of quality milk. "The surge in farm prices is only being partially passed on to the consumers, with an effective revision of 3-4 per cent, thereby securing the interests of both the milk producers and the consumers," Mother Dairy said. On late Sunday, the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, increased milk prices by about 2 per litre from Monday across the country. The increase of 2 per litre translates to 3-4 per cent increase in MRP which is much lower than average food inflation, GCMMF said in a late night statement.

K Kavitha's judicial custody extended till July 3 in Delhi liquor policy case

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday extended the judicial custody of BRS leader K Kavitha till July 3 in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi liquor scam. Three others accused in the same case - Prince, Arvind and Damodar - were granted bail by the Rouse Avenue Court on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja extended custody after Kavitha was produced before the court on Monday. The court had issued a production warrant against her after taking cognisance of a charge sheet against the BRS leader in the case on May 29. Previously, a Delhi court had rejected her bail plea in the case, saying Kavitha was instrumental in influencing witnesses and there was every likelihood of her continuing to do so if relief was granted.

The applicant can be, by no standards, said to be a vulnerable woman who could be made a scapegoat for committing the alleged offences.



Rather, she is undoubtedly a well-educated and well-placed woman in society," the court further said. Kavitha is in judicial custody in the two cases lodged by the ED and the CBI in the liquor policy case. Kavitha, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, was arrested by the ED from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15. She was also subsequently arrested by the CBI from Tihar Jail.

The ED claimed that Kavitha and AAP leaders conspired to benefit from the liquor business. The agency has flagged loopholes in the liquor policy and alleged kickbacks totalling Rs 100 crore from a group known as the 'South Group', of which Kavitha was allegedly a part, were exchanged.

99 Deaths In Odisha, Water Shortage In Delhi: India's Heatwave Crisis

The extreme heatwave has had a broader environmental impact. Water shortages in Delhi have exacerbated the crisis, with people scrambling for water in various parts of the city.

New Delhi: Ninety-nine suspected heatstroke deaths in Odisha, 33 poll personnel dead in Uttar Pradesh during the seventh and final phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and severe water shortage in some parts of the national capital Delhi - India is currently enduring a devastating heatwave. The deaths in Odisha have been predominantly reported from the districts

of Bolangir, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Sonepur, Sundergarh, and Balasore. The state government has urged urgent implementation of heatwave advisories and precautionary measures. In UP, among the 33 dead poll personnel, were home guards, sanitation workers, and other poll staff. Additionally, a voter died at a polling booth in the Sikandarpur area of Ballia Lok Sabha constituency. Delhi is not spared from the soaring temperatures. Last week, Delhi's Mungeshpur area recorded a maximum temperature of 52.3 degrees Celsius, the highest ever in the city, though this was later corrected to 49.3 degrees Celsius by the weather office due to a faulty sensor. The Delhi High Court, alarmed by the severe temperature spike, warned that the city could turn into a "barren desert" if deforestation continues unchecked. The court has directed the Delhi government to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the committee overseeing forest protection, now renamed the 'Special

Empowered Committee.' This could be the worst summer in the last 120 years, at least for north India. Never have temperatures gone so high - more than 45-47 degrees Celsius - for such a vast region, which is also densely



populated. This is a record in itself," Vimal Mishra, Vikram Sarabhai Chair Professor, Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences, IIT Gandhinagar, told PTI. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a series of meetings yesterday, reviewed the

heatwave conditions and stressed the importance of regular fire and electrical safety audits in hospitals and other public places. Forecasts indicate that the heatwave will persist in parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. PM Modi also reviewed the impact of Cyclone Remal, particularly in the northeast, and assured continuous support from the Centre to the affected states. India's heatwave has impacted various regions, including Odisha, UP, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, and Delhi. In some areas, the combination of high temperatures and humidity has made it unbearable for residents to step outside. The critical 'wet-bulb temperature', which measures the combined effect of heat and humidity on the human body, has reached dangerous levels, posing severe health risks. Research indicates that a wet-bulb temperature of 31 degrees Celsius at humidity levels above 50 per cent can be lethal, as the human body can no longer cool itself through sweating.

Who doesn't desire a well-painted kissable pout? It's the thought of applying the wrong shade that many of us dread. The thought of getting the right colour and the right pout is no ordinary task, unless you follow these easy but important steps for the perfect pout.

1) EXFOLIATE WITH ALIPBALM

Treat your lips just like you would treat your face. Ex-foliate lips, moisturise with a balm. Repeat the regimen daily.

2) KEEP YOUR MAKEUP MINIMAL

It's always safe to highlight only one feature of your face. If you are going for bold lips then better keep the rest of your face makeup minimal for perfect balance.

3) AVOID TOO MUCH SPARKLE

"Shimmer can look cheap," says make-up artist Troy. Look for lipsticks with a creamy finish. "Light reflection should come from moisture in the formula, not metallic pigments," he says.

4) CHOOSE RIGHT COLOUR

Finding the right shade is important. Different colours work differently on various complexion types, so try on a bunch of shades before zeroing down on the most suitable one. Advice: go for a shade that complements your skin tone. Lighter shades of reds and burgundy look fabulous with warm skin tones, while pinks and true reds work brilliantly for fairer skin.

5) USE PRIMER

Always use primer before you start applying the lipstick. Because

- it will give the lipstick shade a better colour contrast.

- it will help your lipstick last longer (throughout the day).

In case you run out of primer or you don't have one, you can use foundation instead.

6) PICK A LIP LINER

They say liner can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Either case liner has a significant role in achieving the perfect pout. Just find the right lip liner, probably a shade that's closest to your lip colour, and outline your lips before applying the lipstick. This will give the required shape to your lip, either making them fuller or thinner. It also keeps your lipstick from feathering. FYI: Opting a much darker shade than your lipstick is the worst make-up disaster.

7) START IN THE MIDDLE

Always. Start your lipstick applying session from the centre of your lips and then spread outward with the help of lip brush. Experts

10 Lipstick

rules every

Woman

must know

always use lip brush when applying lipstick because it leave less room for mistakes as compared to applying it directly from the tube.

8) SOFTEN THE EDGES
Just smudge the border of your lips slightly

so as to get a natural, not-overly-done look.

9) BLOT! BLOT! BLOT!
After you are done applying lipstick, blot it with a tissue, then apply another layer. Blotting removes excess oils and emollients from the first layer of lipstick while leaving

the pigments largely intact. "Blotting will create a base, and the second coat adds shine and coverage," says Troy. Adding a second layer of lipstick after blotting increases the pigment concentration in proportion to the creamy ingredients that are the enemies of lipstick longevity.

10) WASH OFF LIPSTICK & EXFOLIATE

Always take it off before you go to sleep. You don't want lipstick stain all over your pillowcase, do you!? And don't forget to exfoliate after you wash off your lipstick.



Know the complete truth about your fairness Cream

India market is considered the biggest market for beauty products specially fairness solution. Among Indian society there is an absurd statement and phenomenon of beauty. Thanks to our high list of endorsement start, both men & women need variety of fairness creams. In spite of existing multimillion dollar market of fairness products in country, the question of how impactful these products are? Keep dwindling in consumer's mind. Our skin colour is determined by our race and genetic lineage which in turn decides the amount and structure of melanin. Fairness creams can only work to a certain extent. As per dermatology studies, achieving fairness up to 20% is possible, but not more than that. The fairness creams only block sun rays and prevent secretion of melanin. Thus help in reducing tan and restoring natural skin.

Side Effects of Fairness Creams

Extreme use of fairness creams can rather lead to severe skin damage. Fairness creams contain harmful bleaching agents such as hydroquinone, mercury, lead, nickel, chromium and high levels of steroids that cause following problems:

- Thinning of skin
- Discoloration of face
- Capillaries become prominently visible
- Severe acne
- Hypersensitivity to sun
- Rebound paradoxical pigmentation
- Unwanted facial hair growth
- Skin allergy
- Skin cancer

Thus these creams should always be used judiciously only under the supervision of a certified

dermatologist.

Do's and Don't What to do -Apply moisturiser daily during day and before going to bed

- Wash your skin with clean water at least thrice a day
- Use sunscreen lotion to prevent tanning and harsh UV rays damaging skin
- Use fairness cream preferably aloe based. It works well for inflammation and tanned skin for Asian weather.
- Usage external barriers like umbrella and Shades while going out.
- Drink 6-8 glasses of water every day
- Have anti-oxidant rich fruits
- Increase the intake of Vitamin C. It increases cell turnover, helps protect against sun damage, and boosts the production of collagen and elastin, the two vital component of healthy and glowing skin.
- Exfoliation is one of the most important steps in maintaining your youthful glow. We recommend weekly exfoliation to brighten the skin tone. Regular use of an exfoliation removes the oldest dead skin cells that cling to the skin's outermost surface, or epidermis. It is an important part of both facials and body treatments

What not to do

- DO NOT support the common trend of fair skin and the stigma of being dark
- Avoid excessive bleaching in alternate weeks. Comprising of Ammonia and hydrochloric acid primarily these ingredients can cause both minor and severe burn.
- Avoid Products that Encourage Acne Breakouts

The truth is we don't need white skin to show our beauty, if you have healthy,



Benefits of using shikakai on your skin

The enriching benefits of using shikakai on hair has been proved long ago and has made it a trusted natural product in Indian households. But very few know about its benefits on the skin.

In fact, shikakai works magically for the skin, too. Here are a few ways to use this wonder herb on your skin:

-Effective in treating scabies You can use shikakai to treat skin ailments like scabies. To reap maximum benefits, you can make an antiseptic body wash using shikakai and turmeric. Soak raw turmeric in hot water and then grind it



to make a paste. Burn shikakai pods till they turn black, grind them to form powder. Mix the turmeric paste and shikakai powder with milk. Strain and use as a body wash.

-Use shikakai to treat spots
Take half a teaspoon of shikakai powder and mix it with a tablespoon each of cream, almond powder and turmeric. Add two tablespoons of honey and use it as a body scrub. This mixture helps in eliminating dead cells and gives your skin a natural glow.

-To treat minor cuts and boils on your scalp
Burn shikakai pods, grind them. Mix with a teaspoon of neem powder, make a paste using cold water. Apply on summer boils to help them heal.

5 facials you must try out in your Lifetime



Facials you must try out in your lifetime.

Anti-aging Telomere Facial

What it is: Telomere is the real fountain of youth. The skin looks brighter, smoother and more translucent, as it's massaged with a replenishing cream in a way that enhances absorption. Specialised masks are used for the flower power thermoherb face lift that irons out lines and wrinkles, making the skin more firm and youthful.

USP: Anti-aging, stops wrinkles

Plant Stem Cells Facial
What it is: Another breakthrough in anti-aging treatments is plant stem cell - it rejuvenates the skin powerfully. When plant stem cells are introduced into the skin during the facial, they repair dead and damaged skin cells. The skin looks tighter, firmer and younger. The products used contain active plant stem cells of the Edelweiss flower, collagen, elastin, ceramides and powerful anti-oxidants. Once the mask is washed off, the skin is toned and cold compress is given.

USP: Gives a soft glow

Platinum Facial What it is: This facial starts with a cleanser, scrub, cream, mask, serum and moisture mist. The face is first cleansed with the cleanser, followed by vegetable peel and platinum scrub. A lymphatic massage is also done to purify the skin and add radiance.

USP: Cleanses all pollutants

Diamond Facial What it is: This is for those who want to defy age. In Ayurvedic skin care, the oxidised diamond or 'bhasma' is used, while diamond powder is used for exfoliation. This facial uses extracts of lotus, basil, dates, orange oil, carrot seed and vetiver (khus).

USP: Improves skin's vitality

Pearl Facial This is for those who need hydration. It's based on a 4,000 year old Ayurvedic and Oriental tradition of using the powder of natural pearls. Pearls influence the transfer of melanin (natural pigment) to the skin surface, preventing tanning and pigmentation.

USP: Removes pigmentation



Power Grid shares jump 10% as markets hit record high. Here's why

NEW DELHI: Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd shares surged over 10% on Monday, reaching a record high of Rs 346.90 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

This strong rally propelled the company's market capitalisation past Rs 3 lakh crore, joining the ranks of state-run giants like SBI and NTPC.

The shares of the company gained after exit polls predicted a decisive victory for the BJP-led NDA government in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It may be noted that the government holds a 51.34% stake in Power Grid, valued at over Rs 1.6 lakh crore at the peak of Monday's session. While Power Grid's financial performance saw a decline in the final quarter of FY24, the euphoria generated on Dalal Street after the exit poll predictions have increased the stock's appetite.

Brokerage firm CLSA remains optimistic, maintaining an "outperform" rating and setting a price target of ₹,345, citing FY 2024 as a year of market share gains for the company. Among 21 analysts covering Power Grid, 13 recommend a "buy," one suggests a "hold," and seven advise "sell." The company's stock, currently trading at Rs 341.10, has climbed 43% in 2024 and over 93% in the past year.

Nifty, Sensex open at record highs after exit polls predict NDA landslide

NEW DELHI: Benchmark stock market indices, Sensex and Nifty50, opened at record high levels on Monday after exit polls predicted a historic third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The S&P BSE Sensex jumped over 2,000 points to a record high of 76,738.89, while the NSE Nifty50 rose to 23,338.70. Both the indices hit all-time highs. At 10:10 am, the Sensex was up 2081.29 points at 76,042.60, and the Nifty was up 646.90 points at 23,177.60. All the stocks were in the green on the Sensex, with major gainers being Power Grid, Adani Ports, Shriram Finance, L&T, NTPC, SBI, Axis Bank, M&M, ICICI Bank, and Ultratech Cement. These stocks were up in the range of 3% to 7%.

The Bank Nifty index jumped above the 50,000-mark for the first time. Moreover, the Nifty Smallcap 100 and the Nifty Midcap 100 index also surged nearly 3% each. Nifty Energy, Nifty PSU Bank, and Nifty Realty were the top gainers, each rising between 4-5%.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, suggested that Dalal Street is poised for a strong start to June, "driven by optimistic exit poll results predicting a significant win for the BJP-led NDA".

"Key catalysts include India's GDP exceeding estimates at 8.2% for FY24, a surge in Dow Jones by 574 points, increased odds of a September rate cut, early monsoon advancement, and a 10% rise in GST collections to Rs 1.73 lakh crore in May," he added. apse is bullish stocks such as Adani Ports, Sulzon, Jupiter Wagon, GMR INFRA, and HDFC AMC. The massive jump in the stock market comes after it snapped a five-day losing run on May 31, with the benchmark Sensex closing higher by 75 points. Experts expect the market volatility seen in May to subside after the election results are announced on June 4. This comes on the back of a 8.2% economic growth rate in 2023-24 (FY24), as per National Statistical Office (NSO) data.

The much-anticipated exit poll results for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections predicted a hat-trick for the BJP, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to return to power for a historic third term.

Sally Buzbee steps down as executive editor of The Washington Post

NEW YORK: The Washington Post said Sunday that its executive editor, Sally Buzbee, has stepped down after three years at the top of one of journalism's most storied brands. She will be replaced by Matt Murray, former editor in chief of The Wall Street Journal, through this fall's presidential election. Following that, Robert Winnett, deputy editor of the Telegraph Media Group, will take over as editor as the newsroom restructures its operations. No reason was given for Buzbee's departure. She wasn't quoted in the news release announcing that she was leaving, and did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The Post also announced that it was launching a new division in its newsroom dedicated to reaching audiences who want to pay for and consume news in a different way.

Buzbee, former top editor at The Associated Press, was selected as the Post's top editor in May 2021. She replaced a renowned predecessor, Martin Baron, after the Post exploded in popularity during the Trump administration.

Buzbee was the first woman to serve as executive editor of The Washington Post. And like Jill Abramson, the first woman to be top editor at The New York Times, her tenure was short: Abramson had her job from 2011 to 2014. It has been a miserable few years financially for the news industry, including for the Post. It has bled subscribers to the point where new publisher, Will Lewis, told employees last month that the newspaper lost \$77 million last year. "To speak candidly, we are in a hole, and have been for some time," Lewis said, according to the Post.

Lewis was named late last year to replace Fred Ryan as Post publisher. He has worked at both The Wall Street Journal and The Telegraph in England, the places he turned to find the new executives. He's talked about creating a multi-tier subscription plan for The Post, similar to that in place at Politico. In an email to employees late Sunday, Lewis said the new department will focus on more video storytelling, will embrace artificial intelligence and flexible payment methods. It will begin this fall, he said. In an earlier meeting, "we highlighted the need to move away from the traditional one-size-fits-all approach in the news media industry and focus on creating news for a broader range of readers and customers." It augurs a change to the traditional structure of the Post. In his memo, Lewis mentioned "three newsrooms." Winnett will not take on the title of executive editor, but he will be responsible for the "core coverage areas" of politics, investigations, business, technology, sports and features. He has run The Telegraph's news operations since 2013, the Post said.

Major trading platforms face glitch after market hits all-time high

The stock market hit an all-time high on Monday after the exit polls announced on June 1 indicated that the BJP-led NDA is likely to secure a third consecutive term in office.



NEW DELHI: Major trading platforms like Groww and Zerodha faced some glitches after the markets opened at an all-time high on Monday with exit polls out for the Lok Sabha elections. These exit polls that were announced on June 1 have indicated that the BJP-led NDA is likely to secure a third consecutive term in office. Following this news, investors turned to popular trading platforms such as Zerodha, Groww, and Upstox after the

CDSL website experienced downtime. The CDSL website's outage appears to be due to the high volume of trades taking place today.

CDSL, or Central Depository Services Limited, along with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), are the main securities depositories in India. They provide crucial trading and investing

services and are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). However, trading platform Groww clarified that the issue is now resolved and users can place sell orders from their holdings. "The issue is now resolved. You can now place sell orders from your holdings," said Groww in a post on X. Enchmark stock market indices,

Sensex and Nifty50, opened at record high levels on Monday after exit polls predicted a historic third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The S&P BSE Sensex jumped over 2,000 points to a record high of 76,738.89, while the NSE Nifty50 rose to 23,338.70. Both the indices hit all-time highs. At 10:10 am, the Sensex was up 2081.29 points at 76,042.60, and the Nifty was up 646.90 points at 23,177.60. All the stocks were in the green on the Sensex, with major gainers being Power Grid, Adani Ports, Shriram Finance, L&T, NTPC, SBI, Axis Bank, M&M, ICICI Bank, and Ultratech Cement. These stocks were up in the range of 3% to 7%. The Bank Nifty index jumped above the 50,000-mark for the first time. Moreover, the Nifty Smallcap 100 and the Nifty Midcap 100 index also surged nearly 3% each. Nifty Energy, Nifty PSU Bank, and Nifty Realty were the top gainers, each rising between 4-5%. The massive jump in the stock market comes after it snapped a five-day losing run on May 31, with the benchmark Sensex closing higher by 75 points.

Adani Group stocks rally up to 16% after exit polls predict win for BJP

NEW DELHI: Adani group stocks witnessed a surge in their prices on the back of exit poll announcements on June 1, that predicted a win for the BJP-led NDA alliance and a potential third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This surge in Adani group stocks comes amid a broader market rally, with Sensex hitting an all-time high, rising over 2,600 points, with the rally in the market being termed as 'Modi rally' or 'Modi wave'. The optimism surrounding the BJP-led NDA's potential victory has led to an increase in the value of Adani group shares. Several Adani group stocks hit their upper circuit limits, climbing by as much as 10%. Some stocks within the group surged even higher, reaching up to 16%. This surge has brought the market capitalisation (m-cap) of the Adani group back to pre-Hindenburg Research levels. Adani Enterprises saw a notable increase of 9.72% to reach Rs 3,743, while Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) rose by 11% to Rs 1,595.30. Adani Power experienced a surge of 15.82% to Rs 875.35. Adani Energy Solutions Ltd, Adani Green Energy Ltd, and Adani Total Gas Ltd also saw significant gains, climbing by



9.38%, 9.65%, and 15.28% respectively.

Adani Wilmar Ltd recorded a rise of 6.94% to Rs 380.55, while ACC and Ambuja Cements, although not directly part of the Adani group, also experienced gains ranging between 5-7%. The Adani Group has become the third Indian business conglomerate to surpass the \$10 billion mark in operating profit, following in the footsteps of Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Group and the TATA Group. Commenting on the market sentiment, Kotak Institutional Equities said that the exit polls indicate a comfortable majority for the BJP-led NDA alliance.

They anticipate further energisation of the equity market based on these predictions, expecting the government to continue with its economic agenda,

focusing on areas such as energy transition, infrastructure development, and manufacturing. "We note that the government has already executed the bulk of the required reforms for incentivising private investments. In 2019, the BJP's 100-day economic agenda focused on boosting investments," it said. According to Jefferies, the Adani group is poised for expansion, with plans for a \$90 billion capital expenditure over the next decade. Adani Enterprises is scaling its manufacturing capacity towards Green Hydrogen production by FY27, with projects such as the Navi Mumbai Airport likely to commission by 4QFY25. Adani Ports aims for an 18% Ebitda CAGR in FY24-29E, with plans to ramp up cargo volume significantly by 2030. Adani Green has raised its power capacity target to 50 GW by 2030, including 5GW Pumped hydro. Adani Total Gas plans to expand into new business segments such as LNG station networks and EV charging facilities.

Jefferies also highlighted the focus of Adani Wilmar on distribution expansion and premium brand enhancement.

Mother Dairy hikes milk prices by Rs 2 per litre day after Amul

NEW DELHI: Mother Dairy has announced a hike in milk prices by Rs 2 per litre on Monday, days after Amul increased prices of milk by the same margin.

The dairy company has increased the prices after an increase in input costs over the past 15 months. New prices will be effective from Monday across the nation. Mother Dairy said that it is increasing its liquid milk prices by Rs 2 per litre across all operating markets from June 3, 2024 onwards. The company attributed the price increase to the need to compensate producers for higher production costs, which have been escalating for over a year.

In Delhi-NCR, the new prices for Mother Dairy's milk are: full cream milk at Rs 68 per litre, toned milk at Rs 56 per litre, and double-toned milk at Rs 50 per litre. Prices for buffalo and



cow milk are set at Rs 72 and Rs 58 per litre, respectively. Toned milk (bulk vended milk) will now be sold at Rs 54 per litre. Mother Dairy, which sells 35 lakh litres of fresh milk daily in Delhi-NCR, last revised its liquid milk prices in February 2023. The company said that despite higher procurement costs in recent months, consumer prices had been maintained. Additionally,

unprecedented heat stress across the country is expected to impact milk production further. The company highlighted that it allocates around 75-80% of sales revenue from milk towards procurement, ensuring the sustainability of dairy farming and the availability of quality milk. Mother Dairy highlighted that the increase in farm prices is only being partially passed on to consumers, with an effective revision of 3-4%, balancing the interests of both milk producers and the consumers.

This comes a day after Amul increased its prices by Rs 2 per litre across the nation. The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which sells its dairy products under Amul, announced it on Sunday.

India's manufacturing sector growth eases in May; upturn in exports strongest in over 13 years: PMI survey

NEW DELHI: India's manufacturing sector saw a slower growth rate for the second straight month in May but stayed firmly in expansion mode with global sales increasing to the greatest extent in over 13 years, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 58.8 in April to 57.5 in May, signalling a slower but substantial improvement in the health of the sector. The index had climbed to a 16-year high of 59.1 in March. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. According to HSBC Global Economist Maitreyi Das, "The manufacturing sector remained in expansionary territory in May, albeit the pace slowed, led by a softer rise in new orders and output." The slowdown was attributed to reduced working hours amid intensive heatwave and rising production costs. "Panelists cited heatwaves as a reason for lower work hours in May, which may have affected production volumes," Das said. The headline figure was nearly four points higher than its



long-run average. May data showed a further upturn in Indian factory production, which stretched the current sequence of expansion to nearly three years. Despite easing to a three-month low, the rate of increase remained sharp. Growth was supported by new business gains, demand strength and successful marketing efforts, the report said. New orders rose at a substantial pace that was nonetheless the slowest in three

months. The rise was associated with marketing efforts, demand strength and favourable economic conditions, as per the report. Growth was reportedly stymied by competitions and election-related disruptions, it said, adding that in contrast to the trend for total sales, new export orders rose at a faster pace in May. The upturn in international sales was the strongest in over 13 years as manufacturers witnessed gains from

customers across several countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East. The ongoing strong sales performances, combined with upbeat growth forecasts, fuelled job creation in May, the report said.

Manufacturing employment rose to one of the greatest extents seen since data collection started in March 2005, the report said, adding that jobs growth, parallel to rising material and freight costs, underpinned a quicker increase in input costs at goods producers.

"On the price front, higher raw material and freight costs led to a rise in input prices. Manufacturers were only able to pass on a part of this increase to consumers, resulting in a squeeze in manufacturing margins," Das said.

"The positive news is that May recorded the highest level of positive sentiment among manufacturing firms in just under a decade, resulting in increased job creation," Das added. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI compiled by S&P Global, is based on responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

Ola Electric to lay off 500 employees ahead of IPO: Report

Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal has been pushing to reduce costs across all departments ahead of the IPO.

New Delhi: Ola Electric is planning to lay off around 400-500 people across the organisation in the coming weeks to control operating costs before its initial public offering (IPO), reported the Economic Times. The exact number of employees to be laid off is still being finalised. The company's leadership is currently deciding the scale of the layoffs expected across the organisation. The report, quoting sources, mentioned that some of the affected employees might be replaced with new hires at a lower cost. However, the overall headcount will decrease, the report added. Some teams have already finalised the number of cuts, according to a person familiar with the matter, mentioned in the report. Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal has been pushing to reduce costs



across all departments, a source said.

In December, when Ola Electric filed its draft IPO papers, the company stated it had 3,733 employees as of October 2023, with an employee attrition rate of 47.48% in FY23.

In April, Ola Cabs had laid off around 200 employees. Additionally, Ola Cabs' CEO Hemant Bakshi and CFO Kartik Gupta also left the company. The firm aims for profitability in both its cab and electric vehicle units, as they are at different stages of going public.

For the first quarter of FY24, Ola Electric reported a net loss of Rs 267 crore on operating revenue of Rs 1,243 crore. In FY23, Ola Electric posted a net loss of Rs 1,472 crore on operating revenue of Rs 2,631 crore.

NEWS BOX

T20 World Cup: Namibia's Ruben Trampelmann sets new record with sensational start vs Oman

New Delhi. Ruben Trampelmann scripted a new T20I record in Namibia's first match of the T20 World Cup 2024 campaign against Oman on Monday, June 3. The 26-year-old left-arm pacer became the first man to pick up two wickets in the first two deliveries of a T20I match when he rocked the Oman batting unit in their Group B match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados.

T20 World Cup 2024: Full Coverage | Complete Schedule

Ruben Trampelmann came out all guns firing after captain Gerhard Erasmus won the toss and opted to bowl on a pitch that had plenty of assistance for bowlers. Namibia vs Oman: Updates Namibia could not have asked for a better start as Ruben Trampelmann got the big wickets of opener Kashyap Prajapati and captain Aqib Ilyas in the first two deliveries of the game. It was a left-arm swing bowling masterclass from Trampelmann as he got the ball to swing into the right-handers. Prajapati was undone by a fuller-length delivery that swung late. Ilyas received an unplayable in-swinging yorker.

Trampelmann, however, was not able to get a hat-trick, but he struck in his second over, removing wicketkeeper Naseem Khushi for 6. Namibia were reeling at 10 for 3 in the third over of the match after the sensational opening burst from Trampelmann. Trampelmann added another one to his tally on Monday as he got tail-ender Kaleemullah in the 19th over of the innings. Trampelmann finished with figures of four for 21, his career-best in T20I cricket and the left-arm pacer found the perfect stage to do so. Trampelmann's figures of 4 for 21 were also the best for Namibia in a T20 World Cup match as Oman were bundled out for 109 in 19.4 overs.

OMAN STRUGGLE IN BARBADOS

Oman never got going in their innings in Barbados as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Zeeshan Maqsood, their experienced all-rounder, was the only one in the top-order to score at a strike rate of over 100. However, Maqsood was dismissed for 22 from 20 balls as Oman slipped to 37 for 4 right after the powerplay. Khalid Kail and Ayaan Khan stitched a 31-run partnership, but Oman were unable to handle the variety and quality of the Namibian bowling attack.

Veteran David Wiese chipped in with three wickets while captain Gerhard Erasmus, with his off-spin took two wickets and conceded just 20 runs in four overs.

French Open: Jannik Sinner survives scare to set-up quarters with Grigor Dimitrov

Paris Wimbledon champion Jannik Sinner battled against the crowd at the Philippe-Chatier and an inspired local favourite Corentin Moutet in a thrilling Round of 16 match on Sunday. Sinner was nearly bageled in the first set, but he fought back and sealed a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory to progress to the men's singles quarter-final. Sinner will take on Grigor Dimitrov, who continued his resurgent run on clay, beating 8th seed Hubert Hurkacz in a fourth-round match.

Jannik Sinner has equalled his best-ever performance in Roland Garros and the Italian will be looking to carry forward his good run after having begun the year with the Australian Open crown. Sinner conceded that he found Corentin Moutet tough to handle, especially because of the left-handed artistry that the Frenchman displayed in the opening set. The crowd was rallying behind the local star when he threatened to blank the Australian Open champion in the first set. "It was very tough for me. I think he played very, very well in the first set. I had some chances, but he played much better than me,



so I had to adjust a little bit. He had an amazing run here at Roland Garros. The atmosphere as always was amazing," Sinner said. "He plays differently to most of my opponents, so it was tough for me. He is also a lefty. You don't play so many times against left-handers, so I'm happy to be in the next round," he added. Moutet was bidding to become the first Frenchman to reach the French Open quarter-final since Richard Gasquet in 2016 showcased his touch game in the opening set, making Sinner run around the court with his slices and drop shots. Moutet was riding on the wave of support from the Paris crowd, but he was soon brought down to earth by Sinner. Sinner looked confident after he broke for a 4-2 lead in the second set and never looked back from there. The Italian found his range and steamrolled Moutet in the last three sets. Sinner, who had been struggling with a hip injury in the lead up to the French Open, is bidding to become the World No. 1. He is keeping up the pressure on Novak Djokovic, who will lose his numero uno spot if he doesn't reach the final of the Roland Garros this year. Sinner will take the spot if he reaches the final.

Hardik Pandya is a strong personality, has moved on from IPL 2024 setback: Ian Bishop

T20 World Cup 2024: Hardik Pandya put behind the disappointing IPL campaign and shone for India in their 60-run win over Bangladesh in a warm-up match on Saturday in New York. Ian Bishop said the all-rounder has set his sights on doing well for India in the tournament.

New Delhi. Former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop said Hardik Pandya seems to have moved on from what he endured in the IPL 2024 season and has his eyes set on the T20 World Cup campaign. Bishop's comments came after Hardik played an all-round role in India's 60-run win over Bangladesh in their only warm-up match on Saturday in New York.

T20 World Cup: Full Schedule | Points Table | Complete Coverage

Ian Bishop, speaking after Namibia's Super Over win over Oman in Barbados, reflected on Hardik Pandya's solid outing at the Nassau County Cricket Ground, saying he believes that the Indian cricket team stars would have rallied around Hardik after he joined the team in the United States. "I think he is a pretty strong personality. I would like to think that the other members of the team would have rallied around him. What he endured during the IPL, some of it was not of his own making. I just wish fans could have approached it maybe a little differently, but they have the right to voice their views however they see fit.

"I am sure he has moved on now to what is the biggest stage in T20 international cricket and that whole picture is ahead of us. But he is a strong guy," Ian Bishop said.

HARDIK'S ALL-ROUND SHOW

Hardik walked into bat when India were 130 for 3 in the 15th over and needing a



late push. Hardik provided exactly that for Rohit Sharma's team. On the drop-in pitch at the Nassau County Cricket Ground that favoured the bowlers more, Hardik started on a cautious note, but hit a boundary against Shakib Al Hasan in the 16th over. He switched gears in the very next over bowled by Tanvir Islam, hitting the spinner for three sixes in a row. The highlight of Hardik's cameo was the six over covers that he hit against leg-spinner Rishad Hossain off the backfoot in the 19th over.

Hardik looked switched on in his very first outing for India after the disastrous IPL 2024 campaign. Hardik moved to Mumbai Indians from Gujarat Titans in a landmark trade deal. However, a section of MI fans did not welcome the move and especially his appointment as captain, replacing Rohit Sharma. Hardik was booed

across venues in the country and it had an impact on the way he played and led the team. MI finished at the bottom of the points table even as Hardik faced flak for not inspiring the team enough.

However, if early signs are anything to go by, Hardik is all set to play an important role in India's T20 World Cup campaign. India, led by Rohit Sharma, will begin their T20 World Cup campaign against Ireland in New York on Wednesday, June 5 before taking on Pakistan on Sunday, June 9.

T20 World Cup: Sri Lanka captain Hasaranga raises concerns with travel and logistics

New Delhi Sri Lanka captain Wanindu Hasaranga raised concerns about travelling for their T20 World Cup 2024 opener against South Africa in New York. Hasaranga revealed that Sri Lanka are staying 90 minutes away from the Nassau County Cricket Stadium and reaching the venue early has been a concern for their team ahead of the much-anticipated Group D game on Monday, June 3. Wanindu Hasaranga, speaking to the press, on the eve of their big-ticket match said the Sri Lankan team has been arriving at least three hours in advance for their training and highlighted the difficulty of travelling 90 minutes. Sri Lanka will be taking on South Africa at 10:30 am in New York as the early morning game at the newly-built venue will cater to the TV audience in Asia. "No, if we play under the lights, then we prepare everything under the lights at 10:30. The only concern is we have to come early to the ground. We had to come at 7:30 in the morning because we were so far from the ground. It will take like one and a half hours to the ground. That's the only concern we have," Hasaranga said. Hasaranga's comments come after a report claimed that Sri Lanka faced nearly a 12-hour delay when travelling from Florida to New York on Friday after their warm-up games. According to Newswire, Sri Lanka were scheduled to arrive in New York on Friday evening, but they touched down in the city only on early Saturday morning. The report also claimed that Sri Lanka complained to the International Cricket Board regarding the 'subpar' logistical planning. Sri Lanka, unlike India, are playing their group stage games in four different venues -- while they take on South Africa in New York, they will face Bangladesh on June 8 in Dallas. Sri Lanka will then face Nepal in Florida on June 12 in Florida before playing their final league game against the Netherlands in St. Lucia on June 17. Nonetheless, Sri Lanka have breaks between their games to ensure travel and recovery.

SRI LANKA READY FOR CAMPAIGN: HASARANGA

However, Sri Lanka captain Wanindu Hasaranga said the team was satisfied with their preparation in the lead-up to the big-ticket contest against South Africa. "First of all, we prepared really well. We came two weeks early to North Carolina, had practice sessions there and we played two practice matches in Florida. I think as a team, we prepared really well and the conditions are similar to Sri Lanka. So, I think as a team we prepared really well," he added. Hasaranga also said that the team watched the warm-up match between India and Bangladesh, adding that they assessed the drop-in pitches at the Nassau County Cricket Ground. India hammered Bangladesh by 60 runs after posting 182 on a pitch that was more helpful to their bowlers.

Namibia's Super Over hero David Wiese 'aged couple of years' after match vs Oman

New Delhi. Namibia's David Wiese reflected on the nerve-wracking feeling after emerging as the team's hero in their Super Over victory against Oman in the Group B clash of the T20 World Cup 2024 at Kensington Oval, Barbados in West Indies on June 3, Monday. Namibia managed a thrilling win after the game headed into the Super Over, the first in a men's T20 World Cup since 2012. Wiese was awarded as the Player of the Match for his all-round performance with the bat and ball. While speaking to the broadcasters after the match, Wiese called the clash emotionally draining and opened up about his approach in the super-over.

"Aged a couple of years tonight. Don't have a lot of years left in me (laughs). Emotionally draining evening. (Batting and bowling in Super over) It helped that I had a feel of the game and knew if I get a few hits out in the Super Over, then with the ball, felt like taking the ball and executing," Wiese said. Namibia vs Oman:



Highlights | Scorecard After Namibia managed to level scores with Oman, Wiese came out to bat in the super-over and slammed Bilal Khan for a six and a four in the first 2 balls. Gerhard Erasmus and Wiese powered Namibia to a winning score of 21 runs, the highest super-over score in T20 World Cup. After failing to chase down 110, the team came out with flying colours in the Super Over. Wiese was handed over the responsibility to

defend the super over total and he gave away just 10 runs and managed to pick a wicket as well. Namibia vs Oman: As it happened

Wiese also reflected on how the pitch played during Namibia's chase of 110 runs against Oman. "Pitch was difficult, didn't play the way we thought. But we adapted well. It was two-paced, it was a difficult wicket to get yourself in. Definitely, one you need to spend a bit of time before capitalising. (Target) Difficult to gauge a good target because if you're chasing 180 then you're playing differently. But when you let them bowl the way they did, you bring them back into the game. Lots of learnings from this game," Wiese added. Namibia managed a great escape as they fluffed but also redeemed themselves. However, Oman also pulled off a dramatic comeback after being bundled out for 109 runs.

French Open Day 9 Schedule: Djokovic and Sabalenka headline action, Bopanna vs Balaji

New Delhi. Day 9 of the Roland Garros will witness high quality action with several big names in action on the clay. Some of the sport's biggest sporting stars will be in the fourth-round action as they look to book a spot in the quarter-finals on the clay courts in Paris. Last year's Roland Garros champion Novak Djokovic will return to the court after his five-set thriller against Italy's Lorenzo Musetti. Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev will also battle it out to make it to the last eight. In the women's singles, Elena Rybakina and Aryna Sabalenka will be first and second respectively on the Court Philippe-Chatier. Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden will face N Sriram Balaji and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela Martinez in a round of 16 clash in the Men's doubles. Balaji is likely to be Rohan Bopanna's choice for the Paris Olympics doubles team. Second seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden overcame Brazilians Orlando Luz and Marcelo Zormann 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 in a testing three-set opening round at the French Open on Sunday. Meanwhile, India's N Sriram Balaji booked his maiden pre-



quarter finals berth as he and his Mexican partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela Martinez beat their French opponent 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Sabalenka looked in serene form so far as she breezed past her good friend Paula Badosa 7-5, 6-1 in the previous round. However, the 2nd seeded player is expected to face a stiff challenge from Emma

Navarro. Just like Sabalenka, Navarro is also yet to lose a set and came through two tie-breaks against her American compatriot Madison Keys in the third round. Djokovic will face Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo in what promises to be a dramatic day in the French Capital. Interestingly, Djokovic and Cerundolo have never met before on clay.

T20 World Cup 2024: Namibia outclass Oman after Super Over thriller in Barbados

Barbados. Namibia began their T20 World Cup 2024 campaign in style, beating Oman in a battle of associate nations at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados on Monday. It was not a walk in the park for Namibia despite them restricting Oman to 109 in 20 overs. The game ended in a tie and resulted in the first Super Over in a men's T20 World Cup match since 2012.

Namibia vs Oman: Highlights | Scorecard After struggling to chase down 5 runs in the last over in a chase that never got going, Namibia came out all guns firing in the Super Over. Oman did wonderfully well with the ball to keep Namibia quiet after posting just 109. Mehran Khan gave it his all in the last over, defending 5 runs and picking up 2 wickets. Oman fell just short of defending the lowest total in the history of the men's T20 World Cup. Oman paid the price for not sealing the deal as David Wiese power Namibia to a win in the Super Over. David Wiese, their most

experienced batter, flaunted his power-hitting game, smashing a six and four against Bilal Khan before captain Gerhard Erasmus hit two boundaries. Namibia posted 21 runs, the highest-ever total in a Super Over in a men's T20 World Cup game. David Wiese shone with the ball after he was tasked with the responsibility of bowling the Super Over for Namibia. He picked up a wicket and conceded just 10 runs as Namibia won the Super Over by 11 runs and began their World Cup campaign with a win. It was a crucial win for Namibia as they will face stiffer tests when in Group B, which also has the likes of former champions England and Australia along with Scotland. The 7-wicket win in Barbados was also Namibia's fifth win in a T20 World Cup contest. After bowling out Oman for 109 in 19.4 overs, Namibia's chase got off to the worst possible start as they lost opener Michael van Lingen for 0 in the first over. Left-arm pacer Bilal Khan, one of the most experienced in the associate circuit, got



one to shape away and kiss the inside edge of the bat and get him bowled. Namibia, however, did not lose wickets in a bunch like Oman in the powerplay. Nikolaas Davin and Jan Frylinck added 42 runs for the second wicket, without taking a lot of risks. Davin hit 22 off 31, knowing fully well that the asking rate was under control. Jan Frylinck held the innings together, showcasing a lot of maturity in Namibia's chase. Hitting only six boundaries, the No. 3 batter kept moving the

scoreboard with ones and twos after the departure of Davin in the 9th over. Frylinck stitched a 31-run stand with captain Gerhard Erasmus, who made 13 from 16 balls. On a pitch that was on the slower side, Oman kept themselves in the game despite their shoddy fielding -- three dropped catches. Oman got the wicket of JJ Smit for 8 in the 18th over and brought the equation down to 14 off 12 balls.

There was a bit of pressure on Namibia, but experienced David Wiese hit a six in Bilal Khan's last over to ease the nerves in the Namibian camp. However, there was another setback in the final over as Namibia lost Frylinck in the first delivery for 45 with Namibia still needed five runs.

TRUMPELMANN SHINES FOR NAMIBIA Earlier in the day, Ruben Trampelmann set a new record as he backed up captain Gerhard Erasmus's decision to win the toss and opted to bowl.

