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Son moves home, leaves ailing father behind in Kochi

Kochi, May 11 (IANS) It's normal for people to leave behind unwanted things when they move home, but in Kochi's suburb Eroor, a man and his family moved out from their rented accommodation and left behind his old and ailing father.

Locals were aghast on Saturday morning when they found out that 70-year-old Shan-mugham, who had been ailing for a long time, had been left behind by his driver son Ajith and the family had shifted to an undisclosed new location.

Ajith's former landlord said that he had not been getting rent for a while and had approached the police for a solution.

Repolling at Parthampur

Parthampur, May 11 (IANS) Repolling was underway on Saturday in Parthampur village in Gu-jarat's Dahod Lok Sabha constituency.

Pathampur recorded 26.72 per cent voter turnout till 11 a.m.

Dahod is a Scheduled Tribes reserved seat, where BJP's Jasvantsinh Bhabhor is seeking a third consecutive term. Prabha Taviad is the candidate from the Congress.

The Election Commission had ordered repolling in Parthampur after a

booth-capturing incident was reported on May 7. Vijay Bhabhor, identi-fied as the son of the in-cumbent BJP MP Jasvantsinh Bhabhor, is said to have broadcast live from a polling station in Sant-



NEW DELHI, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference, a day after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in a money laundering case, at AAP office in New Delhi on Saturday. UNI

Gujarat: SSC results announced 82.56 pc pass percentage recorded

Gandhinagar, May 11 (IANS) The Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSHSEB) on Saturday declared the results of the SSC examinations, and the pass percentage was recorded at 82.56 per cent.

This year's pass percentage reached an im-pressive 82.56 per cent, marking an increase of approximately 18 percent-age points from last year's 64.62 per cent.

Despite the overall positive trends, the board also noted malpractice concerns, capturing 138 students in the act and recording about 400 cases based on CCTV footage. The marked improvement in results has seen

a rise in schools achieving a 100 per cent pass rate, with 1,389 schools accomplishing this feat com-

pared to only 272 in 2023 and 292 in 2022. Conversely, the number of schools with less than 30 per cent results has decreased notably, with only 264 schools this year compared to 1,084 in 2023. Students who appeared for the Class 10 board exams can access their re-

sults on gseb.org. Gandhinagar district led with the highest pass percentage at 87.22 per cent, while Porbandar re-corded the lowest among corded the lowest among the 33 districts with 74.57 per cent. Subject-wise, the

performance in core subjects showed scores of 753 students in Social Science, 828 in Science, and 2,660 in Standard Mathematics, scoring a perfect 100. However, students still need to achieve full

marks in Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, or Urdu. In con-trast, English and Sanskrit

K'taka BJP slams govt over arrest of its leader

saw 10 and 1,905 stu-dents scoring full marks, respectively, and basic Mathematics saw 2,802 students achieving this milestone. The performance disparities were also evident at the district level with the highest relevel with the highest re-sults coming from Ahmed-abad, Dholka, and Bhavnagar district's Talga-jarda area, all reporting 100 per cent pass rates. The Tad center in Bhavna-gar district had the lowest results at 41.13 per cent. Girls continued to out-

Girls continued to outshine boys, with an 86.69 per cent pass rate com-pared to 79.12 per cent for boys. The results for students in the English medium were particularly strong, at 92.52 per cent, while those in the Gujarati and Hindi mediums posted pass rates of 81.17 per cent and 75.90 per cent, respectively.

Man arrested for stabbing wife in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, May 11

PM Modi lashes out at Congress over Ram Mandir 'purification' remarks

Bhubaneswar, May 11 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Satur-day lashed out at Congress over remarks on the "purification" of the Ram Mandir by the senior Con-gress leader Nana Patole.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Odisha's Bargarh Lok Sabha con-stituency, PM Modi said that the Congress leader's statement is an insult to President Draupadi Mur-muuntry and the whole tribal community. He said that the BJP

made a tribal daughter of Odisha the President of India but the Congress and its allies are repeatedly disrespecting President Murmu. "President Draupadi

dent Droupadi Murmu.

Murmu recently visited Ram Mandir. She offered PM Modi also said Congress is trying to snatch away the rights of puja inside the sanctum sharch away the rights of SC/ST or OBCs by back-stabbing the Constitution. He termed himself as the "Chowkidar" of the rights of all the poor and de-prived people of the coun-try DM Modi told the gath sanctorum of the Ram Mandir. She sought the blessings of Ram Lalla for the well-being of the coun-try. On the next day, one of the Congress leaders said that Ram Mandir try. PM Modi told the gathwould be purified with ering that everyone should remain alert from the Con-Ganga water. Isn't this an insult to the country, mothgress Party. ers and sisters and the "Congress wants to whole tribal society?" PM

snatch away the reserva-tion rights of ST/SC and He also urged the peo-ple to "punish" Congress for the disrespect to Pres-ident Murmu by making the party's candidates lose their deposition events also OBC and give it to its vote bank. No one has the power to backstab the Constitution when a tribal daugh-ter is holding the highest constitutional position and their deposits in every Lok Sabha and Assembly seat for disrespecting Presiyour Prdahan Sevak who belongs to a backward caste, holds the Prime

istration has effectively provided facilities for dis-

placed persons, the prima-

ry challenge remains en-

suring their safe return

home. The predominant

desire among the dis-

placed individuals is to re-

unite with their families

and return to their homes,

she said. Justice Mittal

highlighted the prompt ad-dressing of various issues,

from transportation to healthcare, including spe-

cialised facilities for preg-nant women in Imphal

East. "However, the over-

arching challenge lies in

reuniting families and fa-

cilitating their return, re-

flecting the ongoing en-

deavour of the govern-

ment and state administra-

Minister's post. Modi won't allow anyone to snatch the rights of ST/SC and OBC," roared PM Modi.

Referring to senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Modi said that nowadays Congress's "Prince" is now talking about the Constitution but he tore it into pieces during a press meeting.

He stated that this is not only an insult to the Cabinet and Indian government but to the Constitution itself. PM Modi further as-

serted that the Congress will get less number of seats than the age of its "Prince" Rahul Gandhi this time and will also lose the recognised opposition party status in the Parliament.

Manipur govt mobilises initiative to rebuild **lives, communities hit by ethnic violence** Imphal, May 11 (IANS) Level-1 certificate pro- launching the programm launching the programme, Justice Mittal emphasised that while the state admin-

Modi asked.

Imphal, May 11 (IANS) In response to the ethnic violence that has gripped Manipur since May 2023, the state government has swiftly mobilised proactive initiatives aimed at provid-ing relief and rebabilitation ing relief and rehabilitation for the conflict-hit displaced people under the mentorship of the Supreme Court-appointed committee headed by Justice (retd) Gita Mittaĺ.

ognising the urgent need for tangible support, these initiatives encompass a multifaceted approach targeting various aspects of livelihood and well-being. Justice Gita Mittal, the

first woman chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, inaugurated a Skill Training Programme for 2000 displaced youths, along with a Youth Coach

Additionally, a primary health centre was also operationalised in PPP mode at the Palace Auditorium in Imphal, in collaboration with the state government and Apollo Hospital Enterprise, Hydera-bad, utilising telemedicine facilities. Justice Mittal, heading the three-memheading the three-mem-ber committee of former women judges of high courts appointed by the Supreme Court in August last year to oversee relief and rehabilitation of the affected people of the Manipur ethnic violence.

During impromptu media interaction after

70.42 lakh pharma opioids seized in Himachal

Chandigarh, May 11 (IANS) In a big blow to pharma opioids, Punjab Police's Special Task Force (STF) on Saturday claimed to have busted an interstate network of manufacturing illegal psycho-tropic substances and supply units running from a pharma factory in Baddi in Himachal Pradesh.

Seven drug smugglers and suppliers, including the mastermind, were arrested for running the op-erations spread across Punjab, Haryana, Him-achal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra with seizure of 70.42 lakh intoxicant tablets and capsules, 725.5 kg intoxicant tramadol powder and Rs 2.37 lakh drug money.

Imphal, May 11 (IANS) gramme aiming to train 300 youths as coaches in multiple sports disciplines including football, table tennis, badminton, judo and weightlifting.

Officials said that rec-

rampur taluka, Mahisagar district, via his Instagram account. Although the video was subsequently deleted, it had already been widely shared, sparking significant outcry.

2 terrorist associates held in Shopian

Srinagar, May 11, (IANS) Jammu and Kashmir Police, in south Kashmir's Shopian district, arrested two terrorist associates and recovered incriminating materials from their possession, police said on Saturday.

"Police along with Army (44 RR) and CRPF (14th BN), at a checkpoint established at Malik Chak Crossing, arrested two terrorist associates," police said in a statement.

They have been identified as Suhaib Iqbal Malik and Tufail Yousuf Malik, both residents of Baba Mohalla, Shopian.

Incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession.

Police said an FIR has been filed and an investigation has been initiated.

J&K: Speeding vehicle kills 60 sheep, injures 40 in Kulgam

Srinagar, May 11 (IANS) A speeding vehi-cle mauled 60 sheep to death and injured another 40 on the national highway last night in J&K's Kulgam district. Officials said that 60 sheep had been killed and 40 others injured by a speeding vehícle in the Khudwani area of Kulgam district during the night.

Two flock caretakers were also injured in this incident. They have been hospitalised for treatment. "The driver of the vehicle was arrested and an FIR has been registered against him," officials said.

--IANS

in sex scandal video case Bengaluru, May 11 other issues of the state," (IANS) Karnataka BJP on Saturday slammed the H.D. Revanna, the fa-

na.

Minister.

has been jailed on charg-

es of kidnapping one of

the victims of the sex

held a series of press con-

ferences and alleged that

Deputy Chief Minister Shi-

vakumar is behind the cir-

culation of thousands of

pen drives containing the

videos of Prajwal Revan-

leged that he was offered

a cabinet berth by Con-

gress for not issuing statements against the Chief

Minister and Deputy Chief

mar during the Special In-vestigation Team (SIT).

Devaraje Gowda had

Gowda had also al-

Devaraje Gowda had

scandal case.

state government over the arrest of its leader Devaraje Gowda in the sex scandal video case.

Gowda, the whistleblower in the sex scandal video case, which involves JD-S MP and Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna, was arrested on Friday in Chitradurga district.

The police said that he was arrested on charges of sexual harassment and caste abuse

Leader of the Opposi-tion (LoP) R. Ashoka said that the arrest of BJP leader Devaraje Gowda is not appropriate and if things continue like this, the party will protest against the government's highhandedness.

"He was threatened for not taking the name of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar. The government is only focused on the sex video

claimed that he would submit the evidence to the scandal case. They do not Central Bureau of Investicare for the farmers and gation (CBI).

(IANS) A man, who accused his wife of having Ashoka said. H.D. Revanna, the faillicit relationships and stabbed her, was arrested in Ahmedabad on Saturther of Prajwal Revanna,

day. The accused, identified as Mahesh Govindbhai, stabbed his wife in the neck and back near the Bhavna furniture shop at Delhi Darwaza before fleeing the scene on May 3.

According to police reports, Mahesh confronted his wife at around five in the evening, accusing her of inappropriate behavior and having illicit relationships.

Following a heated argument, he allegedly stabbed her multiple times, causing severe injuries, and then escaped. The police launched a

He had also released search operation following an audio clip of the Congress leader L. Shivarame the attack Gowda "forcing" him not to take the name of Shivaku-

Based on intelligence inputs, Mahesh was traced to a hideout near his relative's house in Vasana, Bhatha Village.

The arrest was made after a surveillance operation in the area. -IANS

It will be interesting to see if the Brahmin card of the BJP will get the upper hand or the Muslim-Yadav equation of the RJD will succeed. The NDA has renominated its sitting BJP MP Gopal Jee Thakur, while the RJD's Lalit Kumar Yadav is representing the Grand Alliance. For the Grand Alliance, the addition of Mukesh Sahani is crucial

on the voters of the fisher community and it may favour the RJD candidate. The total number of

are 35 third-gender voters in this constituency.

Talking about the caste equation, the Brahmins are in a dominant position with a population of over 4.70 lakh. They are known as aggressive voters in the region.

At around 3.6 lakh, the



tion.

HEERPORA, During joint Naka checking by Shopian Police,44RR and 14BN CRPF at Malik Chek crossing 02 terrorist associates apprehended along with ncriminating material.FIR 14/2024 under relevant sections of law registered at PS Heerpora and investigation taken up.UNI

BJP's Brahmin card versus RJD's MY equation Patna, May 11 (IANS) population of the Muslims and it has yielded divi-RJD's Abdul Bari Siddiqui

Like in the majority of Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar, the battle for Darbhanga is turning out to be between the NDA and the Grand Alliance.

here due to his influence

voters in Darbhanga is 17,74,656 out of which the number of male voters is 9,33,122 and there are 8,41,499 female voters

Apart from this, there

is also significant here, dends for them. The BJP won the Darfollowed by around 2.25 lakh Nishad-Sahani (fishbhanga seat for the first

ermen community). time in the 1999 Lok Sab-Apart from this, the ha elections. Although it number of SC/ST voters lost in 2004, after that the is around 2.7 lakh and Yacandidates of the saffron party won three-consecudav voters are around

1,80,000. Brahmins Maithili After scoring a hat-trick the BJP is preparing for its fourth-consecutive have always dominated politics in Darbhanga, as a result, 9 candidates from the community have won the Lok Sabha elections here.

has emerged as the new stronghold of the party. Keeping their domi-In the 2019 Lok Sab-ha election, BJP MP Gonance in mind, the BJP bets on Brahmin candidates most of the time palji Thakur defeated the

Unhappy with exam results, student commits suicide

win in 2024 and the Dar-

bhanga Lok Sabha seat

Guwahati, May 11 (IANS) Disappointed over her class 12 result, a girl student committed suicide in Assam's Tinsukia district, police said on Saturday. She was a student of Margherita College. According to police, the result of the examination was declared on Thursday

As she got third division instead of her expectation of first, she tool the extreme step.

When no one was at the home in APO colony in the Margherita area on Friday afternoon, the girl hanged herself, a senior police official said. After receiving information, a team of Mar-gherita police went to spot and recovered the body. After autopsy, the body was handed over to the family.

by a huge margin. At that time, out of the total votes polled, Gopalji Thakur se-cured 5,86,668 votes (62

per cent approximately). The RJD's Abdul Bari Siddiqui obtained 3.18.689 votes (33 per cent approximately). To bridge this gap, the tive elections in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

Grand Alliance has made Lalit Prasad Yadav its candidate this time, expressing confidence in the MY equation. Now, it remains to be seen how the BJP will overcome this challenge.

Darbhanga is situated on the bank of the Bagmati River and it was mentioned in the Ramayana too as it is an ancient city with rich traditions and culture.

It has given the taste of Makhana to the whole world and is famous for its hospitality. Makhana, paan and fish are the identity of this place. It is also known for its folk culture and traditions.

Darbhanga Lok Sabha constituency comprises 6 Assembly seats such as Gaura Bauram, Benipur, Alinagar, Darbhanga Rural, Darbhanga and Baha-durpur. The NDA has control over all five seats except for Darbhanga Rural.

SRINAGAR, Bright sunshine after rain in Lal Chowk Srinagar on Saturday.UNI







Arvind Kejriwal's bail: **Court and the right** to campaign

SC's grant of bail to Delhi CM is welcome. It affirms that due process, level playing field, lie at election's core

The arrest by the Enforcement Directorate of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on March 21 — less than a month before voting began for the ongoing general elections — cast a shadow over the largest democratic exercise in the world. It sparked apprehensions about a powerful execu-tive settling scores with its political opponents through investigative agencies under its control in a way that narrows and skews the playing field.

On Friday, May 10 — roughly halfway into the election — the Supreme Court took an important step towards undoing the damage and restoring the impression of fair play. The apex court has granted Kejriwal interim bail until June 1, when voting ends. Of course, the Court could have gone voting ends. Of course, the Court could have gone further, and it is regrettable that it didn't — the bail is conditional and limited, he must return to custody on June 2. Kejriwal was the latest in a slew of prominent leaders — AAP ministers Saty-endar Jain and Sanjay Singh, former Delhi Depu-ty CM Manish Sisodia and BRS leader K Kavitha — to be arrested in the Delhi excise policy case to be arrested in the Delhi excise policy case.

The leaders have been accused and charged under the stringent Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The Court has made it clear that the grant of bail is not a comment on the guilt or innocence of the accused. At the same time, it has done well to reject the ED's claims - made in an affidavit a day before the SC was to give its judgment — that granting interim bail to the Delhi CM to campaign would create two classes of citi-

CM to campaign would create two classes of citi-zens, and privilege politicians over others. A farmer or businessman, the agency argued, would not get the benefit in similar circumstanc-es, and that the "right to campaign in an election" does not exist. These arguments rightly cut little ice with the court, which pointed out that the con-text in this case is the general election "the visa text in this case is the general election, "the visa viva to a democracy". And that given that Kejriwal is an elected chief minister and the leader of a national party, a "more holistic and libertarian view is justified". In essence, the Court recognised that an elected official is not just an individual but the people's representative and that participation in the campaign is an inextricable and essential part of a fair election. The ED's affidavit framed an overreach: It is certainly not for the agency to lecture on democracy and rights. The Court did well to snub its attempt to do so and assert its jurisdic-tion over grant of bail.



Hyderabad, May 11 (IANS) Telangana is heading for an intense three-cornered fight in the majority of the 17 Lok Sabha seats on May 13.

Five months after coming to power in this south-ern state, the Congress is facing a stiff challenge from the BRS and the BJP.

Barring 3-4 seats where one party appears to have an edge, it will be a close triangular contest in the

remaining constituencies. While the Congress is looking to repeat its impres-sive performance of the Assembly elections held in November 2023, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to put up a good show in Telangana, the second key state for the party in South India after Karnataka.

Despite losing power to the Congress after ruling the state for 10 years and a series of setbacks with several key leaders defecting to the BJP and Congress, the BRS looks strong on the ground. The party appears to be recovering from its loss,

Telangana set for intense three-cornered fight in May 13 polls

if one goes by the huge crowds during party President and former Chief Minister KC Rao's bus yatra.

The BJP appears to be sitting pretty in three out of four seats it won in 2019 and is locked in a tight fight with the Congress and BRS in at least four constituencies.

Banking on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi factor, the saffron party has set a target of 10 seats.

PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda and other leaders have campaigned extensively.

The Congress party looks ahead of its rivals in five constituencies and is facing a tough challenge in other constituencies.

The BRS, which lost five of its sitting MPs to the two rivals during the last couple of months, seems to have an edge in a couple of con-stituencies. ed to the Assembly. A. Revanth Reddy, who was

Interestingly, both the Congress and BJP have gained from the exodus of leaders from the BRS during the last few weeks.

A sitting MP, a sitting MLA, daughter of a sitting MLA are among the Lok Sabha contestants for the

Congress. Similarly, the BJP has fielded a sitting MP and son of sitting MP as its candidates after they defected from the BRS

Former MPs and former state Legislators of BRS also figure in the list of candidates of the Congress and BRS both.

While the BJP retained three of its four sitting MPs, the Congress had to look for new faces as all three MPs who won in 2019 were elect-

elected from Malkajgiri constituen-cy in the previous election, has become the Chief Minister.

Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, who were elected from Nalgonda and Bhongir respectively, have become ministers.

There was some high drama in the run-up to nominations. Ka-diam Kaviya, who was named as candidate from Warangal Lok Sabha seat by the BRS, withdrew from the contest to join the Congress along with her father and sitting BRS MLA Kadiam Srihari.

Among key contestants, Union Minister and state BJP chief, G Kishan Reddy is seeking re-election from Secunderabad.

BJP MP Maneka Gandhi speaks on son Varun Gandhi's political future

Sultanpur, May 11 (IANS) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Maneka Gandhi on Saturday spoke about her son Varun Gandhi's political future in the backdrop of him not contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, despite being a twotime parliamentarian.

Speaking to IANS, Maneka Gandhi said that Varun has a political stature and she is not concerned or worried about his future.

On her poll campaign, the eight-time MP said that she is engaging with the public via doing a door-to-door campaign and as always banking on people's support for her re-election to the Lok

Sabha.Excerpts: IANS: Will Varun Gandhi join you in the poll campaign?

Maneka Gandhi: Varun is eager to contribute but I don't want to bother him because of the weather. The campaign is going well now and if needed, we may seek his services.

IANS: Are you worried about Varun Gandhi's political future?

Maneka Gandhi: I am not worried about Varun's political future at all. His political stature is tall, also he has intelligence and patience. He also loves the country. Whatever he will do, he

will do it right. IANS: How many seats do you think the BJP will win in this election?

Maneka Gandhi: The party has set a target of 400 seats, we are sure of achieving the target. (Laughing), if I were an astrologer, it would have been so much fun.

IANS: Raebareli and Amethi are considered

strongholds of the Gandhi family but the Congress is now only limited to one seat. How do you see this? Maneka Gandhi: Who am I to

say anything about Amethi? I don't speak about others and keep myself limited to my work.

IANS: The opposition has been



repeatedly accusing the BJP of being blank on issues and resorting to polarisation. What do you have to say?

Maneka Gandhi: We are fight-ing only on the issue of development in Sulatanpur, and there is no polarisation.

IANS: What are your thoughts on setting up industries here?

Maneka Gandhi: I don't see any benefit in setting up an industrial base here. We tried it in Amehti and failed there. Instead, we are developing small industries in Jai Singh. However, I am also considering developing the Agricultural Science Center. By promoting work related to Mehndi and bamboo, we can generate huge sums of money and also

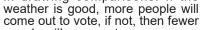
create lots of employiANS: How do see

you this election as compared to 2019?

Maneka Gandhi: When I came here to contest the election, it was a difficult time as no one knew me. Two opposing parties were fighting together against me. This time, people know me. I have been among the people continuously. Now, law

and order problems are also under control, and it is calm like Pilibhit. IANS: What would be BJP's win-

ning margin this year as compared to the 2019 elections? Maneka Gandhi: I do not believe in drawing comparisons. If the



people will come out. IANS: The first and second phases saw a decline in polling percentage.

Maneka Ğandhi: Usually, the voter turnout is between 60 to 70 per cent in every election. This election is no different. However, in some places, voting has been 48-50 per cent, mostly in cities, because people do not want to come out of their houses.

IANS: How much campaigning has been done so far?

Maneka Gandhi: I have directly interacted with people in more than 500 villages in 35 days. We are in the election arena on the issues of development and good governance.

IANS: How much progress has Sultanpur seen under your stewardship?

Maneka Gandhi: A lot of work has been done here. What remains will be completed this time. I had made a list of 60 works. Many projects are under the developmental stage including the construction and widening of roads.--IANS

+

Celebrate Mother's Day with a Healthier Twist by Gifting Almonds

Mumbai, There's no one day to celebrate the invaluable contribution of mothers in our lives. As caregivers, mothers have always put our well-being before their own. This Mother's Day, it's crucial to acknowledge their selfless efforts by prioritizing their health and wellness. Gifting your mother, a curated box of almonds is a thoughtful way to ensure her good health. Almonds are packed with some of the essential nutrients that promote overall wellbeing, making them an ideal gift choice for Mother's Dav. Almonds contain protein, zinc, magnesium, iron, calcium, phospho-rus, and vitamin E, among others. Daily consumption of a handful of almonds as a part of a well-balanced diet can offer numerous health benefits, including better control of blood sugar levels, promoting cardiovascular health, supporting skin health, and aiding in weight management. Therefore, gifting a box of almonds this Mother's Day can be a thoughtful way to show your love and care while also contributing to your mother's well-being. Bollywood actress and celebrity Soha Ali Khan said, "Almonds have

TN Police arrest YouTuber Felix Gerald from Noida

sure they're a constant in my family's diet too. Adding almonds to my diet has not only helped improve my skin health but also keeps me energetic and active throughout my hectic shoot days. I always carry a box of almonds with me, perfect for quick snacks between meetings and shoots. I do believe gifting almonds to mothers this Mother's Day is the perfect gesture.

Fitness and Celebrity instructor, Yasmin Karachiwala said, "As a fitness enthusiast, I can't stress enough the importance of nourishing your body with wholesome foods like almonds. They're packed with 15 essential nutrients like copper, zinc, folate, iron, vitamin E, magnesium, and phosphorus, providing various health benefits. Plus, they're a rich source of protein, a nutrient crucial for muscle growth and maintenance. That's why I feel almonds definitely make a thoughtful gift for Mother's Day, symbolizing health and care.

Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics at Max Healthcare - New

with healthy, crunchy, and delicious almonds can be a meaningful way to show appreciation for all that mothers do. Almonds, when included in a balanced diet, are known for a multitude of health benefits, such as protecting heart health, lowering blood sugar levels, and aiding in weight management. So, giving your mother almonds this Mother's Day is definitely going to be a gift of care and health

Nutrition and Wellness Consultant Sheela Krishnaswamy said, "Given the amount of work mothers do on a daily basis, gifting al-monds for Mother's Day is a great and thoughtful idea. Almonds are healthy, and their nutritional content ensures one stays energetic throughout the day and also supports overall well-being. Almonds are a perfect snack for mothers, who work tirelessly all day long, to stay fit when added to their daily diet. So, ensure to gift your mother an assorted box of almonds this Mother's Day and make her feel special.

Chennai, May 11 (IANS) Tamil Nadu Police arrested the YouTuber Felix Gerald from Noida in Uttar Pradesh and will be brought to Tiruchi after getting a transit warrant from a magistrate on Saturday.

The YouTuber is the second accused in a case filed by the Cyber Crime Police, Tiruchi for making derogatory statements against women police personnel during an interview.

He is the owner of the RedPix 24x7 YouTube and the Tiruchi Cvber Crime Branch has complained that during his interview with You-Tuber Savakku Shankar made derogatory comments against women police officers.

M.A. Yasmin, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Musiri, had filed a case alleging that A. Shankar alias Savukku Šhankar had made demeaning comments against women police personnel, consequently causing immense mental agony to

Shankar was arrested on May 8 in the case.Madras High Court had

remarked that some YouTube channels are becoming a menace to society by publishing derogatory content just to increase their subscrip-tion and it is high time that the gov-



ernment reined in such channels.

The Single bench judge of the Madras High Court, Justice Kumaresh Babu made these oral observations on Thursday while hearing a bail petition filed by G. Felix Gerald of RedPix YouTube channel.

Superintendent of Police, Tiruchi Varun Kumar said that Gerald, after the Madras High Court observation against him, had switched off the mobile phone and left for Noida and was staying in a lodge there.

He said that the Tiruchi Police tracked him to Noida and arrested him on Friday and would be brought to Tiruchi by train.

The police officer added that the Tiruchi Police would present him before the magistrate for a transit warrant and then bring him to Tiruchi.

The police have filed the case on both Shankar and Jerald under sections 294 (b), 353 and 509 of IPC, 67 of IT Act and 4 of TN Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act for insulting the modesty of women, publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form and deterring a public servant from discharging duties.

Tiruchi Rural Police had earlier said that Felix Gerald and Savukku Shankar had broadcast the interview with the intention to malign the Tamil Nadu women police officers and personnel.The Tiruchi Rural Police also aid that women police personnel had faced a serious setback in their personal and social lives due to this video.

'Our achievements will enable lotus to bloom again,' says Anurag Thakur at launch of roadshow

Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), May 11 (IANS) BJP MP Anurag Thakur, who has returned to the Lok Sabha from the Hamirpur seat four consecutive times since 2008, is one of the most prominent faces in the fray from Himachal Pradesh that will go to the polls on June 1.

He believes when one works and delivers, there is no question of anti-incumbency, rather there is pro-incumbency. From this BJP bastion, his father

and two-time chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, who always plays a crucial role in his son's campaigns, was thrice elected as an MP.

"We will take our achievements to the people and will make the lotus bloom once again," Thakur told the media at his an-

cestral home in Samirpur, some 20 km from Hamirpur town, on Saturday before launching Vijay Sankalp Yatra, a roadshow.

For Thakur, the key issue is development. "We will go amidst the public with the Modi government's achievements, and areas develop-ment and seek their blessings once again.

Before the launch of Vijay Sankalp Yatra, Thakur performed

'kanya pujan' and took the blessings of his parents. He also paid obeisance atAwahdevi Temple, his family deity, and sought her blessings for the smooth completion of the Vijay Sankalp campaign. The historical achievements of



his constituency and welfare schemes of the Modi government have touched upon each and every person and reached across each and every household, believe constituents.

People have made up their mind to once again elect a responsive, transparent and developmentoriented government. People from all walks of life have benefited from pro-people schemes of the Modi-led government even in Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh," former legislator Baldev Sharma, who represented Badsar in Hamirpur district, told IANS.

He said in all his stints, Thakur has undertaken initiatives outside the realms of MPLADS to ensure all segments reap benefits, be it the State Olympic Games or promoting sports to ensure youth remains away from the clutches of drugs.

The Congress, which has won this seat only once in the last nine Lok Sabha elections, had pitted former legislator Satpal Singh Raizada against the former BCCI chief, who

has served as a Member of Parliament in the 14th, 15th, 16th and the 17th Lok Sabha, wherein he won by a record margin.

As per a post on Thakur's official website, his constituency has benefited tremendously through his socio-economic development projects across sectors, ranging from railways, roads and national highways connectivity, opening of bank branches, schools and colleges, medical facilities, etc.

He has focused on fulfilling local community needs through the MPLADS fund and constructed community centres, mahila mandal bhavans, yuvak mandal bhawan, sarais, shamshan ghats, solar lighting and playgrounds for his constituents.

Thakur will file nomination papers on May 13 for the last phase Lok Sabha elections on June 1.

In 2019, Anurag Thakur, a sharp strategist and youth icon who had served the party's youth wing as its President for seven years, won the Lok Sabha polls by a record margin of 3.87 lakh votes, defeating his nearest rival from the Congress, Ram Lal Thakur

Political observers told IANS that whenever Anurag Thakur gets time from his busy political schedule in Delhi, he prefers to devote his time and energy to his constituency.

He has to his credit for developing the world-class showpiece stadium in Dharamsala, the venue of the ongoing Indian Premium League (IPL) matches.

Assam BJP MLA cleans canal in Silchar, blames Congress 'misrule' for waterlogging

Guwahati, May 11 (IANS) De-spite the torrential rains causing widespread waterlogging in As-sam's Silchar, local BJP MLA Di-payan Chakrobarty teak the initia payan Chakraborty took the initiative to clear the accumulated garbage in the Longaikhal canal and blamed the "misrule by the previous Congress governments for the

woes in the city". Chakraborty has expressed concerns about the waterlogging problem in Silchar.

The MLA along with representatives of the Indian Red Cross Society embarked on the Longaikhal canal, which is adjacent to the national highway in the city, and an area of about 600 feet of the canal was cleaned for three hours.

The recent torrential rains caused flash floods in Silchar town and adjoining areas.

As various canals and drains of the city were full of waste and garbage, different areas were submerged due to obstruction in water drainage.As various canals and drains of the city were full of waste and garbage, different areas were submerged due to obstruction in

water drainage. Chakraborty told IANS, "Sever-al steps have been taken by the state government to solve this

problem. We took a boat ride to clean the Longaikhal canal. The BJP-led government has already taken up several projects and a few projects are in the pipeline."

According to him, Rangirkhal, another important canal of the city received a development project worth Rs 42 crore and the construction work has been running at full pace.

Meanwhile, drains are newly built in other busy places in Silchar.

"However, the waterlogging problem will not be solved quickly because this city was developed in a very unplanned manner due to the Congress government's mis-

Drains and sewers were en-croached heavily and common people are suffering today,' Chakraborty said.

He appealed to the citizens of the city to come forward to resolve the problem of waterlogging along with the help of government initiatives

Chakraborty said that the state government has cleaned an area of 600 feet of the Longaikhal canal, which will temporarily solve the waterlogging problem in a vast area of Silchar City.--IANS

n the news

Mother's Day Special: COLORS' actors pay tribute to their moms with heartfelt messages Mumbai, Shagun Pan-dey, portraying the role of Veer in COLORS' Mera Balam Thanedaar', ex-Balam Thanedaar', ex-

Mumbai, Shagun Pan-dey, portraying the role of Veer in COLORS' 'Mera Balam Thanedaar', ex-presses, "Now that I'm living away from home, I miss my mother and all her sweet gestures - the way she lovingly prepared my favorite dishes, fed me with her own hands, and even scolded me when I drifted off course. During my college days, as I pur-sued my dreams of acting, she helped me gather small cutouts and printouts. Whenever I call her regarding the clothes I have to wear for auditions, she irons them and finds me amazing color combinations. She is the entertainer of our family, and my acting skills have come from her. She used to come every time to see me off whenever I was going somewhere by train to look for work. She always

less others. Happy Moth-

er's Day! Anchal Sahu, portraying the charac-

ter of Parineet in COLORS' 'Parineetii' shares, "My mother has instilled in me values that have become the foundation of who I am – the importance of staying true to myself and being kind to others. I recall the moments from my childhood when my mother would lovingerything I do is about making her proud. On Mother's Day, I just want to urge all biggest



Mumbai, May 11 (IANS) Legendary actress

Meenakshi Seshadri took

a trip down memory lane,

ly prepare my favourite these superwomen to take sweets as a celebration of care of their health too while they're taking care of any accomplishment, no

'Krishna Mohini' shares, "A mother's love is the child's

my life, my mom has always been there for me. cheering me on in good times and supporting me in bad times. Whenever I'm having a tough day, just a call to her instantly makes mé feel better. To her, I'm still

her 'natkhat beta,' who she'll constantly worry about. This Mother's Day, I want to express

gratitude not just to my mom, but to all mothers raising a generation with everything they've got." Deepika Singh, por-traying Mangal in COL-ORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi' superpower. says, "As an actor, I've had Throughout the privilege of stepping into various roles but the role of being a mother is by far the most rewarding and humbling experience of my life.

and infinite capacity to love mothers have. It wasn't until I held my child in my arms that I truly grasped the meaning of unconditional love. Every single day, my child teaches me invaluable lessons about finding joy in the simplest of moments. Motherhood has made me stronger and braver. Here's wishing

I admire the strength

everyone a very happy Mother's Day."

Rakul Preet; says 'bahut intelligent hai yeh' Mumbai, May 11 fast, which seems to be concludes the video by IANS) Actor-producer Jackký Bhagnani on Sat-

urday gave a sneak peek of his 'doctor' -- wife and actress Rakul Preet Singh,

sharing insights into her eating habits and praising her intelligence.

Jackky, who tied the knot with Rakul on February 21 in Goa, took to Instagram stories to share a video featuring the diva.

In the video, Rakul is seen donning a half-sleeved white T-shirt and oversized round-framed sunglasses, with her hair

"It takes 21 minutes to tell your brain," with Rakul completing the sentence, "that you are full."Jackky left open and wet. The video captures Rakul enjoying her break-

A STATES

remarking, "Bahut intelli-gent hai yeh (she is very poha, although it's not explicitly mentioned. intelligent).

Western Times

AHMEDABAD SUNDAY 12/5/2024

Jackky Bhagnani shares video of his 'doctor'

Jackky can be heard saying, "She is chewing and eating," to which Ra-The video is captioned:

"My Doctor Rakul Preet." Rakul and Jackky had a two-in-one wedding cer-emony, first with the 'Anand Karaj' in the Sikh tradition, followed by a Sindhi-style ceremony, symbolising both their cultural backgrounds.

On the professional front, Rakul has 'Meri Patni Ka Remake' and 'Indian 2' in the pipeline.

As a producer, Jackky's next has 'Suryaputra Mahavir Karna' and 'Mission Lion'.

His last project as pro-ducer was the Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff star-rer-'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'.--IANS

White Hill Beats, and upon

hearing the song for the

first time, I instantly felt the

weight of the character's

intense emotions. He

grapples with heartbreak

upon discovering his love

moil.

nate with the audience, as

they'll connect with the raw

emotions and resilience

is getting mar-ried. I knew I

had to deliver a

performance

that truly con-veyed his tur-

He further said: "I believe

this track will

deeply reso-

Arif Zakaria to play Jinnah, Ira Dubey his sister Fatima in 'Freedom at Midnight'

Mumbai, May 11 er than an untouchable (IANS) Actors Arif Zakaria hero." and Ira Dubey are all set to play pivotal roles as Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Fatima Jinnah, respectively, in the upcoming politi-



cal thriller drama 'Freedom at Midnight'.

Arif will delve into the multifaceted persona of

Jinnah and his journey. Talking about the same, Arif said: "In prepar-ing to portray Muhammad Ali Jinnah, I realised how important it was to depict him as a flawed and complicated human being rath-

NABH

hero.' "I intend to add dimensions to Jinnah's persona by delving into the depths of his psyche, bringing forth his complexity, and

revealing the motivations that inspired his acts. I hope to give a of three.

acts. Thope to give a more genuine and comprehensive pic-ture of Jinnah by adopting this method," he added. Showrunner and

director Nikkhil Advani said: "When casting for the roles of Jinnah and Fatima in the series, I was immediately drawn to Arif for his

striking physical presence - gaunt, towering, with piercing eyes and a commanding voice that exuded authenticity. His baritone and clipped British accent embodied the essence of Jinnah.



dian classical dance forms -- 'Bhara-tanatyam', 'Kuchipudi', Danish, who performed a beautiful rendition of the 'Kathak', and 'Odissi' soul-stirring Rajasthani folk song 'Baawre' from the film 'Luck by Chance'. The actress, who ap-

peared on the stage of the kids singing reality show, 'Superstar Singer 3' in the formance, Meenakshi said: "Oh my God, that was absolutely fulfilling for 'Meenakshi Seshadri Special' episode, took a stroll down memory lane and shared an anecdote about everyone! The excitement was palpable, and we all just stood there, swaying her career.The episode

fantastic

this stage, after wit-nessing these young kids, I was reminded of my humble beginnings when I started my journey in music

and dance performances at the age of three and look at where I am now. May your future shine as bright as the stars, filled with success and happiness.

Meenakshi then requested a duet combo of folk singing and folk dance and joined Nishant onstage to perform alongside him.

How Adarsh Gourav finds rejuvenation in music amid demanding shoots

Mumbai, May 11 (IANS) Actor Adarsh Gourav, who was recently seen in the streaming film 'Woh Bhi Din The', and recently released two albums, 'Kho Gaye' and 'Ishq Nachaawe', shared that music gives him much-needed solace. Reflecting on his dual

passions, Adarsh shared: Amid the chaos of filming 'Alien' and striving for per-fection in my craft, music has been my constant companion. It's where I

find refuge and rejuvena-tion amid the demanding schedules.



Mumbai, May 11 (IANS) 'Bigg Boss Marathi 2' winner Shiv Thakare released the new song titled 'Koi Baat Nahi' on Satur-

kul adds, "that will make a

paste in your mouth." The 'Youngistaan' ac-

tor further said:

day. The music video of the song features Shiv along



with another 'Bigg Boss' alum, Soniya Bansal.

The song is an ode to unrequited love and the heartbreak which every-one has experienced once in their lifetime. It has been crooned by

Saaj Bhatt and composed by Ámjad Nadeem Áamir, with the lyrics furnished by Azeem Shirazi.

portrayed by the charac-ter. It was a delight to work with Soniya, and I hope we both did justice to the beautiful video. Soniya said: "The video is shot in the mesmerising location of Nainital, beautifully capturing the narrative and depth of the

Talking about the song, Shiv said: "This marks my soulful lyrics.

જબલપુર વાચા



પુનીત માર્ગ, ઝઘડીચા બ્રિજની બાજમાં



Talking about the per-

Meenakshi Seshadri recalls her music, dance

performing. It was truly The 60-year-old ac-

to the rhythm, while both Nishant and Danish were tress, who has sung poetic notes in JP Dutta's 'Ksha-

triya', reflected on her journey, stating, "Today, standing on







ity-State



Gandhinagar: Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSEB) declared Class 10 exams result Saturday. An overall pass percentage of 82.56% recorded. Banchhanidhi Pani, Chairman of GSEB, says, "...Gandhinagar district has recorded the best results, followed by Surat, Mehsana and Banaskantha. Porbandar district recorded the lowest pass percentage...I think these are very good results. This will lead to dropout ratio going down gradually, gross enrollment rate will go up and students will go to their skill-based avenues..."This year, the overall pass percentage registered was

By Staff Reporter

82.56% is significantly higher than the previous year's where it stood at 64.62%. It surpassed the records of last ten years even the record set in 2011which was 71.06% and 70.65% in 2007. Celebrations were in full swing after Gujarat board declared SSC result. Gujarat Education Minister Kuber Dindor took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to congratulate the students. The post read, " Congratulations to all the students who have cleared the Class-10 exam announced by the Gujarat Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and best wishes for a bright future." (Photo : Jayesh Modi)

'Thankful to NIA', slain BJYM leader Praveen Nettaru's wife says after arrest of prime accused

Bengaluru, May 11 (IANS) The wife of BJYM leader Praveen Nettaru -- who was hacked to death in 2022 in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district by PFI cadres -- on Friday expressed her happinéss after the NIA arrested the prime accused in the murder case.

Nutana Kumari said all her family members were happy over the arrest of Mustafa Paichar.

"All the accused in the case should be hanged. No such incident should recur in society. All our family members are happy, and I thank NIA offic-ers on behalf of my family," Nutana said. "Stringent punishment should be given to the accused and that should be a lesson to those who include in such acts." she added Mustafa Paichar

indulge in such acts," she added.Mustafa Paichar was also carrying a reward of Rs 7 lakh and had non-bailable warrants against him. The NIA in January 2023, filed a chargesheet against 21 accused, eight of whom had absconded after the crime.Praveen Nettaru, a Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) district executive committee member, was hacked to death by two motorcycle-borne

ber, was nacked to death by two motorcycle-borne assailants in Bellare village of Dakshina Kannada district by PFI cadres two years ago. The NIA took over the investigation into the murder case on August 4, 2022.Mustafa Paichar was arrested fromAnemahal village in Hassan dis-trict along with Mansoor Pasha, who had har-boured him boured him.

'Law will take its own course', says Meghalaya Dy CM on FIR against DGP Bishnoi

Shillong, May 10 (IANS) Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong on Friday asserted that the law would take its course regarding the allegation made against the current state Director General of Police (DGP), Lajja Ram Bishnoi, for

using a bogus number plate. Tynsong told reporters, "We were notified on Thursday afternoon that there was a bogus license plate. Thus, a case has been filed, and the inquiry has just recently begun. Thus, allow the investiga-tion to begin and the law to follow its natural course."A complaint was lodged against the Me-ghalaya DGP by former Assistant Inspector General of Meghalaya Police, G.K. Langrai, who claimed that Bishnoi had altered and misused the registration plate of his car. Meanwhile, as Bishnoi will retire from police service this month, Tynsong asked the political parties to have their faith in the government's judgment and avoid casting aspersions on appointing the new DGP of Meghalaya.He said that an ap-propriate person would be appointed by the state government for the DGP's position.

NEET fraud: Accused proposed malpractice to 'desperate students seeking to pursue medicine abroad', say police

dara-based immigration agency Roy Overseas' owner Parshuram Roy, one of the three accused. Prime accused Tushar AhmedabadStudents desperate to pursue med-icine but not confident of Bhatt and accomplice Arif Vora are on the run.

clearing the National Eligi-bility cum Entrance Test (NEET) approached over-seas immigration agents for help in "clearing NEET with metarious numbers" The three have been booked for alleged criminal conspiracy to help at with meritorious numbers", least 26 students clear the instead of seeking admis-NEET exams "with meritorious rank using malprac-tice". According to the FIR, the attempted malpractice was "foiled" on May 5 dur-ing a raid at the NEET cen-tre in Jai Jalaram School sion in medical universities abroad, investigation by the Panchmahal district police in the alleged case of "malpractice and cheating" at Jai Jalaram School by an inspection squad of the education department.Panchamahal district SP Himanshu Solanki said Roy's primain Parvadi village - one of the NEET centres of the district - has revealed. The Godhra taluka police Friday arrested Vado-

ry questioning had re-vealed that he was ac-quainted with Bhatt, as quainted with Bhatt, as they reside in Vadodara city, where Roy runs his immigration agency. Bhatt, a geography teacher at Jai Jalaram School and the superintendent of the NEET centre during the exam on May 5, allegedly came in contact with Vora through the school.

"In 2016-17, Vora was attached to Jai Jalaram school as a karate instructor... it was then that he became friends with Bhatt... We are yet to as-certain how they networked for this racket, which will be clear when they are arrested," he

added."So far, Roy has admitted that the idea came to them when students, desperate to pur-sue medicine, approached them for options to study in countries overseas in Russia and Central Asia, as they were not confident of securing the required score in NEET for admission in medical colleges in India... Solanki further said that while Roy, during interrogation, has main-tained that this was the "first attempt" that the ac-cused had made at indulging in malpractice for NEET, the police are sus-pect there is more to it. "We are looking into their antecedents...

Gujarat confidential: 2nd Term Chairman

By Staff Reporter

AhmedabadVeteran AhmedabadVeteran BJP leader Dilip Sanghani won a second term as the chairman of IFFCO on Fri-day. Sanghani, the chair-man of outgoing board of directors of IFFCO, was elected chairman of the new board of directors of the cooperative giant the cooperative giant unopposed.Sanghani, who hails from Amreli dis-trict, has not been able to win any major election battle since his loss in 2012 Assembly elections. However, his profile as a coop-erative leader has kept growing as is evidenced by his re-election as IFF-CO chairman a week af-

ter he was re-elected to the board of directors unopposed on May 3.Amreli BJP MP Naran Kachhad-iya on Friday questioned the party selecting Bharat Sutariya as its candidate for the Amreli Lok Sabha seat.

Addressing BJP his office in Savarkundla town to celebrate Dilip Sanghani's victory in the electhan's victory in the elect-Kachhadiya said that BJP betrayed 23 lakh residents and 17.5 lakh voters of Amreli as well as BJP workers by giving election ticket to "a person who can't engage in conversa-tion make a speech or tion, make a speech or give an interview even in Gujarat".

Eight tribal constituencies vote in higher numbers, some ST Assembly seats see more polling than '22

ed the highest turnout in the state at 72.24% on May 7, saw 75.48% turn-out in 2019 – a drop of 4.25%. Bardoli, Chhota Udepur, Dahod and Panchmahal's numbers dipped by 4% to 12% as By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, Even as turnout in the May 7 Lok Sabha polls in Gujarat re-mained lower than the 2019 poll figure, the eight tribal-dominated constitudipped by 4% to 12% as compared to 2019 (see box).In fact, Chhota Udepur saw its turnout drop by 12.57%, though the ST Assembly constit-uencies under the Lok encies in the state saw a higher turnout compared to other constituencies. Some of the 27 Assembly constituencies reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST), in fact, matched the 2019 Sabha seat recorded a 65.10% turnout – higher than the 63.95% wit-nessed in the 2022 Asnumbers, recording turn-outs higher than what was recorded in the 2022 Gujarat polls. sembly polls. While the turnout in the Sankheda and Jetput

Assembly seats in Chnota Bardoli, Chhota Udepur, Udepur recorded a deficit Valsad and Dahod dipped turnout of 5% and 6%, redrastically this time comspectively, compared to pared to 2019, several trib-2019 polls. al Assembly constituencies saw higher turnouts compared to the 2022 polls, indicating enthusiastic voter participation. Valsad, which record-

five Assembly seats record drop in turnout In Dahod, where poll-ing on May 7 dipped by

7.91% when compared to 2019, Limkheda recorded the highest voter turnout of 65.05% among the seven Assembly constituencies in the Lok Sabha seat. Limkheda is home to BJP MP Jasvantsinh Bhabhor, who is seeking athird term.

Man donates cervical cancer screening

Man gets 20 years in jail for sexually assaulting neighbour's 6-yr-old son

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, A special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court in Jamna-gar on Friday awarded 20 years of imprisonment to a 26-year-old man after finding him guilty of sexually assaulting the six-year-old son of his neigh-

The court of A A Vyas convicted the accused, who is a casual labourer, under POCSO Act as well as Section 377 (unnatural sex) of the Indian Penal

bour in 2022.

the minor. The accused had lured the boy to a secluded place and sodomised him, Jamnagar district government pleader Jaman Code. Besides sentencing Bhanderi said, adding that the man to 20 years in jail, the mother of the victim the court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the filed a complaint with police after the boy narrated convict and awarded Rs 4 his ordeal to her.

lakh as compensation to

In Ahmednagar Lok Sabha seat, Sharad Pawar vs Vikhe-Patil rivalry takes centrestage

By Staff Reporter highlighting the crisis be-ing faced by onion grow- Sujay as he seeks a second term, especially

Delhi HC upholds Railways' suspension of catering firm for safety violations on trains

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) The Delhi High Court has upheld the Ministry of Railways' decision to suspend Zenith Leisure Holidays Ltd's empanel-

ment for six months due to safety violations. The firm was found using LPG cylinders for cooking on board trains, breaching explicit directives by Indian Railways against flame-based cooking in pantry cars. The High Court's ruling comes after an incident during the service of the South India 'Swadesh Darshan' Train from November 20 to November 28, 2022. Despite requests for a rake equipped for flameless cooking, Zenith was forced to manage with inadequate facilities, leading to the use of LPG cylinders as a last resort. This action resulted in a penalty of Rs. 2 lakh and suspension following a surprise inspection in Madurai on November 24, where five gas cylinders were confis-cated. Justice Subramonium Prasad noted the experienced contractor's responsibility to adhere to safety norms, saying, "The fact that the subject train was running late cannot be an excuse... It is not uncommon in India that trains get late due to several factors and the contractors are prepared for any such eventualities.'

HMD dedicates Dispojekt syringes with safety needle on Nurses Day to prevent NSIs

New Delhi, World-class manufacturer of cutting-edge medical devices, Hindustan Syringes and Medical Devices (HMD), has launched stateof-the-art and first-of its-kind Dispojekt single use syringe with safety needle, which assures safety to nurses from needle stick injuries (NSIs).Dispojekt Syringes by HMD comes as a befitting tribute to the perseverance and resilience of nurses on the World Nurse Day. Approximately 27 million men and women makeup the global nurs-ing and midwifery workforce. This accounts for nearly 50% of the global health workforce. Nursesworldwide face a significant risk of needle-stick injuries every day, posing a serious health hazard due to potential exposure to blood borne pathogens. Dispojekt Syringes addresses this concern effectively taking care of those, who takes care of us," says Rajiv Nath, Managing Director, Hindustan Syringes and Medical Devices (HMD). According to a study conducted by Departments of Public Health Dentistry, Krishna devaraya Col-lege of Dental Sciences, Bangalore, a total of 27.5% participants had needlestick injury during the previous 12 months. About 41.80% of NSIs occurred during device recapping.

Village submerged for Narmada dam remains thirsty and neglected

seat.

By Staff Reporter

AhmedabadDespite literally living inside the Narmada Dam, 40-year-old Sumitra Tadvi laments the lack of potable water in Manibeli village of Maharashtra. 'The problem is worse

in the monsoon when the rain makes the water muddv. We consume the water as it is... Whom should we complain to?" she asks.

Nandurbar district, was

drinking water issue remains unresolved as the villagers depend on the The village, part of the river water for their daily needs.

device to Rajkot hospital

By Staff Reporter

Nandod AC, home to AhmedabadQuick the Statue of Unity, polled 72.96% this year, 3% low-er than 2019. screening and diagnosis of cervical cancer will now be possible at Saurashtra Also Read | Gujarat: In high-stakes byelctions, Cancer Care and Research Institute (SCRI) in Rajkot, as a retired banker from Ahmedabad on Friday donated colpo-

scope, a key diagnostic equipment, to this semi-government hospital via Sanjeevani – Life Beyond Cancer, a non-profit organisation.Also Read | among the firsts to be submerged during the con-struction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in 1993-94. Niti Aayog report finds Manibeli is part of the 'huge gap' in cancer Akkalkuwa ST reserved screening at Ayushman Assembly constituency of Nandurbar ST Lok Sabha centresAe gap' in cancer screening at Ayushman

centres The village now has Anil Khatri donated the electricity from a solar project of the Maharashtra machine to SCRI in the memory of his mother Sagovernment. Yet, the raswatiben Khatri on Friday.Not many hospitals in Saurashtra-Kutch regions have colposcope available.

ONGC launches eco-friendly Cementing units in Ahmedabad By Staff Reporter, equipped with the latest er dry cement ejection

slurry mixing system which provides cement slurry of Ahmedabad, better consistency, whose parameters can be con-Energy Maharatna ONGC announced the launch of four innovative trolled with greater preci-Cementing units in Ahmedabad in a move tosion than the older version of Cementing units. The wards technological ad-vancement and environ-mental sustainability. Cenew mixing system in the new cementing units is capable of being operated in menting is the process of fixing a casing cylinder auto mode (where the desired paràmeters are (using a cement slurry) afachieved by automatic ter the latter is lowered in control of the system) and an oil well. The state-ofis a great leap over the the-art Cementing units completely manual system boast advanced technoloof older cementing units. gy designed to enhance

These units are also performance, quality, and equipped with a computer environmental compliand software that record ance. The automation cathe important technical pabilities, including auto mode operation and comparameters during cementing jobs and generate prehensive data recordreports that may be imporing, signify a leap forward tant for analysis and in operational efficiency record-keeping purposes. and safety. From a tech-The mixing system of nical and operational

the new Cementing units also results in much lessstandpoint, these units are

er dry cement ejection in the vicinity reducing the operational/health hazard significantly. The induction of new Cementing units will infuse technical expertise and innovation in practices and result in betterquality of cementing jobs.

The induction of these units aligns with ONGC's commitment to sustainable practices. The new units are BS-6 compliant, reiterating ONGC's dedication to environmental stewardship. The Ahmedabad Cementing Services now equipped with these innovative units, stands ready to support drilling and work-over operations with enhanced technical expertise and innovation. In FY23-24, the unit successfully executed 645 jobs, underscoring its indispensable role in operational efficiency and project success.

AhmedabadFrom rallies to reels, last-ditch attempts are being made to woo voters in Ahmednagar, a key Lok Sabha constituency in north Ma-harashtra that goes to polls on May 13. While sitting MP Dr Sujay Vikhe-Patil got Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar to campaign for him on to campaign for him on Friday, rival candidate Nilesh Lanke, who quit the Ajit Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to join Sharad Pawar, has taken to social media with reels

ers in the state. The run-up to the Lok Sabha elections 2024 in Ahmednagar has seen a series of personal attacks and the continuation of the age-old political rivalry between veteran NCP leader Sharad Pawar and Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil.Vikhe-Patil has left no stone unturned to ensure a victory for his son and Mahayuti candidate Sujay, including organising a well-attended rally that saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among others, campaigning. However, it may not be a cakewalk for

as issues like falling prices of onions and unsold stocks have gained prominence. Milk prices and the impact of the agitation for Maratha reservation are also at play, apart from concerns of water short-Meanwhile, age. Lanke's supporters say his connect with the people, his door-to-door meetings and visits across villages during a month-long yatra, and Sujay's alleged inaccessibility will work in his favour.

Akshay Tritiya: Price hike no dampener to gold buyers, but occasions little to do with buying vehicles, flat

By Staff Reporter

AhmedabadDespite an unprecedented price hike in gold, buyers actively thronged to gold jewellers to buy the precious yellow metal on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya on Friday. With an increase in the price of gold by around Rs 10,000 as compared with last Akshaya Tritiya, jewellers received an enthusiastic response from

customers. Vehicle registrations in

Pune, however, saw a de-cline by over 20 per cent with the election having a minor impact on registrations, while ongoing in-vestments in housing through the year contributed to heightened activity on this day. Jewellers in Pune said there was a good re-

creased on the auspicious Hindu festival. Over the past few months, there has been a constant rise in gold prices in the domestic and international gold market, but jewellers were skeptical of customer responses. Currently, gold prices have reached ŭp to Rs 72,500 per 10 gm, which is slightly similar to the price last month during Gudi Padwa festi-val (Hindu New Year).

DPS-Bopal marks National Technology Day with diverse events

sponse from buyers even

though gold prices in-

Ahmedabad: Delhi Public School (DPS), Bo-pal marked the National Technology Day through a series of events to celebrate the spirit of innovation and technological advancement and showcase the talent and creativity of its students. The National Technology Day is celebrated each year on May 11 to commemorate the successful nuclear test at Pokhran, Rajasthan, in 1998 and to mark significant achievements in science and technology. DPS-Bopal organised events, aimed at nurturing creativity and arousing curiosity among students throughout the week from May 3 to 9 to commemo-



rate the occasion. Stu-dents of grades 2 to 5 were given ideas to innovate through various projects and videos, fol-lowed by a fun quiz. Cyber safety and security expert Ronik Shah addressed students of grades 9 and 10,

sharing his insights into online safety measures, protection against cyber fraud, and cyber laws. The session saw students actively engage with the speaker and gain practical knowledge about the vital issue.

nternational

Western Times AHMEDABAD SUNDAY 12/5/2024

US announces \$400 mn in additional weapons aid to Ukraine

package of weapons and equipment for Ukraine worth \$400 million.

Capabilities included in the package were additional air munitions for Patriot and National Ad-



vanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems; Stinger anti-aircraft missiles; equipment to integrate Western launchers, missiles, and radars with Ukraine's systems; additional High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and ammunition, according to a statement by the State Department released on Friday.

Also to be provided to Ukraine were 155mm and 105mm artillery rounds; TOW and Javelin missiles and AT-4 anti-armor systems; Precision aerial munitions; High-speed Antiradiation missiles; Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles; M113 Armoured Person-nel Carriers; Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles: coastal and riv-

Kiev, May 11 (IANS)

Ukraine's state-run energy

company Ukrenergo has said that the country is in

significant electricity short-

ages due to Russian mis-

are unable to produce the

same amount of electrici-

ty as before the Russian

attacks due to large-scale

damage, Ukrenergo said on Friday in a post on Tele-

The country is applying

Ukraine's power plants

sile and drone strikes.



ning of President Joe Biden's administration, including more than \$50.6 billion since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war on February 24, 2022, the Defence Department said in a news statement.

The new assistance from the US came on the same

day northern Ukraine was reportedly attacked by Russia in a new ground operation that began on Friday dawn.

Targeting the border town of Vovchansk near Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv, the attack was the most serious cross-border ground offensive by Russia in nearly two years, according to a CNN report citing a Ukrainian military source.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who thanked the US for the new package on X, was quoted by ČNN as saying the assault was part of "a new wave of counteroffensive actions" by Russia, adding that a "fierce battle" was being fought in the area

Ukraine reports serious shortage of

electricity due to Russian attacks

power limitation schedules

for industrial consumers

from 6 p.m. on Friday to 7

a.m. on Saturday to par-

tially offset the electricity

shortage, Xinhua news

been importing electricity

for the past two days from

European Union countries

to cover the domestic def-

carried out five major at-

Russia has already

Meanwhile, it has also

agency reported.



CMYK

Prince Harry has flaunted his 'presidential-style' four-man security team on his 'quasi-royal' trip of Nigeria. Critics have claimed the trip to the ninth most dangerous country in Africa is 'hypocritical' and have branded it the 'Harry and Meghan show'. Former royal protection officer Dai Davies said: 'Seeing all his presidential style security really does stick in the throat. 'For a couple who say all they want is privacy to visit one of the most dangerous places in the world and that's not me saying that, it's the Foreign office as well, is crazy and you have to wonder why.

UN chief calls for action on escalating climate crisis, conflicts in Africa

Nairobi, May 11 (IANS) United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has renewed a call for the global community to sup-port action on the climate crisis and civil strife undermining the quest for peace, stability, and sustainable growth in Africa. Guterres said at a briefing on the sidelines of

system this year, Ukrener-

On Wednesday, Rus-sia fired 55 missiles and

21 drones targeting pow-

er generation and trans-

mission facilities in six

Ukrainian regions, accord-

ing to the Ukrainian au-

er plants were put out of

operation in the raids, said

Ukraine's state-run hydro-

power company Ukrhy-

Two hydroelectric pow-

go said.

thorities.

the UN Civil Society Conference, which concluded on Friday in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, that Africa remains the epicentre of climate emergencies despite its negligible contribution to the emission of planet-warming gases,

Xinhua news agency reported. This

es

continent is being blasted by extreme weather, turbocharged by a climate

crisis it has done next to nothing to create: From lethal floods in the East to deadly droughts in the South," he added.

He stressed that Africa can overcome climatic vagaries once the continent receives a fair share of investments in renewable energy and other adaptation measures.

newables giant," Guterres

said, noting that the continent is home to 30 per cent of the minerals critical to green energy transition and 60 per cent of the world's solar resourc-

Stressing that the United Nations will press for



climate justice in Africa, Guterres observed that the continent has received only two per cent of investments in clean energy in

The UN Chief called on major economies to honour their commitment to finance climate action in Africa, while increasing their contribution to the newly established Loss and Damage Fund.

In addition, Guterres said the reform of multilateral development banks is urgent to enhance capital flows to climate action in developing countries, the majority of which are in Africa.

He urged the G20 na-tions to lead in slashing greenhouse gas emissions while accelerating a just global phase-out of fossil fuels that are responsible for worsening planetary warming.

African governments should establish ambitious national climate plans by next year to help attract investments required to enhance the resilience of communities on the front line of the climate crisis, he added.On the ongoing conflicts in Africa, Guterres said the UN has rallied behind the African Union's call for silencing the guns and restoring peace in several hotspots, including Sudan, eastern Congo, the Sahel, and the Horn of Africa.

Russian State Duma approves Mikhail Mishustin as PM

Moscow, May 11 (IANS) The Russian State Duma or lower house of the Parliament has ap-proved Mikhail Mishustin as Prime Minister, according to a statement posted on its website.

Mishustin garnered a total of 375 votes in favour, with no veto, of his reappointment as Prime Minister, nominated by Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported.

In a meeting with Mishustin on Friday, Putin noted that much had been accomplished in the country under difficult conditions, and it would be right for Mishustin to continue his work as head of the government.

During his speech at the State Duma, Mishus-tin said the government will focus on strengthening the economy, ensuring technological sovereignty, supporting families with children, enhancing the well-being of citizens, and prioritising regional and infrastructure development.

Mishustin was first appointed as Prime Minister in 2020, after serving as the head of the Russian Federal Tax Service from 2010 to 2020.

Israel ramps up strikes on Rafah following failed truce talks Gaza, May 11 (IANS) Israel has begun in-

tensive bombardment of Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah after the talks on the Israel-Hamas truce held in Egypt's Cairo collapsed two days ago, a local source said.

The number of casualties is not immediately available, Xinhua news agency reported on Fri-

day. The Kuwait Hospital in Rafah has been largely out of operation, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity Around 110,000 people have fled Rafah in search of safety as Israeli bombardment intensifies in the city, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on social media on Friday.

Man injured after knife fight at Australian shopping centre

Sydney, May 11 (IANS) A man sustained in-jury and two others were on the run after getting involved in a knife fight at a Western Australian (WA) shopping centre. At around 3:30 p.m. local time on Friday, po-

lice received multiple reports of an incident at Westfield Carousel Shopping Centre in Cannington, a southern suburb of Perth.

A physical altercation unfolded at the scene involving up to three males and two of them were armed with knives, Xinhua news agency reported."During this fight, two knives were produced. One of the males, a man in his 20s, re-ceived an injury to his face," WA Police Force Inspector Geoff Desanges said at a press conference."Both knives have been secured at the scene with the assistance of an off-duty police officer. I want to reassure the community that the incident has been contained," Desanges added, confirming that there is no ongoing threat

to the public or further cause for alarm. A large police presence remains at the scene, with investigations underway to identify and locate the other two people who fled the shopping centre following the incident.

Ukraine to face 'critical phase of war'

OKLAHOMA

gram



toolkit," he said.

demic," he added.

Right now, he said that the IPEF "is addressing

key elements that you don't find in free trade

agreements, addressing the urgencies of the day'

fact that in short order we

have managed collective-

ly, all of our Indo-Pacific

partners, to be in a posi-

tion to move aggressively

towards implementing the

Indo-Pacific Economic

Framework," he said. The IPEF has made

headway in one key as-

pect, making the supply

chain resilient, he added.

Israeli airstrike kills first aid responder, communication technician in Lebanon

Beirut, May 11 (IANS) A first aid re-sponder and a telecom-army, first aid respond-ers from the Islamic Message Scouts, a local

US govt says weapons supplied to Israel may have been used in violation of int'l law

Washington, May 11 report, which assessed known as National Secu-(IANS) The administration the use of US-supplied rity Memorandum 20

of US President Joe Biden weapons by Israel during has said in a report that it the period from October 7 is "reasonable to assess" when Hamas attacked Is- on to say that "it is difficult

rity Memorandum 20 (NSM-20) which Biden ordered in February, went



"Africa could be a re-

recent decades.



People across the United States have enjoyed a rare Northern Lights show caused by a geomagnetic storm that could interfere with power lines and communications. From Maine to Alabama, excited spectators have gazed up at the night sky and watched the aurora's striking display of vivid colors. On X.com, formerly known as Twitter, people are sharing pictures they've taken of the celestial phenomenon, and #aurora is trending.

US 'doubling down' on boosting trade with 'critical partner' India: Senior trade official

India has emerged as a "critical partner" for the US which is "doubling down" on it for trade and working on further boosting economic ties, according to a senior US trade official.

Assistant Commerce Secretary Arun Venkatara-man said, "I genuinely believe that this is very much a heyday of this bilateral economic relationship" between India and the US.

"We are doubling down on India and finding more ways to collaborate and grow that economic integration," he told reporters on Thursday ahead of the World Trade Week in New York.India "has become an even more critical partner for the US," he said.

"We are amazed by the incredible deepening of the collaboration that's happened in the last few years with India."According to the US International Trade Administration, total trade in goods and services between India and the US

Dallas, May 11 (IANS) topped \$191 billion in Prosperity (IPEF) lia has emerged as a 2022, almost doubling launched in 2022."Free from 2014.Foreign direct trade agreements are a investment (FDI) from the fantastic tool and can be US reached \$103 billion very effective, but I think during the 2022-23 fiscal we should also remember year, while Indian FDI the free trade agreements are only one tool in the



flows to the US reached \$14.4 billion in 2021 providing for more than 72,000 US jobs.

Asked by a reporter if the US would consider a free trade agreement with India, Venkataraman did not directly address the possibility, instead pointing to India's participation with the US and 12 other countries in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for

munication technician were killed during an Israeli airstrike in Tayr Harfa, a town located in the southern border area of Lebanon, Lebanese military sources reported. The sources told Xinhua news agency anonymously on Friday that an Israel drone fired an air-to-surface missile toward a team comprised of the soldiers of the Lebanese

paramedics' organisa tion, as well as workers from Touch, a mobile operation in Lebanon.The team was carrying out maintenance work for a cellphone transmission stati the attack occurred and one first aid responder and one technician from Touch were killed, the sources said as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

that US weapons supplied to Israel may have been used in violation of international humanitarian law (IHL). The Biden administra-

tion said on Friday in an overdue report drafted by the State Department and delivered to Congress that the US has not been shared with "complete information" by Israel "to verify whether US defence articles" covered by the

rael to late-April, "were specifically used in actions that have been alleged as violations of IHL or (international human rights law) in Gaza" as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. "However, certain Is-

raeli-operated systems are entirely US-origin," the report said, "and are likely to have been involved in incidents that raise concerns about Israel's IHL compliance."The report,

to assess or reach conclusive findings on individual incidents. Nevertheless. given Israel's significant reliance on US-made defence articles, it is reasonable to assess that defence articles covered under NSM-20 have been us forces since October 7 in instances inconsistent with its IHL obligations or with established best practices for mitigating civilian harm".

Polish government reshuffles as EU elections draw closer

Warsaw, May 11 (IANS) Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk has announced a partial government reshuffle, after accepting the resignations of four Ministers who will be running in the upcoming European Parliament elections

According to the re-shuffle plan, outlined by Tusk at a press conference on Friday, Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration Marcin Kierwinski, Minister of State Assets Borys Budka, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bartlomiej Sienkiewicz and Minister of De-

velopment and Technology Krzysztof Hetman will be replaced by Tomasz Siemoniak, Jakub Ja-worowski, Hanna Wroblewska and Krzysztof Paszyk respectivelý.

"I expected these Ministers to act efficiently, sometimes toughly. The first months were months of 'crashing the wall'. Now is the time for tidying up," said the Prime Minister as quoted by Xinhua news

lised" their first few months

Death toll from Brazil storms rises to 116

"We're focused on getting that (IPEF) imple-(IANS) The death toll mented" and making sure from deadly storms in 'that we avoid some of the south Brazil's Rio vulnerabilities that we all Grande do Sul state has learned during the panclimbed to 116, the Civil "We are proud of the

Defense agency said. Another 143 people were missing, with 756 injured and around 400,000 evacuated, according to the agency's latest update released on Friday as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

A total of 1,947,372 people were affected by the storms, while 70,863 were rescued by securi-

Sao Paulo, May 11 ty forces and rescuers, NS) The death toll the agency added. The Salgado Filho In-

ternational Airport of Porto Alegre, the state capital, is out of service after the Guaiba River

flooded the city. Since April 29, rains and floods have caused the worst climate tragedy in the history of Rio Grande do Sul, a top agricultural and livestock producer that borders Argentina and Uruguay, where more than 437 municipalities have suffered from the storms .--IANS

in their departments, a few days before the announcement he decided that the changes would only apply to candidates for positions in Brussels. The official inaugura-

tion ceremony for the new Ministers will take place on May 13 at the Presidential Palace.

in next two months: Commander Kiev, May 11 (IANS) Oleksandr Pavliuk, a Commander of the Ukrainian Ground Forces, said the country will face a "critical phase of war" in the next two months, the media reported. Russia will continue to focus on the offensives in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions, but also may strike the north-

eastern districts of Kharkiv and Sumy regions, he added on Friday as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.Ukraine urgently needs to strengthen its air defence, he said, not-ing that the expected delivery of F-16 fighters by early June will provide a "significant psychological boost" for Ukraine.



WARNING: Contains graphic images: Feasting on unburied corpses, using skulls as cooking utensils and eating human flesh as part of dark magic rituals: these are just a few of the stomach-turning practices still observed by the world's remaining cannibal tribes. Such tribes often in-habit corners of the world that have remained mostly untouched by modern civilisation, and thus have been sheltered from outside influences. As a result, their ways and traditions can date back thousands of years - and are so far detached from our own, they seem almost alien. It is perhaps for this reason that scientists and explorers alike have long been fascinated with the remote tribes of the world, none more so than cannibal tribes. Many have risked life and limb to get close to such groups, in some cases with tragic consequences. But it is thanks to their efforts that we know the little that we do. Here, MailOnline explores what we know about some of the world's cannibal tribes.

agency report. Although Tusk initially said that the reshuffle would also affect Ministers who had not "optimally uti-



Diamond League: Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Doha, misses top spot by 0.2m

Doha, May 11 (IANS) Olympic and World Champion Neeraj Chopra started his outdoor season on Friday, finishing second in the javelin throw discipline of his first Diamond League event of the year here on Friday.

With his back against the wall, the Indian star came up with his best throw in his sixth and final attempt in Doha but missed the top spot by just 0.2 metres. Chopra had a best throw of 88.36 metres, ending behind Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, who finished first with a best effort of 88.38.The 27-year-old Chopra, who is one of the biggest stars of the Diamond League 2024 in the Olympic year, started with a foul throw on his first turn before hurling the javelin to 84.93m and followed it up with 86.24.After throws of 86.18m and 82.28m, the Asian Games gold medallist, Chopra, who had a personal best of 89.94 metres, came up with his best effort of 88.36 in his sixth and final effort.

Balbirnie's 77 helps Ireland stun Pakistan by five wickets in first T201

Dublin, May 11 (IANS) Ahead of the T20 World Cup, Ireland caused a sensation in the cricket world by defeating Pakistan by five wick-ets in the first T20I of the three-match series at the Clontarf Cricket Club, here on Friday. This is Ireland's first win against Pakistan in T20Is --coming in what is only the second-ever encoun-ter between the two teams. Pakistan had won ter between the two teams. Pakistan had won the first match between them.

Seasoned Andy Balbirnie top scored for Ireland with a 55-ball 77, studded with 10 fours and two sixes, as they successfully chased down the target of 183/5 with a ball to spare after restricting Pakistan to 182/6 in their 20 overs.

IPL 2024: GT skipper Gill penalised for maintaining slow over rate against CSK

Ahmedabad, May 11 (IANS) Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill has been fined 25 per cent skipper Shubman Gill has been fined 25 per cent of his match fees after 'maintaining a slow over rate during their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match against Chennai Super Kings at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Friday night. "As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relat-ing to minimum over rate offences. Gill was fined

ing to minimum over rate offences, Gill was fined INR 24 lakhs," the BCCI/IPL statement read."The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either INR 6 lakhs or 25 percent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser."

Cameroon announces 31-man roster for World Cup qualifiers

Yaounde, May 11 (IANS) Cameroon unveiled a 31-player roster on Friday for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup African qualifiers, where new head coach Marc Brys is to make his de-but. In his first training camp as Cameroonian head coach, the Belgian has notably called up seven newcomers including Carlos Baleba, James Eto'o, Yvan Dibango, Raoul Danzabe, Guy Kilama, Nchindo John Bosco, and Jules Armand Kooh, Xinhua reported.



Erik ten Hag bemoaned Manchester United 's torrid injury record this season ahead of their 4-0 defeat by Crystal Palace when the Dutchman was forced to field another makeshift backline. Pinning United's poor season on absences may prove to be an effective tactic to shield the Dutchman from the scrutiny headed his way this summer. But how tough have the Old Trafford outfit had it on the injury front compared to their rivals? Mail Sport takes a look at the Premier League injury table.

IPL 2024: Mohit, Rashid star as GT keep playoffs hopes alive with 35-run win over CSK

Ahmedabad, May 10 (IANS) Mohit Sharma was excellent with his variations to pick 3-31 while Rashid Khan ended a overs.

three-game wicketless run The win sees GT jump to take 2-38 as Gujarat Tifrom the bottom place to tans keep their Indían Preeighth position. CSK,



mier League (IPL) 2024 Playoffs hopes alive with a comfortable 35-run win over Chennai Super Kings at the Narendra Modi Sta-

dium on Friday. After Shubman Gill (104) and B Sai Sudars-han (103) slammed centuries while sharing a 210run opening partnership and propelled GT to 231/ CSK lost three wickets in the first three overs of the chase. Despite a 109-

demand for water and

wastewater treatment solu-

tions, air purification sys-

tems, and industrial appli-

cations. In addition, to sup-

plying activated carbon do-

mestically, ORS is now

equipped to explore inter-

national markets, offering

its innovative products to a

global customer base.

meanwhile, remain in fourth place with 12 points, with their NRR taking a hit as it now stands at 0.49. Though they are ahead of Delhi Capitals and Luc-know Super Giants on points and NRR, CSK's defeat gives them and Royal Challengers Bengaluru

CSK's chase had a less-than-ideal start as David Miller nailed a direct hit to run out Rachin

run stand between Daryl Mitchell (63) and Moeen Ali (56), CSK ended up reaching 196/8 in their 20 san, drew a leading edge from Ajinkya Rahane, which was taken by midoff.When Ruturaj Gaikwad fell for a duck after Rashid Khan tossed up the ball in the air, found his balance, and then took the catch with his outstretched right hand at deep square leg, CSK were left in dire trou-

ble at 10/3. In his next over,

Mohit had Moeen holing out in the deep for 56 to put a dent in CSK's chase. Shivam Dube and Ravindra Jadeja hit five boundaries between themselves before the duo got out to Mohit and Rashid in quick succession. Despite MS Dhoni enthralling the crowd with three sixes and a four, CSK fell short of a win on a day when Gill and Sudharsan shined brightest under the Ahmedabad sky

Italian Open: Djokovic makes first round winning return against Moutet

Rome, May 11 (IANS) Novak Djokovic made á winning return to Tour after beating French lucky loser Corentin Moutet to reach the third round of the

Italian Open. The Serbian, playing in his first match since the Monte-Carlo semifinals last month, overcame a sluggish start to win 6-3, 6-1 in Rome. Following an hour and twenty-six min-utes, Djokovic overcame a 1-3 hole in the opening set and effectively countered

1099, Djokovic is chasing his first trophy of the sea-

Moutet's court craft in the second set to win.

In their second Lexus ATP head-to-head match, Djokovic hit consistently against Moutet, forcing the Frenchman to take chances with his retrieval abilities

According to ATP Stats, the 98-time tour-level champion broke Moutet's serve six times to advance to an 18-0 lead in the first round of play in Rome.

It is an internal battle always more than an ex-ternal battle. If you win that "Match play is different to practise sets," Djokovic said. "I played a lefty and I battle the external battle have not practised with a becomes a little bit more lefty in a while, so it took likely for you to win.

Kylian Mbappe confirms Paris Saint Germain exit

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) The 2022 FIFA (IANS) The 2022 FIFA World Cup top scorer Ky-lian Mbappe officially con-firmed via social media that he will play his last game for Paris Saint Ger-main this Sunday (Monday as per IST) against Touas per IST) against Tou-louse. "I will not extend and the adventure will come to an end in a few weeks. I will play my last game at the Parc des Princes on Sunday," said the 25 year old on Instagram.Kylian made a name for himself in 2016 while leading a solid Mon-

title in 17 years. He then signed for PSG on loan with a mandatory pur-chase option of 180 million Euros which was made permanent the following summer. Over the course of his time in France, Mbappe played 245 games in Ligue 1 scoring an astonishing 190 goals and providing 74 assists in the process as well."It's a lot of emotions, many years where I had the chance and the great honour to be a member of the biggest French club, one

which allowed me to arrive here, to have my first experience in a club with a lot of pressure, to grow as a player of course, by being alongside some of the best in history, some of the greatest champions, to meet a lot of people, to grow as a man as well with all the glory and the mis-takes I've made," added Kylian Mbappe.Many consider Mbappe's time in the Ligue 1 as bittersweet as although the young Frenchman was handed the captain's armband and

even went on to star in 6 league title winning camleague title winning cam-paigns for the most suc-cessful club in French football, he was not able to replicate the same he-roics in the UEFA Cham-pions League."Despite everything that can hap-pen on the outside all this pen on the outside, all this media hype that surrounds the club sometimes, there are some real club lovers who want to protect it and make it shine, and it's great, and I know that with all these people, this club is in great hands.

and available to everyone,

regardless of their ethnici-

ty or location," Arjun Pras-ad, MD of 3AI Holding,

said in a statement.The platform that comes avail-

able in 12 Indian languag-es includes Hindi, Marathi,

Sindhi."With its launch,

Gujarati,

Bengali,

Kannada,

Odia, Punja-

mese, Tamil,

Telugu, Ma-

layalam and

Assa-





ORS Launches Alpha Carbon Brand and Activated No plan to

CERT-In finds vulnerabilities in

Homegrown GenAI platform



me a little time to adjust to the different rotations of

the ball. The first four

games were quite bad

from me. A bad start. I lost

both my services games.

I only lost one game from

1-3 down. Corentin is a

very talented player. He

has great hands and is

very unpredictable. You don't know what comes up

next, so I had to stay fo-cused, which I did and it is

The top-ranked player in the PIF ATP

Rankings, who last won the ATP Masters

1000 event in

2022, is a six-

time Rome champion.

With his victo-

ry over Moutet taking him to

son and his 1100th match

win in the Italian capital.

"You always have doubts," Djokovic said

when asked if he had any

ahead of his return to Tour.

Every single match. It is

just the manner of how you

deal with them and how

long they stay there. How long they over-whelm your whole being and mind.

a good opening match."

'Buť then I played well.

Carbon Product for Water Treatment Applications

Navi Mumbai, Organic Recycling Systems Limited (ORS) is proud to introduce GAC- 01, the latest addition to its innovative product line under the brand nameAlpha Carbon. GAC-01 represents innovation in water treatment filtration media, offering a biomassbased activated carbon granules crafted from a variety of discarded biomass feedstocks, notably coconut shells.

+

Utilizing ORS's, indigenously developed advanced technology of Sanjeevak Carbonisation Systems (SCS), GAC-01 delivers activated carbon with diverse properties and purities tailored for water treatment applications. Engineered under controlled process settings, GAC-01 ensures optimal performance in adsorbing contaminants from water, making it a highly effective and cost-efficient solution for producing potable water and achieving purification in wastewater treatment fa-

cilities "With GAC-01, ORS has meticulously engi-neered Sanjeevak Carbonisation Systems to optimize the conversion of biomass into such high-quality carbon based derivative products, providing communities, local governments and businesses with a more environmentally responsible option. Our commitment to sustainability

plexity. As per reports by Mor-dor Intelligence, the global and innovation has led us to develop a product that activated carbon market is experiencing robust growth, which is estimated not only enhances water quality but also addresses at USD 4.32 billion in 2024, the environmental challenges of waste biomass disposal." said Yashas Bhand, CEO of ORS and is expected to reach USD 5.77 billion by 2029, growing at a CAGR of 5.95% driven by increasing

GAC-01 will be available in numerous types and grades to accommodate various adsorptive properties. This versatility allows GAC-01 to effectively target contaminants of different sizes and influence adsorption kinetics during its application, ensuring superior water purification results.

launch Google search engine With the launch of GAC-01, Organic Recy-cling Systems (ORS) is rival: OpenAl's Sam Altman poised to make significant strides in both domestic and export markets within New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) OpenAl CEO Sam the activated carbon industry where, India alone ex-

Altman on Saturday refutported \$378M in Activated ed reports that his artificial Carbon in the year 2022 as intelligence (AI) company per reports by the Obser-vatory of Economic Comis going to launch a search

engine like Google. In a X post, Altman said that OpenAl will stick to its AI goals, making its AI chatbot called ChatGPT more powerful. "Not GPT-5, not a

search engine, but we've been hard at work on some new stuff we think people will love! feels like magic to me," he commented. On Monday, OpenAl will livestream its event to showcase some ChatGPT and GPT-4 updates. Reports earlier claimed that OpenAI will launch a search product ahead of Google's flagship conference called 'I/O' next week.

Apple iTunes, Google Chrome New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) The Indian Computer

Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), which comes under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, has warned users of vulnerabilities in Apple iTunes and Google Chrome for desktop which could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code on the targeted system.

The affected software includes Apple iTunes versions prior to 12.13.2 for Windows.

For Chrome for Desktop, the affected software in-cludes -- versions prior to 124.0.6367.201/.202 (for Windows and Mac) and versions before 124.0.6367.201 (for Linux)

"A vulnerability has been reported in Apple iTunes which could be exploited by a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on the targeted system," said the

CERT-In advisory. The 'Remote Code Execution' vulnerability exists in the Apple Product due to improper checks in the Core-Media component. A remote attacker could exploit this vulnerability by sending a specially crafted request, the advisory mentioned.

In addition, the cyber agency said that the reported vulnerabilities exist in Google Chrome due to use-after-free errors in Visuals & amp; ANGLE components; and heap buffer overflow in WebAudio.

"A remote attacker could exploit these vulnerabilities by executing a specially crafted HTML page to trigger heap corruption," CERT-In noted.

"Successful exploitation of these vulnerabilities could allow the remote attacker to compromise the targeted system," it added.

The agency also suggested users to apply appropriate security updates as mentioned by the compaHanooman now live in 98 languages

New Delhi, May 10 ers, making Al inclusive (IANS) Abu Dhabi-based Àl investment firm 3Al Holding Limited and SML India on Friday launched the generative artificial in-telligence (GenAI) platform Hanooman in 98 glo-bal languages, including 12 Indian

languages. Developed by SML and 3AI Holding under joint collabora-

tion, Hanooman aims to reach 200 million users within its first year of launch.

Hanooman is now available for download in the country and can be accessed through the web and mobile application for Android users on the Play Store.

The forthcoming iOS app will soon be available for download on the App Store."Through our strategic partnership with SML India, we strive to cater to a diverse spectrum of us-

we aim to impact the lives of 200 million users within the first year alone," said Vishnu Vardhan, Co-Founder ; CEO, SML India."About 80 per cent glish, hence,

of Indians can't use En-Hanooman's capabilities to support Indian languages will bring GenAl to the reach of everyone in India and open massive opportunities for companies and startups bringing Gen AI products to the market," he added.

Musk's X banned over 1.8 lakh accounts for policy violations in India in April

New_Delhi, May 11 (IANS) Elon Musk-rún X Corp banned 184,241 accounts in India between March 26 and April 25, mostly for promoting child sexual exploitation and non-consensual nudity.

The micro-blogging platform, going through a churning under Musk, also took down 1,303 accounts for promoting terrorism on

its platform in the country. In total, X banned 185,544 accounts in the reporting period. The microblogging platform, in its monthly report in compliance with the new IT Rules, 2021, said that it received 18,562 complaints from users in India in the same time frame through its grievance redressal mechanisms.

In addition, the company processed 118 grievances which were appeal-

ing account suspensions. "We overturned 4 of

sions after reviewing the specifics of the situation. The remaining reported accounts remain suspend-

od," it added.

India were about ban evasion (7,555), followed by hateful conduct (3,353) sensitive adult content (3,335), and abuse/harassment (2,402).

country.

The microblogging platform also took down 1,235 accounts for promoting terrorism on its platform

these account suspened," said the company. "We received 105 re-

quests related to general questions about accounts during this reporting peri-

Most complaints from signifies a significant step for the Indian e-commerce landscape.

Between February 26 and March 25, X banned 2,12,627 accounts in the

dent (Intracity Business Unit, Bajaj Auto Ltd) and Prabhu Balasrinivásan, Vice President, Commercial, Flipkart Group, He-

Flipkart and Bajaj Auto team up to drive sustainable deliveries with Green Machines Pune, Bajaj Auto Ltd.,

mant Badri, Senior Vice President and Head of the world's most valuable two-wheeler and three-Supply Chain, Customer wheeler company, and Experience & Re-Com-Flipkart, one of India's merce, Flipkart Group, leading e-commerce marlays the foundation for a long-term business partketplaces, today announced a strategic partnership between Bajaj Auto and Flipkart. The ininership to accelerate the adoption of electric vehitial, non-binding commitment of supplying a mini-mum of 1000 technologicles (EVs) in the latter's last-mile delivery operacally advanced electric tions. This collaboration three-wheeler cargo vehitowards a greener future cles to Flipkart paves the way for further collaboration and potential fleet ex-The Memorandum of pansion in the future.

Understanding (MoU) was signed on 10 May by Ba-jaj Auto and Flipkart spokespersons - Sa-mardeep Subandh, Presi-Talking about the MoU with Flipkart, Samardeep Subandh, a spokesperson from Bajaj Auto Ltd., stated, "As e-commerce continues to scale up rapidly, the impact of last-mile logistics will increase significantly in India. Driving sustainability in last-mile logis-

tics has been a key agenda for Flipkart, India's homegrown ecommerce marketplace. Bajaj Auto, the global leader in 3 Wheelers and Flipkart will now join hands to drive this transition towards a 100% sustainable last-mile fleet for Flipkart. Hemant Badri, Senior Vice President and Head of Supply Chain, Customer Experience & Re-Commerce, Flipkart Group, said, "As India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, we recognize the profound impact our operations can have on the environment and society. Our alliance with BajajAuto Ltd. marks a pivotal moment for Flipkart and the entire landscape of Indian e-commerce, underscoring the company's unwavering commitment to sustainable

Polycab Empowers India's Electrician Community with Instant Reward with New Experts App

Mumbai, Polycab, In-dia's largest Wires and Cables manufacturer and one of the fastest -growing FMEG company, is proud to announce the launch of the new 'Polycab Experts'. A first-of-its-kind platform designed exclusively for the country's electrician community as part of its digital transformation. Polycab Experts aims to uplift and empower electricians across India and help improve its end customer experience. The app will be a single platform that supports both earning and redemption points journey for its customer by providing them with a comprehensive suite of benefits and rewards. The Polycab Expert Program has an existing app with 1.5 lakh electricians and approximately 1lakh retailers who will be

migrated to the new app. The Polycab Experts App introduces an innovative rewards system that allows electricians and retailers to effortlessly earn points by scanning loyalty codes printed on Polycab products. These accúmulated points can be instantly redeemed into their bank accounts, providing a tangible and immediate incentive for their loyalty to Polycab

Furthermore, the Polycab Experts App goes beyond mere transactions by fostering a thriving community of electricians. Every code scanned, and every point earned contributes to a larger purpose – investing in the growth and development of the electrician community, which in turn benefits the industry. Commenting on the

launch, Mr. Ishwinder Singh Khurana, Executive President, Chief Business Officer (Power BU), Polycab India, stated "The electrician community in India ensures that we have a well-equipped electrical infrastructure to live and work comfortability. Through the Polycab Experts App, we aim to reward the consistent loyalty they have shown towards the brand through an instant scan and instant money transfer to the bank account. We are focused on nurturing the growth and well-being of our electrician community. By providing them with access to insurance, education, and professional development opportunities, we aim to elevate their standard of living and empower them to achieve their full potential."



supply chains.

USINESS

Anand Mahindra praises IIT-Madras startup for developing electric flying taxi

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra has praised the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras startup that is developing an electric fly-ing taxi, saying that the institution has become one of the world's most "exciting and active incubators".

"A company is being incubated at IIT Madras to build a flying electric taxi by sometime next year,' Mahindra posted on X.

Thanking the institu-tion, he further said that with the rapidly growing number of ambitious incubators throughout India, "we're no longer seen as a country that lacks genuine innovators".

"Audacious aspirations matter. Accept no limits,' Mahindra wrote.

Since being shared, his post has been viewed

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) As India's digital

and less-cash journey

gains steam, more and

more people are not only

purchasing their daily es-

els, among other things.

tal payment methods.

SONI to new name

SONI

380008

Saturday.

flight," a user wrote.

Madras is leading the flying taxi project. This is the kind of innovation that puts a country on the map and inspires the next gen-

by more than 190K times. Several users also shared their thoughts in the com-

ments "Exciting times, this is audacious thinking taking root. With our immense talent pool and a supportive environment, Indian innovators are truly taking

"India's incubators are hatching the future, and IIT charge with their electric eration of dreamers and doers," another user said. Earlier this week, IIT Madras said that it raised

an all-time high amount of Rs 513 crore in funding from its alumni, industry and individual donors during the financial year 2023-24.

on its journey to become a global technology powerhouse under various schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and his government in the last 10 years, the National Technology Day is the occasion for the country to reflect on achievements and also look at the challenges ahead in the artificial intelligence (AI)-driven era, industry leaders said on Saturday. It was former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who announced May as National Technology Day, to commemorate the Pokhran nuclear tests conducted by the Indian Army in Rajasthan in 1998

In the last 10 years under PM Modi, the coun-

After 10 years of tech innovations, India geared up for next phase of growth: Industry leaders New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) As India embarks

try has seen tremendous growth across parameters -- be it a thrust on local manufacturing, new semi-conductor plants, AI, 5G, startups, innovation and production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for various sectors, while skilling the workforce and creating

lakhs of new jobs. "As we celebrate this day, it's crucial to acknowledge the role of education, mentorship, and entrepreneurship in nurturing a generation capable of innovation and leadership," said Kunal Purohit, Chief Digital Services Officer, Tech Mahindra.A. Gururaj, Managing Director, Optie-mus Electronics, com-mented that India is progressing forward towards creating local product development strengths in multiple segments through

startups and other entities in the electronics segment. "We will continue to work towards developing the electronics ecosystem in India in line with the government's vision towards creating an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat," he added. In the last decade, ever

since PM Modi launched the 'Make in India' programme in September 2014, lakhs of new jobs have been created.

Nearly 12 lakh new jobs have been created in electronics manufacturing alone, which has crossed \$100 billion."We believe that the next decade will be marked by unparalleled technological progress in AI, cloud and connectivity, presenting new opportunities for India to strengthen its foothold in

landscape," said Tarun Chhabra, Country Manag-er, Nokia India.

PM Modi recently laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor plans worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore. The day is not far when

Indians will travel in a bullet train. The first bullet train is set to run in one section (Mumbai and Ahmedabàd) in 2026.

"New-age disruptive technology such as gener-ative AI, will be the key factor that will drive new possibilities in digital transformation enabling businesses to make the right decision while building custrust," tomer he mentioned.Technology has revolutionised the business landscape in India, redefining job roles and transforming indus-

Business Brief |||

No plan to launch Google search engine rival: OpenAl's Sam Altman

Western Times

AHMEDABAD SUNDAY 12/5/2024

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on Saturday refuted reports that his artificial intelligence (AI) company is going to launch a search engine like Google. In a X post, Altman said that OpenAI will stick to its AI goals, making its AI chatbot called Chat-

GPT more powerful. "Not GPT-5, not a search engine, but we've

been hard at work on some new stuff we think people will love! feels like magic to me," he commented.On Monday, OpenAI will livestream its event to showcase some ChatGPT and GPT-4 updates.

Reports earlier claimed that OpenAI will launch a search product ahead of Google's flagship conference called 'I/O' next week. However, the company has now clarified that it will stick to updates on ChatGPT and its latest model, GPT-4. OpenAI has already made its AI chatbot more direct and less verbose. The new GPT-4 Turbo model is now available to paid ChatGPT users. It has been trained on publicly available data up to December last year.

Self-driving tech company Motional sacks nearly 550 employees in US

San Francisco, May 11 (IANS) Autonomous vehicle technology company Motional has sacked around 550 employees, or about 40 per cent of its workforce, in the US, reports said on Saturday. Nearly 145 of the impacted staff worked in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, according to a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN).

dy, Motional "is pausing commercial operations and delaying plans to launch a robotaxi service." Every team at Motional has been affected, including the chief operating officer, Abe Ghabra.

The team working on Motional's remote vehicle assistance platform has been "heavily cut".Motional said in a statement that it has updated its strategic plan to "focus resources on the continued development and generalisation of our core driverless technology while de-empha-sising near-term commercial deployments and ancillary activities."The team members leaving Motional have our deepest appreciation for their contributions t our goals," it added.Motional is a joint venture between Hyundai Motor Group and auto parts supplier Aptiv.

Something 'super weird' is going on: Musk after storming of Tesla's Berlin plant

Musk on Saturday said something "super weird" is going on, as at least 800 activists stormed Tesla's gigafactory near Berlin to protest its expansion plans.

The police used pepper spray against the pro-testers as they attempted to break into the plant.

"There is more to this than meets the eye. Something strange is going on," the tech billionaire posted on X.He further said that something "super weird" is going on, as "Tesla was the only car company attacked."According to Disrupt, a coalition of anti-capitalist groups that organised the protest said in a statement on its website that 800 activists participated in the protest "on the Tesla Gigafactory site as part of the Disrupt Tes-la Action Days."

Social commerce platform Meesho raises \$275 million

are seamless and reduce the tangible feel of money leaving one's possession, Prabhu Ram, Head, Industry Intelligence Group at market intelligence firm

Latest data from the

UPI payments see surge in India, leading



National Payments Corpoly 74 per cent of people in the country are 'overspending' as a result of using UPI and other digiper cent.Last year, the UPI The convenience and

count has increased by 50 transactions increased by almost 60 per cent to reach a record 11,768 crore.Ramesh Narasim-

CMR, told IANS.



ration of India (NPCI) revealed that the number of Unified Payments Inter-face (UPI) transactions reached 1,330 crore in April. On a year-on-year basis, the UPI transaction

per cent of consumers saying they will choose UPI for online festive shopping.

people to overspending too: Experts lew Delhi, May 11 spending, as transactions er-India, Worldline, er-India, Worldline, said that UPI maintains its position as the uncontested

with smartphone-based payment methods," Narasimhan added.

The average ticket size (ATS) of UPI transac-

tions has also declined by 8 per cent from Rs 1,648 to Rs 1,515.According to experts, consumer spending in India is soaring, with people splurging on cars, smartphones, TVs and other items, boosting the country's economic growth.However, the trend

has also seen people overspending on certain high-priced items, thanks A recent report by Nielsen Media India, on drasekhar.

The historic test conbehalf of Amazon India, showed that digital payment methods are on the rise in the country, with 42

its commitment to the 'No

First Use' policy and advo-cated the concept of 'equal and legitimately adequate security' for all nations. NDA governments have always prioritised national security," said the minister. In Índia's 'Techade'

under PM Modi, the country has been witnessing robust growth across economic parameters and has become a formidable force

Solar storm hits SpaceX's Starlink satellites

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) Starlink, the satellite arm of Elon Musk's SpaceX, on Saturday, warned users of a "degraded service" as the biggest geomagnetic storm struck the Earth due to solar activity in a very long time.

"Starlink is currently experiencing degraded service. Our team is investigating," the company wrote on its website. Earlier, in a post on X, the tech billionaire highlighted the severity of the storm, saying that it has put Starlink satellite fleet under intense pressure and de-scribed it as "the biggest in a long time". "Major geomagnetic solar storm happening right now. Biggest in a long time. Starlink satellites are under a lot of pressure, but holding up so far," Musk wrote. According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a major storm is currently occurring, which is the largest one since October 2003. This storm is expected to continue over the weekend and poses potential risks to various systems such as navigation, power grids, and satellite navigation.

This WhatsApp feature will restrict users from taking screenshots of profile pictures

New Delhi, May 11 WABetaInfo, a message other devices or cameras, ment and it will be avail-(IANS) Meta-owned What- will occur on the screen sApp is reportedly working on a feature that will restrict users from taking

notifying users that taking screenshots of profile pho-tos has been blocked to

blocking the screenshot able in a future update of feature within the app will definitely reduce the unauthorised sharing of profile

the app, the report stated. Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly testing a new

has also resulted in people overspending on stuff they actually may not need at times, experts said on The purchasing trend via UPI/QR code is due to the fact that digital transactions now take a jiffy to complete the purchase journey via smartphones.



ease of digital transactions through UPI, in comparison to cash, may indeed lead to lower awareness of han, Chief Executive Offic-CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from **ASIFHUSEN**

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from **BHUPATRAIAMRITLAL IQBALHUSEN MANSURI** to BHUPATBHAIAMRITLAL new name ASIF IQBAL MANSURI Add. 15. Shantikuni Society. Add. A/6,501, ARSHADPARK, SARKHEJ, Maninagar, Ahmedabad-AHMEDABAD 493A M059D

to UPI.

frontrunner, buoyed by substantial expansion in mobile transactions. This trend underscores users' growing confidence and familiarity

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) Union Minister and BJP candidate from Thiruvananthapuram, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, said on Saturday that India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become a global case study on how to emerge as a resilient economy

amid myriad of challenges Taking on X social me-dia platform on the anni-versary of the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, Chandrasekhar said that

technology is the medium for empowering people. "It is the mainstay of making India 'Aatmanirbhar'. On this day in 1998, India achieved a major milestone in 'Aatmanirbharta' by successfully con-

ducting the Pokhran nuclear tests," said Chan-

ducted by the then NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, signalled to the world about India's scientific prowess and sover-

eignty. "India firmly conveyed

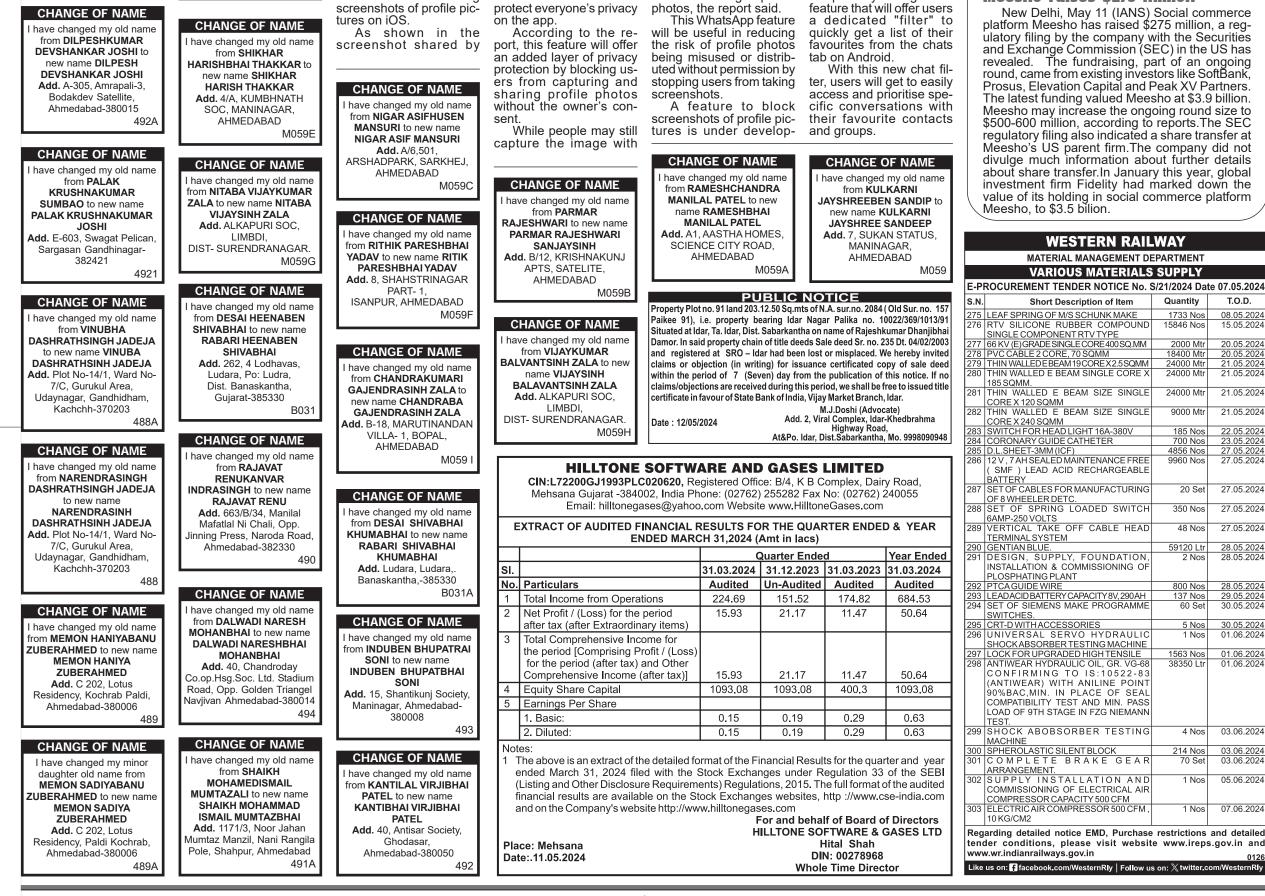
the global technology tries. India under PM Modi a global case study on how to become a resilient economy: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

in innovation and tech-focused exports.

"India under the leadership of PM Modi has certainly become a global case study on how we navigated through chal-

lenges of pandemic, economy, conflict and terror and emerged as a resilient and world's fastest growing economy," Chandrasekhar commented.

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) Tesla CEO Elon





News in a Nutshell

Prisoner, released on parole last month ago, shot dead in east Delhi

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) A 34-year-old robbery case convict, who was out on parole, was shot dead by three unidentified assailants in east Delhi's Jafrabad area on Friday, police said. The deceased was identified as Nazim, a res-

ident of Chauhan Nagar in the Jafrabad area. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Northeast, Joy Tirkey said that a police control room call re-garding the incident was received at 7.30 p.m. following which a police team reached the spot. "Nazim was shot multiple times by at least three here and he died on the spot." he said add

three boys and he died on the spot," he said, adding that Nazim had four criminal cases registered against him including murder, robbery, and NDPS Act in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

He was convicted in a robbery case and had come out on parole about a month ago.

Massive dust storm hits Delhi-NCR, traffic diverted due to uprooting of trees

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) Delhi and its surrounding areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) were hit by a massive dust storm and scat-tered rain on Friday evening, resulting in the uprooting of many trees.

The sudden onset of the storm caught many residents by surprise as gusty winds swept across the region with dust reducing visibility at many places.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a post on X: "Delhi reported winds with over 50 kmph speed. Gusty Winds (at 2200 hrs IST of Friday) reported (kmph) over Delhi: Ujwa 77 kmph; Jafarpur 57 kmph; Lodhi road 61 kmph; Pragati Maidan 63 kmph; Pitampura 57 kmph; Narayana 50 kmph; Najafgarh 40 kmph.

After one death in Kerala, TN deploys Mobile Medical Teams in 12 blocks in Coimbatore to check spread of West Nile Virus

Chennai, May 11 (IANS) The Tamil Nadu government's health department has increased sur-veillance in several villages of Coimbatore Dis-trict against the spread of the dreaded West Nile Virus and deployed 12 Mobile Medical Teams (MMT) to screen people in 12 blocks.

This is following many districts of Kerala reporting cases of the West Nile Virus, which is a mosquito-borne disease.

The Coimbatore District Health Department has deployed 12 Mobile Medical Teams (MMT) to screen people with fever and influenza in 12 blocks to check whether they are infected with the virus. The disease is spread through the Culex mosquitoes and the symptoms are high fever, stiff neck, headache, disorientation, stupor, tremors, convulsions and muscle weakness



Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSEB) declared Class 10 exams result Saturday. An overall pass percentage of 82.56% recorded. Students celebrate their success in SSC examination at a school in Surat on Saturday. UNI

Lensman-anthropologist Rajesh Satankar rates Kumbh Mela as 'logistical marvel'

(IANS) Photographer Rajesh Satankar, who is gearing up for his photo-book exhibition of 'Celebration of Heritage' in Mumbai, has captured the ries etched on people's faces, the way they interessence of the Kumbh Mela in his lens. act, and the unspoken narvaried Portraying ratives of their everyday

shades of spirituality in his pictures, Rajesh feels that the extravaganza makes for a textbook in logistics management given the sheer number of people attending the mela.

Rajesh spoke with IANS and opened up on his journey of experienc-ing the beauty of the Kum-He said that the gran-diosity of weddings, the meticulous artistry of fashion shoots, and quiet mobh Mela from close quarters, his analysis as an ments of spirituality at the anthropologist about the Kumbh Mela all hold a cergrowing influence of glotain allure. Even the busbalisation on human civilitling energy of street life, sation and the connecting with its random encounthread between those atters and fleeting moments, tending the mela. sparks my creative fire.

Talking about the themes that intrigue him as a photographer, he told IANS: "People, in all their fascinating complexities,

as a photographer. Per-haps it stems from my ly, the Kumbh Mela effortlessly manages millions of background in anthropol-ogy, but I find myself drawn to capturing the sto-"it's a logistical marvel, and I felt this incredible

story wasn't being shared widely enough. The second reason stemmed from a concern about the younger generation's awareness of the Kumbh lives. There's magic in connecting with someone, Mela. It's a global phe-nomenon, yet there seems hearing their stories, and then translating that esto be a gap in understandsence into a single image. ing, particularly among My passion for people photography manifests in a variety of ways." youth. The media often focuses heavily on the reli-gious aspects, which are undeniably important, but there's so much more to

the experience. He said that he wanted to create a book that

went beyond just rituals and customs. "I envisioned capturing the vibrant spirit of the Kumbh Mela – the coming together of diverse culimportantly, the human connections that form there. This wasn't just about showcasing the spiritual significance of the Mela, though that's a powerful aspect too.

He said that it was about portraying the Kumbh Mela as a place where people from all walks of life, with different beliefs and backgrounds, come together in a spirit of unity and shared experience.



PM Modi recalls 1998 Pokhran tests that showcased India's strength to world

added: "They repeatedly try to frighten us, warning

about Pakistan's atomic bomb. However, Pakistan

is struggling to manage its own situation. They're

even trying to sell their bombs, but no one wants

to buy them because of their poor quality." Several top BJP lead-

ers and ministers also

greeted the scientific fra-

ternity of the country while

recalling the Pokhran tests

ter S. Jaishankar lauded

the government led by PM

Modi for "robustly counter-

ing terror" as it strengthens

the solid foundation laid by the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The cur-rent NDA Government has

built on that foundation, ro-

bustly countering terror and building our border in-frastructure. The country

must know who stands

where when it comes to

started rushing towards the truck to catch hold of

the driver, the latter at-tempted to escape from

the scene and in that pro-cess, first hit a three-

wheeler carrying passen-

gers and then some pass-

ersby. Later, he escaped

from the scene, police said

arrested and his vehicle

was seized, the police

The truck driver was

quoting eyewitnesses.

added.

External Affairs Minis-

of 1998

New Delhi, May 11 (IANS) Remembering the historic feat achieved in India's nuclear capabilities during the 1998 Pokhran tests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the day is not only a testament to India's emergence as a nuclear power but also highlights the country's ongoing growth and strengthening status as a global pioneer in technological innova-

tions. "25 years ago today, Atal Ji's government conducted nuclear tests in Pokhran, showcasing India's strength to the world. While India demonstrated its potential, the Congress continues to sow fear by suggesting Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons," PM Modi said while addressing an elec-tion rally in Odisha's Kandhamal.

Criticising Congress for its softened stance, he National Security issues.

Five killed in multi-vehicle collision in West Bengal

Kolkata, May 11 (IANS)At least five people were killed and six others severely injured in a multi-vehicle collision on the state-highway in West Bengal's Purulia district on Saturday.

Eyewitnesses said that the truck carrying stone chips first hit a motorcycle leading to the death of its rider, Purulia SP Avijit Banerjee said.

As the local people

3 cops face action for forcing accused to pluck hair from beard in Rajasthan

from his beard.

Jaipur, May 10 (IANS) An SHO in Rajasthan's Bhilwara was transferred to the police lines while an ASI and a constable were suspended on Friday for forcing an accused to pluck hair from his beard. The inhuman act came to light after a video sur-faced on Friday morning, showing the policemen

According to sources,

the cops from the Pratap Nagar police station arrested a person named Suresh Gurjar (35) from the Gulabpura area on May 8. During his interro-gation, SHO Sugan Singh asked Suresh to pluck hair from his beard, while the policemen present there made a video of the act and shared it on social

media. The accused could be seen in pain as tears kept rolling down his cheek, but it did not have any effect on the three policemen.

After the video surfaced, some people from Gurjar community, including Mandal MLA Udaylal Bhadana, met SP Rajan Dushyant and District Collector Namit Mehta and demanded action.

ECI to adopt 'early action formula' in Bengal to ensure fair LS polls in next four phases

Kolkata, May 11 habitual offenders," the (IANS)The Election Com-mission of India (ECI) will Second, there will be adopt an 'early action for- constant monitoring of

mula' in the forthcoming identified "influential" local four phases of the Lok politicians so that they are

When asked about the tures, the temporary city germ of the photobook, he told IANS that the idea for that springs up to accommodate millions, the joythe book sprouted from ordering an accused to sit on the floor and pluck hair two things that weighed ous festivities, and most Kerala Left in quandary as 3

Rajya Sabha vacancies arise Thiruvananthapuram, May 11 (IANS) As the re-sults of the Lok Sabha polls are awaited on June

ch one



SRINAGAR, PDP president Mehbooba mufti addressing press conference in Srinagar on Saturday.UNI

Pak had more electricity than India because of Cong's misrule, Malviya hits back at Aiyar's 'respect' quip

gress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's recent comment advocating that India treat its arch-rival Pakistan with respect, BJP leader Amit Malviya on Saturday took a swipe at the grand old party and posted World Bank figures showing how the neighbouring country outdid India in providing electricity to its citizens because of the Congress' misrule.

Taking to his X handle, Malviya posted, "This one indicator is enough to know how badly the Congress ran India.

Guwahati, May 11 (IANS) A suspected rhino

poacher further shreds of

ty of the suspected poach-

ziranga National Park and

Tiger Reserve, officials

of Kaziranga National Park told reporters: "We re-ceived intelligence inputs

er is still unknown.

said on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the identi-

Shas been shot dead by forest guards in Ka-

Sonali Ghosh, Director

evidence.

New Delhi, May 11 centage of Pakistan had (IANS) In the wake of Con-electricity than India! "Yes... till 2018. No wonder likes of Mani

Shankar Aiyar advocated that we treat Pakistan with He also shared the

dia surpassing Pakistan, with access to electricity reaching 95.7 per cent, through the years. The graph showed that while Pakistan stood at 93.4 per cent, and wrote,

tion had access to electric-60.3 per cent.

"Till 2018, a higher per-

Suspected rhino poacher shot

dead in Kaziranga National park

night.

the power situation in In-dia from 2017 onwards as India's supply of electricity far outstripped that of Pakistan. Pointing out the dispar-ity, Malviya noted a signif-

ahead.

respect. World Bank statistics showing access to electricity in India and Pakistan

at the start of the decade in 2000, a higher percentage of Pakistan's populaity, standing at 72.8 per cent, while India stood at

The statistics show marked improvement in

about the movement of

some poachers and ac-

cordingly an ambush was

set up in the Eralihool area of the park on Friday

According to her, dur-ing the wee hours on Sat-

urday, a team of three or

four rhino poachers tried to

enter the park.

awaited on June 4, a fresh issue appears to have surfaced in Kerala and all eyes are on how the ruling CPI-M-led Left is going to navigate it.

Three members are due to retire from Kerala from the Upper House on July 1, and the problem now is that while all the retiring members belong to the Left, the new nominees will see the Left winning two, while the Congress-led UDF is certain to win one.

The retiring members are state party chiefs of two Left allies -- Binoy Viswam who heads the CPI in Kerala, and Jose K. Mani of the Kerala Congress (Mani) (KC-M) and CPI-M veteran Elamaram

win only will certainly be taken by big brother CPI-M. Then it is whether CPI or KC-M gets the nomination. While the CPI is the

second biggest ally in the ruling Left and has been with the Left Democratic Front (LDF) since its for-mation, the KC-M is the third biggest ally which joined the Left only in 2020, after their party split, the one led by Mani joined the LDF.

A political critic, on condition of anonymity, said that it's a 'Catch 22' situation for CPI-M.

'The situation will become clearer when the Lok Sabha polls results come out on June 4. The CPI has contested for two

J&K: Sajad Lone gets ECI notice for violation of MCC

Srinagar, May 11 (IANS) People's Confer-ence (PC) Chairman and itoring (MCMC) party candidate for Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency in J&K, Sajad Gani

-IANS

Lone has received an ECI notice for violating MCC. The ECI notice has been issued over the posting of a video by Lone on his X handle.

In the notice, the DEO Kupwara has asked him to explain why he uploaded a video on his X handle without prior clearance/

pre-certification from Me-dia Certification and Mon-Committee

> In his reply, Para ex-plained that the reference to the aspect that the "ensuing election is no less than a referendum only points to the importance the present election holds, and nothing else. Any other inference drawn by any person is not the intend-ment of the undersigned."-

if both CPI and KC-M insist on the one seat," said the critic.

Mani has been in the Parliament since 2009, when he won his first win and retained his Kottayam Lok Sabha seat at the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, but with a year remaining as part of a political adjust-ment, the Congress gifted one of their Rajya Sabha seat to Mani.After his party moved over to the Left in 2020, he resigned and contested again and won his seat. Now all eyes are on the CPI-M, with one seat, and whom they will back. The notification for the elections to the three

seats is expected anytime

now.

Sabha polls in West Bengal to ensure peaceful and air elections.

Explaining this 'early action formula', a source in the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)'s office said on Saturday that this strategy will be multi-pronged. First, the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will not allow unnecessary assembly of supporters of political parties within a specific area in the radius of the polling stations, from the very first hour of the commencement of polling.

This exercise will be a kind of caution for potential troublemakers that stricter punitive measures will follow in the case of

unable to assemble for extended periods with their associates near polling stations, as it might result in altercations and tension in the area. This will be implement-ed from the very first hour once polling begins. Insiders in the CEO's office said that these three

layers of the 'early action formula' were in place to a limited extent in the third phase of the elections on May 7, considering that two traditionally-troubled constituencies of Jangipur and Murshidabad went for polls on that day."From the fourth phase the same formula will be implemented more elaborately and strictly," the sources said.

Foreign trip row: Kerala Guv Khan thanks media for informing that CM Vijayan is abroad

Thiruvananthapuram, May 11 (IANS) Even as the political slugfest over the Kerala Chief Minister's three-nation private visit continues, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan waded into it on Saturday by thanking the media for the information that Pinarayi Vijayan was abroad.

Even as the Congress

and the BJP slammed CM Vijayan for leaving quietly early this week, Governor Khan revealed that he also had no clue about the CM's impending trip. "Has he (CM Vijayan)

gone on a foreign visit, I am not aware. Thanks to you (media) for informing me that the CM is on a forfamily and not state-fundeign trip," said Khan."In ed.

the past I had informed the President that the CM doesn't inform me when leaves,' he said Khan.However, the CPI(M) has defended the trip ily to Indonesia, Singapore, and the UAE, saying it was a private trip funded by the CM and his

NEW DELHI, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Admi Party supremo Arvind Kejriwal waving people while coming out of Hanuman Mandir after paying

PM Modi tears into Aiyar's Pak 'atom bomb' remark, says Cong wants to scare people

larendra Modi on Saturday stepped up his attack on the Congress over its leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's 'respect Pakistan because of its atom bombs' statement and said that the grand old par-ty was trying to find new ways to scare own people,

icant shift in 2018, with In-

"Pakistan is now a basket

case, India has surged

Congress government

and attributed India's low-

er electricity access to

poor governance.

He criticised the former

"As the security team by underestimating counwas already deployed in try's strength. the area, they retaliated and one suspected rhino poacher died in the en-Pakistan ke pass atom counter," Ghosh said.

New Delhi, May 11 IANS) Prime Minister log, desh ke mann ko bhi maar rahe hain, (They are

trying to scare us by saying that Pakistan has an atom bomb)," PM Modi said, taking a searing jibe at Aiyar and Congress.

Addressing a mega public rally in Odisha's Kandhamal, the Prime Minister also slammed Pakistan over its depleting economy and said that they want to sell their atom bombs but don't get any "Sambhal ke chalo, buyers because of its poor quality bomb hai. Yeh mare pade

PM Modi also hit out at

Congress over its weak and timid response after 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai. He said that the then UPA regime decided not to retaliate and act against the handlers of ter-

ror because they believed that this would alienate its vote bank. He also said that the

people of Jammu and Kashmir have been struggling for justice for decades because the previous ruling powers in Delhi would engage in dialogue with separatists.

paying obeisance, in New Delhi on Saturday. UNI