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## BJP retains Arunachal for the third time in a row

**Itanagar:** The BJP on Sunday returned to power in Arunachal Pradesh for the third time in a row, winning 46 seats in the 60-member Assembly, and bagging four more seats compared to its 2019 tally. In sweeping the Assembly elections, the counting of which was held during the day, the BJP decimated the opposition parties, especially the Congress which was relegated to the fifth position with only one seat after NPP (5), NCP

(3) and PPA (2). Three seats went to Independent candidates. Chief Minister Pema Khandu asserted that the momentum of what happened in the 'Land of the rising sun', a sobriquet for Arunachal Pradesh, will spread to other parts of the country on June 4 when votes for the Lok Sabha elections will be counted. "This is a historic occasion for the BJP and entire Arunachal Pradesh. The people of Arunachal Pradesh have declared

that they want BJP to stay in power for the next five years. This time, the mandate is more than what we got in 2019. In the 2019 Assembly polls, BJP won 41 seats, while we have won 46 seats this time," Khandu told PTI Video. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people of Arunachal Pradesh for the landslide win. "Thank you Arunachal Pradesh! The people of this wonderful state have...

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## Mumbai Airport declares emergency after bomb threat

**Mumbai:** A full emergency was declared at Mumbai airport on Sunday after a Vistara flight from Paris received a bomb threat. This marks the second threat against a Vistara flight in the past two days. On Friday, a Delhi-Srinagar flight was also threatened. The airline reported that flight UK 024 from Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport to Mumbai received a handwritten note on an airsickness bag, threatening a bomb. Despite the threat, the flight landed safely at 10:19 am, after which security agencies began a thorough check. "A security concern was noted by our staff onboard flight UK 024 from Paris to Mumbai on June 2, 2024," Vistara stated. A spokesperson for the airline mentioned that following protocol, Vistara immediately informed the relevant authorities. The flight landed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, and the airline is fully cooperating with security agencies for all mandatory checks. On Friday, operations at Srinagar airport were disrupted for an hour after a Vistara flight from Delhi received a bomb threat. The aircraft was searched by bomb...

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## Stage set for counting of votes in Assam today

**Guwahati:** Assam will count votes for 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in 52 centers across 50 state election districts on Tuesday. The counting process is expected to be completed in 10 to 28 rounds, with some constituencies requiring a maximum of 28 rounds. A total of 5,823 vote-counting officers have been appointed, supported by 64 general observers. The final results will be declared from multiple locations, including Dhuri, Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Guwahati, Udalguri, Nagaon, Diphu, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Karimganj, and Golaghat, between 4 and 4:30 pm...

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## SKM sweeps Assembly polls in Sikkim, wins 31 of 32 seats



**Gangtok:** The Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) on Sunday returned to power in the Himalayan state for the second consecutive term by a landslide victory, winning 31 seats in the 32-member Assembly. The opposition Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which ruled the state for 25 years in a row till 2019, could manage only one seat, though its president Pawan Kumar Chamling lost in the two constituencies he contested. SKM president and Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, however, won from two seats, and the party bagged 58.38 per cent of the votes polled. The SKM had won 17 seats in the 2019 Assembly polls. Elections to the Assembly were held simultaneously with the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls on April 19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Tamang and the SKM for the victory. "Congratulations to SKM and CM @PSTamangGo for their victory in the Sikkim Assembly Elec-

tions 2024. I look forward to working with the State Government to further the progress of Sikkim in the coming times," Modi said in a post on X. Responding to the Prime Minister's post, Tamang thanked him. "We are committed to continuing our efforts towards the development and prosperity of Sikkim. We look forward to collaborating with you to achieve our shared goals for the betterment of our state. "Your unwavering support has been a driving force for us, and we look forward to your continued guidance and blessings," Tamang said in an X. Modi also thanked all who voted for the BJP in the Sikkim Assembly elections. The saffron party contested in 31 seats but failed to win any of them. The party bagged 5.18 per cent of the total votes polled. Sikkim BJP president Dilli Ram Thapa, a sitting MLA, also lost to SKM nominee Kala Rai in the Upper Burtuk...

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## Upbeat mood among political parties for counting of 2 LS seats of Barak Valley

**Silchar:** As the clock ticks rapidly inching closer to decide the fate of candidates as well as various political parties for the prestigious Lok Sabha seats of SC reserved Silchar seat, and categorized General for the first time, Karimganj seat, the mood seems upbeat among one and all. President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Cachar District, Bimalendu Roy, was jubilant in expressing his satisfying of winning Silchar Loksabha seat, handsomely. Talking to

Eastern Chronicle on Sunday afternoon, he said, "our candidate Parimal Suklabaidya would win by a margin of three lakh votes and nationally, as the exit polls predicts, we are going to win anywhere between 370 to 400 plus seats." "We have selected our counting agents and on Monday evening, next, they would be trained once again in our party headquarters in Silchar before they head for counting centre at Inter State Truck Terminus (ISTT) on Tuesday, the day

of the finale", said, Bimalendu Roy. Indian National Congress (INC) party, however, are more concerned with the prevailing floods in the district. Party President of Cachar District Congress Committee, Abhijit Paul, speaking to this Correspondent, said, "mood is bad for the sufferings of the people due to floods. However, we have trained our 118 counting agents and additional 12 counting agents as back up, in all 130 of them..."

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## Modi eyes record-equalling feat, Oppn hopes for rebound

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

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## People have placed their faith in NDA: PM Modi



**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his gratitude to the people for placing their faith in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for a third consecutive time in the Lok Sabha election. He praised the BJP's performance in the Odisha Assembly elections and attributed the party's success to good governance. Modi also praised the TDP-Jana and Sena-BJP alliances in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, stating that Andhra Pradesh has given an exceptional mandate to the

NDA. He congratulated the Karyakartas of JaiTDP, JanaSenaParty, and BJP4Andhra for their victory and pledged to work for the state's all-round progress and ensure its prosperity in the future. I congratulate @ncbn Garu, @PawanKalyan Garu, and the Karyakartas of @JaiTDP, @JanaSenaParty, and @BJP4Andhra for this emphatic victory," the Prime Minister said in another post on X. "We will work for the allround progress of AP and ensure the state prospers in the times to come," he added.

## Rahul Gandhi would rather wait for D-day

**New Delhi:** After spearheading a spirited and dignified campaign for the opposition INDIA bloc, as against the insidious, hate-filled, divisive campaign of the ruling BJP, the young leader of the grand old party would rather wait patiently for the results to be declared on Tuesday to believe for himself the performance of the opposition bloc. Rahul on Sunday dismissed the exit polls as "Modi media poll." "This is not called an exit poll but its name is 'Modi media poll'. This is Modi

ji's poll, it is his fantasy poll," Gandhi told reporters at the AICC headquarters after a meeting with party's Lok Sabha MPs via video conference. Asked how many seats INDIA bloc will get, Gandhi said, "Have you heard Sidhu Moose Wala's song '295'? So 295 (seats)," he quipped, according to PTI. For the ruling BJP-led NDA there are reasons enough to believe that Modi is returning to power for the third consecutive time. The overwhelming...

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## BJP returns to power in Arunachal for the 3rd time in a row

Given an unequivocal mandate to politics of development. My gratitude to them for reposing their faith in @BJP4Arunachal yet again. Our Party will keep working with even greater vigour for the state's growth," Modi said in a post on X. In response, Khandu said, "Your guidance and vision have played a monumental role in our success. We shall continue with greater vigour to work for Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas." Khandu himself won uncontested from the Mukto Assembly constituency. Nine other BJP candidates also tasted victory unopposed. "The people of the state has repaid to the contribution of Prime Minister (Narendra Modi)....The development witnessed under the BJP-led NDA regime in the state is the major factor for the party's win in the state," Khandu asserted. The development witnessed in Arunachal Pradesh under the BJP-led central government is a major factor for the party's win in the state, the chief minister asserted. "The BJP has started its winning streak from the 'Land of Rising Sun' (Arunachal) and this trend will spread throughout the country which the people will witness on June 4. The party will sweep the Lok Sabha polls with a huge margin and Narendra Modi become the Prime Minister for the third term," he told reporters. To a question regarding the formation of the new ministry, Khandu said that after the Lok Sabha polls counting on June 4, all the winning candidates of the party would convene a meeting where the chief ministerial candidate would be decided. "BJP is a disciplined party. The party will select the leader with

consensus from all elected candidates," Khandu said. While the BJP's vote share is 54.57 per cent, as many as 14 party candidates including Education Minister Taba Tedir, were defeated this time. The minister was defeated by NCP nominee Toko Tatung, a greenhorn, in the Yachuli constituency. A total of 20 first-timers tasted victory in the north-eastern state. Eleven of them are from BJP, four from NPP, two each from PPA and NCP and one independent. The opposition Congress which fielded 19 candidates in the 60-member Assembly managed to bag only one seat, Bamang, where former state home minister Kumar Waii won by a slender margin of 635 votes defeating BJP's Doba Lamnio. State Congress president NabamTuki said the party was "disappointed but not demoralised" by the election results. "We will introspect about the causes of the defeat and work on the organisation in the coming days," he added. The National People's Party (NPP) which won five seats, annexed 16.11 per cent while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) gained a vote share of 10.43 per cent and won three seats. The regional People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) which managed to win two seats had a vote share of 7.24 per cent. Kiren Rijiju, Union minister and Lok Sabha poll candidate from Arunachal Pradesh, said the credit for this Assembly polls results goes to the people of the state, the BJP workers and the leadership of PM Modi. "The development that took place in Arunachal Pradesh in the last 10 years, didn't happen when the Congress was in power there for 60 years... This victory will inspire us to work more in the future," Rijiju said.

## Modi eyes record-equalling feat, Oppn hopes for rebound

The Indian National Congress (INC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are battling for control of the country's upcoming elections. The BJP has been accused of using electronic voting machines to send a message to the bureaucracy, while the Congress has been reduced to a

pale shadow in several states. The outcome will determine whether the Congress has the organization and leadership to challenge the BJP, which has been reducing its footprint since 2014. The Left's future is also uncertain, with the BJP aiming to gain strength in eastern states.

## Upbeat mood among political parties for counting of 2 LS seats of Barak Valley

And all set to face the results on June 4th, next." "Our counting agents are extremely confident that our candidate Surya KantaSarkar would win this time round, for which, no one will leave their tables, 14 each for each assembly constituencies, till the final vote is counted," said, Abhijit Paul. Meanwhile, in KarimganjLokSabha constituency, BJP workers are fully confident about party candidate KripanathMallah's victory in the election. Party insiders claimed on Sunday that Mallah will win by a big margin in the election and become the MP for the straight second term. Talking to this publication last month, Mallah had claimed he would the election win by around 30,000 votes. He had talked about the religious minorities and claimed that religious minorities showered their love and blessings on the BJP wholeheartedly in the election this time. Congressmen, however, claimed its party candidate Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury will have the last laugh. Religious minorities have played the most important role in Karimganj seat in the election and bulk of their population voted for Choudhury, Congress workers claimed. AIUDF

workers claimed party candidate Sahabul Islam Choudhury would emerge as the "dark horse" and secure the top spot by trouncing both Mallah and Choudhury. In the 2019 LokSabha election in Karimganj seat, Mallah had emerged victorious by getting 4,73,046 votes. AIUDF's RadheshyamBiswas, who had received the second maximum votes, got 4,34,657 votes. The counting in Karimganj will be held at Karimganj College. Postal ballots of two districts - Karimganj and Hailakandi (which fall under the KarimganjLokSabha constituency) will be counted at first. Followed by that, the votes of four assembly constituencies will be counted. The votes of North Karimganj assembly constituency (total number of polling booths - 301) will be counted in 14 tables and in 22 rounds. The votes of South Karimganj assembly constituency (312 polling centres) will be counted in 14 tables and in 23 rounds. The votes of Patharkandi assembly constituency (198 polling stations) will be counted in 12 tables and in 17 rounds while that of Ramakrishnanagar constituency (247 polling booths) will be counted in 14 tables and in 18 rounds.

## Rahul Gandhi would rather wait for D-day

Numbers the exit polls have thrown in NDA's favour is one of the reasons for that belief. Meanwhile, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh hit out at Prime Minister Modi for holding several meetings, including a long brainstorming session to review the 100-day agenda of the "new government", saying these were "pressure tactics" to send out a signal to the bureaucracy and the administrative structure that he is coming back. "These are mind games -- 'I am coming back, I am going to be the prime minister again'. He is sending a signal to the bureaucracy, the administrative structure of the country and we hope that the civil servants who have been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring a fair counting of votes will not be intimidated and not be frightened by these pressure tactics," Ramesh told media at the AICC headquarters here. He also said that the exit polls that came out Saturday evening are "completely bogus" and have been "orchestrated and masterminded by the man whose exit is inevitable and guaranteed on June 4". "These are all part of the psychological games being played by the outgoing prime minister (Narendra Modi) and the outgoing home minister (Amit Shah). The outgoing home minister called up 150 District Magistrates and collectors yesterday. The results that the exit polls have come up with bear no relation to reality," the Congress leader claimed. "It flies in the face of all political feedback. The IN-

DIA 'janbandhan' parties met yesterday, we went through state-wise analysis and there is no way INDIA janbandhan is going to get less than 295 seats," Ramesh said. "This is a deliberate attempt to justify rigging, this is a deliberate attempt to justify manipulation of EVMs and this is also psychological ops to lower the morale of the Congress workers and the INDIA janbandhan workers. We are not going to be frightened, we are not going to be intimidated and you will see that the actual results on June 4 will be completely different from what these exit polls show," the Congress general secretary said. These are political exit polls and not professional exit polls, he added. Ramesh pointed out that Congress treasurer and senior leader Ajay Maken has raised the issue of candidates' counting agents at the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) table not being allowed. "He (Maken) has raised this issue, there has been some response from the CEO of Delhi but the fact of the matter is that he raised this issue based on legitimate fears that had been expressed by the candidates. We have raised the issue of the counting of postal ballots and the effort of the Election Commission to change the methodology that has been part of the law," Ramesh said. He said the Congress has raised all such issues before the poll watchdog and had filed 117 complaints to it over the last 77 days, 14 of which are against the PM.

## Stage set for counting of votes in Assam today

The Kamrup Metro Election District will conduct counting at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre in Sarusajai, with 70 counting tables for five assembly segments under Guwahati Lok Sabha constituency. The counting will be conducted in 16 rounds in Dis-

pur LAC, 17 in Dimoria, 14 in New Guwahati, 14 in Guwahati Central, and 15 rounds in Jalukbari assembly segment. Guwahati city police have enforced traffic restrictions for smooth voting, including prohibiting heavy goods-carrying vehicles from plying on NH-27

within Guwahati limits from 4 am on Tuesday until the vote counting process concludes. Vehicles travelling from Jyotikuchi towards Rajiv Gandhi Road will be diverted to AK Azad Road, and Rajiv Gandhi Road will be designated as a no-vehicle and no-parking zone.

## Mumbai Airport declares emergency after bomb threat

Disposal squads and sniffer dogs, but it turned out to be a hoax. On May 28, a bomb scare on IndiGo's Delhi-Varanasi flight, which was later found to be a hoax, involved a tissue paper with "bomb@5.30" written on it in the lavatory. Earlier, on May 22, the North Block in Delhi, housing the Home Ministry office, received a bomb threat. Additionally, on May 11, IGI Airport and the Northern Railways' CPRO office received similar threats. On May 1, around 150 schools received bomb threats, causing widespread panic among schools and parents.

## SKM sweeps Assembly polls in Sikkim, wins 31 of 32 seats

Constituency by a margin of 2,968 votes. "I also appreciate the efforts put in by our Karyakartas. Our Party will always be at the forefront of working towards Sikkim's development and fulfilling people's aspirations," Modi said in a post. After the landslide win, Tamang congratulated the party workers and the voters of Sikkim. "It is because of the love and trust of the people which we have managed to secure in the past five years in government. Besides, party cadres worked very hard. Now we have the next five years to give our 100 per cent for the people of Sikkim," he said at a gathering in Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Tamang won by over 7,000 votes in both Rhenock and Soreng-Chakung constituencies. "I also want to thank the opposition as it is because of them that our party became stronger and more organised," said the president of the SKM which had won 17 seats in 2019. Like the BJP, the Congress also failed to open its account and secured a paltry vote share of 0.32 per cent which is even less than that of NOTA (0.99 per cent). Tamang asked the party workers to maintain calm in the aftermath of the landslide victory.

**Durex announces its partnership with Outlook Magazine for an exclusive Pride Month edition**

**Mumbai:** Durex has announced a strategic collaboration with Outlook Magazine to launch a special edition in celebration of Pride Month. This partnership, curated under Durex's flagship initiative, The Birds and Bees Talk (TBBT), underscores the company's commitment to advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community and fostering inclusivity.

The exclusive Pride Month edition of Outlook Magazine, spearheaded by guest editor Ravi Bhatnagar, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships at SOA, Reckitt, features a diverse range of content aimed at amplifying LGBTQIA+ voices. From inspirational stories shared by prominent figures like Sushant Divgikar, Alok Verma, Dutee Chand, and Trinetra Halder Gummara to expert insights provided by leaders such as Arun Kumar Mishra, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, and Ashok Row Kavi, the publication offers a comprehensive perspective on the community's journey.

Moreover, the collaboration serves as a platform to address critical issues surrounding sexual and reproductive health, advocating for legislative protection and societal acceptance. Gaurav Jain, Executive Vice President at Reckitt, emphasized the importance of this initiative in bridging societal gaps and providing a voice for marginalized communities.

**CDPL announced the launch of Godrej My Farm Milk**

**Guwahati:** Creamline Dairy Products Limited (CDPL), a subsidiary of Godrej Agrovet Limited (GAVL), has launched the Godrej My Farm Milk, a premium milk straight from Godrej's farm to consumers' doorstep. With Godrej My Farm Milk being directly sourced from Godrej's own farm, pasteurized, and packaged using cutting-edge technology, it ensures that milk is fresh with its natural flavor and nutritional value intact. To be available only in Hyderabad, the entire process from milking to product reaching the consumer is automated, thereby making Godrej My Farm a zero human touch milk with a single point fully controlled supply chain starting from feed to breed.

Indian consumers are increasingly conscious of their health and prioritize hygienic sourcing, processing, and packaging of milk. The Milk Report titled 'Bottoms Up...India Says Cheers to Milk' found that 1 in 2 consumers consider hygienic milk options and no adulteration. The report also revealed that 55% associate unhygienic milk with unbranded options. With 90% willing to pay more for high-quality, safe milk, the growing demand for pure and safe dairy products is a significant factor in this trend. Commenting on the launch of My Farm Milk, Bhupendra Suri, CEO, Godrej Jersey, said, "We at Godrej are fully committed to the way our milk is produced and distributed."

**Mother's Recipe announces the launch of exclusive Northeast media campaign**

**Imphal:** Mother's Recipe, known for its delicious and traditional flavors, announced the launch of exclusive Northeast media campaign. Northeast India has been a key market for Mother's Recipe and is set to enhance its outreach and deepen its presence across the region, particularly in Assam and Mizoram.

The Mother's Recipe campaign features a touching film showcasing the flavorful memories of mothers. The brand's authenticity and personal connection with customers are reflected in its products, including chutneys, papads, pickles, cooking pastes, ready-to-cook meals, and instant mixes. The storyline follows families as they share meals made with Mother's Recipe products, highlighting

the brand's role in creating memorable dining experiences. The Mother's Recipe TVC campaign is strategically placed on regional entertainment, news, and music channels to reach a wider audience and engage viewers across various demographics. Eye-catching hoardings at strategic locations across the Northeast reinforce brand visibility and create a strong visual impact. The combination of TV and outdoor advertising ensures the campaign reaches a wide audience. Ms. Sanjana Desai, Executive Director of Mother's Recipe said, "Our new media campaign is designed to reach the masses and bring the authentic flavors of Mother's Recipe to more homes in Assam and Mizoram."

**Adani One and ICICI Bank partners with Visa to launch India's first co-branded credit cards**

**Guwahati:** Adani One and ICICI Bank have introduced India's first co-branded credit cards with airport-linked benefits in partnership with Visa. Available in two variants – Adani One ICICI Bank Signature Credit Card and Adani One ICICI Bank Platinum Credit Card – they offer a comprehensive and substantial reward programme.

The cards come with a plethora of benefits designed to enhance the cardholders' lifestyle and elevate their airport and travel experience. Adani Group provides up to 7% Adani Reward Points on purchases across various consumer ecosystems, including the Adani One app, managed airports, CNG pumps, electricity bills, and Trainman, with the rewards being uncapped. Mr. Jeet Adani One is set to revolutionize the consumer finance sector by partnering with ICICI Bank and Visa to set new standards.

Adani, Director, Adani Group, expressed his enthusiasm at the launch event, saying, "This unique partnership with ICICI Bank and Visa will set a new benchmark in customer experience and showcase our commitment to innovation and excellence." Congratulating the Adani Group and ICICI Bank at the launch, Mr. Sandeep Ghosh, Group Country Manager, Visa India and South Asia said, "At Visa, we are delighted to partner with the Adani Group and ICICI Bank to bring these exciting co-branded credit cards to life, leveraging Visa's trusted network and worldwide acceptance." Further, Mr. Rakesh Jha, Executive Director, ICICI Bank, said, "Through this launch, we intend to offer our customers rewards and benefits across the Adani Group's consumer ecosystem, and strengthen the Bank's credit card portfolio."

**Tata Tea's Commitment to Climate Action Shines Bright on World Environment Day**

**Guwahati:** Tata Tea, the leading beverage company has emphasized its commitment to combating climate change and ensuring a habitable planet for future generations. Puneet Das, President of Tata Consumer Products' Packaged Beverages (India and South Asia), highlights the importance of Jaago Re, a campaign since 2007 that aims to catalyze social change on critical issues like corruption and COVID-19 awareness, reflecting Tata Tea's unwavering

commitment to social good. The current edition of Tata Tea Jaago Re is based on the basic parenting insight of protecting children and ensuring a better future for them. The company's commitment to addressing pressing issues like climate change is unwavering.

The campaign encourages consumers to visit Jaagore.com and find simple actionable ways to contribute to combating climate change. Mr. Puneet Das, President

- Packaged Beverages (India and South Asia), Tata Consumer Products emphasizes that "Every individual's contribution, no matter how small, is a vital piece in the challenge of global environmental preservation. Together, our collective efforts form a formidable force for change. Let us choose sustainable living, support responsible businesses, and pledge to be guardians of our planet so that our children can enjoy a healthy & thriving world."

**Utkarsh SFBL Marks Milestone with 900th Branch Opening in Khunti, Ranchi, Jharkhand**



**Guwahati:** Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (Utkarsh SFBL) proudly announces the inauguration of 900th outlet of the Bank at Khunti, Ranchi, Jharkhand. This milestone is part of a broader expansion, which includes 7 new outlets launched today across Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. With this, the Bank now operates 81 banking outlets in Jharkhand and a total of

903 outlets nationwide. The Bank has expanded its product and service offerings to customers in Khunti, Ranchi. These include various types of accounts, including savings, current, fixed, recurring, and loan products like housing, business, property, credit, insurance, and investment products. The Bank's extensive infrastructure, digital banking capabilities, and ATM network aim to provide

integrated customer service. Mr. Govind Singh, MD & CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, "Our new banking outlets will not only foster local entrepreneurship but would also provide essential resources to strengthen the financial resilience to enhance the livelihoods of these entrepreneurs and individuals alike".

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank is offering micro-banking loans for business development services to underprivileged individuals or groups with limited access to financial services. The JLG model of group lending allows individuals to take loans without collateral, promoting credit discipline through mutual support and prompt repayment.

**RNAIPL Amplifies Environmental Pledge: 5 More Waterbodies Set for Restoration**

**Guwahati:** On the occasion of World Environment Day, Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Limited (RNAIPL) is proud to announce its plans to rejuvenate five additional waterbodies in and around Oragadam where the company is located. These waterbodies are in addition to the ten lakes and ponds in the Oragadam/ Kanchipuram area that RNAIPL had already committed to revitalize in 2023, bringing the total number of water bodies protected and enhanced by RNAIPL as part of its environmental commitment to 15. RNAIPL plans to rejuvenate five water bodies in Ezhichur, Kaduvanchery, Vanchuvanchery, and Nariyampak-



kam villages during FY2024, aiming to improve water retention, enhance biodiversity, and provide fresh drinking water to local communities. RNAIPL has completed nine out of ten lakes and ponds in Oragadam, Kanchipuram district, to restore and rejuvenate them. The project, which is expected to be completed by 2024, has enhanced water resources and biodiversity

for neighboring communities. The lake at Oragadam is also being beautified, with park benches installed to create a serene space for the community to enjoy. Keerthi Prakash, Managing Director, RNAIPL, said, "We believe in the power of collective action and initiatives like these can create a lasting positive impact on the ecosystem and the lives of people around us."

## 'We haven't nailed batting line-up yet': Rohit after win over B'desh

**New York:** India captain Rohit Sharma said that they haven't confirmed their batting line-up for the T20 World Cup after registering a comfortable 60-run win over Bangladesh in a warmup match on Saturday. Regular opener Yashasvi Jaiswal did not come out to start the innings with the skipper as wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson joined Rohit in the middle. Samson (1) had a dismal outing as he departed in the second over of the innings. Rishabh Pant came out to bat at no.3 as Virat Kohli did not come to bat. Making his comeback in national colours after more than 14 months, Pant made the most of the opportunity and slammed 53 off 32 balls studded with four sixes and as many fours before retiring out. Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya also played quickfire knocks of 31 off 18 balls and 40\* off 23 balls, respectively, to guide the side to 182/5 in 20 overs. "Quite happy with how things went, got what



we wanted with the game. Important to get used to conditions. New venue, new ground and drop-in pitch. (On Pant batting at 3) Just to give him an opportunity.

We haven't nailed the batting line-up yet, we wanted most guys to get a hit in the middle," said Rohit, who contributed 23 off 19 balls. In the bowling department, pacer Arshdeep Singh picked two early wickets to put the opponents on the back foot in the match. He returned with the figures of 2-12 in his three overs while Shivam Dube also scalped two wickets in his three-over spell to restrict Bangladesh to 122/9 in 20 overs. Rohit lauded pacer Arshdeep's effort

and backed his squad for the tournament. "He has shown us he has the skills upfront and also the back-end, he has a very good skill set. We've got good 15 players here, just need to nail down the conditions and pick the best players," said Rohit. India will start their T20 World Cup campaign against Ireland in New York on June 5. Brief scores: India 182/5 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant 53, Hardik Pandya 40 not out, Suryakumar Yadav 31, Rohit Sharma 23; Mahedi Hasan 1-22, Shoriful Islam 1-26) beat Bangladesh 122/9 in 20 overs (Mahmudullah 40, Shakib Al Hasan 29; Arshdeep 2-12, Shivam Dube 2-12) by 60 runs.

## 'Winning an Olympic medal will be major career achievement'

**New Delhi:** As the Indian golfer Aditi Ashok prepares herself for the Paris Olympics, every tournament will count for the 26-year-old athlete in quest of her first medal in her third Summer Games after debuting for India at Rio 2016. It's been a mixed 2024 for Aditi, whose best finish -- tied 35th with a score of 2-under par -- was at the Cognizant Founders Cup in April-May this year. She did not make the cut in her last event, the Mizuho Americas Open at Liberty National, but that's part of the business at the highest level and no reflection on what to expect at the Paris Games or even in your next professional tournament. "I feel I've gotten better with all aspects of my game. Year 2023 especially was a great year performance wise and that's because I managed to pick up some distance in the off season last year.

## Amit & Jaismine bag Paris Olympic tickets

**New Delhi:** 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Amit Panghal (51kg) and Jaismine Lamboria (women's 57 kg) clinched India's fifth and sixth Paris Olympic quotas respectively by winning their quarterfinal bouts in the Boxing World Qualifiers in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sunday. Panghal relied on his quick-fire movement and combination of jabs and uppercuts to overcome a slow start and earn a unanimous 5:0 verdict against China's Liu Chuang in the 51kg quarterfinals while Jaismine, who got a chance to participate in the 57kg category as Boxing Federation of India had to surrender the quota won by Parveen Hooda, defeated Mali's Marine Camara by an identical score line. India had sent a 10-member contingent to Bangkok which included seven men and three women boxers. Nishant Dev became the first Indian male boxer to earn qualification in 71kg category when he defeated Moldova's Vasile Cebotari in the quarterfinals on Friday. India had earlier earned three quotas at the 2022 Asian Games through Nikhat Zareen (women's 50kg), Preeti (54kg) and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) by virtue of all of them finishing on the podium in Guangzhou, Chi-



na. Panghal added to that list on Sunday with a fine display of tenacity and aggression against Chuang, who had drawn first blood by claiming Round 1 4:1 on the back some fine punches. But the Indian national champion came out all guns blazing in Round 2 and attacked relentlessly to grab the advantage, impressing all the five judges. The deciding round was a frantic display of boxing by both pugilists as they attempted to outpunch each other. Panghal ultimately came out on top as he smartly manoeuvred his Chinese opponent and landed his combination on his face and body to clinch the bout with a unanimous verdict. In the evening session, Jaismine justified the selectors decision to field her in 57kg instead of her regular 60kg weight category, where she was a reserve for this event, by dominating all the three rounds against Camara. However, it was disappointing end for Sachin Siwach in the final bout for the Indian contingent as he went down 0:5 against Kyrgyzstan's Munarbek Seitbek Uul in the third place play-off of the men's 57kg category

## Ali crowned Indian Open champion

**Mumbai:** Tamil Nadu surfers swept the top honors in all four categories, men's open, women's open, groms boys & U-16 and groms girls & U-16, at the Indian Open of Surfing at the Sasihithlu beach. Ajeesh Ali, who competed in the Paris Olympics qualifiers (2023 ISA World Surfing Games, El Salvador) last year, was crowned the new IOS champion in the men open category. Teenage sensation Kamali Moorthi completed a double victory by winning both the women open and groms girls & U-16 categories, successfully defending her titles. Another Tamil Nadu teenager, Tayin Arun, impressed the judges with his maneuvers and was crowned the new IOS champion in the groms boys & U-16 category. The final day's action began with the semi-finals of the groms boys and U-16 category. Local favorite Pradeep Pujar led the pack with a score of 8.80, advancing to the finals alongside Prahlad Sriram (8.50), Harish P (8.26), and Tayin Arun (6.76). Speaking on the surfing conditions today

## Head coach Chaoba Devi rallies Indian women's team ahead of Uzbekistan friendly

**Mumbai:** The Indian senior women's football team encountered a defeat in the first of the two friendlies against Uzbekistan, but they don't feel defeated yet. On the eve of the second match on Tuesday, the Blue Tigresses' head coach Langam Chaoba made it clear that she and her wards would be looking forward to dishing out a significantly improved performance against the hosts. After losing the opening friendly 0-3, India will face Uzbekistan again on Tuesday. The match will kick off at 5.30 p.m. IST at the Bunyodkor Stadium, Tashkent, and will be live-streamed on the Uzbekistan FA YouTube channel. Analysing the last match's performance, head coach, Chaoba Devi said, "The result of the first match was not in our favour, as we made numerous mistakes across various areas in our game. It's clear that we need to make significant improvements ahead of our next match tomorrow. "Our primary focus is on our passing, which needs improvement in some areas. Additionally, we have



to strengthen our defensive line and improve our finishing to ensure a more effective performance in tomorrow's game," Chaoba told the-aiff.com from Tashkent. The Blue Tigresses are keenly aware of the challenges that lie ahead of them. Historically, Uzbekistan have had a dominant record against India, winning nine out of the 12 encounters between the two teams. India so far have managed to secure just one victory, with two matches ending in draws. Coach Chaoba is aware of the tests that India are to face on Wednesday and has laid down her strategies. "The first match ended in a heavy loss, but it provided us with valu-

able insights into Uzbekistan's playing style. With this understanding, we have planned our strategies more effectively," she added. After a tough loss, sometimes it can be challenging to find the motivation to push forward. However, the coach has a clear and encouraging message for her team. "My message to the team is to stay confident and believe in yourself. By putting in the hard work and showing determination, we can overcome the challenges and deliver a stronger performance tomorrow. Let's focus on what we can control, learn from our mistakes, and make a comeback even stronger. Together, we can achieve a lot more."

## Esha Singh in final and Ramita Jindal finishes sixth in Munich

**New Delhi:** Esha Singh reached the final of the Women's 25M Pistol, even as Ramita Jindal finished sixth in the Women's 10M Air Rifle on competition Day Two of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Munich on Monday. The day, however, belonged to China as it won the first two gold medals on offer, with Sheng Lihao setting a new world record in the Men's Air Rifle final. Sheng's effort of 254.5 erased Indian Divyansh Singh Panwar's mark of 253.7, set in Cairo earlier this year. Esha's two-day qualification total of 584, gave her the sixth qualifying spot for Tuesday's

final. She shot 291 in the second rapid-fire round on Monday. Meanwhile, Ramita shot 166.3 to bow out sixth in the Women's Air Rifle final. In a battle of teenagers, 17-year-old World Championship silver medallist Huang Yuting (252.7) of China won the title over 16-year-old Korean Ban Hyojin (252.7) off the last shot by the slimmest of margins. India is being represented by a 23-member Rifle and Pistol squad for the ISSF World Cup in Munich. The top three shooters recently seen in action during the first-ever Olympic Selection Trials, mostly make up the squad. India are participating in all 10 Olympic events