

'Nice for them': White House jokes about Putin, Xi meeting



The International Press : The White House said Friday that it had not seen any surprising advance in relations between China and Russia despite Vladimir Putin exchanging a hug with Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing. "Exchanging hugs? Well, that's nice for them," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told a briefing when asked about the significance of photos showing the two US adversaries locked in an embrace. "I'm not good at talking about personal human bodily affection one way or the other. I think I'll leave it to these two gents to talk about why they thought it was good to hug one another," said Kirby, a naval admiral known for his dry remarks from the podium. The United States has

repeatedly voiced concerns about Chinese companies supplying Russia with technology for its invasion of Ukraine. But Kirby said Putin's visit did not seem to have secured any major advances in this regard and Washington had not seen Xi "rush" to assist Moscow's armed forces. "We didn't see anything coming out of this meeting that we were necessarily surprised by," he said. But he added that "I wouldn't go so far as to say we weren't concerned about this relationship and where it's going. "We're watching." Putin arrived Thursday on his first trip abroad since his March re-election, meeting Xi for talks in which the leaders framed their nations' ties as a stabilizing force in a chaotic world.



Kejriwal challenges PM Modi; 'will come to BJP HQ tomorrow, put in jail whoever you want to'

The International Press : The political drama amid the ongoing Lok Sabha polls takes a new turn with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's open challenge to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "put in jail whosoever" he wants to. The AAP supremo said that he would

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go to the BJP headquarters tomorrow along with his party's top leaders, MLAs and MPs at 12 noon and PM Modi can arrest anyone he wants to. "You can see how they (BJP) are after AAP. One after another, they are putting AAP leaders behind bars. They put me, Manish Sisodia, Satyendra Jain, and Sanjay Singh behind bars. Today they put my PA in jail. Now they are saying they will put Raghav Chadha, Atishi, and Saurabh Bharadwaj in jail. Maybe our fault is that we built schools and mohalla clinics, we provided free electricity, but they are unable to do it," Kejriwal said. "I would like to tell the Prime Minister - you are playing this 'jail ka khel'." Tomorrow, I am coming to the BJP headquarters with all my top leaders, MLAs, and MPs at 12 noon. You can put in jail whoever you want," he added.

He then said that his party could not be crushed as Aam Aadmi Party was not just a political party but an "ideology". "You might be thinking that by putting AAP leaders in jail, you will be able to crush AAP but AAP is an ideology that has touched the hearts of people," he said. Kejriwal's remarks came after his aide Bibhav Kumar was arrested following

allegations of assault by AAP MP Swati Maliwal. Maliwal, the former chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), had alleged that she was "slapped, hit on the stomach, and kicked" by Kumar at the Delhi CM's residence on May 13.

The arrest comes a day after Maliwal said that Kumar assaulted her in the drawing room of the Delhi CM's official residence on the morning of May 13 when Kejriwal was present inside the house.

The Rajya Sabha MP also claims that she had informed the staff about her presence and was asked to wait when Kumar suddenly ran into the room and began verbally abusing her.

"I made noise and said 'Let me go,' but he kept beating me continuously and abusing me in Hindi. He threatened, 'We will see, we will deal with it'. I informed him that I was menstruating and in considerable pain, begging him to leave me alone," Maliwal said, as per the FIR. The Delhi CM's aide was also summoned by the National Commission for Women (NCW), on Friday concerning the allegations levelled against him. Reacting to Kumar's arrest, the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) Rekha Sharma took to her official X handle and in a posting wrote, "Delhi CM's aide Bibhav Kumar was arrested from his house. So, the CM was giving shelter to an alleged criminal."

Zelensky expects Russian offensive in northeast Ukraine to intensify



The International Press : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an exclusive interview with AFP on Friday he expects Russia to step up its offensive in the northeast and warned Kyiv only has a quarter of the air defences it needs to hold the front line. Russian forces, which made only moderate advances in recent months, launched a surprise assault in Kharkiv region on May 10 that has resulted in their biggest territorial gains in a year-and-a-half.

Zelensky said Russian troops managed to advance between five to 10 kilometres (3-6 miles) along the northeastern border before being stopped by Ukrainian forces, but added that the region could be the "first wave" in a wider offensive. "I won't say it's a great success (for Russia) but we have to be sober and understand that they are going deeper into our territory," he said, speaking from Kyiv in his first interview with foreign media since the offensive began. Zelensky said the situation in the Kharkiv region has been "controlled" but "not stabilised".

He doubled down on pleas to allies to send more air defence and fighter jets to combat Russia's air superiority as the war grinds through its third year. "Today, we have about 25 percent of what we need to defend Ukraine. I'm talking about air defence," he said. Ukraine needs "120 to 130" F-16 fighter jets or other advanced aircraft to achieve air "parity" with Russia, Zelensky said.

- Kharkiv assault - Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a trip to China this week the northeastern offensive was in retaliation for Ukraine's shelling of border regions and that Moscow was trying to create a "security zone". Russian forces have taken 278 square kilometres (107 square miles) between May 9 and 15, their biggest gains since the end of 2022, AFP calculated using data from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW). Governor Oleg Syngubov said Saturday Ukraine's armed forces had repelled two attempts to break through defences overnight, with the situation "under control".

Ukrainian officials have accused Russian soldiers in Vovchansk of capturing dozens of civilians to use as "human shields" to defend their command headquarters -- a claim AFP was not able to immediately verify. "In the area of the city of Vovchansk, Ukrainian troops are reinforcing their defence to improve the tactical situation," Syngubov said. Ukraine has evacuated almost 10,000 people from the northeast border area since Russia launched the assault. Putin said there was no intention at this stage to take Kharkiv, Ukraine's second city, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the border. More than one million people still live there. Military analysts say the northeastern offensive could aim to further stretch Ukrainian troops and resources, with Russia pressing its manpower and ammunition advantage. Ukraine army chief Oleksandr Syrsky said

Russia was trying to force Ukraine to pull up even more troops from its reserves. "We realise that there will be heavy fighting ahead and the enemy is preparing for it," he said.

- 'Nonsense situation' - As he anticipates a widening Russian offensive, Zelensky acknowledged issues with staffing and "morale" within Ukraine's often outgunned and outmanned ranks. "We need to staff the reserves... A large number of (brigades) are empty," Zelensky told AFP.

With no end to the war in sight, Ukraine's army is struggling to recruit, while fighters are growing exhausted and angry at the lack of rotation.

Many Ukrainian soldiers have been fighting for more than two years without the possibility of being discharged. Under a controversial mobilisation law that comes into force Saturday, Kyiv has lowered the age at which men can be drafted from 27 to 25 and tightened punishments for those who avoid being called up. But lawmakers scrapped a proposal to grant soldiers who have served for more than 36 months the option to be discharged.

As Western allies press for a quick end to the war, Zelensky insisted Ukraine is still playing the long game. "The West wants the war to end. Period. As soon as possible. And, for them, this is a fair peace," he said. "We are in a nonsense situation where the West is afraid that Russia will lose the war. And it does not want Ukraine to lose it," Zelensky said.

INAUGURATION OF UMEED NIKETAN BY PRESIDENT AIR FORCE FAMILY WELFARE ASSOCIATION



The International Press : Mrs. Neeta Chaudhari, President Air Force Family Welfare Association visited Base Repair Depot Air Force Palam on 17 May 24 and inaugurated Umeed Niketan, an advanced Therapy Centre for children with special needs. Mrs. Neeta Chaudhari and other esteemed dignitaries were received by Air Commodore Harsh Bahl, Air Officer Commanding, Depot and Wing Commander (Mrs) Reena Bahl (Retd) President Air Force Family Welfare Association (Local). The Umeed Niketan has been conceived and conceptualized to create a nurturing environment where children with special needs can think, grow and learn to develop life skills through recreational activities tailored to their unique abilities. From sensory exploratory, speech therapy to adaptive sports and interactive immersive experience, the center offers diverse range of programmes designed to promote physical, emotional and social well being of special children. The Umeed Niketan would cater to nearly 55 specially abled children who are helped by a dedicated team of trained special educators. The inauguration was held in a befitting manner and was attended by all the regional Presidents of Air Force Family Welfare Associations from across the country. In addition, spouses of all senior Air Marshals from Delhi area were also present to witness this heartwarming inauguration. This special event underscores IAF's ongoing commitments for improving the facilities for the welfare of the Air Force families.

Workshop focused on bridging the standardization gap by building capacity of faculty members of engineering colleges of Delhi & NCR



The International Press : A one-day workshop on "Global Standards & IPR" highlighted the importance of "Global Standards & IPR" for any country's development. A precursor to the significant World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTS) scheduled to be hosted by India from October 15-24, 2024, the workshop also provided a platform for national stakeholders to forge global partnerships and align with international best practices in telecommunications standards. The workshop was hosted by National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), Ghaziabad under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in collaboration with International

Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office and Innovation Centre, New Delhi, at its campus in Ghaziabad on 17th May, 2024, to commemorate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The event was inaugurated by Telecommunications Secretary, Dr Neeraj Mittal. Officers from DoT, ITU experts, Faculty members and students from Engineering Colleges of Delhi and NCR attended the workshop. Shri Atul Sinha, DDO (ICT), NTIPRIT welcomed the dignitaries and all the participants to the workshop. In his inaugural address, Dr Neeraj Mittal emphasized the critical importance of global collaboration in standardization to spur innovation and technological

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FSSAI Alerts Fruit Traders to Ensure Compliance with Prohibition of Calcium Carbide in Fruit Ripening

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has alerted traders/fruits handlers/Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating ripening chambers to strictly ensure compliance with the prohibition on calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits, particularly



MAROON BERET CEREMONIAL PARADE AT GARUD REGIMENTAL TRAINING CENTRE AIR FORCE STATION CHANDINAGAR

To mark the successful completion of training of Air Force Special Forces 'Garud' Commandos, Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade was held on 18 May 2024 at Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar.



Editorial

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Celebrates International Women in Maritime Day

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) celebrated the International Day for Women in Maritime, today in New Delhi, honouring the vital contributions of women seafarers. This year's theme, "Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety," underscores the importance of safety and security of women in the maritime sector. During the celebration, 27 women seafarers from various marine institutes pursuing different degrees in maritime field and some professionals from the field were recognized for their dedication and significant contributions to the maritime industry. These women exemplify the strength and resilience required to thrive in a traditionally male-dominated field, and their achievements are paving the way for future generations of women in maritime. Secretary Shri T K Ramachandran said "On this International Day for Women in Maritime, we honor the invaluable contributions of women in the maritime sector. Their dedication and expertise are crucial as we navigate towards a more sustainable and equitable future. We must continue to break down barriers and create opportunities for women in this industry. Together, we can achieve a balanced, diverse, and prosperous maritime community." He said "This year's theme, Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety," emphasizes the significant impact women have on maritime safety. It highlights the critical importance of

security within the industry and acknowledges the essential role women play in ensuring safe operations and protecting lives at sea." The celebration highlighted the importance of gender equality as a key pillar for a sustainable future, as recognized in Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda. MoPSW is committed to supporting and empowering women in maritime through various initiatives and partnerships, including collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other industry stakeholders. Over the last 9 years, the number of seafarers has increased by 140%. In 2014, the total count of active Indian Seafarers was 117,090 which surged to 280,000 in 2023. The Directorate General of Shipping had approximately registered 1,699 women seafarers in 2014 which has now increased to 10,440 in 2023 reflecting an increase of 514% in the registered women Indian Seafarers. Presently, total women seafarers/indos registered as on 15.05.2024 is 13371 while active women seafarers till 31.12.2023 is 4770.



FSSAI Alerts Fruit Traders to Ensure Compliance with Prohibition of Calcium Carbide in Fruit Ripening

The International Press : The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has alerted traders/fruits handlers/Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating ripening chambers to strictly ensure compliance with the prohibition on calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits, particularly during the mango season. FSSAI is also advising Food Safety Departments of States/UTs to remain vigilant and take serious action and deal stringently against person(s) indulging in such unlawful practices as per the provisions of FSS Act, 2006 and Rules/Regulations made thereunder. Calcium carbide, commonly used for ripening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus. These substances, also known as 'Masala', can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty

in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers, etc. Additionally, acetylene gas is equally hazardous to those handling it. There are chances that calcium carbide may come in direct contact with fruits during application and leave residues of arsenic and phosphorus on fruits. Due to these dangers, the use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits has been banned under Regulation 2.3.5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011. This regulation explicitly states, "No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas." Considering the issue of rampant use of banned calcium carbide, FSSAI has permitted the use of ethylene gas as a safer alternative for fruit ripening in India. Ethylene gas can be used at

concentrations up to 100 ppm (100 µl/L), depending upon the crop, variety and maturity. Ethylene, a naturally occurring hormone in fruits, regulates the ripening process by initiating and controlling a series of chemical and biochemical activities. The treatment of unripe fruits with ethylene gas triggers the natural ripening process until the fruit itself starts producing ethylene in substantial quantities. Further, the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB & RC) has approved Ethepon 39% SL for the uniform ripening of mangoes and other fruits. FSSAI has published a comprehensive guidance document titled "Artificial Ripening of Fruits - Ethylene gas a safe fruit ripener" (https://www.fssai.gov.in/uploads/uploadfiles/files/Guidance_Note_Ver2_Artificial_Ripening_Fruits_03_01_2019_Revised_10_02_2020.pdf) suggesting

the Food Business Operators to follow the procedure for artificial ripening of fruits. This document outlines a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) incorporating all aspects of artificial ripening of fruits by ethylene gas viz. Restrictions, Requirements for Ethylene Ripening System/Chamber, handling conditions, Sources of Ethylene Gas, Protocol for application of Ethylene gas from various sources, post treatment operations, safety guidelines etc. In case any use of Calcium Carbide or any wrong practice of using ripening agents for artificial ripening of fruits is noticed by the consumers, the same may be brought to the notice of concerned State Commissioners of Food Safety for taking action against such violators. The details of the Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs are available on the below-mentioned link: <https://www.fssai.gov.in/cms/c Commissioners-of-food-safety.php>.

MAROON BERET CEREMONIAL PARADE AT GARUD REGIMENTAL TRAINING CENTRE AIR FORCE STATION CHANDINAGAR



The International Press : To mark the successful completion of training of Air Force Special Forces 'Garud' Commandos, Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade was held on 18 May 2024 at Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar. Air Marshal PK Vohra, Senior Air Staff Officer, Western Air Command was the Reviewing officer for the parade. The Reviewing Officer congratulated the Garuds on successful completion of their training. He emphasised the importance of rigorous training and honing of Special Forces skills to keep pace with the changing security scenario. He presented Maroon Beret, Garud Proficiency Badge and

Special Forces Tabs to the successful Garud trainees and gave away trophies to the meritorious trainees. The best all-rounder trophy was presented to Flight Lieutenant Shashwat Rana. As part of the ceremony, Garuds demonstrated combat firing skill, hostage rescue, firing drill, assault explosives, obstacle crossing drill, wall climbing, slithering, rappelling and military martial arts. The Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade is a significant event that marks the culmination of an extremely demanding training schedule. These newly passed out trainees enter the elite Garud force and add strength to the operational capability of IAF.

Modi is the most powerful and Tiwari is the most educated in Varanasi



Dr. Samrendra Pathak Senior journalist. Varanasi, 18 May 2024. The International Press : Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency which is the most high profile seat of the country, the most powerful leader is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the most educated candidate is independent



Sanjay Kumar Tiwari. This time 7 candidates are in the fray from this area. 41 candidates had filed their nominations. Voting will be held here in the last phase of voting on June 1. The last date for nomination in Varanasi was May 14. A total of 41 candidates had filed nominations, but out of

these only 7 candidates are left. Congress has fielded Ajay Rai. According to the Election Commission, among the valid nomination papers in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is from BJP, Congress- Ajay Rai, BSP- Athar Jamal Lari, Apna Dal Kamerawadi- Gagan Prakash, Yug Tulsi Party-

Koli Shetty Shivkumar, Independent- Sanjay Kumar Tiwari and Independent- Dinesh Kumar Yadav. Prime Minister Modi is trying his luck from here for the third time. He had won the elections of 2014 and 2019. For the first time in the electoral history of Varanasi Lok Sabha seat, there are seven candidates in the fray. Before this, the maximum number of 47 candidates were in the election field in 1996 and the least in 1977 was 11 candidates. On the other hand, a farmer leader from Tamil Nadu also wanted to contest elections from Varanasi, but he got a setback from the Supreme Court. The court refused to consider his petition to extend the deadline for filing nomination papers. The court termed the petition as an application filed to gain publicity.

Mala Roy makes public relations at Port Assembly during her road show



Jaydeep Yadav Kolkata. The International Press : The great battle of general elections is in full swing and all the election experts are engaged in election campaign. Trinamool candidate from Kolkata South Lok Sabha constituency

Mala Roy is also engaged in a stormy election campaign. In this sequence, She campaigned in the Port assembly constituency, during Her campaign people welcomed Mala Roy. Along with Mala Roy, state minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad

Hakim and Ward 134 councillor Shams Iqbal Anil were also present. Kolkata South Lok Sabha Trinamool candidate Mala Roy conducted election public relations campaign in Kolkata Port Assembly Ward 133, 134, 135, 78 and 79.

News Continue

Contd. from P/1

Workshop focused on bridging the standardization gap by building capacity of faculty members of engineering colleges of Delhi & NCR

advancement. Shri A K Sahu, Member (S), highlighted the importance of National contribution in the global standardization process. Shri R R Mittar, DG (T), elaborated on the nuances of the Telecom Standards. Shri R Shukya, Senior Advisor, ITU Area Office, New Delhi, in his special address urged the participants to proactively involve with ITU activities in standardization domain. He also detailed about the WTSA-24. Shri Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, Director General, NTIPRIT spoke about the spirit of cooperation and partnership and highlighted the objectives and overviews of the workshop. Mr Martin Adolph, Study Group Counsellor, ITU, provided an overview about the ITU, its activities and the importance of global standards in Technical/Engineering Education. Shri Sharad Arora, CEO of Mashmari, explained the standardization processes and their critical impact on technical education. Dr Klutso Milleth from CEWIT, IIT Madras, delved into the complexities of Standard Essential Patents (SEP) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in technical education and projects. Shri U K Srivastava chaired a panel discussion on leveraging Global standards and IPR for innovation and competitiveness. The workshop sets the stage for enhanced participation of Indian experts in the upcoming WTSA-2024 and provided an extensive opportunity to the participants to engage with global standards and intellectual property dynamics.

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ECl crusade against narcotics continues; Drugs amount to 45% of seizures

Election Commission's determined and concerted assault on money power and inducements in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections has resulted in staggering seizures worth Rs 8889 crores by the agencies. Enhanced vigil



Abhijeet gets popular in Egypt for resemblance with former president

Singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya, who is well known for his songs, recently gained popularity in Egypt for a unique reason. Recently, people from Egypt have been calling him the doppelganger of the late Egyptian president Hosni



ECl crusade against narcotics continues; Drugs amount to 45% of seizures



The International Press : Election Commission's determined and concerted assault on money power and inducements in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections has resulted in staggering seizures worth Rs 8889 crores by the agencies. Enhanced vigil against inducements including drugs and psychotropic substances has resulted in big seizure actions and continuous surge. Drug seizures have been maximum. Regular follow-ups and reviews of districts and agencies in areas of expenditure monitoring, precise data interpretation and active participation of enforcement agencies have led to this significant spurt in seizures since March 1. The seizure of drugs, liquor, precious metals, freebies, cash influences elections in varying degrees, some flowing directly as inducement while others through reduced levels of circulation of money. This, thereby, adversely impacts linkages of proceeds of illegal activities to political campaigns. Detailed report at Annexure A. The Commission has laid special emphasis on seizure of Narcotics and Psychotropic substances. Analysis of data found that states/UTs which used to be transit zones are increasingly becoming consumption territories. Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Rajiv Kumar addressing the nodal agencies during one of the review visits had said "Precise intel-based collaborative efforts by agencies against drugs and narcotics is need of the hour to root out the role of dirty money of drug trade in elections and more important and holistically, to save future of youth and thereby, country". The contribution of seizure of drugs is Rs. 3958 Crores which is 45% of total seizures. The Commission led by CEC Sh. Rajiv Kumar along with ECs Sh. Gyanesh Kumar and Sh. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu held meetings with DG, Narcotics Control Bureau to take up analytics-based proactive action for ensuring action by dedicated Nodal Officers of NCB. Similarly active involvement of DRI, Indian Coast Guard, State police and other agencies was ensured during ongoing elections. All these measures have led to significant seizures in two months post announcement of polls. With increasing intensity of campaigning in last three phases, Commission is keeping close tab on attempts at influencing voters through inducements and has directed the CEOs and enforcement agencies to step up the vigil. The crusade against drugs and other inducements by the

Commission will continue. Gujarat ATS, NCB and Indian Coast Guard, in joint operations have made three high-value seizures of drugs in just three days amounting to Rs 892 crores. These elections have witnessed a series of targeted actions against the menace of drugs. Other states apart from Gujarat, Maharashtra and Delhi have also shown seizures of drugs. On 17.04.2024 Noida Police busted drug factory in Greater Noida wherein 26.7 kg of MDMA drug valued at Rs. 150 Crore were seized and two persons of foreign origin were arrested. The seizures in other cohorts have equally been impressive and surpasses the entire seizures of 2019 Parliamentary Elections by a big margin. Meticulous and exhaustive planning stands at its base. Realtime reporting of interceptions and seizures under the Election Seizure Management System (ESMS)- an in-house app has resulted in quick, regular and precise reviews on expenditure monitoring. In addition, 656 Expenditure observers deployed for Parliamentary Constituencies and 125 expenditure observers are also keeping a close tab on check posts, functioning of ground level teams and are actively monitoring that citizens are not put to discomfort in the process of monitoring. A close vigil is also kept in 123 Parliamentary Constituencies which are marked as Expenditure Sensitive Constituencies for more focussed vigil

Background
The process of motivating agencies and having an active interface started in full force during last quarter of 2023. In first two months of the calendar year, already Rs. 6760 Crores worth of drugs were seized which conveyed a message that Commission has a 'zero-tolerance' approach to any form of inducements which may influence the voters. The commitment of the Commission to contribute in crusade of drugs particularly during enforcement of MCC has gathered momentum in last couple of years. Apart from the seizures made recently as mentioned above, last two years has also seen huge seizures being made during the operation of Model Code of Conduct in previously conducted Assembly Elections in last few states. Along with free, fair, participative and violence connotation, "inducement-free" dimension has also been added as top priority for qualitative election

889 candidates to contest elections across 8 States/ UTs going for polls in Phase 6 of Lok Sabha Elections 2024



The International Press : 889 candidates from 8 States/UTs to contest elections in Phase-6 of Lok Sabha Elections 2024. This includes 20 contesting candidates for the adjourned poll in 3-Anantnag-Rajouri PC of Jammu and Kashmir. A total of 1978 nominations were filed for 57 PCs across the 7 States/UTs going for polls in this phase. The last date for filing nominations for phase 6 for all 07 States/UTs (excluding adjourned poll in PC 3- Anantnag-Rajouri of Jammu & Kashmir) was May 06, 2024. After the scrutiny of all nominations filed, 900 nominations were found to be valid. In 3-Anantnag-Rajouri, total 28 nominations were filed in Phase 3 and 21 nominations were found to be valid. In phase-6, Uttar

Pradesh had a maximum of 470 nomination forms from 14 Parliamentary Constituencies, followed by Haryana with 370 nominations from 10 PCs. 8-Ranchi Parliamentary Constituency in

Jharkhand received the maximum of nominations with 70 forms filed followed by 2-North East Delhi PC in NCT of Delhi with 69 nomination forms. Average number of contesting candidates in a PC for 6th Phase is 15.

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সুন্দরবন স্মরণে ঘুরে দেখতে চান

সুন্দরবনের বেড়াতে যাওয়ার বিশ্বস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান

খাকা খাওয়ার সুব্যবস্থা রয়েছে

স্বল্প খরচে ছোট ছোট টুরের জন্য যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন

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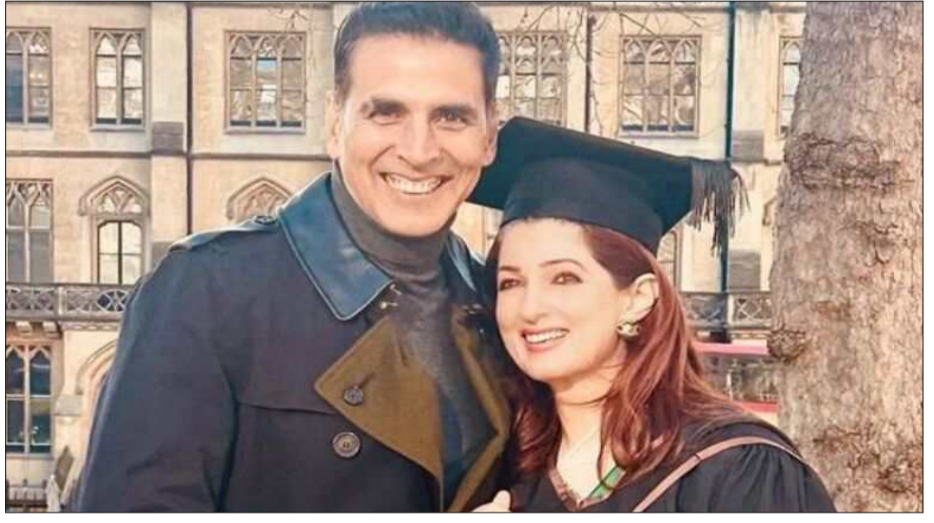
CINEMA

Twinkle Khanna On 'Transformation From Hot Chick To Cow' After First Pregnancy; Actress Recalls Hubby Akshay Kumar Reaction

The International Press : Known for her unapologetic personality, former Bollywood actress-turned-author Twinkle Khanna never shies away from expressing herself. She often opens up about her life experiences, personal as well as professional, leaving netizens in awe of her revelations. With changing times, many actresses have openly spoken about motherhood and how it has brought a change in their perspective. In a recent column for The Times Of India, Twinkle opened up about the moment she realised that she had transformed 'from a hot chick to a cow'.

initiation into motherhood took place in 2002 when her son was born. Comparing what motherhood meant when she was a kid to what she is like now, she added, "My initiation into motherhood began in 2002 when my son was born. This was the time when my husband (Akshay Kumar) told a visitor that I was unavailable because I was 'milking' and immediately sealed my transformation from a hot chick to a cow..."

Talking about the challenges of having a baby, she wrote that women must breastfeed their babies, but should not have 'droopy breasts'. While they must feed their kids the right 'combination of nutrients,' they themselves must avoid eating leftovers so that they have "waistlines we once had before these creatures turned our wombs into their personal campervans."



DID YOU KNOW? Janhvi Kapoor Designed Her Promotional Outfits For Her Upcoming Film Mr And Mrs Mahi!- Check It OUT

The International Press : As she prepares for the release of her upcoming movie 'Mr and Mrs Mahi,' following two years of rigorous training and overcoming challenges like a shoulder dislocation, Janhvi recently caught attention at a promotional event. Wearing a striking red dress featuring season ball designs at the back, she showcased her penchant for innovation, demonstrating yet again her multifaceted talents beyond acting. What most people don't know about this is, that this innovative idea was Janhvi Kapoor's herself!

Her upcoming film, is all about love and love for cricket - and as she captioned it on a recent post, "Miliye Mr aur Mrs Mahi se, inke liye life is cricket aur cricket is life", Janhvi really made sure that fans anticipate her

upcoming release and make it a must watch in theatres! Not only this, even yesterday, Janhvi was seen wearing a purple blouse with a black and white skirt, with the number 6. When

questioned by a paparazzi, she said - "Iss Mahi ka jersey number 6 hai!" As she continues to design all her upcoming outfits for the promotions of her film, we're anticipating what more innovations she's going to stun us with! On the work front, apart from Mr & Mrs Mahi, Janhvi has - Ulajh, Devara, Karna, RC16, Sunny Sanskari ki Tulse Kumari & more unannounced projects!

Abhijeet gets popular in Egypt for resemblance with former president



The International Press : Singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya, who is well known for his songs, recently gained popularity in Egypt for a unique reason. Recently, people from Egypt have been calling him the doppelganger of the late Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. Abhijeet has also been getting requests from the people of Egypt to visit their country. A few weeks ago, Abhijeet shared a picture collage of himself and the late Egyptian president on Instagram. He added the title song of Main Khiladi Tu Anari (1994) as the background music. He captioned the post, "Wow!! I am trending in #Egypt #HosniMubarak." He also wrote in the comments section, "See you soon, my dear friends. My families are there. in #Egypt. I love you Egypt."

whom we are missing a lot," read a comment. An Instagram user said, "You make all the Egyptian people happy to see him again in your face and your voice, thanks." Speaking with New Lines a few days ago, Abhijeet had said, "My social media has been flooded with comments in the last three weeks. Initially, I thought I was being spammed. Even though I cannot understand Arabic, I am overwhelmed with the love and response from the entire Arab community." He added, "My understanding is that people feel that after the former leader died, he came to India and took refuge in my body. So they are apologizing to him and want him to return to help them solve the problems the country has been facing, such as rising inflation, and that they will listen to everything that he says."

Mbappe wins award for France's player of the year

Kylian Mbappe was named France's player of the year on Monday at an awards ceremony in Paris, as he comes to the end of his seven-season stay with Paris Saint-Germain. Mbappe, 25, picked up the prize for the best



Rohit Sharma eyes retirement from T20I cricket: report

The upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 could be Rohit Sharma's last appearance in T20I cricket as the Indian great is likely to call time on his shorter format career in international cricket, reported Indian media on Monday.



ICC announces Player of the Month for April winners



The International Press : The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced the winners of Men's and Women's Player of the Month for April winners. West Indies' skipper Hayley Matthews bagged the Women's Player of the Month award after leading her side to remarkable triumph during their tour to Pakistan where they clinched both T20I and ODI series. West Indies first white-washed Pakistan in the

three-match ODI series and Matthews was one of their outstanding performers as she scored two centuries, 140 not out and 141 in the first and third ODI. Meanwhile, in the second match, she took her side over the line by scoring 44 runs and recording a last-ball win. Meanwhile, in T20Is, she once again stepped up and scored 205 runs in the series, which was the most. "I am really happy to win the award again. These performances

resulted in the team's success and that's the most important thing for me as captain," Matthews said as quoted by the ICC. "To win in Pakistan was always a big goal. I wanted to perform well and contribute to the team's success so to be able to have performances and get the results, that was really good and showed that the hard work and the concentration in Pakistan paid off. "Being able to set some new records and

achieve some new milestones as well was good for me so I'm extremely happy. We have confidence and we will take this with us going into the tour of Sri Lanka and look to score more crucial points in the ICC Women's Championship." Meanwhile, UAE's Mohammad Waseem clinched the Men's Player of the Month for April prize and became the first player from the country to bag the award. Waseem guided UAE

to ACC Premier Cup victory in Oman and also amassed 269 runs during the month at an average of 44.83, which included an astounding 56-ball century in the final match against the hosts. "It is a great honour to win the ICC Men's Player of the Month award. I am thrilled to join a distinguished list of award winners from around the world," Waseem said. "The award is a big motivation for players especially those from emerging cricket teams like the UAE. Last month, our goal in the ACC Premier Cup in Oman was to qualify for next year's Asia Cup and I am proud of my team and their performance in the tournament. "At a personal level, I am happy that I led the team from the front, especially in the final. Scoring a century in a big game is indeed a special moment, especially when it helps the team to victory. I look forward to our preparations for the Asia Cup and my aim is to continue to deliver for the team with the bat and lead by example in these exciting times for UAE cricket."

Mbappe wins award for France's player of the year



The International Press : Kylian Mbappe was named France's player of the year on Monday at an awards ceremony in Paris, as he comes to the end of his seven-season stay with Paris Saint-Germain. Mbappe, 25, picked up the prize for the best player in Ligue 1 at the UNFP (French players' union) Trophies gala for the fifth time in a row after a season in which he has scored 44 goals in all competitions for PSG. The France captain last week confirmed he will leave PSG at the end of the campaign when his contract expires, with Real Madrid expected to be his next destination. "It is a page that is turning, a chapter of my life that is going to close," Mbappe said. "Ligue 1 will always have an important place in my life. It is the only league I have known in my career up to now. "I have always tried to be an honourable representative of this league," he added. "I will miss it for sure. It is a part of my life that is coming to an end. What is coming next is very exciting but that is something else." Mbappe played his final home game for PSG on Sunday and scored as the champions suffered a shock

3-1 defeat against Toulouse. That goal took him to 27 for the season in Ligue 1, eight goals more than the next best marksman, Lille's Canadian striker Jonathan David. The season is not finished yet, with Mbappe's PSG having two more Ligue 1 games to play this week before the French Cup final against Lyon on May 25. Mbappe saw off the other nominees for an award voted for by his fellow players and handed over by Marie-Jose Perek, the French former 200m and 400m Olympic champion. His PSG teammate Ousmane Dembele had also been in contention along with Pierre Lees-Melou of Brest, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Marseille and Edon Zhegrova of Lille. PSG's domestic dominance was reflected in the other awards, with teenage midfielder Warren Zaire-Emery named young player of the season and Gianluigi Donnarumma the best goalkeeper. Eric Roy of Brest was named coach of the year after leading the modest Brittany club to European qualification for the first time in their history -- with one game left they are guaranteed to finish at least fifth, meaning a Europa League place at worst.

Rohit Sharma eyes retirement from T20I cricket: report



The International Press : The upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 could be Rohit Sharma's last appearance in T20I cricket as the Indian great is likely to call time on his shorter format career in international cricket, reported Indian media on Monday. Sharma, who replaced Virat Kohli as India's skipper across formats in 2021, led the Blues in the T20 World Cup 2022 as well as the 2023 World Cup and the World Test Championship 2021-2023. According to the report by Dainik Jagran, Sharma's decision to retire from T20Is is directly linked with Hardik Pandya's inclusion in India's World Cup squad. The report states that the all-rounder wasn't selected for the mega event due to his performances, but because the Indian board sees him as the future captain. After Pandya was appointed as Mumbai Indians' (MI) captain ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, things didn't go smoothly in MI's dressing room as his relationship with Sharma isn't the best. Sharma had led MI for 10 consecutive years before being replaced by Pandya. The decision wasn't welcomed by fans as the all-rounder was booed on multiple occasions in the tournament. The report stated that while the foreign players have no problems with Pandya's captaincy, the local players in MI's squad continue to look at Rohit. India earlier announced their squad for the mega event where the likes of KL Rahul, Rituraj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan and others couldn't make it to the 18-member contention while Shubman Gill and Rinku Singh were named in the travelling reserves. Remember, India is in Group A with arch-rivals Pakistan and the two sides will take on one another in one of the most anticipated matches of the World Cup on June 9 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York. India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad Rohit Sharma (captain), Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj. Reserves: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan

Barcelona beat Real Sociedad to move second



The International Press : Lamine Yamal and Raphinha struck to earn Barcelona a 2-0 win over Real Sociedad on Monday, taking their team second, a point above Catalan rivals Girona. Defeat is a setback to La Real's ambitions of playing Europa League football next season, leaving them seventh behind Real Betis, who won on Sunday. Last season's champions Barcelona are playing for nothing but pride in the final weeks of a disappointing campaign, and finishing above high-flying minnows Girona is imperative to achieve even a modicum of that. Real Madrid sealed their title win at a canter after Barcelona were beaten 4-2 by Girona little over a week ago. Barca's brightest light Yamal opened the scoring after 40 minutes and Raphinha added a late penalty to seal the win. "La Real are a great team, it's an important victory for us, we had a good game in general," Barca coach Xavi told Movistar. Xavi benched Uruguayan centre-back Ronald Araujo, bereft of form this season and whose red card against Paris Saint-Germain contributed heavily to their Champions League collapse. With Madrid swiping La Liga back off the Catalans, they end the season trophyless and licking their wounds. Xavi, who will stay in charge next season after ditching his exit plan, started defender Inigo Martinez in place of Araujo and

Pedri Gonzalez in midfield. The Canary Islander is still building form and fitness after a string of injury problems ahead of Euro 2024, and helped Barca control the game. Striker Robert Lewandowski was unusually active in his team's pressing, perhaps motivated by the race to finish as La Liga's top scorer. At the other end Marc-Andre ter Stegen denied Sheraldo Becker after he burst beyond Pau Cubarsi, but the Suriname international had pushed the young defender in any case. Shortly afterwards Becker got in behind Barcelona's high line again and this time fired home, but was correctly flagged offside. Real Sociedad stopper Alex Remiro saved well from Yamal after the 16-year-old winger combined with Ilkay Gundogan to break into the area. Raphinha struck the post towards the end of the first half with a long-range effort and Gundogan turned the rebound over after it fell to him at an awkward angle. It was a warning Real Sociedad did not heed with Yamal sending Barca ahead soon after. Lewandowski fed Gundogan well with a low through-ball and the German teed up the winger to steer home his fifth league goal of the season. "We leave here hurt - Barcelona started the second half strongly with Raphinha twice coming close with fine long-range efforts. Real Sociedad almost levelled

when Brais Mendez won the ball back high up and fired inches wide of Ter Stegen's far post. Remiro denied Barca substitute Ferran Torres and Yamal's effort was deflected wide after a fine solo dribble with the hosts struggling to kill off the game. Eventually they managed it to a penalty -- with VAR calling the referee to check the incident long after it occurred -- and Raphinha dispatched it with aplomb. "They took a few minutes to go to the VAR (but) if they gave it then it was a penalty," said Real Sociedad midfielder Benat Turrientes. "We leave here hurt, we came to win, we've got a lot on the line to try and get into Europe and I think we had chances, especially in the first half, to go in front. "If you don't score these teams end up scoring against you." Xavi took off Lewandowski with 15 minutes remaining and the Polish forward, who has 17 goals to his name this season in La Liga, trailing Girona's Artem Dovbyk by three, did not seem thrilled by the decision. "We needed more fuel, more legs, we put in great effort and Robert did very good work," said Xavi. "I understand Lewandowski's annoyance. I didn't like being taken off either." Barcelona face Almeria on Thursday and Rayo Vallecano on Sunday as they try to stay in second place.

Suarez on target as Miami fight back in Montreal



The International Press : Inter Miami fought back from two goals down to win 3-2 at Montreal in Major League Soccer on Saturday with Luis Suarez on target again as the league leaders won their fifth straight game. Miami have made a habit of slow starts this season and they were caught cold yet again when Montreal took the lead in the 22nd minute to the delight of a capacity crowd. Former Miami player Bryce Duke slipped the ball between the legs of Drake Callender after clever work from Jules-Anthony Vilsaint down the left. Montreal thought they should have had a penalty when Mathieu Choiniere went down under a challenge from Marcelo Weigandt but referee Drew Fischer waved away the appeals. Montreal had enjoyed an upset win in Florida against a weakened Miami team in March and another surprise looked on the cards when they went 2-0 up in the 32nd. Vilsaint collected Ariel

Lassiter's sharp pull back from the left and showed great poise as he picked his spot with a side-foot finish into the far corner. Lionel Messi briefly left the field for attention after a heavy challenge and while the Argentine was on the sidelines, his team won a free-kick in the area -- where the World Cup winner can be so deadly. In the absence of the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner, Paraguayan Matias Rojas took the free-kick and delivered a finish worthy of his captain, curling the ball over the wall and into the corner. On the stroke of half-time, Miami drew level when Julian Gressel whipped in a low corner and Suarez bundled the ball home from close range for his 11th league goal of the season. Miami looked a different team and it was no surprise when they got the winner in the 59th minute, the impressive Rojas clipping the ball over a pushed up Montreal defence and Benjamin Cremaschi latched on to the pass before poking home.

Montreal produced some late pressure but Miami held firm as they secured their eighth win in 13 games. Inter coach Gerardo Martino said he had taken the wrong approach to the match. "I shouldn't change the way the team plays, we didn't feel comfortable, today I tried to change it because of the strengths the opponent and in the minutes I tried to do it we were losing 2-0," he said. - Crew defeated - MLS champions Columbus Crew capped a 2-1 defeat in the Ohio derby at home to FC Cincinnati, who avenged their loss to their in-state rivals in last year's Eastern Conference final. Cincy, second in the East, went ahead in the 74th minute when MLS Most Valuable Player Luciano Acosta got to the byline and chipped a cross to the back post which was headed in by Kevin Kelsy. Two minutes later, Acosta doubled the advantage, picking up a smart ball from Pavel Bucha and showing his smart footwork before slotting home.

Maximilian Arfsten pulled a goal back for Columbus in the 89th minute but it was too late for a comeback from Wilfried Nancy's side. Belgian international Christian Benteke scored a hat-trick of headers as D.C. United won 3-2 at Atlanta, including a 55th minute bullet from a corner to win the contest. Colombian Luis Muriel scored twice for Orlando City as they pulled off an impressive 3-2 win at the Philadelphia Union. Muriel, the former Atlanta winger fired Orlando in a 2-1 lead in the 42nd minute with a stunning long-distance strike after cutting in from the right. He added a second just after the break, with a calm finish after he was put through on goal by Nicolas Lodeiro and although Daniel Gazdag got one back for Philadelphia from the spot, Orlando took the three points. Brazilian Joao Klaus scored a brace for St.Louis in their 3-1 derby win over the Chicago Fire, while in the Texas derby, Dallas beat Austin 2-1.