

On World Environment Day, PM Modi Launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a tree plantation campaign by planting a sapling at the Buddha Jayanti Park here to mark World Environment Day. Under the campaign, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', millions of trees will be planted across the country. In a series of posts on X, Modi said he was delighted to launch the campaign. "This morning, I planted a tree in line with our commitment to protecting Mother Nature and making sustainable lifestyle choices. I urge you all to also contribute to making our planet better," he said. "It would make you all very happy that in the last decade, India has undertaken numerous collective efforts which have led to increased forest cover across the nation.



This is great for our quest for sustainable development. It is also commendable how local communities have risen to the occasion and taken a lead in this," he added. The prime minister urged people to plant trees in their mothers' names and share pictures online using #Plant4Mother. Union Envi-

ronment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena joined Modi at the event. Narendra Modi is set to form the government for a historic third term, with his oath-taking ceremony set for June 8, following the BJP-led NDA's win in the Lok Sabha elections. Modi will be

the second Prime Minister in Indian history to achieve this feat after the country's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, served three consecutive terms. PM Modi on Wednesday tendered his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, who accepted it and asked him to continue till the new government assumes office, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said. "The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, met the President today and tendered his resignation along with the Council of Ministers. "The President has accepted the resignation and requested Shri Narendra Modi and the Council of Ministers to continue till the new Government assumes office," the communique said.

NASA Scientists Confirm Moon Has Been Shrinking

Washington: The moon impacts the life on Earth. It is being claimed on social media that the moon is shrinking due to seismic activities. This was discovered by examining photos of thrust faults on the lunar surface. According to the report, the moon has been shrinking in radius over the last several hundred million years. Currently, its core has shrunk by about 50 meters, i.e., 164 feet. Scientists have found this to be true after analyzing thrust fault pictures on the moon's surface. These pictures were taken by Apollo astronauts and recently by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. Researchers found some flaws in the seismometers left on the moon during the Apollo era. Scientists have also found that the moon has an inner core with a radius of about 500 kilometers. It is partially molten but much less dense than the Earth's core. Its inner part is still very cold and is shrinking. Its outer part, i.e., the crust, is very fragile. So, as the inner part shrinks, the crust breaks, resulting in some parts of the crust being pulled towards the



core. Some of the lines on the moon are cracks and wrinkles formed by that slow contraction. Evidence suggests that this process continues even today. The stress on the moon due to the gravity of the Earth has a greater effect. Now the question is, will it affect humans? According to scientists, this is not necessary. The rate of shrinkage of the moon is prolonged. For now, due to the shrinkage of the moon, the apparent size of the moon in the sky will not change so much that it starts affecting humans. Since its mass is not decreasing, the gravitational force between the Earth and the Moon will remain the same. When the gravitational force is the same, its effect on the Earth will not be negative. The size of the moon's orbit is increasing by about 3.8 cm per year.

World Food Safety Day commemorated

Imphal: Assam Rifles in collaboration with local community, organised a significant event to commemorate World Food Safety Day at Sehlon, Aibol Joupri, Kovang, Old Samtal, Phoilien & New Samtal villages on Friday. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of food safety and hygiene practices, within the community in the region.

As part of the event, a lecture was conducted to educate the villagers about the significance of food safety and the potential health risks associated with consuming contaminated food. The lecture covered topics such as proper food handling, storage, and hygiene practices to prevent food borne diseases. A total strength of 236 villagers gained valuable insights into safeguarding food quality and preventing food-borne illnesses. As part of its ongoing efforts to serve and protect the community, Assam Rifles reaffirmed its dedication to fostering a culture of food safety and hygiene, contributing to the overall health and prosperity of the region, said a press release of IGAR(S).

Couple finds Rs 83 lakh in cash while fishing, police allow them to keep it all

New York: A couple pulled out a safe filled with \$100,000 (Rs8,347,000) cash while "magnet fishing" at a New York lake. James Kane and Barbie Agostini went for magnet fishing on May 31, Friday, at a lake in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. The couple tossed a line with a strong magnet attached to the end into the lake. When the two felt something bulky on the end, they pulled the line out, according to the report. Their line caught a safe from the bottom of the lake. When they opened the box, they found it stuffed with bundles of waterdamaged \$100 bills, with an estimated value of \$100,000. The couple informed the New York Police Department about the find, but the cops allowed them to keep the money, for it was not linked to any crime scene, as per the report. The cops also said that there was no way to identify the original owner of the safe, allowing the couple to keep it. "We have found

plenty of safes before. And then I saw the numbers and thought: 'This is not possible.' We pulled it out and it was big stacks of freaking hundreds. These are thick stacks - they're soaking wet, they're pretty much destroyed," Mr Kane reveals. To this, Agostini added, "There were no IDs, no way to find the original person, in the safe. "[The police] were like: 'Well, congratulations!'" Kane continued, "I guess the finders' keepers rule worked for us." Kane explained that they began magnet fishing during the COVID-19 pandemic as treasure-hunting without having to spend a lot of money on equipment. Kane said, "We were bored during the lockdown and I've always had this itch to become a treasure hunter, so we discovered something called magnet fishing." The couple also revealed that earlier they also found World War Two-era grenades, nineteenth-century guns, and a full-size motorbike.

Tamang to be CM in Sikkim

Gangtok: Prem Singh Tamang was elected the legislature party leader of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), paving the way for him to be sworn in as the chief minister. All 31 newly-elected MLAs were present at the meeting of the legislature party, which was held at the CM's official residence on Sunday night.

At the meeting, SKM secretary general Arun Upreti proposed Tamang's name as the legislature party leader and it was seconded by Sangha MLA Sonam Lama. Subsequently, he was unanimously elected the leader of the legislature party, a statement said.

Party leaders congratulated Tamang upon his election, and pledged to work with dedication under his leadership, it said. The SKM won 31 of the 32 seats in the assembly elections, the counting for

which was held on Sunday. The opposition SDF secured one seat.

He was accompanied by all the newly-elected SKM MLAs during the meeting with the Governor at the Raj Bhavan. Acharya congratulated the newly elected MLAs and wished them well. It was not immediately known when the swearing-in ceremony of the chief minister and his council of ministers would take place, the official said. Tamang the outgoing CM had called on the Governor on Sunday evening and had submitted his resignation to clear the decks for the formation of a new government. Acharya had asked Tamang to continue as the chief minister for the time being.

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TGB -BBMC motivates studentsto career options

Agartala: The Bir Bikram Memorial College (BBMC) in association with the largest branch network bank of the state, Tripura Gramin Bank organized a career counseling program for helping and motivating the final year students of the college to go ahead with career options in conformity with their aptitude and zest on Monday. Principal in-charge of the BBMC Dr Jibon Krishna Patra said that to enable the college-leaving students to find a suitable job upon completion of their graduation, the Placement Cell of his college organized a career counseling program for the 6th-semester students in the Smart Class Room of the college today. Santosh Kumar Rawat, General Manager of Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB) was the chief speaker in the session while Jeet Bhattacharjee, Manager of TGB was the program counselor who took a lead role in motivating the students for their career

counseling that evoked a huge response. Dr Jibon Krishna Patra, principal, Dr Abhijeet Bhattacharjee, Secretary of the Teachers Council, and other faculty members were also present at the program and took part in the deliberations.

The students from different streams participated in the program. The program counselor dwelt at length on the job opportunities and prospects for students after completion of their graduation, especially in the administrative and banking sectors. The students were content with the initiative taken up by the Placement Cell. The Principal Dr. Patra thanked TGB officers and all other stakeholders for contemplating their support to make the initiative a grand success. He also urged the Placement Cell in charge to sustain these activities systematically around the year so that the outgoing students can get jobs after instilling a sense of confidence.

MG announces the launch of the New Gloster in STORM series in India

Guwahati: MG (Morris Garages), a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, has introduced the new MG Gloster in DESERT-STORM and SNOWSTORM series in India. The new MG Gloster STORM series is meticulously designed and offers more luxurious and bold looks. The new MG Gloster DESERT STORM comes with a Deep Golden exterior inspired by the elements of BLACKSTORM, and the SNOWSTORM comes in a Dual-Tone Pearl White and Black exterior that will surely command attention wherever it goes.

The all-black interior elevates driving experiences with vibrant and premium elements, including a black steering wheel with white stitching. The all-black door handles, DLO garnish, roof



rails, spoiler, and fender garnish complete the ensemble, making every drive a statement of style and performance. Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, MG Motor India, said, "The new Gloster STORM SERIES exemplifies our commitment to providing exceptional and distinctive experiences and offering high-tech features that maintain MG's legacy of being premium and bold."

It comes with ADAS and

over 30 safety features, including Forward Collision Warning (FCW), Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB), Lane Departure Warning (LDW), Blind Spot Detection, Lane Change Assist. The unique ownership program includes zero maintenance and repair costs for the first three years. The MG Gloster range offers a spacious, premium SUV experience starting at INR.38.80 Lakhs (Ex-Showroom).

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Celebrates 'Environment Month'

Shillong: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the kick-off of its 'Toyota Environment Month', a dedicated month (June 2024) to further foster eco-consciousness and advocating for a greener, sustainable future. Toyota is focusing on environmental stewardship through initiatives like the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 and the theme "Unite for Responsible Resource Consumption towards becoming Global No.1," focusing on water management and natural ecosystem revival through afforestation. The United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) World Environment Day 2024 theme emphasizes the importance of Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience, promoting the slogan "Our Land, Our Future. We are #GenerationRestoration".

Toyota has transitioned from a carmaker to a mobility company, adopting sustainable business practices. In 2015, Toyota announced the 'Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050' (TEC 2050), which includes six environmental challenges. The first three focus on achieving car-

bon neutrality from products and manufacturing activities. The remaining three aim to minimize water usage, enable a recycled-based society, and establish a future society in harmony with nature. Mr. B. Padmanabha, Executive Vice President & Director of Manufacturing - Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "At Toyota Kirloskar Motor, we recognize that environmental and social sustainability is just as crucial as the economic progression. We are fully committed to the six environmental challenges that Toyota is trying to address globally".

Tata AIA Life Launches Midcap Momentum Index Fund

Guwahati: Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has launched the Midcap Momentum Index Fund, a new fund offer aimed at capitalizing on the dynamic growth potential of India's midcap sector. The Indian equity market presents substantial wealth creation prospects due to the anticipated multi-fold growth of the economy in the coming decades. Midcap companies are thriving due to factors such as rising consumption, disposable income, organized sectors, global supply chain realignment,

and supportive government policies.

The New Fund Offering (NFO) window will remain open until June 15 at a NAV of Rs. 10 per unit. The Midcap Momentum Index Fund mirrors the Nifty Midcap 150 Momentum 50 index, tracking the performance of the top 50 high growth companies within the Nifty Midcap 150. The Midcap Momentum Index Fund aims for long-term capital appreciation through a diversified portfolio of midcap companies, with a fund composition of 80%-100% equity and equi-



ty-related instruments, and 0%-20% cash and money market securities. Commenting on the launch, Harshad Patil, Executive Vice President, and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of Tata AIA said, "Our offering enables consumers to enjoy long term returns, backed by the financial security and health & wellness benefits from the underlying investment linked plans offered by us."

Flite launches Spring-Summer 2024 Collection

Guwahati: Flite, the renowned brand owned by the leading footwear manufacturer Relaxo Footwears Ltd., has launched its much-awaited Spring-Summer 2024 (SS '24) Collection. The new range features an impressive array of more than 100 refreshing designs, each meticulously crafted with attention to detail.

Flite offers a diverse range of footwear, catering to both men and women's dynamic lifestyles. Emphasizing quality, comfort, and affordability, Flite is a popular choice among consumers, reflecting their lifestyle needs and preferences. Mr. Gaurav Dua, Executive Director at Relaxo Footwears Ltd., shared his insights on the SS '24 Collection, stating, "We are excited to launch Flite's new Spring-Summer 2024 Collection, setting the tone for the upcoming season with its cool vibes, quality craftsmanship, and unbeatable style."

Flite offers a range of women's footwear, including the Belle collection, which combines fashion-forward designs with comfort, and the UrbanBasics line, targeting the youth market. The Belle collection offers high-quality formal footwear for office wear and special occasions, while the UrbanBasics line offers trendy, practical footwear for everyday use. Both collections offer vibrant color options and stylish designs.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance announces the launch of ICICI Pru Platinum



Shillong: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance announces the launch of the Company's first unit-linked product (ULIP) - ICICI Pru Platinum, which aligns distributor payouts to their customers' fund value - the distributor commissions are linked to their customers' Assets under Management. This unique product incentivises distributors to encourage their customers to stay invested for the entire policy tenure. Notably, it offers customers a cost and tax-efficient route to build wealth over the long-term.

Unlimited free switching between asset classes is available through ICICI Pru Platinum,

with no additional fees or tax implications. Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this product, comprising 13 equity and four each in the debt and balanced categories, besides offering an option of four portfolio strategies.

ICICI Pru Platinum offers two life cover variants: Growth Plus, which grants the nominee the sum assured or fund value, and Protect Plus, which provides both the sum assured and fund value. Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "ICICI Pru Platinum, our Company's first unit-linked product designed to make distributor payouts aligned to their customers fund value, promoting the long-term interests of both".

ACKO enable the creation of ABHA Ids on its app

Kamrup: In an effort to take forward the National Health Authority's (NHA) vision of creating a digital healthcare ecosystem in India, ACKO, the insurtech company, has launched an innovative feature on its app to enable the creation of ABHA IDs. Through this integration, ACKO aims to generate over a million ABHA IDs in the current financial year. ACKO is introducing a single platform for customers in India to access their digital health records and insurance with just a click.

The ABHA ID feature is now available to both ACKO and non-ACKO customers, promoting accessibility and inclusivity in healthcare. It allows customers to store and

manage their medical history, including prescriptions, lab reports, and hospitalization details, in a secure location. This feature also provides greater control over health data, enhancing communication with healthcare providers. Doctors can use ABHA IDs to access a patient's complete medical history, enabling more informed diagnosis and treatment plans. Commenting on the initiative Rupinderjit Singh, Vice President - Retail Health at ACKO said, "ACKO aims to offer a user-friendly platform streamlining the ABHA ID creation process, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience, thereby, empowering every individual to take charge of their health information."

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 revitalise 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 Nariyapakkam



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."

Nissan India's May Wholesales Hit 6204 Units, Reflecting Market Strength

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has announced wholesale figures of 6204 units for May 2024, showcasing a substantial surge from 3043 units in April 2024. Compared to May 2023 sales, Nissan Motor India registered a growth of 34% with the total sales increasing from 4631 units in May 2023 to 6204 units in May 2024. In May 2024, domestic wholesales sold 2211 units, up from 2404 units in April 2024 and 2618 units in May 2023.

Export sales in May 2023 reached 3993 units, a significant increase from the 639 units recorded in April 2023 and 2013 units in May 2023. This impressive performance showcases Nissan's resilience to delivering exceptional service quality and experiences to the customers. Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said, "We are dedicated to further expanding our reach and enhancing our offerings in the Indian market as we strive to exceed our customers' expectations at every step."

Nissan Motor India's Magnite, launched in December 2020, has sold over 140,000 units in India and abroad, showcasing its 'Make-In-India, Make for the World' manufacturing philosophy, blending design excellence from Japan with efficient Indian production.

Adani One and ICICI Bank introduces India's first co-branded credit cards

Guwahati: Adani One and ICICI Bank launched India's first co-branded credit cards with airport-linked benefits in collaboration 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.

Adani One is set to revolutionize the consumer finance sector by partnering with ICICI Bank and Visa to set new standards. Mr. Jeet 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." The cards offer a range of benefits to enhance lifestyles and airport experiences, including up to 7% Adani

Reward Points on spend across the Adani Group consumer ecosystem, including the Adani One app, Adani-managed airports, CNG pumps, electricity bills, and Trainman, with the rewards being uncapped. 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."

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."

MAGGI Unveils Edible Fork: Redefining Noodle Enjoyment and Sustainability

Guwahati: MAGGI recently introduced an innovative solution: an edible fork, made from wheat flour, to elevate the experience of enjoying MAGGI Cuppa Noodles while reducing usage of single-use plastic under its 'Desh Ke Liye 2 Minute' initiative. This World Environment Day, under the same initiative, MAGGI is sharing the story of a young Nestlé executive on how she gives 2-Min for the environment. MAGGI has consistently made efforts to promote positive behavioral change in managing plastic waste over the years.

The initiative aims to educate consumers on proper disposal

of empty MAGGI packets and emphasize the importance of daily small steps in reducing waste and making a significant impact. 2-Min is all it takes to make a choice that is environmentally responsible. Through this initiative MAGGI seeks to harness the power of collective action and raise awareness about the importance of segregating plastic waste at its source. Mr. Rajat Jain, Director, Foods Business, Nestlé India, said, "MAGGI® hopes to inspire everyone in the country to take small steps and give their 2-Min to the environment, which can have a meaningful impact at scale".

PM Modi's Oath Ceremony Draws Leaders from India's Neighboring Nations

Guwahati: Narendra Modi is set to be sworn in as India's Prime Minister of India for an unprecedented third consecutive term on Saturday. A meeting of the leaders from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) unanimously chose him as their leader. The event highlights Modi's continued influence and the strong mandate given by the electorate.

Reflecting India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, top South Asian leaders have been invited to the swearing-in ceremony. Confirmations from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have already received. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, one of the first foreign leaders to congratulate Modi on his



electoral victory, will arrive in Delhi on Friday. Meanwhile, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has also accepted the invitation and extended his congratulations to Modi.

Invitations have also been extended to Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, and Mauritius's Prime Minister

Pravind Jugnauth, showcasing the inclusivity of the event and the importance of regional co-operation. In 2014 and 2019, Modi's oath-taking ceremony was attended by leaders of SAARC and BIMSTEC nations, reinforcing India's strategic focus on strengthening neighborhood ties and promoting regional camaraderie and diplomatic engagement.

Durex partners with Outlook Magazine to release an exclusive Pride Month edition

Guwahati: Durex, globally renowned for its dedication to promoting sexual health and wellness, is thrilled to announce a special collaboration with Outlook Magazine for an exclusive Pride Month edition. Curated under Durex's flagship initiative, The Birds and Bees Talk (TBBT), this issue is designed to celebrate and support the LGBTQIA+ community, in alignment with this year's Pride Month theme, 'Reflect. Empower. Unite.'

Outlook Magazine's special edition, in partnership with Durex TBBT, showcases the importance of storytelling, education, and community support in promoting inclusivity. It celebrates the achievements and challenges of the LGBTQIA+ community, embodying the Pride Month theme of 'Reflect. Empower. Unite.' Gaurav Jain, Executive Vice President, Reckitt, shared his thoughts on the initiative, "Through our continuous efforts, we strive to bridge the gap of inequality, providing a platform for individuals to voice their opinions and share their experiences."

The edition, edited by Ravi Bhatnagar, Di-



rector of External Affairs and Partnerships at SOA, Reckitt, and recipient of the Trans Allyship award by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), features inspiring stories, expert insights, and educational content. The magazine also features guest columns from prominent figures like Arun Kumar Mishra, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, and renowned journalist Ashok Row Kavi, providing valuable insights into the history, rights, and societal perceptions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Fortune unveils a new TVC campaign 'Banao Kuchh Hatke'

Guwahati: Adani Wilmar Limited has rolled out its new 'Banao Kuchh Hatke' campaign for its rich in protein brand Fortune Soya Chunks. The 360-degree campaign showcases the versatility of soya chunks as an ingredient, encouraging consumers to explore innovative and diverse culinary options. Conceptualized by DDB Mudra, the campaign – 'Banao Kuchh Hatke' - features three ad films, narrated by the renowned multifaceted Indian actor and dancer, Jaaved Jaferi in Hindi and popular former Indian cricketer Sourav Ganguly in Bengali. The film is being distributed across various media platforms, including TV and digital channels such as YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.

The 'Banao Kuchh Hatke' TVC will air on top national channels, encouraging viewers to rediscover cooking at home. The brand plans to extend communication through product packaging, showcasing 'Hatke' dishes made with soya chunks, and using a QR code to direct consumers to explore more recipes on their microsite. The campaign also features collaboration with influential chefs to share their unique recipes using Fortune Soya Chunks. Mr. Jignesh Shah, Head- Media and Brand, Adani Wilmar Limited said, "We aim to inspire consumers to create 'hatke' dishes using Fortune Soya Chunks across various cuisines through this campaign."

Vi offers Free Data for Remal affected Assam and Northeast

Guwahati: Given the damage and disruption caused by Cyclone Remal, Vi is committed to supporting its customers in Assam and North East in this challenging time. Knowing how important it is for people to remain connected and access critical information in this challenging time, the telecom operator is extending the validity of prepaid services by 4 days for people living in Barak Valley, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Mizoram to remain connected.

Vi is providing 1GB of extra data and a few free outgoing minutes at no extra cost to enhance connectivity. These measures are effective immediately and are applicable to select customers within the cyclone affected regions. Vi's network teams are working tirelessly with local authorities to restore normalcy in the affected areas.

Tata Motors introduces Altroz Racer

Guwahati: Tata Motors announced the launch of the Altroz Racer - the sporty avatar of the company's premium hatchback. The performance aspect in the Altroz goes several notches higher with the introduction of the 1.2 L Turbo petrol engine. Elevated with the race car inspired exterior and interior look coupled with a power of 120 Ps @ 5500 rpm and torque of 170 Nm @ 1750 to 4000 rpm, this sporty evolution of the Altroz promises an experience of pure exhilaration with every drive.

Tata Motors has introduced two new Altroz variants (XZ LUX and XZ+S LUX) and upgraded one (XZ+OS) in its Altroz range, available in petrol manual, petrol DCA, diesel, and CNG power trains. Commenting on the launch of Tata Altroz Racer, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "With its performance driven DNA and a race car inspired look, we are confident that it will be the perfect companion that will make you #RacePast-TheRoutine."

The Altroz Racer is the top-of-the-line hatchback with a 360-degree camera, 26.03 cm infotainment touchscreen, ventilated seats, and 6 airbags. It's the only hatchback with a 6 speed manual gearbox for smooth driving in city traffic and highways. Available in three variants (R1, R2, and R3) and three colors (Pure Grey, Atomic Orange, and Avenue White), it offers improved technology and safety.

Kuldeep Yadav Sets His Sights on World Cup Glory and Life Beyond Cricket

New Delhi: Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav, gearing up for his first T20 World Cup appearance, has made it clear that winning the World Cup is not just a goal but a dream he is ardently pursuing. Set to play against Ireland in what marks his debut in the T20 format's premier event, Kuldeep articulated his long-standing aspiration in a recent Delhi Capitals' podcast.

Kuldeep, who has been a key player in India's ODI World Cup squads in 2019 and 2024, emphasized the significance of clinching a World Cup title, stating, "If you're playing for India for a long time, you've got to win a World Cup." At 29, Kuldeep is keen on maximizing his playing years and believes that capturing the World Cup would be a crowning achievement in his career. Beyond his cricketing ambitions, Kuldeep also shared his aspirations for a future in football coaching. "Beyond cricket, I'm hopeful of getting a license in football coaching," he said, revealing his plans to dive into another sport once he hangs up his cricket boots. He expressed a desire to contribute to football, fueled by his connections within the sport and his passion for coaching.

Kuldeep's journey to the T20 World Cup squad was



not without its challenges. He faced a tough phase with limited opportunities in the Indian Premier League (IPL) which affected his form and confidence. His career saw a turnaround in 2022 after joining Delhi Capitals, where he experienced a significant revival thanks to the support from the team management.

Reflecting on the support he received, Kuldeep highlighted the impact of DC head coach Ricky Ponting, captain Rishabh Pant, and assistant coach Shane Watson. Ponting's welcoming embrace and assurance of trust played a crucial role in rebuilding Kuldeep's confidence. "He hugged me properly and said, 'We wanted to have you on our team. Don't worry about anything, and I will ensure you play all the games,'" Kuldeep recalled about his first interaction with Ponting.

Moreover, Kuldeep shared

insights into his relationship with Watson, who became a mentor during his time at DC. Hours of discussions and strategic advice from Watson helped Kuldeep navigate through his rough patch. "I still have notes from those conversations on my phone, and I rewind those before I play matches," he said, acknowledging Watson's significant role in his comeback. Kuldeep also spoke about his interactions with fellow spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. While his bond with Jadeja revolves less around cricket, Ashwin has been instrumental in encouraging him to innovate and try new things in his bowling. As Kuldeep Yadav prepares to represent India at the T20 World Cup, his focus is clear: to bring home the trophy that has eluded him thus far and to lay the groundwork for his future endeavors beyond cricket.

French Open: Swiatek beats Gauff, continues hot streak to storm into third final in a row

Paris: World No.1 and top seed Iga Swiatek moved into a third straight and fourth overall final at the French Open, beating American Coco Gauff in straight sets in the semifinals at Court Philippe-Chatier here on Thursday. Poland's Swiatek, a three-time former French Open champion, stormed into the final with a straight sets defeat of her third-seeded rival, winning 6-2, 6-4 to move into Saturday's final.

Under bright skies on Court Philippe Chatier, Swiatek took 1 hour and 37 minutes to get past American Gauff for the 11th time in their 12 career meetings. She is the third player since 2000 to make three consecutive French Open women's singles finals, joining Justine Henin (2005-2007) and Maria Sharapova (2012-2014).

After a comfortable opening set in which she broke her opponent's service in the first and fifth games, Swiatek trailed 3-1 in the second only to win five of the last six games including a crucial break in the seventh game with a forehand winner as she closed in onto victory.

The Pole will face either Italy's Jasmine Paolini or Mirra Andreeva in the final as she hopes to win her fifth French



Open women's singles title.

By defeating Gauff in the semifinal on Thursday, Swiatek has won 20 straight matches at the tournament, making her only the fifth woman in the Open Era to achieve this feat at Roland Garros. She joins Chris Evert (29 straight, 1984-1991), Monica Seles (25, 1990-1996), Justine Henin (24, 2005-2010), and Stefanie Graf (20, 1987-1989).

The 23-year-old Swiatek is also the second-youngest player in the Open Era to make four French Open finals, older only than Steffi Graf, who was 20 when she made her fourth Roland Garros final in 1990.

Swiatek is also amid another lengthy clay-court winning streak, having now won 18 straight matches on the surface. This current run ties her longest winning streak on clay, which was 18 straight between Stuttgart and Warsaw in 2022.

T20 World Cup Marcus Stoinis' power-packed performance guides Australia to 39-run win over Oman

Agency: After Australia's experienced duo combined to put up a competitive total, the bowling unit produced a clinical spell with the ball to get across the finish line. During Oman's chase of 165, Mitchell Starc set the tone in the first over with a scorching yorker to dismiss Pratik Athavale for a golden duck. Nathan Ellis and Stoinis followed up and took the next wickets to reduce Oman to 29/3 in the powerplay.

Ayaan Khan and Mehran Khan tried to lead a counter-attack and chipped in valuable contributions. As the pressure continued to mount up, the duo accelerated, but a bit too late and ended up losing their wickets. After producing a standout performance with the bat, Stoinis completed a three-wicket haul in his three-over spell and conceded 19 runs. He was adjudged the Player of the Match for his all-rounded performance. Earlier in the innings, after being put to bat, Australia managed to put up a competitive total of 164/5 on a slightly sluggish surface. Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell failed to make an impact in the game.

Sunil Chhetri's final shot looms over India's do-or-die World Cup Qualifier against Kuwait

New Delhi: The moment Sunil Chhetri got up from his chair, the jam-packed press conference room at the Salt Lake Stadium rose in unison and gave a standing ovation to the captain. This was his last pre-match news conference as an India player. Thursday will be his final match in India colours. "Inside me, I'm fighting a small battle," Chhetri said moments after arriving for the news conference.

Thursday's World Cup Qualifier against Kuwait is a crucial match for India as a victory will put them on the brink of qualifying for the third round from Group A. On the other hand, a defeat will put them out of the reckoning.

If India succeed in doing that, it will be a first. Also in March, coach Igor Stimac had said if India failed to advance he would resign. No wonder the Croat termed Thursday's clash

"the most important match of my life."

India, 121 in Fifa rankings, had beaten the west Asian country in Kuwait City in the first leg in November last year. That was one of the memorable performances under Stimac, but India frittered it away with a string of poor results in the AFC Asian Cup and the World Cup Qualifiers.

The lowest moment was the 2-1 home defeat to Afghanistan in Guwahati in March. It was Chhetri's 150th match and got his goal No. 94. Now as he gets ready for the final shot, all that Chhetri wants is a victory and he is not bothered about what the margin would be and who could be the scorer.

"I feel the pressure. I've worked 19 years for the national team but have not been in this position before. This is huge because if we win, you know what's in store. I am ready to



get even a 1-0 victory," Chhetri said.

But one thing that he avoided saying was that India hardly had any preparatory camps before the AFC Asian Cup or the World Cup qualifying games.

Whenever Stimac got longer camps, the team looked a transformed lot. The Asian Cup qualifying games in Calcutta in 2022 or the back-to-back tournaments like Inter-Continental Cup in Bhubaneswar and SAFF Championship in Bangalore in June-July last year both of which India won.

This time they had a camp in

Bhubaneswar from the second week of May and landed in Calcutta on May 29 to continue with the preparations. "We are all ready," Chhetri said. Chhetri's final hurrah has caught the imagination of the world. Luka Modric, the Real Madrid and Croatia superstar, in a video posted on X, congratulated the 39-year-old footballer. "You are an absolute legend," Modric said.

The state government, the All India Football Federation, the IFA, Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and the Army will honour the face of Indian football.

Lakshya Sen bows out of Thailand Open after losing to Anders Antonsen

Agency: Sen, ranked 14th, fought hard before going down 22-24 18-21 against world no.5 Anders Antonsen of Denmark in a match that lasted a shade over an hour. India's challenge ended at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament with star shuttler Lakshya Sen bowing out in the quarterfinals of the men's singles event in Jakarta on Friday. Sen, ranked 14th in the world, fought hard before going down 22-24 18-21 against world no.5 Anders Antonsen of Denmark in a match that lasted one hour and one minute.

Antonsen now enjoys a 3-2 head-to-head record against the Indian. It was a see-saw battle between Sen and Antonsen in the first game which the Dane pocketed in 32 minutes. There was nothing to separate the two shuttlers till the end as both matched each other before Antonsen had the last laugh. Antonsen took an early 4-0 lead but a determined Sen

fought hard to equal the scores at 5-5 and then extended it to 15-11. But the Dane was not to be left behind as he used his reach and tired out Sen with long rallies to level the scores at 16-16.

The two players fought tooth and nail till 22 points before the Indian faltered to hand the first game to his opponent. The neck-and-neck fight between Sen and Antonsen continued in the second game with both the shuttlers in no mood to give an inch to each other.

Both Sen and Antonsen played their hearts out till 18 points in the second game, not willing to give an upper hand to the other. But eventually, it was Sen who faltered as he failed to hold his nerves, committing a few unforced errors and Antonsen kept his cool to pocket three straight points and seal the affair in his favour. Antonsen will play eight seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the semifinals.