

# ANC party that freed South Africa from apartheid loses its 30-year majority

JOHANNESBURG, June 1 (AP)

**THE** African National Congress party lost its parliamentary majority in a historic election result Saturday that puts South Africa on a new political path for the first time since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule 30 years ago.

With nearly 99% of votes counted, the once-dominant ANC had received just over 40% in the election on Wednesday, well short of the majority it had held since the famed all-race vote of 1994 that ended apartheid and brought it to power under Nelson Mandela. The final results are still to be formally declared by the independent electoral commission that ran the election.

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ed apartheid and brought it to power under Nelson Mandela. The final results are still to be formally declared by the independent electoral commission that ran the election.

While Opposition parties hailed it as a momentous breakthrough for a country struggling with deep poverty and inequality, the ANC remained the biggest party by some way but will now need to look for a coalition partner or partners to remain in the government and reelect President Cyril Ramaphosa for a second and final term. Parliament elects the South African President after national elections. The result ended the ANC's dominance three-decade dominance of South Africa's young democracy, but the way forward promises to be complicated for Africa's most advanced economy, and there's no coalition on the table yet.

The main Opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, was on around 21%. The new MK Party of former President Jacob Zuma, who has turned against the ANC he once led, came third with just over 14% of the vote in the first election it has contested. Which parties the ANC might approach to co-govern with is the urgent focus now, given Parliament needs to sit and elect a President within 14 days of the final election results being officially declared. A flurry of negotiations were set to take place and they will likely be complicated.

# Severe flooding hits Kerala, Assam due to 2 cyclonic systems: CWC

NEW DELHI, June 1 (PTI)

**SEVERE** flooding has hit Kerala and Assam due to two cyclonic systems, according to the Central Water Commission which advised continuous monitoring and preparedness for further potential flooding.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has released its flood situation report, detailing significant rainfall and resulting severe flood conditions in various regions of India, with Kerala and Assam being the most affected.

One cyclone over Arunachal

Pradesh, combined with strong winds from the Bay of Bengal, has brought heavy rains to Northeastern States like Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim.

Another cyclone on the coast of south Kerala has caused heavy rainfall in Kerala.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more heavy rains, which are causing rivers in both regions to rise. The key rivers in Assam such as Subansiri, Jabbarali and Kopili are swelling, affecting the districts like Tinsukia, Darrang and Nalbari, the advisory said.



People carry their belongings as they walk through a flooded road following rains after the landfall of cyclone Remal, in Nagaon district of Assam, on Saturday.

(PTI)

Although some rivers like the Barak are seeing receding water levels, the situation remains critical. Kerala has experienced extremely heavy rainfall, with Udumbannoor recording 23 cm and Urumi seeing 14 cm of rain, the advisory said.

Other locations such as Kottayam and Poonjar received 11 cm, while Vadavathur got 10 cm. The CWC has warned of potential water level rises in several rivers across the state, including the Muvattupuzha, Gayatri, Thodupuzha, Bharathapuzha, Kabini, Karuvannur and Periyar.

## Despite falling river water level, situation remains critical in Assam, Manipur: CWC

NEW DELHI, June 1 (PTI)

**DESPITE** a falling trend in water levels, the situation remains critical in multiple districts of Assam and Manipur as the rivers flow above danger level, according to the Central Water Commission data.

In Manipur, the Barak River at Chotabakra in Imphal East district is flowing at 28.27 meters, which is 2.07 meters above its danger

level of 26.2 meters. Although the water level shows a falling trend, the severe situation persists, posing a significant risk to the surrounding areas.

In Assam, the Kushiyara River at Karimganj in Karimganj district is flowing at 16.25 meters, 1.31 meters above its danger level of 14.94 meters. The river is currently on a falling trend, but the water level remains critically high.

# Will pursue robust collaboration with India: Philippines President

SINGAPORE, June 1 (ANI)

**PHILIPPINES** President Marcos Jr became the first Philippine leader to deliver the keynote address to open the 21st edition of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue in Manila on Friday. In his address, Marcos Jr said that the commitment of the Philippines to ASEAN Centrality shall remain a "core element" of its foreign policy.

Marcos Jr also described India as a friend and said that Manila would continue to pursue collaboration with New Delhi. He said, "We shall strengthen our alliance with the United States and our Strategic Partnerships with Australia, Japan, Vietnam, Brunei, and all the other member States of ASEAN."

He also declared continued strategic partnerships with other nations and wished to make more future collaborations and cooperations, not only in

defence but also in environmental, economic, people-to-people relations, and sustainable development.

"In all our multilateral engagements, we seek to bridge global conversations with our unique regional perspectives," the President said.

"We will also pursue more robust collaboration with friends such as the Republic of Korea (and) India, amongst others," he added.

"Geopolitics must not distract us from our fundamental duty as civil servants, as public intellectuals, as statesmen: To deliver for our peoples and to safeguard the future for the coming generations. This is the reason why we strive for stability, security, and peace," he further said.

He stated that the maintenance of peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region will directly impact the development of South Asian States.

"In the same vein, the economic security of East Asia



depends upon the freedom of navigation and unimpeded passage in the South China Sea and the East China Sea and the stability of the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait. By virtue of geographic proximity and the presence of Filipinos in Taiwan, we have a legitimate interest in cross-strait issues," Marcos Jr stated.

"The Filipino people have a long history of fraternal bonds with the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Peace and stability must prevail. Therefore, we continue to urge all parties to exercise restraint on the issue," he further added.

# Landslides, waterlogging in Kerala as monsoon intensifies

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, June 1 (PTI)

WITH Southwest monsoon intensifying in Kerala two days after its onset, heavy downpours lashed several parts of the State, especially in south and central districts triggering landslides, uprooting trees and waterlogging.

Continuous rains for hours caused widespread destruction in the high-range areas of Kottayam and Idukki districts, while intense rains caused severe waterlogging and traffic snarls in the low-lying areas of Thrissur district.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) updated its weather warning, placing the central district of Thrissur and northern districts of Malappuram and Kozhikode under red alert on Saturday.

An orange alert was sounded in Idukki, Palakkad and

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Wayanad and yellow alert was issued in six districts.

A red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rain of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while an orange alert means very heavy rain of 11 cm to 20 cm, and a yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 cm and 11 cm.

Landslides and trees getting uprooted were reported at Poochappra and Kolappra areas, located in the interior of the hill district Idukki on Friday night. Some houses and vehicles were damaged in the landslide, but no casualties were reported, locals said.

Crops were destroyed and interior roads, used by local

families, were damaged as huge granite boulders fell down from the hill and blocked the pathways. "We faced such a horror... Following the continuous heavy rains, a landslide happened. Granite boulders, huge stones and sand gushed down... We felt as if the trees were coming down by flying," a villager recalled his horrendous experience.

A family, who had been living in the hilly area, had a narrow escape as rocks fell upon their house. They were later shifted to a safer place, local people added.

Traffic restrictions were put in place along Thodupuzha-

Puliyannamala state highway due to the possible threat of mudslides. As five shutters of the Malankara Dam in Idukki were raised, district authorities advised those living on the banks of Thodupuzha and Muvattupuzha rivers to exercise caution.

With various parts of the neighbouring Kottayam district receiving downpour, people living close to Meenachal and Manimala rivers were also urged to remain vigilant.

Incessant rains that battered several parts of Kottayam for hours since Friday evening caused waterlogging and traffic snarls. While Vadavathoor region received 100 mm rainfall on Friday night, the urban areas of Kottayam got 99 mm, authorities said.

Though the port city of Kochi received moderate rains, Aluva region of Ernakulam experienced intense rains since May

31 night.

The central district of Thrissur has been experiencing intense downpours since this morning, leaving people stranded at bus stops and railway stations in large numbers. Waterlogging and traffic snarls were also reported in various parts of the city.

As per the latest radar imagery, a thunderstorm accompanied by moderate to intense spell of rainfall with winds gusting upto 40 kmph is expected in Thrissur, the Met Department said.

Authorities have urged people to be alert as inundation on major roads and poor visibility of vehicles may lead to traffic congestion. They also warned about flooding in many parts of low-lying areas and river banks. Non-essential movements may be restricted and people should remain at safe places, they added.

# State Govt making various efforts to promote green tourism: CM Dhami



NEW DELHI, June 1

IN VIEW of the immense possibilities of tourism in Uttarakhand, with the aim of promoting astro-tourism, 'Nakshatra Sabha' has been formally inaugurated at George Everest, Mussoorie by the Tourism Department in collaboration with Astro Tourism Company. This is a different

kind of event in itself as for the first time in India, 'Nakshatra Sabha' has been organised on the theme of Astro Tourism.

This event will run till 2 June 2024. In line with the vision of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Tourism Department has taken this initiative to promote multidimensional tourism activities in the State apart from religious tourism.