



# THE MILEAGE



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## India will give befitting reply to Pak-sponsored terrorism: Himanta Biswa Sarma

**Guwahati:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday asserted that India would give a befitting reply to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday asserted that India would give a befitting reply to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Sarma, who is the Jharkhand election co-in-charge of the BJP, is on a two-day visit to the state to participate in workers' felicitation programmes and Vijay Sankalp Sabhas. Reacting to the death of soldiers in an encounter with terrorists in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, he told reporters, "India will give a befitting reply to Pa-



kistan-sponsored terrorism. Peace has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir and it is our responsibility to maintain it. We will counter every conspiracy of Pakistan." Four army personnel, including an officer, died

after being injured in a gun-fight with heavily armed terrorists in Doda district, officials said on Tuesday. Sarma is scheduled to visit Torpa and Khunti assembly constituencies on Tuesday and participate in workers'

felicitation programmes and Vijay Sankalp Sabhas. "The BJP will form a double-engine government again in Jharkhand by uprooting the current dispensation," he told reporters after arriving at Ranchi's Birsa Munda

Airport. On Wednesday, he will address party workers as part of a Vijay Sankalp Sabha at BJP headquarters in Ranchi. The state BJP has been organising assembly-wise worker felicitation programmes and Vijay Sankalp Sabhas from July 6 to celebrate the success of the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls. The BJP won eight Lok Sabha seats, while its ally AJSU Party won one in the state which has 14 Lok Sabha seats. On Sunday, Union minister and BJP election in-charge for Jharkhand, Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited Ranchi and participated in the party workers' felicitation ceremony and Vijay Sankalp Sabha in Khijri assembly segment.

## India-Mongolia military exercise concludes after 14-day training

**New Delhi:** The 16th India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise, Nomadic Elephant 2024, concluded after 14 days of rigorous training. Leaders from both nations praised the strong ties and shared experiences, marking a successful end to the event. The 16th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise, Nomadic Elephant 2024, concluded after an intense 14 days of training and collaboration.

The closing ceremony took place at the Joint Training Node in Umroi and was graced by H.E. Major General Ganbyamba Sunrev, Chief of General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces, and Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla, AVSM, YSM, GOC of the Trishakti Corps. As the ceremony unfolded, both leaders engaged in a meaningful dialogue about future joint operations, symbolising the deepened ties and mutual respect cultivated throughout the exercise.

This exchange highlighted their unwavering commitment to fostering partnership in the realm of regional security. Following the ceremony, the Indian contingent showcased their advanced capabilities through a spectacular display of cutting-edge weapons and equipment. This exhibition underscored the technological strides made under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, reinforcing India's growing defense potential.

Troops from both nations eagerly interacted, sharing experiences and insights, further strengthening the bonds formed during the training. The event culminated with remarks that underscored the importance of unity in addressing global challenges, marking a triumphant conclusion to a vital exercise that lays the groundwork for future joint operations under the United Nations mandate.

## Calcutta HC restrains Mamata Banerjee from making derogatory remarks against Governor CV Ananda Bose

**Kolkata:** The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday, July 16, issued an interim order preventing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from making derogatory statements about Governor CV Ananda Bose. Justice Krishna Rao passed the order, and the matter is scheduled for further hearing on August 14. The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday, July 16, issued an interim order preventing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from making derogatory statements about Governor CV Ananda Bose.



"Constitutional Authority," should not be subjected to personal attacks through social media platforms by the Chief Minister.

The court's order stated, "This court is of the view that in appropriate cases where the statements have been made in a reckless manner to cause injury to the reputation of the plaintiff, the court would be justified in granting an injunction. If at this stage, an interim order is not granted, it would give the defendants free hands to continue making defamatory statements against the plaintiff and continue to tarnish the reputation of

the plaintiff." The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday, July 16, issued an interim order preventing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from making derogatory statements about Governor CV Ananda Bose.

The court also noted that without an interim order, the Governor CV Ananda Bose would "suffer irreparable loss and injury to his reputation." Consequently, the defendants are restrained from making any defamatory or incorrect statements against the Governor through publications or social media platforms until August 14.

## Supreme Court issues notice on pleas to transfer NEET cases from High Court to top court

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has issued a notice on NTA's petitions to transfer NEET-UG 2024 exam cases from the Rajasthan High Court. This comes amidst allegations of paper leakage and malpractices in the exam. The Supreme Court, on July 15 issued a notice on petitions filed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on the transfer of NEET-UG 2024 exam cases pending before the Rajasthan High Court to the apex court. A bench consisting of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra cited a similar plea which the NTA had filed earlier, stating that the apex court had already stayed proceedings before High Courts. The Court ordered, "Issue notice and tag," as per media reports. The Supreme Court is seized of a batch of petitions seeking direction to recall NEET-UG 2024 results and to conduct the examination afresh, alleging paper leakage and



malpractices in the test held. Earlier, aspirants had approached the top court and raised the issue of leakage of question paper, awarding compensatory marks and anomaly in the question of NEET-UG. The Supreme Court, on June 11 ordered the agency to respond to some petitions but refused to halt counselling for admissions of students to medical colleges. Meanwhile, on July 8, the Court said that it would have to determine to what extent the exam was compromised to decide whether a retest would be needed or not.

## Pathsala Municipality faces corruption allegations over failed water supply schemes

**Guwahati:** In a troubling display of alleged corruption within the Pathsala municipality, residents are raising alarms over the mismanagement and degradation of vital water supply schemes in religious areas. Approximately Rs 20 lakhs were allocated for the construction of a pure drinking water supply system in the Harimandir and Bhagwati areas. However, just a year and a half after their installation, the water pipes and basins have fallen into a state of disrepair, rendering the schemes almost non-functional. "In 2022, in Pathsala, such 8 water supply project was set up. This entire project cost approximately Rs 10 lakh.



Two such projects were set up here in Hari Mandir and at Bhagawati. The work started in 2022 and was completed in 2023. Public even started receiving water from this project. But for the past one year, the supply has stopped. Also, it has been alleged that very poor quality of materials

have been used in the project", said Jiten Talukdar, secretary of Pathsala Bazaar Committee. The situation is particularly dire in the Bhagwati region, where the annual Rasa Mahotsav is being held amidst the deteriorating infrastructure. The contractor responsible for these projects, Hamidur

Rahman of Jorhat, is under scrutiny for the poor quality of work delivered. This pattern of mismanagement and corruption is reportedly endemic within the Pathsala municipality, overseen by BJP leader and corporator Jolly Chaudhary, who has been frequently accused of corrupt practices. The installation of sub-standard pipes and motors has been a common issue, exacerbating the failure of these schemes. Despite residents informing the municipality of these issues a month ago, there has been no action taken. The municipal council has seemingly turned a blind eye to the complaints, further fueling public outrage.

## Supreme court seeks government response on Nagaland's petition



**Kohima:** The Supreme Court has asked the Union Government to respond to a writ petition by Nagaland challenging the denial of prosecution of 30 Indian Army personnel. The case relates to the killing of 13 civilians in Mon district during a military operation in 2021. The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the Union Government regarding a writ petition filed by the state of Nagaland. The petition challenges the Centre's refusal to sanction the prosecution of 30 Indian Army personnel accused of killing 13 civilians during a military operation in Mon district in December 2021. A bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, along with Justices

JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, has given the Ministry of Defence six weeks to respond to the notice.

Nagaland's Advocate General KN Balagopal argued that despite evidence gathered by the state police against the accused army men, the Centre denied prosecution sanction under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958 on February 28. The incident in question occurred on December 4, 2021, when army personnel allegedly fired at a pickup truck carrying miners in Oting village, Eastern Nagaland. This led to the filing of FIRs under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. The case has reignited debates about AFSPA in the Northeast.

Following the incident, the Nagaland Assembly unanimously called for the repeal of AFSPA from the North East, particularly from Nagaland.

Nagaland's Advocate General KN Balagopal argued that despite evidence gathered by the state police against the accused army men, the Centre denied prosecution sanction under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958 on February 28. This legal challenge by the Nagaland government brings the controversial AFSPA back into national focus, highlighting tensions between state autonomy, military operations, and civilian protection in conflict-prone regions.

## Meghalaya government, IIM Shillong ink MoU



**Shillong:** The Meghalaya government and the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, on July 17 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aiming to foster collaboration for societal impact. The MoU was inked in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, and Chairman of the BOG, IIM Shillong, Shishir Kumar Bajoria, IIM-Shillong Director D.P Goyal and Secretary Planning, Government of Meghalaya Cyril D Diengdoh. Chief Minister Sangma, said, "It is a historic moment to sign this MOU on a day where as a state we mark the death anniversary of a great freedom fighter, U Tirot Sing. This MOU is an agenda where the government is keen on and today marks the beginning of a wonderful journey with IIM, Shillong.

## Budget session of Arunachal assembly from July 19

**Itanagar:** The budget session of the Arunachal Pradesh assembly will begin on Friday and the annual financial statement for the 2024-25 fiscal will be presented on July 24, an official said. The session will conclude on July 26. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, who also holds the Finance and Planning portfolio, will present the budget on July 24 during the eight-day session, Assembly Secretary Kago Habung said. This will be the first budget of the Pema Khandu government after its return to power for the third term. The budget session will commence on Friday with the motion of thanks to the governor's address, Habung said. Governor Lt Gen (Retd) K T Parnaik had addressed the members of the House during the first session of the Eight Legislative Assembly that met for two days

on June 14 and 15. Three important government bills - 'The Arunachal Pradesh Amending Bill, 2024', 'The Arunachal Pradesh Public Examination (Measures to Prevent Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024', and 'The Balipara/Tirap/Sadiya Frontier Tract Jhum Land Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2024' would be tabled on the opening day of the session, Habung said. Arunachal Assembly Speaker Tesam Pongte on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee to plan the agenda for the budget session.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona, Deputy Speaker Kardo Nyigyor and MLAs Kumar Waii of the Congress, Nikh Kamin of NCP, Thangwang Wangham of NPP and Oken Tayeng of the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) attended the meeting.

## World's youngest professor to visit USTM and Assam's ERDF institutions

**Shillong:** The University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) announced that Prof. Suborno Isaac Bari, renowned as the world's youngest professor from New York University, will visit the university on August 14 and 15, 2024 and engage with the academic community. He will also participate in the 78th Independence Day celebration on the campus. Before visiting he will visit the two schools under ERD Foundation Guwahati Central Public School Badarpur and Central Public School Patharkandi, in Assam's Karimganj district on August 13. He will address the students on the topic "Children and Science". During his visit, Prof. Bari will deliver a series of scientific lectures followed by interactive sessions and discussions designed to inspire and motivate the participants fostering a spirit of inquiry and innovation among the attendees. His visit is a unique opportunity for students, scholars, and



faculty members to interact with a prodigious talent who has made waves in the academic world at such a young age. Born on April 9, 2012, Prof. Bari is often referred to as the "Einstein of our time". He has captivated the world with his extraordinary intellect and groundbreaking contributions to various fields of science and education. The event promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, offering invaluable insights and learning opportunities.

## SASTRA releases groundbreaking report on curbing illegal betting and gambling in India

**Guwahati:** The Security and Scientific Technical Research Association (SASTRA), in collaboration with the India Future Foundation, unveiled a pivotal report titled "Curbing Betting and Gambling in India: A National Security Imperative" at Rashtriya Raksha University. This comprehensive report, presented during a high-profile roundtable discussion,

addresses the urgent need for enhanced measures to combat illegal betting and gambling activities nationwide.

Colonel Nidhish Bhatnagar, Director of SASTRA's School of Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology, emphasized the grave implications of these activities, including money laundering and organized crime,

underscoring the necessity for a revamped legal framework and centralized enforcement.

The report delves into historical perspectives, current legal frameworks, government actions, and case studies, offering robust recommendations for regulatory reforms and international collaboration.

Founder of India Future Foundation, Kanishk Gaur,

stressed the imperative for immediate governmental action to mitigate national security risks posed by illicit gambling platforms.

In Guwahati, a key economic hub, stakeholders echo concerns over the destabilizing effects of illegal betting and gambling. Enhanced regulatory measures are seen as crucial to safeguarding economic integrity and public trust.

### Vi has partnered with PayU

**Guwahati:** Vi Business, the enterprise arm of Vi, has partnered with PayU, a leading digital financial services provider, to accelerate digital growth among India's MSMEs. This strategic collaboration aims to empower MSMEs by offering tailored digital payment solutions and enhancing their overall digital capabilities.

Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer at Vodafone Idea, stated, "Our partnership with PayU underscores our commitment to digitally empower small and medium-sized businesses in India."

Anirban Mukherjee, CEO of PayU India, emphasized, "At PayU, we believe in leveraging digital innovation to drive business transformation. Our collaboration with Vi Business will provide robust financial and business solutions to support Indian MSMEs in their digital journey."

### Mahindra introduces groundbreaking initiative for its BS6 OBD II trucks

**Guwahati:** Mahindra's Truck and Bus Division (MTBD), a leader in the commercial vehicle industry, has announced a groundbreaking initiative for its BS6 OBD II range of trucks, including the BLAZO X, FURIO, OPTIMO, and JAYO models. The new customer value proposition, "Get More Mileage or Give the Truck Back," aims to tackle rising fuel costs and stringent regulatory standards. Mahindra's latest range features the 7.2L mPower Engine and mDi Tech Engine with advanced FuelSmart Technology, Mild EGR, and the iMAXX Telematics solution, promising superior fuel efficiency and lower Ad Blue consumption. "The mileage guarantee reflects our technological prowess and deep understanding of customer needs," said Vinod Sahay, President of Trucks, Buses, CE, Aerospace & Defence Businesses at Mahindra & Mahindra

Ltd. "Our commitment to operational efficiency and customer satisfaction positions us to lead the commercial vehicle sector in India." Jalaj Gupta, Business Head – Commercial Vehicles at Mahindra, highlighted the initiative's profitability boost for transporters facing rising fuel costs. "Our new mileage guarantee, 'Zyada Mileage Nahin toh Truck wapas,' offers unmatched value and efficiency," he stated. A crucial market for commercial vehicles, transporters are optimistic about the new mileage guarantee. The promise of higher fuel efficiency and lower operational costs is expected to significantly impact their profit margins, offering a competitive edge in the regional market. Mahindra also offers comprehensive support, including 36-hour guaranteed turnaround at workshops, casualty coverage for drivers, and 24/7 emergency assistance.

### Tata Motors celebrates 'King of SUVs' festival

**Guwahati:** Tata Motors, India's leading SUV manufacturer, has reached a historic milestone with over 20 lakh SUVs on Indian roads. To mark this achievement, Tata Motors has launched the 'King of SUVs' festival, offering special prices and benefits up to 1.40 lakhs on its ICE and EV SUV range.

Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., commented, "Our understanding of the SUV segment and our multi-powertrain strategy have enabled us to provide world-class SUVs. Achieving the 20 lakh sales mark underscores our commitment to this approach and sets the pace for future growth."

### Nissan Motor India crossing an export milestone

**Guwahati:** Nissan Motor India announced crossing an export milestone of 1.1 million units since the start of its export operations. On 29 June 2024, the company successfully exported 1.1 million units, with Nissan Magnite being the milestone unit exported at Ennore Kamarajar Port, Tamil Nadu.

In June 2024, the company reported a cumulative wholesale of 10,284 units, with a YoY growth of 76.3% and a MoM growth of 65.7%. Export wholesale accounted for 8177 units in June 2024, with YoY growth of 149% and MoM growth of 104% and domestic wholesale accounted for 2107 units in June 2024.

## Flipkart boosts digital payment offerings, launches new bill payment categories

**Guwahati:** Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce giant, has announced the launch of five new recharge and bill payment categories, expanding its digital payment services. The new categories include Fastag, DTH recharges, landline, broadband, and mobile postpaid bill payments, adding to the existing options for electricity and mobile prepaid recharges.

In collaboration with BillDesk and integrated with the Bharat Bill Payments System (BBPS), these services aim to enhance the customer experience by offering seamless electronic bill payments. As part of a limited-time offer, customers can redeem up to 10% in rewards using Flipkart UPI with SuperCoins.

Gaurav Arora, Vice President of Payments and SuperCoins at Flipkart, commented, "With a rapid surge in the digital payments industry, customers are increasingly opting for elec-

tronic modes for paying their bills. We have diversified our selection of services in line with Flipkart's vision to simplify the digital payments journey for customers and further the government's vision of a cashless economy."

Ajay Kaushal, Co-Founder and Director of BillDesk, expressed his excitement about the collaboration, stating, "This strategic expansion allows Flipkart customers to experience seamless bill payments, receive timely notifications, and check amounts due across their preferred billers, leveraging BBPS capabilities."

In Guwahati, this initiative is expected to significantly impact local markets by offering a convenient, secure, and rewarding digital payment experience. With the growing trend of electronic transactions, businesses and consumers in Guwahati can now enjoy the benefits of hassle-free bill payments while shopping on Flipkart.

## Chanakya IAS Academy announces launch of 'SUPER 20 Batch' for UPSC 2025

**Guwahati:** Chanakya IAS Academy, Guwahati, has introduced its prestigious 'SUPER 20 Batch' aimed at aspirants preparing for UPSC 2025. This exclusive batch, designed to provide intensive mentorship, features a teacher-student ratio of 1:20, ensuring personalized guidance throughout the course.

Scheduled to commence on August 20, 2024, the 8-month program encompasses comprehensive training for all stages of the UPSC examination—Prelims, Mains, and Interview.

Highlighting the academy's commitment to holistic development, enrolled students will have access to a well-equipped 24x7 library and specialized mentor-

ship from past successful candidates of Chanakya IAS Academy. Emphasizing main answer writing, the curriculum integrates guidance on static, current, and personality aspects crucial for UPSC preparation.

Mrs. Kuranga Nayani Chetia, Managing Partner, Chanakya IAS Academy, North East India, expressed, "The SUPER 20 Batch is tailored for ambitious aspirants aiming to clear UPSC in their first attempt. With a 360-degree approach, each student receives personalized mentoring aligned with their individual needs."

For further details, interested students can contact 6001808306.

## Vi announces enhanced REDX plan Netflix and premium benefits for postpaid users

**Guwahati:** Vi, a leading telecom operator, has introduced an enhanced REDX plan tailored for its postpaid users, aiming to elevate the premium postpaid experience with a range of exclusive benefits. Priced at Rs 1201, the new plan integrates entertainment, dining, travel, security, and priority customer service under one comprehensive package. The highlight of the new REDX plan is its partnership with Netflix, offering subscribers seamless access to the renowned streaming service on both mobile devices and tele-

visions. Alongside Netflix, users will also enjoy content from Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar, Sony Liv, and Sun NXT, making it a versatile choice for entertainment enthusiasts.

For travelers, the plan features a complimentary 7-day international roaming pack annually, valued at Rs. 2999, as well as access to domestic and international airport lounges up to four times a year. Subscribers can also benefit from exclusive discounts on flight bookings through EaseMyTrip. Security-conscious users will appreciate the com-

plementary Norton mobile security subscription for 12 months, ensuring their devices remain protected. Vi Postpaid users can also expect enhanced customer service with priority access at Vi Stores and dedicated support from the best call center agents, ensuring faster query resolutions. The introduction of Vi's enhanced REDX plan is anticipated to resonate well in the Guwahati market, offering subscribers a compelling blend of premium services and comprehensive benefits, catering to the evolving needs of modern lifestyles.

## Suryakumar Yadav emerges as dark horse for T20I captaincy

**New Delhi:** The big-hitting Suryakumar Yadav has emerged as the dark horse to become India's T20 captain till the 2026 World Cup and might just pip top contender Hardik Pandya, whose elevation from the vice-captain's position was being seen as a natural progression up until now. Pandya made himself available for the shortest format games against Sri Lanka this month but it has emerged that Suryakumar, who captained India in eight T20Is against Australia and South Africa last year, is the preferred choice of new head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar. It is learnt that both Gambhir and Agarkar spoke to Pandya about this change of plan earlier this evening and explained to him that a long-term option was being finalised to ensure stability. The T20 leadership role fell vacant after Rohit Sharma bid adieu to his international career in the shortest format following India's World Cup triumph last month in the West Indies. Pandya, one of the heroes of that victory, will take a break during the three-match ODI series against the island nation due to "personal reasons". The T20Is against Sri Lanka will run from July 27 to 30 in Pallekele, followed by the ODIs from August 2 to 7 in Colombo.



The squad for the series is expected to be announced in the next couple of days. "Hardik Pandya was India's T20 vice-captain under Rohit Sharma. He is completely fit and available for the three-match T20I series and was supposed to lead the side but there is a very strong feeling that SKY would be the potential leader not only for the Sri Lanka series but till the 2026 World Cup," a senior BCCI source said on conditions of anonymity. "Hardik's break from ODIs is for very personal reasons. He doesn't have any fitness issue as is being

suggested in the media," the official said. The 33-year-old Suryakumar is believed to be one of the most popular players in the Indian dressing room. It was under Gambhir's captaincy at the Kolkata Knight Riders that he made a name for himself as a T20 player and got nicknamed 'SKY' by the then skipper. Hardik was seen as an obvious successor to Rohit but multiple factors have come into play. His performance as Mumbai Indians skipper was underwhelming and the selectors are in no mood to let him pick and choose his assignments.

## Mani to captain 18-member India 'A' squad

**New Delhi:** Off-spin all-rounder Minnu Mani has been named captain of the 18-member India 'A' women's squad set to tour Australia for a multi-format series starting from August 7. India A women are set to play three T20s in Allan Border Field (ABF), Brisbane on August 7, 9 and 11 respectively. They will then play three 50-over matches at Mackay on August 14, 16 and 18 respectively, followed by a four-day match against Australia A at Gold Coast from August 22-25. The squad also includes capped India players Priya Punia, Shubha Sathesh, Kiran Navgire, Sajana Sajeevan, Uma Chetry, Saika Ishaque, Mannat Kashyap and Meghna Singh. Batter Shweta Sehrawat and left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar, who are amongst traveling reserves for the upcoming Women's Asia Cup, are also included



in the squad, with the former named as vice-captain. Shabnam Shakeel (subject to fitness) and S. Yashasri, who were Shweta's teammates in the 2023 U19 Women's T20 World Cup triumph in South Africa, have been included too, so as notable domestic performers Tejal Hasabnis, Shipra Giri, Raghavi Bisht, Priya Mishra and Sayali Satghare. Pacer Saima Thakor, who turned out for UP Warriorz in WPL

2024, has been named as a stand-by player. India 'A' women's squad: Minnu Mani (c), Shweta Sehrawat (vc), Priya Punia, Shubha Sathesh, Tejal Hasabnis, Kiran Navgire, Sajana Sajeevan, Uma Chetry (wk), Shipra Giri (wk), Raghavi Bisht, Saika Ishaque, Mannat Kashyap, Tanuja Kanwar, Priya Mishra, Meghna Singh, Sayali Satghare, Shabnam Shakeel (subject to fitness), S. Yashasri.

## 'Manpreet loves playing for nation'

**Mumbai:** Indian hockey player Manpreet Singh's wife Illi Saddique pulled back the curtain on the life of the charismatic midfielder, delving into the highs and lows of his career. With 370 appearances for India, Manpreet is a veteran in the sport. Illi, the region head of the South Asia market for one of the top universities in Malaysia, is also a mother to their 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Jasmine Kaur Powar. "Delighted. We are super proud, super excited, and super stoked to see him play his fourth Olympics. Seeing him do what he loves and what he is meant to do makes the family very happy and delighted. When I speak to his mother, we always say that the journey from playing his first game.

## 10 days to Olympics 2024: Tracking India's top 10 medal hopes in Paris

**NEW DELHI:** The Olympic Games Paris 2024 are just 10 days away, and India's elite athletes are in their final leg of preparation. In our final tracker ahead of the Olympics, ESPN takes a look at how the preparations are going for India's top 10 medal prospects: Neeraj Chopra: The defending Olympic champion hasn't competed since winning the Paavo Nurmi Games last month, as he prioritises fitness over competitions. Like a few athletes on this list, he's currently in training at Saarbrücken, Germany. Vinesh Phogat: Vinesh won the Grand Prix of Spain last week defeating Mariia Tiunerekova 10-5 in the final. Competing in the unfamiliar 50kg category in which she won the Olympic quota, Vinesh looked comfortable through the tournament. Vinesh will see this as a confidence-boosting performance as she continues her search. She now remains in Madrid, where she will be training ahead of the Olympics. PV Sindhu: Sindhu, looking for a historic third-straight Olympic medal, is currently training in Saarbrücken, Germany with coach Agus Dwi Santoso and team. She also now has learnt of her draw at the Olympics. In the group stage, she has a pretty easy (by her standards) start as she's set to face Estonia's Kristin Kuuba (world no 75) and Maldives' Fathimath Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq (world no 111). Win the group and she will most likely find herself facing China's He Bing Jiao (world no 8). Win that and there's a potential quarterfinal with defending Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei (world no 2) in store. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty: The doubles pair, fondly known as Sat-Chi, haven't competed on the BWF tour since May 28, where they lost in the opening round in the Singapore Open. Despite that ignominious finish and injury concerns ahead of the Olympics, Sat-Chi have been in decent form during the year and remain amongst the favourites in Paris. After a bit of a wait, they learnt of their

Olympic draw on Monday: the third seeds are grouped with Indonesia's reigning All England Champions Fajar Alfian and Mohammad Ardianto (world no 6), Germany's Mark Lamsfuss and Marvin Seidel (world no 31) plus France's Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar (world no. 43). Their path through the knockouts (top two go through) is unclear since the men's doubles matches in the KOs are to be set after another draw. Aditi Ashok: Competing in the Amundi Evian Championship (in Haute-Savoie, France), Aditi had her (joint) best finish of the calendar year 2024 with a tied-17th place finish. in three of four since June she has averaged below 70. Men's hockey team: After a brief camp in Bengaluru, the men's hockey team went to Switzerland for a team bonding exercise and are currently training in the Netherlands. They will be landing in Paris on the 20th. In their last bit of competitive action, Craig Fulton's men didn't have a great run in the Europe leg of the Pro League: results that saw them finish seventh, only above Spain and Ireland. Nikhat Zareen Having won her last competition (the Elorda Cup) in May, two-time (and reigning) world champion Nikhat Zareen will go into Paris with her confidence high. She, along with five other boxers are amid a month-long training at the Olympic Centre in Saarbrücken, Germany. She will then travel to Paris on July 22.

Most recently seen in action at the Munich World Cup, she won bronze in her 50m rifle 3 positions event, missing silver by just 0.1 point to China's Han Jiayu. Mirabai Chanu: Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu is in her final leg of training, and has reached France (Le Ferte-Milon, a northern region) as she acclimatizes to the country. Having struggled with injuries for most of the last year, Mirabai will be looking to continue on her path of full recovery. Her target, she says, is to lift 90kg in snatch and 115kg in the clean and jerk.