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Supreme Court advises Arvind Kejriwal to wait for Delhi High Court's verdict on bail plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court advised Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to wait for the decision of the Delhi High Court regarding his bail plea in a money laundering case connected to the defunct Delhi liquor policy. The Supreme Court advised Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to wait for the decision of the Delhi High Court regarding his bail plea in a money laundering case connected to the defunct Delhi liquor policy. Arvind Kejriwal, the leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), had approached the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's decision to put on hold the bail granted to him by a lower court just a week ago. The case revolves around allegations related to a controversial liquor policy that was scrapped later on. Kejriwal's bail was briefly halted by the Delhi High Court pending further legal proceedings, prompting him to seek relief from the Supreme Court.

JKSSB paper leak 'kingpin' sent to 7 days ED custody

Jammu: A special court in Jammu on Tuesday sent the Jammu & Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) 2022 exam paper leak scam's alleged kingpin to seven days custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Yatin Yadav, 43, a resident of Haryana, was arrested on Monday evening under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The JKSSB police sub-inspector exam was held on March 27, 2022, but the selected list of 1,200 candidates was cancelled by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in July 2022 following allegations of the paper being leaked. The case was handed over to the CBI and it filed a charge sheet against 33 accused including Yadav on November 12, 2022.

Bhartruhari Mahtab sworn in as Pro-tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha

New Delhi: Seven-time Member of Parliament Bhartruhari Mahtab was officially sworn in as the pro-tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha on Monday, June 24.

Seven-time Member of Parliament Bhartruhari Mahtab was officially sworn in as the pro-tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha on Monday, June 24. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Mahtab in a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, signifying the start of the 18th Lok Sabha's inaugural session. This initial session will feature the oath-taking of the newly elected MPs, setting the stage for the parliamentary proceedings to follow.

The first session of the



18th Lok Sabha will commence on June 24, with President Murmu administering the oath to BJP's Bhartruhari Mahtab as the pro tem Speaker, followed by newly elected MPs taking oath. The Opposition is also expected to challenge the PM Modi-led NDA government on vari-

ous fronts. The session is the first to be held since the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections. Following the first session, the Lok Sabha Speaker will be elected on June 26 and President Droupadi Murmu will address a joint sitting of both Houses on June 27.

Ladakh declared as a full functional literate union territory

New Delhi: Ladakh has been declared a Full Functional Literacy administrative unit under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. The announcement was made by Lieutenant Governor Dr. B.D. Mishra during a celebration at the Sindhu Sanskritik Kendra in Leh.

Ladakh has been declared a Full Functional Literacy administrative unit under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram by Lieutenant Governor Dr. B.D. Mishra. This announcement comes after the region achieved over 97 percent literacy, underscoring Ladakh's dedication to advancing Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, as well as Critical Life Skills for all its citizens.

The declaration was made during a celebration at the Sindhu Sanskritik Kendra (SSK) in Leh, attended by high-profile dignitaries including Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy,

Ministry of Education, Government of India; Smt. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Joint Secretary; Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoun, Chairman, LAHDC, Kargil; and Shri Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary, School Education, Ladakh. Over 500 new literates and volunteers were also present.

Along with the launch of the Annual Achievement Report 2023 of the school department. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the ULLAS Mela, which showcased various educational initiatives.

In his address, Dr. Mishra encouraged new learners and volunteers to embrace lifelong learning. He emphasized the role of parents in ensuring their children's education and urged students to aspire not only for employment but also for entrepreneurship. He praised Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, highlighting its significance for the nation's future development.

Shri Sanjay Kumar ex-

tended his congratulations to the people of Ladakh and assured continued support from the Ministry of Education to enhance the region's school education system. The ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, or New India Literacy Programme (NILP), is a centrally sponsored initiative running from 2022-2027, aligned with NEP 2020. It aims to empower adults aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling, enabling them to contribute effectively to society and the country's progress. The scheme comprises five components: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education. Driven by the spirit of volunteerism and Kartavya Bodh, ULLAS has benefitted over 77 lakh individuals nationwide. The ULLAS Mobile App has garnered more than 1.29 crore learners and 35 lakh volunteer teachers, demonstrating its widespread impact.

Meghalaya launches workshop on forest certification and carbon credit

Shillong: The Forest and Environment Department of Meghalaya, in collaboration with NCCF, New Delhi, launched a three-day workshop on Forest Certification and Carbon Credit at Sylvan House, Shillong. Chief Secretary DP Wahlang inaugurated the event, highlighting the state's proactive approach to afforestation and forest management. The Forest and Environment Department of Meghalaya, in partnership with the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), New Delhi, kicked off a three-day workshop on Forest Certification and Carbon Credit at Sylvan House, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong on June 24. Chief Secretary DP Wahlang inaugurated the event, joined by NCCF Director General AM Singh, Forest and Environment Department Commissioner & Secretary Pravin Bakshi, and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests B.S. Gill. In his address, Wahlang emphasised the learning opportunities in forest management and acknowledged the challenges faced, including significant forest cover loss. He highlighted the state government's proactive approach, mentioning multiple meetings held to strategise afforestation efforts and enhance forest cover. The workshop aims to sensitise participants about Forest Certification, Carbon Credit, and other standards developed by NCCF, including Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material, and Trees Outside Forest. Following the initial session, the event will continue with specialised training on Carbon Credit and Forest Certification on June 25 and 26, respectively. The Carbon Credit training focuses on building capacity among Forest Department officials and stakeholders in developing and registering carbon credit proposals. The Forest Certification training will cover various processes such as gap assessment, internal audits, and documentation management.

Uttar Pradesh's measures against exam paper leaks: Life term to Rs 1 crore fine

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh has taken a strong stand against exam paper leaks with severe penalties. Meanwhile, the National Basketball Championship is set to take place in February 2025, promising a showcase of top Indian talent. The Basketball Federation, in collaboration with the Assam Basketball Association, has announced the commencement of the National Basketball Championship starting from February 3, 2025. This significant event was unveiled during a press conference held at Hotel The Ornet in Ulubari, a bustling locality in the heart of the city. Present at the press conference were Chief Patron Rinki Bhuyan Sharma, Association President Pallab Lochan Das, Assam's Sports Minister Nandita Garlosa, Basketball Association General Secretary Sajid Rahman, Joint Secretary Arupjyoti Chowdhury, and other dignitaries from the sporting community. The announcement marks a pivotal moment as preparations for the championship gather momentum. The Assam Basketball Association took the opportunity today to celebrate its 50 years of dedicated service to the sport, engaging with numerous sports enthusiasts at Hotel Ornet. The upcoming championship is expected to draw participation from top teams and players across the country, showcasing the best of Indian basketball talent. It is set to be a platform for intense competition and sportsmanship, reflecting the growing popularity and importance of basketball in Assam and beyond. Preparations are already underway to ensure a successful event, with organizers focusing on logistics, player registrations, and venue arrangements to provide a world-class experience for participants and spectators alike.

Ambubachi Mela 2024 concludes with record devotee turnout in Assam's Kamakhya Temple

Guwahati: The annual Ambubachi Mela at Maa Kamakhya Temple concluded on June 25, with the temple doors reopening after a 4-day-long celebration on June 26. This year's event saw a record footfall of 30 lakh devotees, up from 22 lakh last year, but was marred by protests over inadequate amenities. The 4-day-long annual menstruation cycle of Maa Kamakhya, which was magnificently celebrated as Ambubachi Mela, came to end as the doors of the sanctum sanctorum have opened for devotees. The temple doors, which had been closed since the start of the event on June 22, was opened on Tuesday (June 25) for the devotees.

This year's footfall was comparatively more than the previous years as millions of devotees flocked inside the temple in Assam's Guwahati, to seek the blessings of Maa Kamakhya.

According to temple secretary Jnan Nath Sarma (Gyan), last year, the temple witnessed around 22 lakh



devotees from across the world, however this year, the number reached up to 30 lakh. In an exclusive interview with India Today NE, Sarma said that the Ambubachi Mela and Kamakhya Temple have now become a global deal after it gained widespread publicity from the media houses.

"Initially, only the sadhus and

people into spiritual practices were aware of the mela, but now since the word has been spread across social media platforms and media, devotees across the world visit Ambubachi Mela 2024," Sarma added. This year saw a large gathering of sadhus, including Naga sadhus and holy men from around the world, including Nepal and Canada.

NHPC donates bus to school as part of initiative for Dibang hydro project

Itanagar: The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has donated a school bus to a Government Higher Secondary School in Arunachal Pradesh's Dambuk under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. A school bus was donated at a Government Higher Secondary School in Arunachal Pradesh's Dambuk by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative for the 2880 MW Dibang Multipurpose Project. The initiative aims to provide safer and more reliable travel for the students. The ceremony marked a pivotal moment with school officials and NHPC representatives in attendance. The newly donated bus is expected to greatly benefit the students, ensuring they

have a secure and dependable means of transportation to and from school.

This initiative is part of NHPC's ongoing efforts to support educational institutions and contribute to the overall development of the region. The 2,880 MW Dibang Multipurpose project would come up near Muli village in Lower Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh. The project will have a 278-metres-high dam, which would be the highest Concrete-Gravity Dam of India. The Dam is planned to be constructed with Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) technique and it will be the highest RCC Dam of the World. The Dibang Dam aims to place a peak of more than 5 lakh cubic metres of concrete in one month, which will be the first in the world.

Stricter guidelines put in place for entry to polling stations

Kohim: In preparation for the Municipal/Town Council Polls of 2024, the Government of Nagaland has issued clear directives regarding the admission of individuals to polling stations. This move aims to ensure a smooth, secure, and orderly voting process, in accordance with Rule 48 of the Nagaland Municipal Election Rules 2023. In preparation for the Municipal/Town Council Polls of 2024, the Government of Nagaland has issued clear directives regarding the admission of individuals to polling stations. This move aims to ensure a smooth, secure, and orderly voting process, in accordance with Rule 48 of the Nagaland Municipal Election Rules 2023. The Presiding Officer is instructed to allow only specific persons into the polling station: Polling Officials: Those directly involved in the polling process. Public Servants on Election Duty: Includes Election Observers, Deputy Commissioners, Sector Magistrates/Officers, and other officials as designated. Authorized Persons: Individuals with authority letters or entry passes from the Election Commission.

Candidates and Agents: Each candidate, their election agent, and polling agent may be admitted one at a time. Assisting Persons: This includes a child accompanying an elector, a person assisting a blind or infirm elector, and others as needed under specific rules. Under Rule 46 (2), if a female presence is necessary for assisting women electors or conducting searches, the Presiding Officer may designate a female polling official or a consenting woman from the voters present. However, the directive explicitly states that

"Public Servants on Duty" does not include Ministers, MPs, State Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Advisors, or MLAs, as their presence necessitates security personnel, who are not allowed inside the polling station. Similarly, police officers are generally not permitted unless specifically called by the Presiding Officer for law and order purposes. Returning Officers are required to issue identity cards to contesting candidates with their photographs. Presiding Officers may request these IDs for verification,

and polling agents must produce attested copies of their appointment letters. No security personnel accompanying candidates, agents, or electors are permitted inside polling stations. The directive further states that there will be separate queues for men and women voters for the Nagaland Municipal polls, who will be admitted in alternating batches to prevent crowding. Priority will be given to persons with disabilities, senior citizens (75 years and above), and women with babies. If needed, female assistants or MTS polling officials will help these voters. While media representatives may photograph voters outside polling stations, they must have an entry pass from the State Election Commission to enter the station. They are strictly prohibited from photographing inside the polling station, approaching the voting compartment, or interviewing polling personnel to maintain the secrecy and integrity of the voting process. These instructions have been disseminated to all presiding officers to ensure compliance and a seamless polling experience.

Mizoram CM meets Union Ministers, secures funding for health and development projects



Aizawl: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma met with Union Health Minister JP Nadda wherein he informed the Northeast State CM that the first instalment of a Special Package for Mizoram's lone medical college will be released soon. Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma met with Union Health Minister JP Nadda wherein he informed the Northeast State CM that the first instalment of a Special Package for Mizoram's lone medical college will be released soon. Nadda told Lalduhoma that Rs 170 crores for the Zoram Medical College under the Special Package will soon be given for the development of the medical college. They also discussed on various developmental project for Mizoram's Health Sector. DoNER and Minister of Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia assured Lalduhoma that funds to the state of Mizoram through NEC shall be increased and also agreed to look into the difficulties faced by Mizoram for funds received through Externally Aided Project (EAP). Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla also informed the Chief Minister that an amount of Rs 21.64 Crore has been issued to the SDRF as a relief package of Cyclone Remal. The Home Secretary also informed that the second instalment shall also soon be released. During his meeting with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, a discussion was held for establishing Mizo Scout Battalion under the Indian Army as well as the political instability and conflict of neighbouring Myanmar. The Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju assured Lalduhoma that the 65 projects under PMJVK shall be completed. The CM also requested the Minister to allot a seat for the lone Lok Sabha MP Richard Vanlalhmangaiha which is neither NDA or INDIA.

Manipur Police arrest 3 active KCP cadres for extortion activities

Imphal: Manipur Police arrested three active KCP cadres in Imphal West for extortion. In a separate incident, another individual was arrested for extorting truck drivers in Kangpokpi district. The Manipur Police, on June 22 arrested three active cadres of proscribed outfit KCP (City Meitei) from Imphal West District, in connection with extortion activities. The arrested individuals have been identified as Akoijam Robinson Singh (31 years), Phijam Tomba Singh (50 years) and Lourembam Sadananda Singh (18 years). In a similar incident, Manipur security forces arrested one individual from the general area between Kalapahar and Bongmol villages, in connection with extortion of money from truck drivers near Bongmol Village on NH-2, Kangpokpi district. The individual, identified as Sathaolen Kilong (24 years) was arrested for extorting money from truck drivers. The security personnel seized one synthetic leather purse, a mobile phone and Rs 4100 in cash.

Blue Star launches a new range of premium room air conditioners

Guwahati: Blue Star Limited has introduced a new range of Room ACs, including both affordable and premium options, for the upcoming summer season. Overall, the Company has launched over 100 models across the spectrum of inverter, fixed speed, and window ACs, and across price points to cater to every consumer segment. The company has introduced three inverter split AC categories, including flagship, premium, and affordable options in 2-star, 3-star, and 5-star variants, with cooling capacities ranging from 0.8TR to 2.2TR, starting from Rs 29,990. The market for room ACs is witnessing significant demand owing to burgeoning middle-class consumers with higher disposable incomes and the category becoming more of a necessity than a luxury.



The Company is experiencing demand from first-time buyers, especially in the Tier 2,3 and 4 markets, as well as the replacement market. Blue Star has launched a slew of products to cater to this growing demand, leveraging its manufacturing, R&D and innovation capabilities to rollout new, differentiated and best-in-class ACs.

Blue Star's new range of air conditioners comes with Anti-Virus Technology, which effectively filters out harmful microbes and particulate matter, and can also function as air purifiers. These affordable, quality, and reliable air conditioners come with lifetime warranties on inverter compressors and 5-year warranties on PCBs.

Marico expert Dr. Shilpa Vora on coconut and methi magic on summer

Guwahati: Dr. Shilpa Vora, a Marico expert, discusses the importance of hair care during the harsh summer season in India. She highlights the potential damage to hair due to excessive sweat and heat, leading to frizz, dryness, increased hair fall, and brittleness. She recommends using coconut and methi for protective benefits. Methi is a beneficial hair care ingredient, providing protein and moisture for hair, making it soft and shiny. It also acts as a natural scalp moisturizer, especially in summer heat. Regular hair oiling can help reduce dullness and dryness caused by harsh heat. Nihar Naturals offers a lightweight, non-greasy hair oil infused with light fragrance for fresh-smelling hair. This product, containing coconut and methi, is suitable for 2X thick hair and has a delightful Jasmine fragrance. Prioritizing hair health and protecting it from UV rays is essential. Oiling your hair during summers is best done on a clean scalp, not a greasy one. Oil can be applied for 30 minutes to 4 hours, and not left overnight in hot weather. Avoiding oiling can cause heat damage to your hair. To maintain moisture, wash your hair with cold water and avoid leaving it overnight. This will help keep it hydrated and soft.



Tata AIA Sets Record with INR 1,465 Crores Bonus Payout

TATA AIA
LIFE INSURANCE

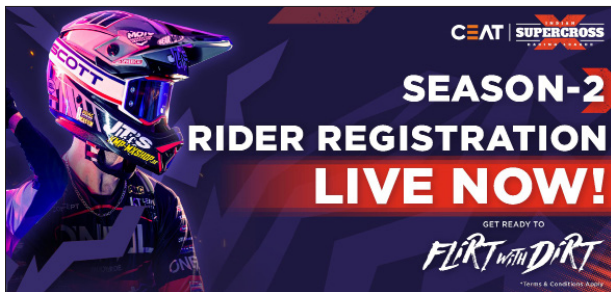
Aizawl: Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd., a leading Indian life insurer, has announced a bonus of INR 1,465 crores for Participating (PAR) policyholders for the 2024 financial year. The bonus payout announced is the highest ever paid by the Company, showcasing an increase of 24% over the INR 1,183 crore bonus announced in FY23.

Tata AIA achieved industry-leading Persistency performance in FY24, ranking #1 in four cohorts: 13th Month (89.50%), 25th Month (80.70%), 37th Month (75.00%), and 49th Month (73.10%), indicating policyholder loyalty and trust in the brand.

Tata AIA provides Participating products that help consumers accumulate wealth, earn income, secure their families, and fulfill their aspirations. TK-shitij Sharma, Executive Vice President and Appointed Actuary, Tata AIA, said, "We are delighted to deliver yet another year of excellent performance of bonus payout in our participation policies."

Tata AIA's record bonus announcement underscores our commitment to rewarding our policyholders for their trust."

CEAT ISRL roared back to life by opening up rider registration for Season 2



Guwahati: The CEAT Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL), the world's first franchise-based Supercross league, has opened rider registration for Season 2. Following a phenomenal inaugural season that captivated audiences with heart-stopping races and exceptional talent, the ISRL is ready to push the boundaries once again. Season 1 of motorsports sparked significant interest among enthusiasts, attracting over 104 registrations from various countries, including defending champions. Some of the leading names that battled for the win were Matt Moss - 9-time Australian MX and SX Champion, Jordi Tixier - World Champion MX2 (2014), 2022 Prince of Paris (SX2) Thomas Ramette, Hugo Manzato from France, Caleb Goulet, Reid Taylor from Australia, and Brian Gyles from Thailand, a sensation in Season 1's 85cc category.

Register now for the CEAT ISRL, a ground-breaking motorsport revolution in India. This registration is the initial step to enter the rider pool and be considered for selection by franchises during the player auction. The upcoming season, from January to March 2025, will feature multiple rounds across Indian cities, organized in partnership with the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI). Eeshan Lokhande, Co-Founder & Director of the CEAT Indian Supercross Racing League, said, "We are excited about Season 2 and confident that it will surpass the phenomenal success of our inaugural season."

ICICI Prudential empowers women in Mizoram with iProtect Smart plan

Agartala/Aizawl: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a groundbreaking initiative to bolster financial security for women across Mizoram. The company unveiled a lifetime discount of 15% on premiums for its leading term insurance product, iProtect Smart, exclusively for women. Salaried women will also benefit from an additional 15% discount on the first year's premium, aimed at enhancing their ability to provide for their families' future. iProtect Smart offers extensive coverage, including protection against 34 critical illnesses such as breast, ovarian, uterine, and cervical cancers. This feature ensures comprehensive financial support during health crises,

with payouts upon diagnosis to facilitate immediate medical treatments without exhausting personal savings. Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, highlighted the significance of this initiative, stating, "As the number of working women in Mizoram's workforce grows, so does the need for robust financial planning. iProtect Smart not only secures their future but also empowers them to face life's uncertainties confidently." With an industry-leading claim settlement ratio of 99.17% for FY2024 and an average turnaround time of just 1.27 days, ICICI Prudential reaffirms its commitment to providing reliable and efficient service to its customers.

Oriflame sets sights on empowering 1 million entrepreneurs in India by 2029

Shillong/Guwahati: Oriflame has announced India as a primary focus market in its ambitious plans to empower micro-entrepreneurs. The company aims to onboard 1 million brand partners over the next five years, bolstering micro-entrepreneurship and fostering a vibrant startup culture nationwide. This strategic initiative aligns with India's economic trajectory and governmental emphasis on self-reliance and job creation. Central to Oriflame's strategy is the promotion of entrepreneurial spirit among Indians, particularly empowering women, by offering flexible work schedules and the opportunity to

shape their careers. This approach not only supports financial independence but also prioritizes social and mental well-being. Emphasizing its commitment to local production and the 'Make in India' initiative, Oriflame is establishing research and development capabilities within the country. This move will enable the brand to tailor products specifically for Indian consumers while maintaining Swedish standards of quality and innovation, adhering to global safety regulations. Edyta Kurek, Senior Vice President and Head of India and Indonesia at Oriflame, expressed gratitude for the company's growing Indian consumer base

and highlighted their contribution to local economies through employment opportunities and manufacturing investments. Kurek affirmed Oriflame's dedication to the Indian market, emphasizing their long-term commitment to fostering micro-entrepreneurship. Oriflame offers Indians a dual opportunity: to become brand partners and build their businesses or join as VIP members to access premium products directly from the brand's platform. Recognized as a Climate Champion in Europe for its sustainable practices, Oriflame emphasizes responsible production aligned with global environmental standards.

Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia suspended by NADA once again

New Delhi: The National Anti-Doping Agency has reinstated a provisional ban on Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia, effective June 23, due to a doping rule violation. Punia has until July 11 to respond to the notice issued by NADA. National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has once again suspended Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia, reinstating a provisional ban on Sunday, June 23. This move comes after a previous suspension was overturned by a disciplinary panel due to procedural issues. However, NADA has now issued a notice of charge against Punia, leading to his current suspension.

The suspension is related to an incident during the trials in Sonapat on March 10, where Bajrang allegedly refused to provide his urine sample for doping analysis, resulting in a violation of doping rules. NADA's notice to Bajrang outlined the sequence of events, stating, "Chaperone/DCO



had duly approached you and informed you that you were required to provide a urine sample... Bajrang has until July 11 to respond to the notice and present his side of the story. His lawyer, Vishupath Singania, confirmed receiving the notice and expressed their intention to respond. "Yes, we have received the notice and will certainly respond to it. He hasn't done anything wrong, so we will fight," stated Singania to India Today.

India to host Junior Hockey World Cup in 2025

Mumbai: India will host the men's Junior Hockey World Cup in December 2025, marking the first time the tournament will feature 24 teams. The move aims to provide more opportunities to a diverse range of National Associations. India will host the men's Junior Hockey World Cup in December 2025, marking the event's return to the country after nine years, as announced by the Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Tuesday. This edition will be historic, featuring 24 teams for the first time ever. FIH President Tayyab Ikram highlighted the significance of increasing the number of participating teams, stating, "Giving more opportunities to play to a larger and more diverse number of National Associations is one of the key pillars of our empowerment and engagement strategy. We saw at the FIH Hockey5s World Cup in Oman this year how more diversity brings a huge added value to our events." Ikram



expressed enthusiasm for the expanded tournament, "I look forward to seeing these 24 young teams, representing the future of our sport, next year!" The previous Junior Hockey World Cup was held in Kuala Lumpur in 2023, where Germany triumphed with a 2-1 victory over France. Spain and India secured the third and fourth places, respectively. India has a history of hosting the tournament, with previous editions held in New Delhi (2013), Lucknow (2016),

and Bhubaneswar (2021). India won the tournament in 2016. "At this stage, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Hockey India for their commitment to organise yet another fantastic event," added Ikram. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey remarked, "This prestigious tournament highlights India's growing importance in international hockey and shows our dedication to developing the sport for future generations. We're excited to share India's rich hockey

history and provide a stage for young talent to showcase their skills." Secretary General of Hockey India Bhola Nath Singh echoed these sentiments, "We appreciate the FIH's trust in us. This event offers a fantastic chance to bring hockey to even greater heights, inspiring a whole new generation of players and fans in India and globally. We're committed to making this tournament a memorable experience that celebrates everything hockey is about."

Sunil Chhetri concludes international career with emotional farewell at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata

Mumbai: Sunil Chhetri concluded his illustrious international career with an emotional farewell at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. The match against Kuwait ended in a goalless draw, casting uncertainty on India's FIFA World Cup qualifier chances. Football fans witnessed an emotional and memorable scene at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal as Sunil Chhetri, the iconic Indian footballer, concluded his illustrious international career with a heartfelt farewell.

The atmosphere was charged with emotions as tears flowed freely, marking the end of an era in Indian football. Chhetri, adorned in India's blue jersey, took a poignant lap around the stadium, reflecting on his journey and contributions to the sport. His unwavering dedication and outstanding achievements over the years have left an indelible mark on Indian football, earning



him admiration and respect from fans and fellow players alike.

Despite the goalless draw in the final FIFA World Cup qualifier match against Kuwait, Chhetri's legacy and impact on the game were palpable throughout the match. However, the draw has cast uncertainty on India's chances of progressing to the next round in the FIFA World Cup qualifier, adding a bittersweet

note to Chhetri's farewell moment. Looking ahead, India faces a crucial challenge in their upcoming match against Qatar in Doha, marking the end of their second-round campaign in the FIFA World Cup qualifier. As Chhetri bids farewell to the international stage, football enthusiasts and the Indian football fraternity celebrate his remarkable career and contributions to the sport.

Assam's Riyan Parag makes history with selection in India's squad for Zimbabwe tour

Mumbai: Alongside Parag, players like Abhishek Sharma and Nitish Reddy have also earned spots. India's Men's Selection Committee has announced the 15-member squad for the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe. Assam's Riyan Parag secures his maiden call-up to the national team. Parag's inclusion not only marks a historic moment for Assam but also for the entire Northeast region, as he becomes the first player from both regions to don the prestigious Indian jersey. The squad, led by Shubman Gill, includes a blend of experienced players and promising talents. Alongside Parag, players like Abhishek Sharma and Nitish Reddy have also earned spots. The tour, scheduled from July 6 to 14, will see India facing Zimbabwe in a 5-match T20I series in Harare. This series follows India's participation in the T20 World Cup 2024 and is part of their ongoing international commitments. Shubman Gill's captaincy will guide a squad that balances experience with fresh talent aiming to build momentum ahead of future engagements.

Bindra: I have no intentions of getting into coaching

New Delhi: India's 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medalist Abhinav Bindra believes that the Indian shooting contingent have the "potential to secure multiple medals" at the Paris Olympics, scheduled to kickstart from July 26. Speaking exclusively to agency, he further added that the depth of talent in Indian shooting is im-

mense. Asked if he has any plans to take over the coaching role in the near future, Bindra said "no". The former Indian shooter also explained about the collaboration between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation, designed to inspire physical activity and celebrate the 2024 Games.

India enter semis with commanding win over Australia

New York: India triumphed over Australia in the Super 8 match at the T20 World Cup 2024, thanks to stellar performances by Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah. The Indian cricket team confirmed their much-deserved place in the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2024 after defeating Australia in their Super 8 match, at the Darren Sammy International Cricket Stadium in St Lucia, on June 24. Captain Rohit Sharma stood out as he hit a match-winning 92 from just 41 balls, while Bumrah managed to dismiss Australia's Travis Head at a fantastic 76 score, ending the team's hopes of beating the Group 1 topper. Losing 7 wickets in their quota of 20 overs, Australia still managed only 181, India finished Group 1 table with its place on the top spot. Australia's loss has meanwhile put them in danger of making it out of the Super 8 stage in danger.